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Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated

Henry Lewis

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Henry Lewis : Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Historic PaintingsBy Sara WilliamsHenry Lewis added much to our understanding of the Mississippi River area through his brilliant paintings. Great volume!PIASA: In 1673, while voyaging down the Mississippi River, French explorers Marquette and Joliet, came across the petroglyph/painting of a strange creature up on the bluffs, high above the river in the area of Alton, Illinois. The beast, a conglomeration of bird, animal, reptile and fish characteristics, was sketched in Marquette's diary. The Illini Indians who lived there told them they had no idea who created it; in fact it had always been there. The Illini called the creature the Piasa, (Pie-a-saw) which in their language meant, "the bird that devoured men." While the original creation was later destroyed by early settlers, the town has continued to paint an image of the Piasa on the bluffs along the river down to the present day.As Marquette's sketch was lost to history, no one is quite sure what the original petroglyph showed. The current image is based on an early settlers account. Many current images of the Piasa I believe have been significantly embellished to present a more sinister appearance. An early German painter, Henry Lewis, who travelled along the Mississippi inadvertently added to the mystery by painting an image of the Piasa in the background of a portrait of the locals. This image can be found by searching online or in the Minnesota Historical Society's out-of-print version of Lewis's, The Valley of the Mississippi Illustrated. The print, entitled The Piasa Rock is facing page 298. This image more resembles what I would have expected to see.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The truth is in hereBy Dragon LadyThere are secrets buried in these elegant pages. At least one of the lithographs of Mr. Lewis has

been decried as fanciful. It is not. What historians claims does not exist is in this book. The truth is coming out. Mr. Lewis will be revered as a final witness to the one of the most amazing secrets of American history when it does

This is the first complete English edition of a rare item of Americana entitled "Das Illustirte Mississippithal", originally issued in a German translation in the 1850s. Although it was written in English and illustrated by Henry Lewis, an American artist living in Germany, only 74 pages of the work were ever published in the author's native tongue. Lewis based the work on firsthand information gained while living in St. Louis and on trips to the Upper Mississippi in 1846 to 1848. But the great value and interest of the book lies in the 78 lithographed illustrations which Lewis executed in color to accompany his text. His charming and historically accurate views of scenes and towns along the river valley from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico depict a bygone era when America was young. 7x10", xix+423 pp., 78 color plates.