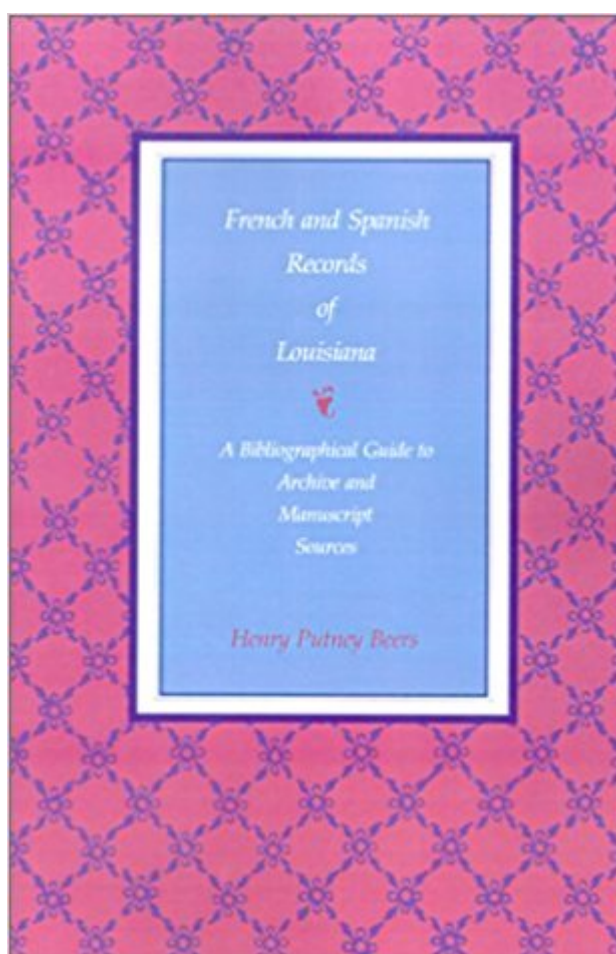


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French And Spanish Records Of Louisiana: A Bibliographical Guide To Archive And Manuscript Sources



Synopsis

Representing years of extensive research, this authoritative and comprehensive guide to the records generated in the Louisiana Territory during the French and Spanish colonial periods is a major reference work. Henry Putney Beers has painstakingly traced all types of documents, including land, military, and ecclesiastical records; registers of births, marriages, and burials; and private papers. Far more than a mere bibliographical listing, the book provides a complete history and description of these records and their past as well as current locations. When microfilms or other copies of particular bodies of documents exist, Beers describes the circumstances of reproduction and lists the locations of the copies. In the first part of the book, Beers presents a concise account of history and government in Louisiana, concentrating on the formation of a record-keeping bureaucracy. His detailed discussion includes information on available archival reproductions, documentary publications, and the nature and size of holdings in pertinent manuscript collections. Beers's examination of parish, land, and ecclesiastical records will serve as a vital resource. In the remainder of the book, he provides a similarly comprehensive treatment of the records of what are now Mississippi, Alabama, Missouri, and Arkansas. Beers traces repositories for these documents far beyond regional confines, locating some in Europe, Canada, and Cuba. For the early migrants to the region -- the Acadians, for example -- he describes source materials at the migrants' points of origin. He also provides information on documents that have been lost or destroyed, an important service that will save researchers much time. *French and Spanish Records of Louisiana* will prove to be of enormous value to a wide range of people: professional historians, local history buffs, genealogists, lawyers, archivists, and librarians.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A retired historian and archivist who is an important bibliographer in American history as well, Beers has meticulously mapped out the terrain faced by anyone engaged in documentary research on the colonial period of localities that are now in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, or Missouri. Each of the book's geographical divisions is introduced by an essay about the colonial government; bibliographical chapters on the various types of documents follow. Scholarly apparatus extends to repositories abroad, and helpful information on documents that have been lost or destroyed is also included. This is a fully realized guide to primary source materials rather than just a collection of lists. Beers contributes masterfully to future research, providing description, analysis, evaluation, and context. Though suitably detailed, the text is remarkably concise and fluid. (Index not seen.)-- Sally Linden, Wellesley Coll. Lib., Mass. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Henry Putney Beers, author of *The French in North America: A Bibliographical Guide to French Archives, Reproductions, and Research Missions*, has worked as an archivist for the National Archives and as a historian for the State and Navy departments. He is now retired and engaged in independent historical research. He lives in Arlington, Virginia.

My interest is pre-1836 history of Texas. I purchased the book as a research source for my library. Louisiana is an important piece of Texas history. For example, two of Texas' early heroes considered it home. (1) one of the most overlooked U.S. heroes in mainstream U.S. history is General Bernardo Galvez, the Governor of Spanish Louisiana; and (2) Lt. Colonel Bernardo Gutierrez de Lara used Natchitoches as his base of operations. He organized his Texas Army of the North there and marched to Texas. After winning a series of battles, he became the first President of Texas and wrote the first Texas Declaration of Independence on April 6, 1813. The book is a "paper trail" review of the rich history of Louisiana.

I have researched both French and Spanish records and find them to be very confusing at times. This guide contained enough historical background which explained very clearly the reasons why the records were either French and Spanish and the locations where those records could be found. This is a reference I will keep for my private library. I have never before found a bibliographic guide

that I actually enjoyed reading!!Elaine Boston

French and Spanish Records of Louisiana is an essential research tool for anyone studying colonial Louisiana. This scholarly publication provides a history of the various record types, information about the circumstances relating to their generation, and detailed information about their location today. There is a bibliography of manuscript sources, books, and articles.

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