CARL BODMER PAINTS THE INDIAN FRONTIER



No. 95 Wolf Calf, a Young Piegan Indian

CARL BODMER

PAINTS THE INDIAN FRONTIER

> A Traveling Exhibition of Watercolors and Drawings

> > CIRCULATED BY

THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The present exhibition of more than one hundred watercolors and drawings by Carl Bodmer is the first ever to be presented in America. It is no exaggeration to state that this unusual collection was eagerly awaited and enthusiastically received by anthropologists and art historians alike.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service wishes to thank Karl Viktor Prinz zu Wied for bringing once more to this country the work of the artist who accompanied his great granduncle, Maximilian zu Wied, on his travels and for leaving it in our care for an extended period. We are most grateful to him for writing the introduction to this catalogue and to Dr. Joseph Roeder for compiling the descriptions. Our warmest thanks are due Mr. John C. Ewers, Associate Curator, Division of Ethnology, U. S. National Museum, for his untiring assistance in preparing the manuscript for publication and for contributing the appreciation of Carl Bodmer's Indian paintings. Mr. Frank M. Setzler, Head Curator, Department of Anthropology, U. S. National Museum, was most helpful in all phases of planning the exhibition.

His Excellency, Dr. Heinz L. Krekeler, German Ambassador, has consented to sponsor the exhibition during its one year tour. The Smithsonian Institution gratefully acknowledges his kind cooperation as well as that of Dr. Bruno E. Werner, Cultural Counselor of the German Diplomatic Mission. The German Foreign Office made Prinz Karl Viktor's journey possible.

We acknowledge the financial assistance of the Alice Pike Barney Fund towards the publication of this catalogue.

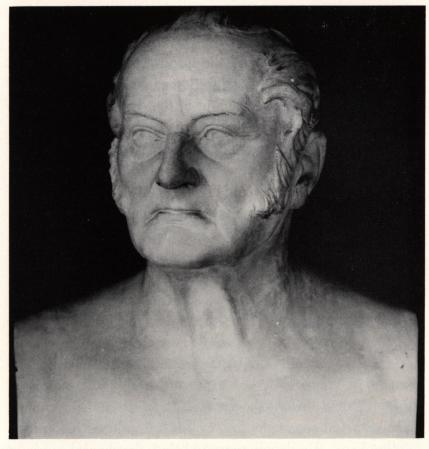
Annemarie H. Pope

INTRODUCTION

There is a story behind the inspiration which produced the pictures shown in this exhibition—a story of the advance of science into a region which until that time had been only inadequately known. In the report of Prince Maximilian zu Wied (1782-1867) concerning his journey to the territory of the upper Missouri River we read of hunting and of adventurous encounters, of the cold of winter, of sickness and privations; but it is left to our imagination to enlarge upon those things which the scholar does not mention in his objective presentation: the particular and dangerous fascination of encountering a strange country and the thrill of intimate contact with a distrustful and sensitive aboriginal population with whom any heedless act, however trivial, could lead to embittered hostility.

Prince Maximilian, a natural-scientist of extensive training and a friend of Alexander von Humboldt, journeyed through Brazil during the years 1815 to 1817. His contact there with Indians of the primeval forest aroused his interest in ethnology. He deeply regretted then that he did not have an artist among those who accompanied him; and this experience induced him to take a painter along on his journey to North America. His choice fell upon a man of particular talent, the Swiss, Carl Bodmer, who was born at Tiefenbrunnen near Zürich in 1809. When he set out on this journey Bodmer was 23 years of age.

Prince Maximilian and Bodmer formed an outstanding team. Their appearance in the West was a milestone in the history of discovery. The Indian, who in the opening of the West had been known only as an ally or an enemy of the white man or as a partner in bartering, now for the first time became an object of study for the scientist and for the artist employed in the cause of science. Bodmer's work differs



Bust of Maximilian Prinz zu Wied by Carl Cauer (1863)

from the work of other painters of Indians of the same period in that it does not represent a more or less fortuitous collection of subjects which appealed to the artist, but is rather concerned with representing a carefully planned pictorial report on the landscape, peoples, and fauna of the region visited. The systematic execution of this project and certainly the selection, at least in part, of the subjects represented we doubtless owe to the intellectual guidance of Prince Maximilian. We feel justified, therefore, in including a like-

ness of him in this catalogue. It is a bust done in later years by the sculptor Cauer.

The watercolors and drawings in this exhibition have been selected from the material belonging to the estate of Prince Maximilian at Schloss Neuwied in the Rhineland. While the majority of these compositions served to illustrate a travel book which appeared in 1839, a considerable number of others are unpublished. The overwhelming majority of these pictures, moreover, have not been shown publicly before.

The engravings for the atlas of this travel book were produced according to Bodmer's designs in France, whither he had moved after his return from North America and where he lived, for the most part in Paris, Compiegne and Barbizon, until his death in 1893.

Even though Bodmer's later years brought him recognition and considerable success, the opinion is widely held, nevertheless, that the work which he did in America from 1832 to 1834 is not only the most interesting portion of his oeuvre but also the most characteristic expression of his talent.

KARL VIKTOR PRINZ ZU WIED

AN APPRECIATION OF CARL BODMER'S INDIAN PAINTINGS

No other primitive peoples have stirred the interest and imagination of the civilized world as have the North American Indians of the Great Plains. Their striking physical appearance, their prowess as warriors and big game hunters, their picturesque costumes and colorful religious ceremonies have made them particularly attractive to artists. Scores of European and American artists have sought to interpret graphically the essential character of Plains Indian life. Among them Carl Bodmer achieved an outstanding success.

When Prince Maximilian zu Wied chose Bodmer to accompany him on a year-long expedition into the wilds of the Indian country of the Upper Missouri he charged the young artist with a difficult and definite responsibility. Bodmer was to execute drawings from life which would become an integral part of the scientific record of the expedition. It was important that the pictorial record should be as truthfully rendered as were the words of Prince Maximilian's text.

To this exacting task Carl Bodmer brought talent of a high order. He had been schooled in the European tradition of fine draftsmanship that had produced such masters of drawing as Dürer and Breughel. With infinite pains and consummate skill Bodmer first executed a pencil drawing of his subject. Then, in most cases, he added its true colors in watercolor. Bodmer's Indians are never hasty impressions or vague generalizations of some idealized Indian type. They are bold, clear likenesses of individuals. The exact forms of their garments, the precise patterns and colors of decorations in paints, dyed porcupine quills and glass trade beads, the shapes and colors of elaborate hair and neck ornaments and the details of weapons and other accessories are delineated

meticulously. These pictures possess a remarkable sharpness and depth of focus.

The same qualities of accurate observation and precise execution may be seen in Bodmer's scenes of Indian villages and trading posts, of Indian burials and sacrificial places. In his landscapes he recorded the varied character of the Indian country, its broad rivers and plains, its bluffs and its mountains, as faithfully as he portrayed the likenesses of the Indians.

For many years anthropologists and historians have praised Bodmer's truthful interpretation of the Indians of the Upper Missouri. They have known his pictures only through the lithographs developed from his original field drawings and watercolors. This exhibition of originals, which includes many subjects never published, will serve to broaden and increase the understanding and appreciation of the important contribution of Carl Bodmer, master painter of American Indians.

JOHN C. EWERS



MISSOURI RIVER, BELOW THE MOUTH OF THE PLATTE

CATALOGUE

Landscapes

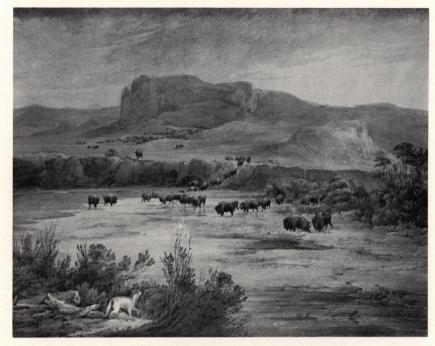
5	
1.	Snags in the Missouri River Near Mouth of Nodaway River (Missouri) April 25, 1833 WATERCOLOR 10%" x 8%"
2.	Missouri River Landscape Near Present Kansas-Nebraska Boundary May 2, 1833 WATERCOLOR AND PENCIL 11" x 8%"
3.	Missouri River, Below the Mouth of the Platte May 3, 1833 WATERCOLOR 11" x 7%"
4.	Mouth of the Platte River May 3, 1833 WATERCOLOR 17" x 10%"
5.	Mouth of the Platte River May 3, 1833 WATERCOLOR AND PENCIL 11¾" x 8½"
6.	Hill Overlooking the Missouri River Known to Omaha Indians as The Iron Eye May 3, 1833 WATERCOLOR 7" x 8%"
7.	Ruins of the Army Post at Council Bluffs (Iowa) May 5, 1833 WATERCOLOR 12" x 8½"
8.	Mouth of the Big Sioux River Present Iowa-South Dakota Boundary May 8, 1833 WATERCOLOR 9" x 15"
9.	Village of the Ponca Indians Above the Mouth of James River (South Dakota) May 11-12, 1833 WATERCOLOR 10" x 64"
10.	Missouri River Landscape May, 1833 WATERCOLOR 154" x 94"

12.	Grand Tower on the Missouri Above the Mouth of Niobrara Rive May 13, 1833	er (Nebraska)
	WATERCOLOR	17¼" x 11"
13.	Missouri River Landscape (In South-Central South Dakota) May 15-16, 1833 WATERCOLOR	12¾" x 8"
14.	Missouri River Landscape Below Mouth of White River (Sout About May 20, 1833 WATERCOLOR	th Dakota) 16%'' x 10%''
15.	Bijoux Hills on the Missouri R (South-Central South Dakota) May 22, 1833 WATERCOLOR	River 12%'' x 9%''
10		
16.	Fort Pierre on the Missouri (Sor Principal Trading Post of the Teto	
	April 29, 1834 Pencil	17" x 11"
17.	Villages of the Arikara Indian Above Mouth of Grand River (Sou June 12, 1833	th Dakota)
	WATERCOLOR	$17_{4}^{1/"} \times 10_{4}^{1/"}$
18.	Fort Union, Mouth of Yellows Principal Trading Post of Assinibon	
	July 2, 1833 Pencil	17%" x 11%"
19.	Beaver Lodge on the Missouri (Present Eastern Montana)	
	July 17, 1833 Watercolor	10%" x 8"
20.	The White Castles on the Mis West of Mouth of Milk River (Mo July 25, 1833	ntana)
	WATERCOLOR	16%" x 9%"
21.	Fort McKenzie, Mouth of the I (Montana)	Marias River
	Principal Trading Post of the Black	foot Tribes
	September, 1833 Watercolor	17¼" x 11%"

11. Missouri River Landscape

17%" x 11%"

May, 1833 Watercolor



No. 25 Buffalo Herds on the Upper Missouri

- 22. View of the Bear Paw Mountains
 From the Heights above Fort McKenzie
 September, 1833
 WATERCOLOR 16%" x 11%"
- 23. First Chain of the Rocky Mountains
 From the Heights above Fort McKenzie
 September 9, 1833
 Oil Tempera 174" x 12"
- 24. Buffalo and Elk on the Upper Missouri September 18, 1833 WATERCOLOR 125" x 9%
- 25. Buffalo Herds on the Upper Missouri
 Not dated
 WATERCOLOR 12%" x 9%"
- 26. Landscape on the Upper Missouri
 Not dated
 WATERCOLOR 12%" x 8"
- 27. Citadel Rock on the Upper Missouri
 Not dated
 INDIA INK 7%" x 12%"



No. 21 Fort McKenzie, Mouth of the Marias River (Montana)

28	East St. Louis (Illinois) 1834	16%" x 11%"
29	. Vincennes (Indiana) June 11, 1834 WATERCOLOR	13" x 10¼"
Indian Life a	nd Customs	
30	Near Natchez (Mississippi) February 2, 1833 Watercolor	8½" x 6½"
. 31	. Scaffold Burial of a Sioux Chief Sioux Agency (South Dakota) May 1, 1834 PENCIL	10¼" x 12%"
32	Fort Pierre April 21, 1834	12%'' x 10%''
33	. Indian Bull-boats on the Missou (North Dakota) Not dated WATERCOLOR	ıri 8%" x 4%"
34	. Indian Bull-boats on the Missou (North Dakota) Not dated PENCIL	ıri 9" x 5%"
35	Near Fort Clark Not dated	arth-lodge 174" x 11%"
36	. Mandan Indians Not dated Pencil	9" x 5%"
37	. Assiniboin Indian Encampment	t (?)

Not titled or dated PENCIL AND WATERCOLOR

17¾" x 11½"



No. 44 Mandan Indian Buffalo Dancer

38.	The Mandan Village, Mih - Tu Kush Near Fort Clark (North Dakota) Not dated WATERCOLOR	tta - Hang - 17%" x 10%"
39.	The Mandan Village, Mih - Tu Kush View from the Missouri River Not dated	tta - Hang -
	PENCIL AND INK	17¼" x 12"
40.	Large Square with the Ark of th Mandan Village of Mih-Tutta-Hang Not dated	
	PENCIL	17%" x 11"
41.		n Indians
	November, 1833 Watercolor	10%" x 8%"
42.	Feast of the Mandan Indians April, 1834	102///
10	PENCIL D. C.I. M. I.	12¾" x 10¼"
43.	Buffalo Dance of the Mandan Not dated WATERCOLOR AND PENCIL	6½" x 10¼"
44.	Mandan Indian Buffalo Dance	r
	Not dated Watercolor and Pencil	12" x 17%"
45.	Quiver of the Mandan or Hida	atsa Indians
	June 4, 1833 Watercolor	11" x 8%"
46.	Near Fort Clark	dians
	Not dated Pencil	12%" x 10¼"
47.	Winter Village of the Hidatsa Near Fort Clark	Indians
	Not dated Watercolor	11%" x 8%"
48.	Scalp Dance of the Hidatsa In Near Fort Clark	dians
	Not dated Watercolor and Pencil	10%" x 12%"

49.	Sacrifice of the Assiniboin Indians Near Fort Union July, 1833 WATERCOLOR 12%" x 9%"		
50.	Assiniboin Indian Scaffold Buri Near Fort Union Not dated Watercolor and oil tempera		
51.	Elk Horn Pyramid Composed of Sacrifices by Blackfoot July 11, 1833 PENCIL	Indians 11%" x 8%"	
52.	Piegan Indians and Dogs Not dated Pencil	12¾" x 6%"	
53.	Camp of the Gros Ventres Indi On the Missouri River (Montana) August 5, 1833 Pencil	ians 17¼" x 11"	
of Indians			
54.	A Kickapoo Indian St. Louis (Missouri) April 8, 1833 WATERCOLOR	8%" x 11"	
55.	A Kickapoo Indian St. Louis (Missouri) April 8, 1833 Watercolor	8%" x 11"	
56.	A Fox Indian St. Louis (Missouri) March 27, 1833 WATERCOLOR	85/" x 12"	
57.	A Sauk Indian St. Louis (Missouri) March 28, 1833 WATERCOLOR	8%" x 12"	
58.	An Oto Indian Pilcher's Trading Post		
	May 12, 1834 Pencil	10¼" x 12%"	

Portraits

59.	A Missouri Indian May 16, 1834 PENCIL 10¼" x 113	8
30.	The Smoker, Ponca Indian Chief May 12, 1833 PENCIL 8%" x 12	2"
31.	Four, Brother of the Ponca Chief May 12, 1833 WATERCOLOR 85" x 12	2"
32.	A Young Ponca Indian Fort Pierre May 31, 1833 WATERCOLOR 9" x 113	1/1/8
33.	The Big Soldier, a Dakota Warrior Sioux Agency May 26, 1833 WATERCOLOR 11%" x 178	V'''4
34.	Chief of the Yankton Dakota Fort Pierre May 30, 1833 WATERCOLOR 8%" x 113	1/11
35.	A Yanktonai Dakota Indian Fort Clark January 9, 1834 WATERCOLOR 104" x 128	3411
36.	A Teton Dakota Woman Near Fort Pierre June 1, 1833 WATERCOLOR 12" x 178	8/1/
37.	A Teton Dakota Indian Near Fort Pierre June 5, 1833 WATERCOLOR 8%" x 113	1/11
38.	An Arikara Warrior Fort Clark March 10, 1834 WATERCOLOR 12" x 135	8/11
39.	A Mandan Indian Fort Clark March, 1834 WATERCOLOR 104" x 123	V///

70.	A Mandan Warrior Fort Clark February 9, 1834 WATERCOLOR AND PENCIL	10¼" x 12%"
71.	A Mandan Indian Not dated WATERCOLOR	12¼" x 17¼"
72.	A Mandan Warrior Fort Clark February 7, 1834 WATERCOLOR	10¼" x 12¾"
73.	Four Bears, a Mandan Chief Fort Clark January, 1834 WATERCOLOR	11½" x 14¼"
74.	A Mandan Woman Fort Clark Not dated WATERCOLOR AND PENCIL	10%" x 12%"
75.	The Yellow Feather, a Manda: Fort Clark December, 1833 WATERCOLOR	n Indian 12%" x 17%"
76.	An Hidatsa Indian (back view Fort Clark March 4, 1834 WATERCOLOR	10%" x 12%"
77.	The Robe with Beautiful Hair, Indian Fort Clark March 1, 1834 WATERCOLOR	an Hidatsa 9%" x 12%"
78.	Young Buffalo Chief, an Hidat Fort Clark February, 1834 WATERCOLOR	tsa Indian 10¼" x 12¾"
79.	An Hidatsa Indian Dog Dance Fort Clark About March 7, 1834 WATERCOLOR	r 12" x 17%"
80.	The White Cow, an Assiniboin Fort Union October 21, 1833 WATERCOLOR	n Chief 104" x 12%"



No. 101 Low Horn, a North Blackfoot Chief

81.	Fort Union End of June, 1833	12%" x 17%"
82.	An Assiniboin of the Stone Band Fort Union June 29, 1833 WATERCOLOR	l 12¼" x 17¾"
83.	An Assiniboin Indian Fort Union June 28, 1833 WATERCOLOR	12" x 17%"
84.	Indians Fort Union October, 1833	f the Cree 10¼" x 12%"
85.	A Cree Indian Woman Fort Union October 8, 1833 WATERCOLOR	9%" x 12"
86.	Fort Union October 1833	Indian 10%" x 12%"
87.	Fort McKenzie August, 1833	10¼" x 12¾"
88.	A Young Piegan Woman Fort McKenzie August 24, 1833 WATERCOLOR	12" x 17%"
89.	A Piegan Indian Fort McKenzie August, 1833 WATERCOLOR	10%" x 12%"
90.	Fort McKenzie September, 1833	10%'' x 12%''

91.	A Piegan Indian Medicine-man Fort McKenzie September, 1833 WATERCOLOR 10%" x 12%"		
92.	The Wretched Boy, a Piegan Indian Not dated		
	Watercolor 10% " x 12% "		
93.			
	Not dated Watercolor 9%" x 12%"		
94.	The Word of Life, an Old Piegan in		
	Mourning Fort McKenzie		
	August 17, 1833 Watercolor 10%" x 135"		
	10/6 X 10/6		
95.	Wolf Calf, a Young Piegan Indian Fort McKenzie		
	August, 1833 Watercolor 9%" x 12%"		
96.	Bear Chief, a Piegan Chief Fort McKenzie		
	August, 1833 Watercolor 10¼" x 12%"		
07	10/4 A 12/6		
91.	Distant Bear, a Piegan Indian Fort McKenzie		
	August 22, 1833 Watercolor 104" x 124"		
98	The Great Star, a Piegan Indian		
50.	Fort McKenzie		
	August 30, 1833 Watercolor 10%" x 12¾"		
99.	Leader of a North Blackfoot War Party		
	Fort McKenzie		
	September 4, 1833 WATERCOLOR 10" x 12%"		
100.	A Blackfoot Indian with his Medicine Pipe Fort McKenzie		
	August, 1833 Watercolor 174" x 124"		



No. 107 Head of an Antelope

101.	Low Horn, a North Blackfoot Chief Fort McKenzie September, 1833 WATERCOLOR 12¼" x 17%"
102.	Bull's Back Fat, First Chief of the Blood Indians Fort McKenzie September, 1833 WATERCOLOR 10" x 12%"
103.	The Great Earth, a Kutenai Indian Fort McKenzie August, 1833 WATERCOLOR 10%" x 12%"
104.	A Snake (Shoshoni) Indian Woman Fort McKenzie September, 1833 WATERCOLOR 95" x 125"
105.	A Hunter Indian of unidentified tribe Not dated WATERCOLOR 10¼" x 13½"

Animals and Plants

106.	Lynx New Harmony, Indiana 1832 PENCIL	15" x 10%"
107.	Head of an Antelope Upper Missouri Valley May 19, 1833 WATERCOLOR	12" x 9%"
108.	Elk Upper Missouri Valley 1834 WATERCOLOR	14¼" x 11¾"
109.	White-tailed Deer New Harmony, Indiana November, 1832 PENCIL	15" x 10%"
110.	Head of a Buffalo Upper Missouri Valley July 19, 1833 WATERCOLOR	15" x 10%"



No. 110 HEAD OF A BUFFALO

111. Four Studies of a Buffalo Hunt Upper Missouri Valley October 11, 1833

WATERCOLORS (a)

a) 9\%" x 6\%"

(b) 8%" x 5%" (c) 8%" x 6"

(d) 8%" x 5½"

112. Head of a Vulture Missouri River Valley Not dated

Not dated Watercolor

7¼" x 9"

113. Head of a Crane

Fort Union September 7, 1833 WATERCOLOR

15" x 10%"

114. Frog

August 8, 1832 Watercolor

8¼" x 6½"

115. Muskrat

Missouri River Valley 1833 WATERCOLOR

14%" x 9\"

116. Wild Cactus

Fort Union June, 1833 PENCIL AND WASH

12%" x 104"

Drawings by Indians

117. Drawing by The Yellow Feather, a Mandan Indian

Fort Clark Winter 1833-34 WATERCOLOR

12¾" x 7%"

118. Drawing by a Mandan Indian

Not dated WATERCOLOR

15%" x 12¾"

