

CRITICAL LIST OF AUTHORS

WHOM I HAVE CONSULTED IN COMPOSING THIS WORK.

As we have not yet any complete consecutive history of New France, and the most popular relations of that great country are neither the most exact nor the most faithful, it is not surprising that cosmographers, geographers, with geographical or historical dictionaries, speak very incorrectly of it. It is singular, however, that the older books are generally less disfigured by errors than modern ones. It is true that when they appeared the French North American colonies were of little importance; but making all due allowances, they spoke more exactly than their successors, who attempted to correct them. The former had before them only a few memoirs, whose authors confined themselves mainly to stating what they had seen or learned from eye-witnesses, and could only be accused of some exaggeration.

Early
writers
more
correct.

Thus the great Atlas, printed at Amsterdam in 1677 by John Blaeu, having been composed principally from the *India Occidentalis* of John de Laet, who himself had only followed in the main John Verazani, Jacques Cartier, Samuel de Champlain, René de Laudonnire, and Mark Lescarbot, all authors, commonly speaking, quite trustworthy, was for its time the best that could be given. It is true that previous works, such as *Le Theatre du Monde*, by John and William Blaeu (Paris, 1649–55); *Del Arcano del Mare* (Florence, 1630), of Robert Dudley, Duke of Northumberland and Earl of Warwick; the *Atlas*, of Gerard Mercator; the *World*, of Davity; the *Geography* of Thevet (*Cosmographie Universelle*, Paris, 1575), &c., either because these authors wished to be too concise, or failed to study all the accessible authorities on the subject, are much more imperfect, both in the maps and in the text; but as they gave little information, they could not lead into great errors.

BLAEU'S
Great Atlas.

Grand
Theatre du
Monde.
Arcano del
Mare.

MERCATOR.
DAVITY.
THEVET.