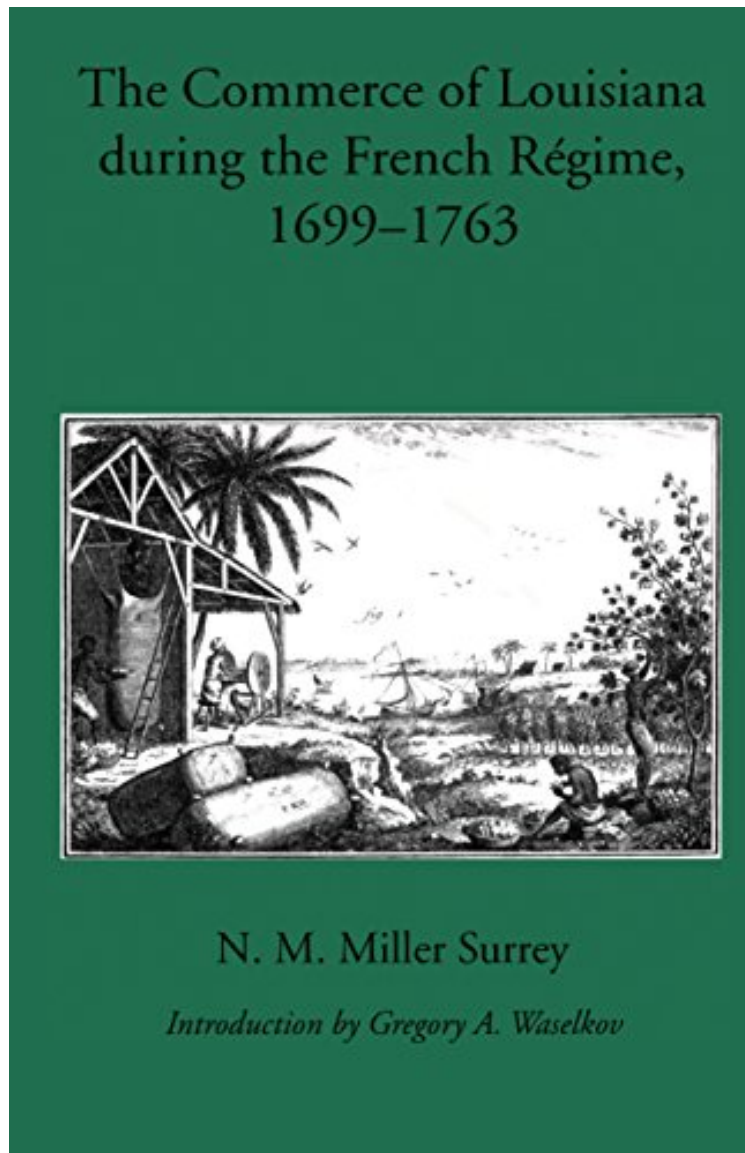


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# The Commerce of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1699-1763

*N. M. Miller Surrey*

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**N. M. Miller Surrey : The Commerce of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1699-1763** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Commerce of Louisiana During the French Regime, 1699-1763:

This volume reveals the wider scope of the French political and economic situation, as well as the minutiae of common barter and trade in Louisiana during the French Regime. By the time French colonists sought a portion

of the New World's riches, much of those resources had already been claimed by Spain and Portugal. Once settled in North America, however, they quickly turned their attentions to commerce, specifically to trade within the Louisiana region. For almost 65 years French explorers, soldiers, administrators, and accountants focused on establishing a string of forts and small villages at key points in the Mississippi and Illinois River valleys, eastward to the Mobile River drainage, and westward toward New Mexico. Despite a long and costly war at home, for a time it looked as though the French would be successful in controlling a vast swath of the middle of North America with routes stretching from Quebec City to New Orleans.

Nancy Maria Miller Surrey is a respected name to scholars of the French Mississippi Valley, and her [book], *The Commerce of Louisiana during the French Regime, 1699–1763*, has not been superseded in an astonishing ninety years. Its particular strengths, as Waselkov's introduction points out, are its attention to material culture and its closeness to the original French archival documents with which she was so familiar. I welcome the chance to read this fine work again.

—Pat Galloway, University of Texas–Austin