

and you will be careful to account to me every year for the proceeds of the licenses and leases.

---

1749: DEVELOPMENT OF DETROIT AND MACKINAC

[Letter from the French minister to La Jonquière and Bigot, dated May 14, 1749. Source, same as preceding document, but folio 76.]

MARLY, May 14, 1749.

MESSEIERS—Detroit has at all times been considered an important post; and it is so in fact, not only on account of its position with regard to the savage nations whom it enables us to restrain, but also because it is an obstacle to the encroachments of the English, and furnishes supplies to the voyageurs of all the other Southern posts. It is also one of the most advantageous for the fur-trade.

Hitherto attention has been devoted to the various arrangements proposed, for the purpose of peopling that post with inhabitants capable of cultivating the soil and of making it secure from attack by the savages; But hitherto, also, it has come to pass that most of those in whose favor such arrangements have been made, have applied themselves solely to the fur-trade and have abandoned the post as soon as they were prevented from so doing. It has been considered that an effective means of remedying that evil would be the appointment of a sedentary commandant who, being interested in everything that could contribute to the growth of the post, would occupy himself only with what would be conducive thereto. Messieurs de Beauharnois and Hocquart had deemed such an arrangement most suitable; but they thought its execution should be deferred until peace was declared. And, as Monsieur the Comte de La Galissoniere, to whom it was communicated, also thought it should be carried out, His Majesty has decided to approve it. At the same time he has selected the Sieur de