

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FUR TRADE JOURNAL

Author Instructions

The purpose of the Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Journal is to encourage research and debate on the rocky mountain fur trade era in an academic arena where new perspectives are explored and out of date theories are challenged in a defensible manner. Peer review will be used to filter and ensure quality content.

Rocky Mountain Fur Trade Era

The Rocky Mountain fur trade era will be defined as starting in 1824 and ending in 1840. In March 1824, Jed Smith led a party of trappers into the Green River Valley, finding an abundance of beaver and no hostile Indians. The mountain man, rendezvous, and overland supply system followed this discovery and ultimately characterized the Rocky Mountain fur trade era. The rendezvous of 1840 is the last classic rendezvous and marks the end of the era. Fur trade in the mountains existed before this time and after, but these dates bracket the unique period of the fur trade based on the rendezvous system. Geographically the boundaries of the Rocky Mountain fur trade are roughly defined as the Rocky Mountains of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah encompassing the area trapped and traded by the mountain men and Indians who were primarily supplied by the rendezvous system.

Historical Research Subjects

While the definition of the Rocky Mountain fur trade era is fairly limited, the subject matter acceptable for publication is quite broad. Subject areas not directly related to the era but adding new insight are encouraged. For example: a study of contemporary music in St. Louis or New Orleans might suggest songs sung around a mountain man camp fire; a study of Shoshone Indian culture might suggest why an obscure item appears on a supply manifest; a study of nutria trade out of South America might give insight to beaver pelt price; a study of the technology of a hat factory in London might suggest how beaver was trapped and prepared in the field, etc. In general any subject that led up to, was contemporary in time or place, was affected by, or had an effect on the Rocky Mountain fur trade era is encouraged.

Modern Research Subjects

In addition to historical research, hands-on experiments and research that give insight to the era are also encouraged. For example: tree ring data might help define weather experienced during the era; temperature reading in a tipi during 20 below weather might help understanding of winter quarters; modern day trapping records may give insight into quantity and quality of historic beaver pelt production; snowshoeing across Teton Pass in early January may give insight into the start of Sublette's trip to St. Louis for supplies, etc. Experimental techniques and data should be well documented and backed up with pertinent historical research.

If there is any question whether a particular subject is acceptable for publication, please feel free to contact the Museum of the Mountain Man for guidance by the Journal staff and Editorial Board.

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Writing Guidelines

- The intended audience for papers published in the Journal is the author's peers. This is not a general audience publication, so subject matter may be very narrowly focused and there is no need to include general background material.
- Presentation must be specific, accurate and concise.
- All facts must be traceable and defended with good footnotes.
- Speculation and theory is acceptable, but must be clearly indicated as such and there must be hard evidence to support the theory. Theories must be defended with documented facts.
- Subject should be thoroughly researched.
- Experimental data must be documented and repeatable.
- Papers should be no more than 6000 words (about 24 double spaced pages). However, exceptions are possible where merited by content.
- Quotes and excerpts from other sources must be appropriately referenced and credited.

Copyright Issues

- Papers must be original material and not published before. In rare circumstances a worthy paper with minimal previous exposure may be accepted for publication, but previous publication details must be provided.
- Author must provide details if substantial parts of the subject matter or theories have been previously published.
- Author retains copyright, but credit must be given to the Journal if the paper is published in whole or part in a future publication.
- The Museum of the Mountain Man has the right to publish submissions in the Journal and republish in whole or part in future museum publications with appropriate credit to the author.
- All third party republications of any paper must obtain permission of the author and must credit the Journal for the original publication.
- The Museum of the Mountain Man will get use rights for and copyrighted material such as photographs, illustrations, paintings before publication. But, the author must clearly indicate any copyrighted material included with any paper, and must provide copyright holder details.

Submissions

- Papers must be received by the Museum of the Mountain Man by January 2, 2008 to be considered for the 2008 Journal. Mail to: Museum of the Mountain Man, PO Box 909, 700 E Hennick, Pinedale, Wyoming 82941. Or send electronically to journal@mmmuseum.com.
- Papers must be provided in an electronic format in an appropriate word processor and/or spreadsheet format. Printed copy is optional.
- Artwork, photographs, maps or graphs must be included with the paper in digital format. Pictures must be 300 dots per inch at anticipated publication size (i.e. 3x5, 4x6, 5x7, 8x10 inches).

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- Indicate any copyrighted material requiring permission or use fees for publication. Journal staff will obtain permissions and pay fees if published.
- Authors can submit multiple papers.
- Submissions will not be returned to the author, but peer review comments will.
- Author can suggest individuals to act as peer reviewers for their paper. However, suggested reviewers must not have been previously involved with compiling or reviewing the submitted work. Please provide contact information and academic background for any recommended reviewers.
- Please direct any other questions to Journal staff at the Museum of the Mountain Man. Phone 307-367-4101 or email journal@mmmuseum.com.