

listed at Paris, 1691, in 2 vols. 12 no. I will pay a good price for it. You may ~~ask~~ a dealer in old books ~~to pay~~ forty francs for it, if he will find a complete copy in good condition. I presume you may see a copy in the Bibliothéque du Roi. It has become rare. I do not wish you to be at any trouble in the business, but it is possible that this price would tempt a dealer to make a search, as the book, if found (there being no demand for it) would probably not cost more than three or four francs.

With great regard,

Your obt. servt

Jared Sparks

Berj. P. Poore, Esq.  
Paris.

P. S. My residence is now in Salem.

Salem, Mass. Apl. 29<sup>th</sup> 1846

My dear Sir,

Your interesting letter, of the 28<sup>th</sup> ultimo, came duly by the steamer. I am glad you have completed your selection from the "Cartons". I am exceedingly desirous to have a copy of the map, & the paper you mention "written at Paris in 1674". This paper evidently contains particulars relating to La Salle, which have not come to light in any other quarter. Will not the possessor allow you to take a copy, in case you cannot find the original?

As to the Library of St. Gulpice, I suppose you can enter it only through Catholic influence. Will not Mr. Walsh (who is a Catholic) aid an application? All the missionaries with La Salle were Recollets, (a branch of the Franciscans.) If the papers of that order have been preserved in Paris, I doubt not many particulars may be found about La Salle; such as letters from the Franciscan Bishop of Quebec, Fathers Zenobe Membre, who was with La Salle in Illinois, & Anastase who was in the expedition to Texas.

Any such letters would have been written between 1673 and 1686. And as La Salle favored the Recollets throughout, I should think access might be obtained to any papers in their possession, which might tend to illustrate his history & character. But I have no knowledge of any library or institutions of the Recollets now existing in Paris, & doubt if there is any such. The document you mentions is anterior to any of the papers hitherto found respecting La Salle, and thus covers a part of his life, which is now almost a blank. I beg, therefore, that you will procure a copy of it, if possible. If you think Mr. Walsh can aid you in any way, I will write to him on the subject, as I am well acquainted with him.

There are papers at Versailles. Have you made any inquiries there? I suppose they are more recent, however, than the time of La Salle. But you may find things about Canada & New England. Mr. Walsh is acquainted with the keeper. If you can find the instructions of the French government to Count d'Estaing when he sailed for America in April, 1778,

I should be very glad to have a copy of them. D'Estaing's correspondence is in the Marine Department, & I examined it there, but could not find the instructions. They are probably at Versailles, with other parts of his correspondence. It will be worth while for you, at any rate, to look at the papers at Versailles & ascertain what is there. I presume a letter to the keeper would be sufficient for this purpose. I did not examine the papers, & know of them only from what I heard.

Have you ever heard of a portrait of La Salle? Or anything known of his family at the present day?

Mr. Parkman is exceedingly interested in the history of the Indians, & is now on a tour of observation; probably rambling among the Ojibwees or Blackfeet in the far west. He will return during the summer.

In my opinion you cannot do amiss in sending any French books on the Indian History to the Mass. Hist. Society. There is scarcely a book of this description in the library. - I wish you could procure for me a copy of de Blevet's Établissement de la Foy en Canada, pub-