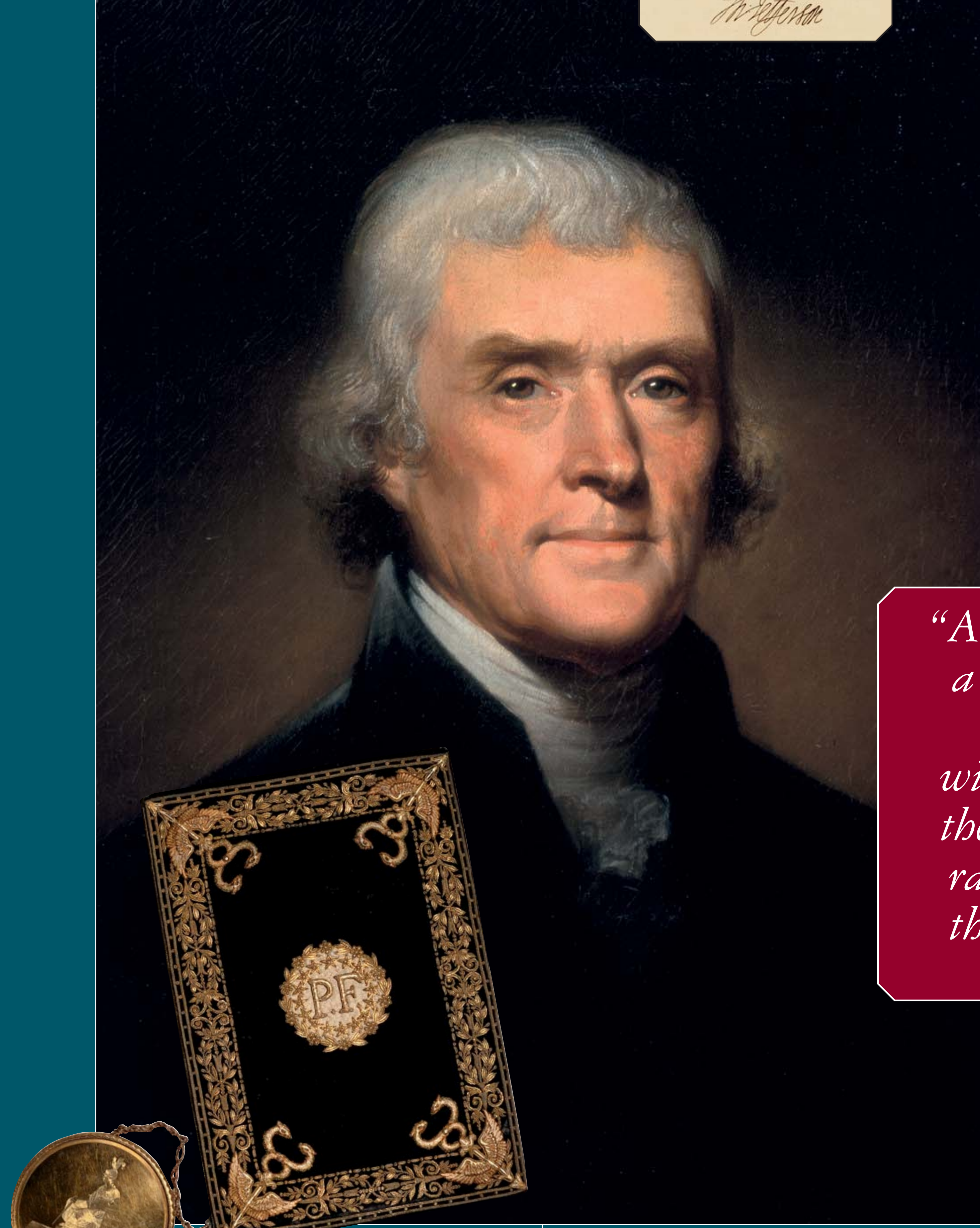


Thomas Jefferson

A P R E S I D E N T ' S V I S I O N

Jefferson



Thomas Jefferson, principal author of the Declaration of Independence, was the third president of the republic he helped establish. His election marked the first transfer of power to an opposition camp and the first time the House of Representatives elected the president after a tie in electoral votes. After a bitter and divisive campaign, Jefferson issued a broad appeal for calm in his first inaugural address: "We are all republicans; we are all federalists."

Jefferson was an active president who worked closely with allies in Congress, communicating his initiatives in powerful written messages. The successes of his administration included negotiation of the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the national domain. He dispatched the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the huge territories in the west of the North American continent. In keeping with his Republican principles, he repealed most internal taxes and reduced the public debt.

The nation's fortunes suffered during Jefferson's second term. The ongoing war in Europe and British naval interference in the Atlantic threatened commerce. In an attempt to maintain neutrality and punish British aggression, Jefferson asked Congress to pass the Embargo Act of 1807, which effectively halted all trade between America and other countries. This far-reaching and unpopular measure created hardship and dissent at home, unleashing bitter political attacks on his administration. Despite the renewed rancor, Jefferson kept his faith in the American people's "love of liberty, obedience to law, and support of public authorities."

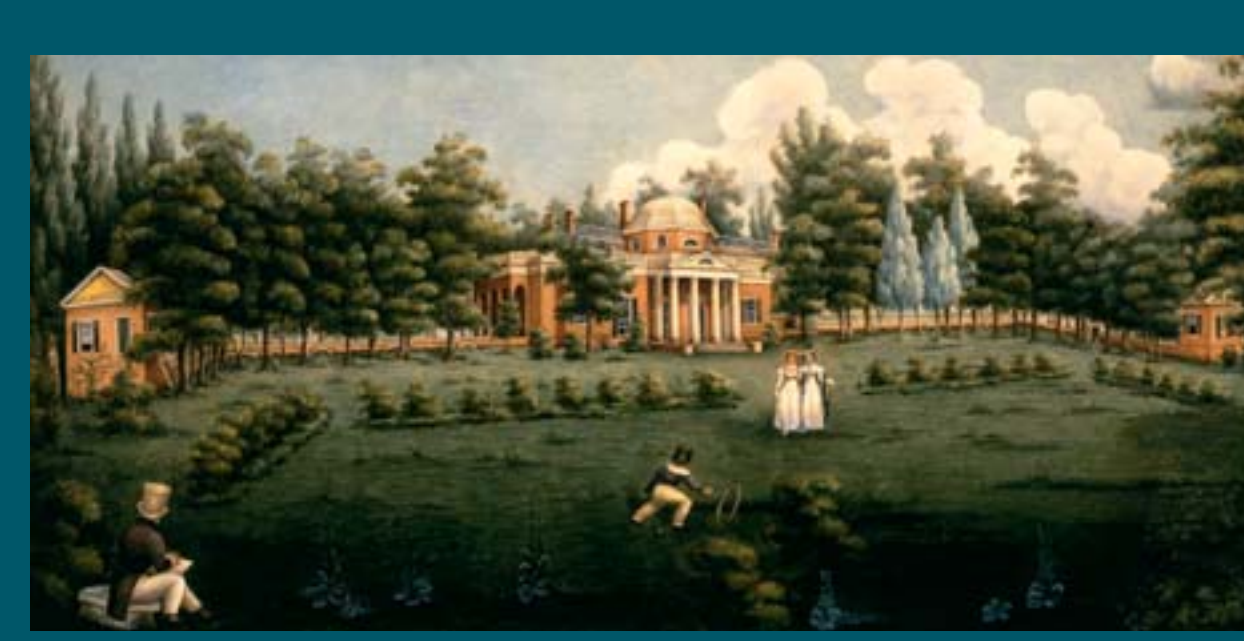
"A rising nation, spread over a wide and fruitful land, traversing all the seas with the rich productions of their industry...advancing rapidly to destinies beyond the reach of mortal eye..."

—FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS, MARCH 4, 1801



Louisiana Purchase Treaty, April 30, 1803. ORIGINAL RECORD OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, RECORD GROUP 11, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Thomas Jefferson by Rembrandt Peale, 1800. WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION)



View of the West Front of Monticello and Garden by Jane Braddick Peticolas, 1825. THOMAS JEFFERSON FOUNDATION/MONTICELLO



A view of New Orleans taken from the plantation of Marigny by John L. Boquet de Woiseri, 1803. THE HISTORIC NEW ORLEANS COLLECTION, ACCESSION NO. 1955-42



Chesapeake vs. Leopard, June 21, 1807, by Irwin John Bevan. THE MARINERS' MUSEUM, NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

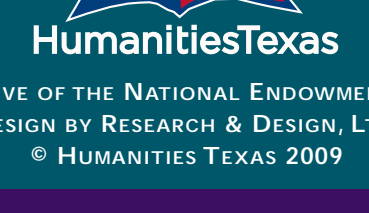
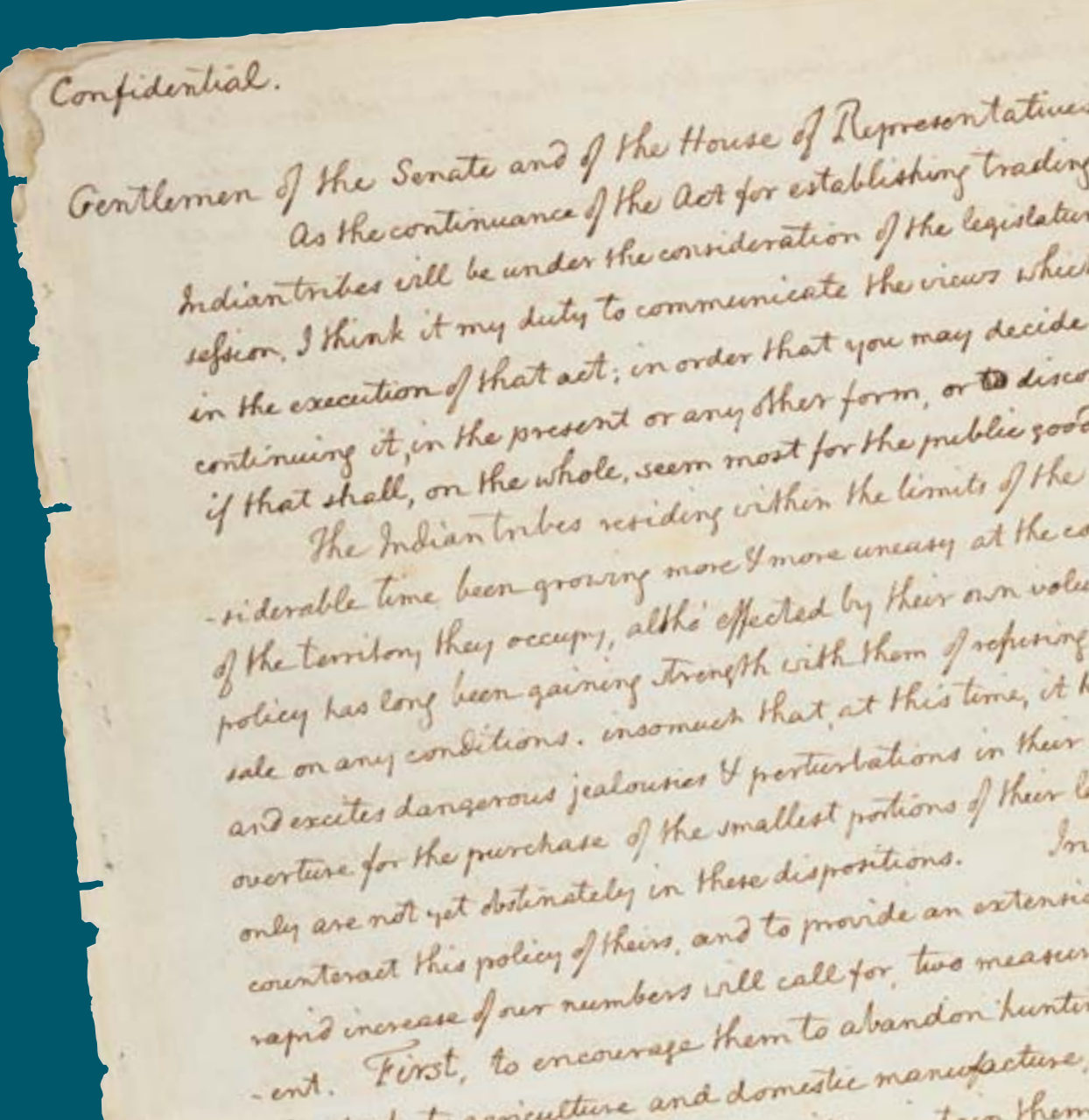
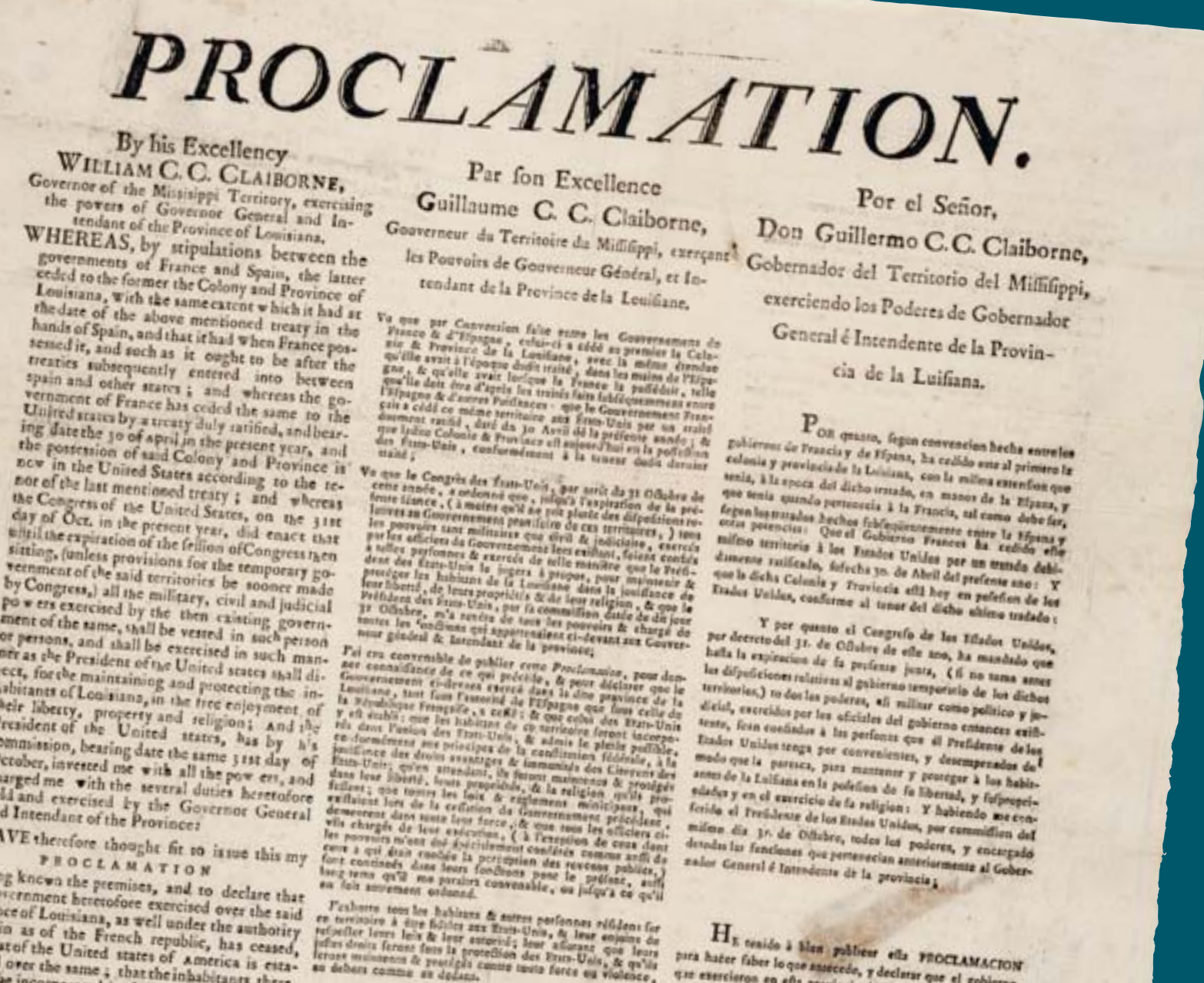


The Lewis and Clark Expedition by Thomas Mickell Burnham, ca. 1850. BUFFALO BILL HISTORICAL CENTER, COV. WYOMING; MUSEUM PURCHASE; 21-78

"Proclamation: To the People of New Orleans," December 20, 1803. RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RECORD GROUP 233, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The happy effects of that grand system [sic] of shutting ports against the English!! by Cruikshank, 1808. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION

President Thomas Jefferson's confidential message to Congress concerning Western exploration and relations with Native Americans, January 18, 1803. RECORDS OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RECORD GROUP 233, NATIONAL ARCHIVES



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