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NEW YORK INDIAN RECORDS  
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# AN ABRIDGMENT OF THE INDIAN AFFAIRS

CONTAINED IN FOUR FOLIO VOLUMES, TRANSACTED  
IN THE COLONY OF NEW YORK, FROM THE  
YEAR 1678 TO THE YEAR 1751

BY  
PETER WRAXALL

EDITED WITH AN INTRODUCTION  
By CHARLES HOWARD McILWAIN  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN  
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IN MEMORIAM  
MARIAE IRWIN McILWAIN,  
SOCIAE CARAE, UT IN OMNIBUS ITA  
IN HOC OPERE FIDISSIMAE





## PREFACE

THE publication of this Abridgment is the result of some investigation of the New York Indian trade in its international aspect made a number of years ago under the direction of Professor Edward Channing. In the course of that investigation I became impressed with the value of Wraxall's notes and obtained permission to have a copy of them made with a view to their publication. The publication has hitherto been delayed by stress of other work and would probably have been postponed still longer but for the disastrous fire of 1911 which destroyed so many of the New York archives, including the original from which this copy was made.

In the introduction I have attempted to set forth in general terms the character of the document and its relation to the history of the eighteenth century in order that the text and Wraxall's own notes might not be complicated by any added apparatus further than was absolutely necessary. I have also introduced there a number of illustrative extracts from various New York documents the originals of which have been in some cases wholly or partially destroyed. Where any of these have survived in whole or in part I have carefully compared my copies with them so far as this was possible, but, of course, in many cases the total destruction of the original made this out of the question. The latter was unfortunately true of the Abridgment itself, but the copy from which it is here printed was made under the personal direction of Mr. A. J. F. van Laer and Mr. Peter Nelson of the department of archives of the New York State Library, which is a guarantee of the accuracy and care with which the work was done.

My thanks are due to the New York State Library and to Dr. Melvil Dewey, its former director, for permission to publish this Abridgment; to Mr. van Laer and Mr. Nelson, not only for their supervision of the making of the copy, but also for inval-

uable help in many other ways; and to Dr. Doughty and Mr. David W. Parker, in charge of the Dominion archives at Ottawa, for permission to examine the surviving volumes of the Indian registers and for information in regard to them.

In the preparation of the introduction I have been greatly aided at many points by the suggestions and criticism of Professor F. J. Turner: also by the help of Professor Charles W. Spencer, of Princeton University, on whose knowledge of conditions in colonial New York I have freely drawn; and of Professor Channing, who first aroused my interest in this subject. Their kindness has placed me under a very heavy obligation.

Words or passages written by Wraxall and afterwards cancelled by him are indicated by placing them within brackets. Where parentheses occur in the text they are Wraxall's own. His paging of the original manuscript is also given in parentheses.

The surviving volumes of the minutes of the Albany commissioners now preserved at Ottawa are uniformly referred to as *Original Indian Records*. The unprinted minutes of the New York Provincial Council are cited by the short title, *N. Y. Council MSS.*; the New York Colonial Manuscripts, by *N. Y. MSS.* The two manuscript collections last named, together with the manuscripts of Sir William Johnson (here referred to as *Johnson MSS.*), formed a part of the archives of the State of New York and were partially destroyed in the fire of 1911.

The chief printed sources referred to are *Colonial Laws of New York*, Albany, 1894-96, 5 volumes, 8vo., cited as *N. Y. Col. Laws*; *Journal of the Votes and Proceedings of the General Assembly of the Colony of New York*, two volumes, folio, New York, 1764-66, printed by Hugh Gainé, cited as *N. Y. Assembly Journals*; *Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, Albany, 1853-87, fifteen volumes, cited as *N. Y. Col. Docs.*

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