
Robert Livingston, in 1675, arrived at Albany, a beehive of White-Indian activities. First as trader and then as government official, Livingston became intimately involved in Indian affairs. The records kept by Livingston as Secretary for Indian Affairs, supplement other colonial sources. Students of colonial history are indebted to Lawrence H. Leder and the Pennsylvania Historical Association for a handsome volume of these hitherto unpublished Indian records.

In general, these records contain additional and sometimes more clearly defined data which further reveal the cultural trends and the socio-economic and political climate of this crucial period in American history. The following are some of the problems which affected White Man and Indian: rivalry between the individual colonies; the efforts of New York to gain control of the entire continent; Anglo-French rivalry; regulation of trade; the position and influence of the Iroquois Confederacy. The fantastic diplomatic manoeuverings by all parties add spice to the story.

Of more than passing significance are the population data presented. Statistics for the year 1712, to the best of our knowledge, have hitherto not been published. Such references as "feavor and Small Pox" added to numerous wars, slowly vanishing game, reveal the dynamics behind the declining Indian population. Two maps and several lists of place names and distances are of utmost importance. Here we have raw material from which to fashion studies of residence and mobility.

The ambitious student will find at least partial answers to questions regarding the position of the Indian speaker, the function of the council fire, methods of forest diplomacy, the nature and causes of Indian warfare, the clash between Indian civil and military authorities, etc.

The task of compilation was formidable. It seems to have been thoroughly executed. However, it is regrettable that footnotes explaining the text and the personalities taking part in the negotiations were not included. Failure to include an index will unquestionably discourage full use of this excellent volume.

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