



What's in a Beard?...

"In this new world, a beard is the greatest disfigurement that a face can have. The peoples of these countries call the Europeans "bearded," as a gross insult. Some time ago, an Indian, looking into a Frenchman's face with the most extraordinary attention and in profound silence, suddenly exclaimed, after considering him a long time: "Oh, the bearded man! Oh, how ugly he is!". They have such dread of this disfigurement that, if the hair is inclined to grow on their chins, they pluck it out immediately, to rid themselves of what is beautiful to us, but ugly to them."

Jesuit Relations (1657-1658).