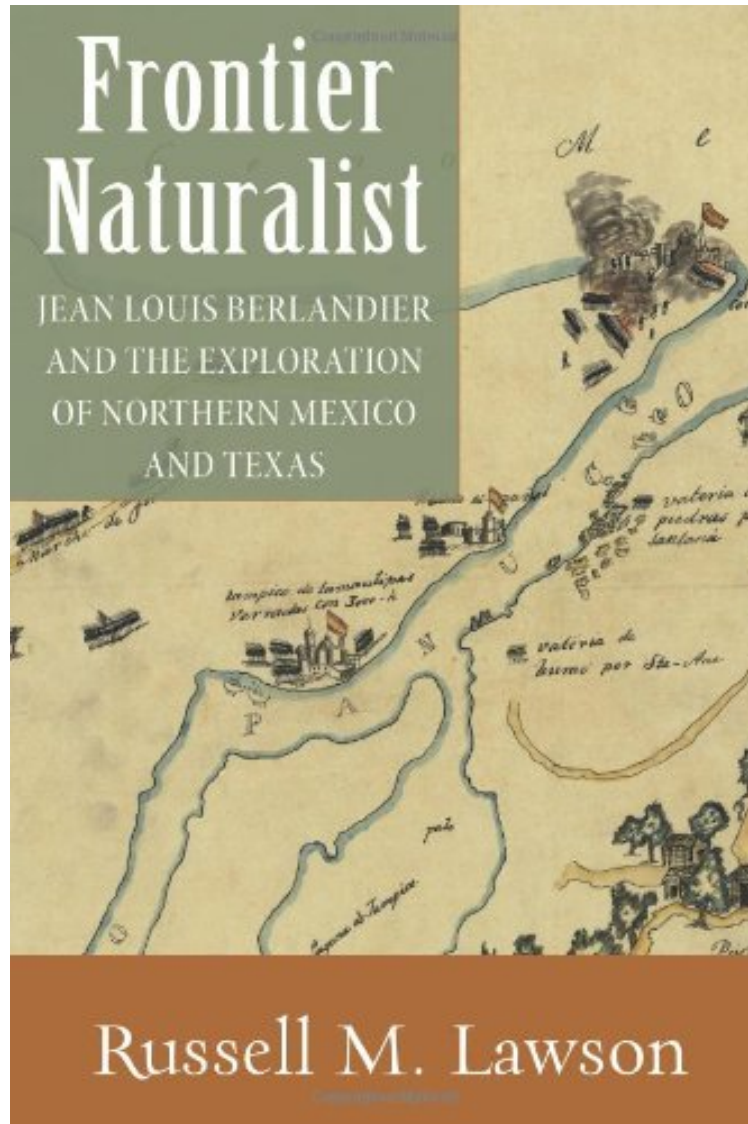


Frontier Naturalist: Jean Louis Berlandier and the Exploration of Northern Mexico and Texas

Russell M. Lawson

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Russell M. Lawson : Frontier Naturalist: Jean Louis Berlandier and the Exploration of Northern Mexico and Texas before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Frontier Naturalist: Jean Louis Berlandier and the Exploration of Northern Mexico and Texas:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An extremely fascinating read, even if just for funBy JanIn spite of being an obvious Publish or Perish, this endeavor is remarkably interesting and easy to assimilate. There is a distinct

advantage to encountering it as an audiobook, besides the price, as there is no effort involved in sounding the multitudinous French or Spanish place names. The subject of this volume is a scientific explorer who studied in Geneva, Switzerland and was commissioned to study and gather specimens in the Northern Mexico/Southern Texas area accompanied by a contingent of the Mexican army, along with various guides and laborers, starting out in 1826. Ever eager for more knowledge, he combined his skills in botany with those of cartography, zoology, ichthyology, meteorology, geology, geography, and ethnography of indigenous peoples. He further developed the skills of an apothecary and formulated a materia medica and an herbal for this new and unexplored land. He died unexpectedly by drowning in 1851, and all of his extensive writings and specimen collection were thought lost. In 1853, Darius Couch obtained sponsorship from the Smithsonian and traveled to the area with the expectation of finding Berlandier's materials. He was able to purchase all with his own funds from the widow and set about replacing some of the specimens. There is also a discourse on the various European contemporaries and their attitudes and prejudices, as well as a veritable Who's Who of US army generals who later attained high political office and other fame. Although I do not speak French and have only medical Spanish, I feel that Narrator Jack seemed very comfortable with the very many pronunciations involved. As always, enunciation of all languages involved is clear, and voice quality is conducive to a pleasant read. This book was gifted to me

This is a true story of discovery and discoverers in what was the northern frontier region of Mexico in the years before the Mexican War. In 1826, when the story begins, the region was claimed by both Mexico and the United States. Neither country knew much about the lands crossed by such rivers as the Guadalupe, Brazos, Nueces, Trinity, and Rio Grande. Jean Louis Berlandier, a French naturalist, was part of a team sent out by the Mexican Boundary Commission to explore the area. His role was to collect specimens of flora and fauna and to record detailed observations of the landscapes and peoples through which the exploring party traveled. His observations, including sketches and paintings of plants, landmarks, and American Indians, were the first compendium of scientific observations of the region to be collected and eventually published. Here, historian Russell Lawson tells the story of this multinational expedition, using Berlandier's copious records as a way of conveying his view of the natural environment. Lawson's narrative allows us to peer over Berlandier's shoulder as he traveled and recorded his experiences. Berlandier and Lawson show us an America that no longer exists.

Provides detailed insight into the life of a minor historical character whose works and contributions inject color and new perspectives into one of the most turbulent periods in Texas history. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* From the Inside Flap In 1826, Jean Louis Berlandier, a French naturalist, was part of a team sent to explore what is now northern Mexico and the Gulf Coast of Texas. Here, historian Russell Lawson tells the story of this multinational expedition, using Berlandier's copious records as a way of conveying his view of the natural environment. About the Author Russell M. Lawson, professor of history at Bacone College, is the author of several other books on exploration, most recently *The Land Between the Rivers: Thomas Nuttall's Ascent of the Arkansas, 1819*. He lives in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.