

Swan's scrimped pages of writing

used

Day 30: on p. 33, Days 6-10, I have used mention of weather taken

"at 7 each morning, two in the afternoon, 9 at night." (cut made)

the diaries are not much travel-stained: only the old manuscript from Britain, which looks as if it could have floated back from Liverpool in a bottle.

Jan. 19, '79, Day 30--overcast, damp, chilly.

The ledger diaries are recopied in handsome, careful handwriting--his clerking

hand, ~~it~~^{that} would be; the words in haste into his pocket diaries often were scrimped

and mysterious--

Swan's writing becomes telegraphic (in PT yrs)

serge (plain words) instead of satin

characterize Swan's language

reading the diaries:

00 00? 00? (mock words to show deciphering of S's handwriting)

Swan's British trip: the manuscript looks as if it came ashore in a bottle.

Surely the oldest of his written words, dating from 1841.

use c days 29-30?

Writing hands touch across the years to other writing hands, and with his Northwest Coast pages open before me I can feel nothing but amazed admiration for Swan for stepping out of the nowhere of the frontier, putting together so highly readable a manuscript, and achieving prompt print.

S's handwriting: *(journals)*

A'd'at end of word, *sometimes* is like musical note. *J (other times, normal)*

Commas when they exist are tiny, specks.

Handwriting slants to the right, about 60 degree angle.

In journals (1863, for ex) each page has elegant heading of month and year: "March" begins with sweeping loop of M.

At times, writing is more straight-up and widely spaced;

difference caused by mood, time of day (bending closer over light instead of ease of daylight?)

He uses bracket out of right side of his 3-line listing of weather readings (7 am, 2 pm, 9 pm), like elegant version of flying birds. He made thousands of those brackets.

S's handwriting ~~dynamic~~ (Pocket diaries)

1863, the smallest, is size of deck of cards, written in pencil.
Words squinch together: "Webster" becomes a name of all spikes,
like some wildly-sparred-and-masted ship's profile.

Size of writing shrinks by about half.

Word such as "arrived" becomes 4 sharp squiggles and a musical note.

I count at least 2 handwriting styles in journals, and 3 in diaries.
(check)

S's commonwealth of words

For its flag, a river of words against a field of green

Make a point of Swan's good humor