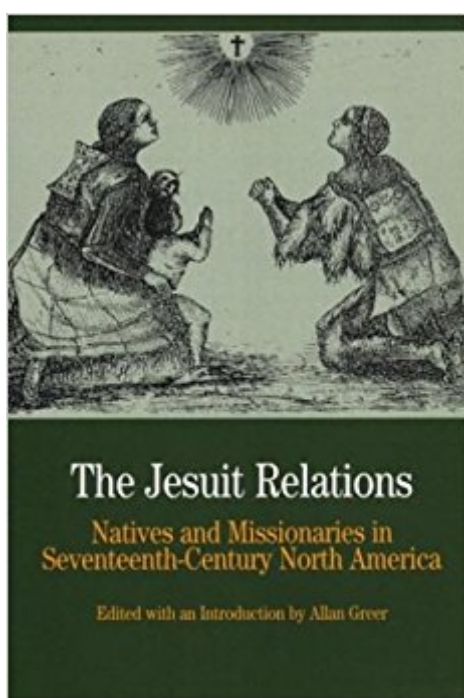


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# The Jesuit Relations: Natives And Missionaries In Seventeenth-Century North America (Bedford Series In History & Culture)



## Synopsis

As a 73-volume library, the original *The Jesuit Relations* has long been inaccessible to undergraduate students. Vitally important, the writings of seventeenth-century French Jesuits in Native North America tell the story of early American encounters. This new edition deftly binds them into a thematically arranged, 35-document sampler with a detailed introduction that provides background on these missionaries, the Indians, and their cohabitation in early North America. Colorful journal entries by such fathers as Paul LeJeune, Jean de Br beuf, Isaac Jogues, and Jacques Marquette describe the Huron, Algonquin, Iroquois, and Montagnais peoples. Eleven images, two maps, a chronology, a bibliography, and questions for consideration supplement these firsthand accounts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Jesuit Relations is among the most important scholarly sources for the study of early American history, and it's simply magic in the classroom. Greer's thoughtful translations and his concise, well-informed introduction do justice to these remarkable documents. The gripping, vivid selections from *The Jesuit Relations* will fully engage undergraduates, dissolve their stereotypes of both Indians and colonists, and allow them to gain a more nuanced view of life in early America." "Once again, Allan Greer has found an engaging way to draw students closer to the cultural encounters occurring in northeastern North America during the early colonial period. His accessible translations

of judiciously selected, generous samples from The Jesuit Relations will help ground fruitful class discussions ranging from native social organization to the mental worlds of Counter-Reformation clergymen."

ALLAN GREER is professor of history and vice principal of University College at the University of Toronto. Author of *The People of New France* (1997); *The Patriots and the People: The Rebellion of 1837 in Rural Lower Canada* (1993); *Peasant, Lord and Merchant: Rural Society in Three Quebec Parishes 1740-1840* (1985), he is also the recipient of the John Porter Prize, the Prix Lionel-Groulx, the Sir John A. MacDonald Prize, and the Allan Sharlin Prize. He is currently working on a book on the seventeenth-century Mohawk "saint" Kateri Tekakwitha.

Any one curious about Indian life must read Jesuit descriptions of their lives among the Indians. The Jesuit priests were missionaries who lived with the Indians in their villages in the 1600s, learned their languages, recorded their culture in great detail, and clearly loved and cared for the native peoples even though naturally repelled by a few of their customs. This 211-page abridgement is fascinating, and includes nice maps and drawings from the period. I found myself wishing it was longer.

The Jesuit Relations was an annual periodical reporting the events of missionary endeavor that stretched from Acadia on the North Atlantic all the way to the middle of the continent, to Lake Winnepeg, and even beyond to the Rocky Mountains, long before the famed explorations of Lewis and Clark. About the only criticism I would make is that the Jesuit missions in Baja California are not included, though they were certainly in North America.

This is a great book about which I would warn readers to skip the first 22 pages where the publisher decided to tell the reader what to think. It is unfortunate that the space in this short document has to be wasted on erudition regarding our ability to discern history.

Good source if you are interested in early French Canada & native Americans. The Jesuit missionaries were educated observers & lived with the native people they sought to convert. They learned the language & made precise observations of the governing & culture of the people. It is a well edited book & give one access to original sources that only scholars usually see.

excellent book, taught me alot. Great read very informative.

I guess I was just hoping for more of the real thing. The original "Jesuit Relations" was a hefty book full of all of the letters and writings of the Jesuit Missionaries who were really forming north America. This book is so tiny and only has excerpts from the real book. Does anyone know where I can find the original Jesuit Relations? I've even asked monks and nuns who live in monasteries known for their extensive catholic libraries and they've never even heard of it! Allan Greer did do a great job of this, in giving a brief account of it all. It's just a shame that such an important part of American history and such important sacrifices as these missionaries made should fall into such obscurity.

Greer's succinct version of the Jesuit Relations is an enjoyable and educational look into French and Indian relations in early Canada. His selection of pieces is insightful and covers a broad scope of information. Highly recommend for students and scholars of Indian or Canadian history.

This book offers an interesting perspective on Native American life not often found in textbooks. Because the United States was heir to English law, philosophy, and thought-patterns, we often forget that other countries also played a part. This book shows how American Indians were seen from a French-Catholic perspective.

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