IN MEMORIAM
Richard L. Christian  
(1932-2013)

The French Institute has lost a dear friend with the passing of Richard L. Christian, one of the founders of the Christian Brothers Missionary Collection at the French Institute. A native of Rhode Island, he attended Assumption Prep and Providence College before receiving two graduate degrees from Harvard University. He is survived by his older brother, Father Dr. George Christian, OP.

For many years, the two Christian brothers engaged in genealogical research as well as translation of works from French to English and French to English. Their translations of materials from the Mis- sions étrangères de Paris, a French missionary society founded in 1663, form the core of the Christian Brothers Missionary Collection at the French Institute.

Richard L. Fortin  
(1937-2013)

Richard L. Fournier, a loyal member of the French Institute, passed away suddenly in November 2013. He had served in the U.S. Air Force and lived in Manchester, New Hampshire for most of his life.

Mr. Fournier was very interested in genealogy as was a member of the American Canadian Genealogical Society and the Association Canado-Américaine as well as the French Institute. He was also a docent at the Aviation Museum of New Hampshire.

QUÉBEC LITERATURE COLLECTION

Thanks to Linda Zieper, head of Library Information Services at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, the French Institute has acquired a superb collection of Quebec literature, both in French and in English translation. The university had to deaccession the collection due to lack of space but understood its importance and knew the French Institute would preserve it with the perfect home.

We would like to express our abiding gratitude here to Ms. Zieper as well as to all the other donors who have enriched the French Institute collection this year with their gifts of printed and archival materials. Un grand merci à toutes et à tous !

DIGITAL COMMONWEALTH

The French Institute has become a member of Digital Commonwealth, a web portal and fee-based repository service for online cultural heritage materials held by Massachusetts libraries, museums, historical societies, and archives. The portal facilitates the searching and browsing of member institutions’ digital assets, allowing the discovery of all kinds of digital resources including manuscripts, images, historical documents, and sound recordings.

Fifty organizations are currently members of Digital Commonwealth. As the members contribute their holdings, the quantity and variety of searchable objects will increase, and the richer and more valuable the portal will become.

As a first step in our collaboration with Digital Commonwealth, the French Institute has arranged for the digitization of a precious manuscript from the Jobin Family Archive, the illustrated history of fashion authored by Marie-Eugénie Jobin. Marie-Eugénie Jobin (1877-1959) immigrated to Boston from Quebec as a teenager, together with her parents and eight brothers and sisters. In Massa- chusetts she became an art teacher, writer, amateur biog- rapher and historian, and artist. The Jobin Family Ar- chive contains two manuscript versions of her labor of love, a comprehensive history of fashion illustrated with original art work and fabric samples. It was her dream to see this beautiful work published someday, a dream that will fortunately soon be realized thanks to the French Insti- tute’s membership in Digital Commonwealth.

Eugénie Jobin (1877-1959)

AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR QUÉBEC STUDIES

In 2013, Dr. Leslie Choquette was elected to a two-year term as President of the American Council for Québec Studies (ACQS). She will serve alongside Professors Katharine Harrington of Plymouth State Uni- versity (Vice-President), Mark Richard of SUNY Plattsburgh (Secretary), and Sam Fisher of University of South Alabama (Treasurer).

The ACQS is made up primarily of university professors from across the United States who have an active interest in Québec’s history, literature, politics, language, and culture. This interest is manifested through articles published in Québec Studies, the scholarly journal sponsored by the society, and presentations made at its biennial conference. Although the ACQS is based in the United States, it draws members from around the globe.

Dr. Choquette, a member of the ACQS since 1994, returns to the Executive Board after having served as Secretary from 2003 to 2009. She joined the Editorial Board of Québec Studies in 2007. She was highly hon- ored to receive the Prix du Québec 2012 at the ACQS biennial conference in Saratoga, and she eagerly anticipates the upcoming conference on the theme of Pluralités : Communautés québécoises et francophones/ Communities in Québec and Francophone North America. The 2014 ACQS conference will be held in Montréal from October 16-19 at the Montréal Château Champlain.

Leslie Choquette, professor of history and director of the French Institute, has been appointed to the newly endowed Cote Chair of French Studies at Assumption Col- lege. The chair was created by a generous bequest from the late Vivienne F. Côté of Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

Vivienne F. Côté, daughter of the late Dr. Omar H. and Hedwidge Lefort, attended St. John the Baptist Acade- my, Tufts University, and Brown University, graduating with degrees in French Studies. She taught French in the Paw- tucket school system for 30 years before retiring in 1976.

Ms. Côté was past president of several societies: the Alliance Française de Providence, the American Asso- ciation of Teachers of French, the Rhode Island Foreign Language Association, the GFWC Pawtucket Women’s Club, and the Gamma Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, a sorority of women in education.

She was honored with medals from the Alliance Française de Paris in 1959 and again in 1976, when the French government also named her a Chevalier des Palmes Académiques for her dedication to the study of French culture in the United States. She received another medal in 1989, from the American Association of Teachers of French and was twice honored by the Rhode Island Chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa. Assumption College is deeply grateful for her generosity and proud to honor her memory with the Cote Chair of French Studies.

Vivienne F. Côté

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COTE CHAIR OF FRENCH STUDIES
PUBLICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR


Dr. Choquette’s forthcoming publications include a review of the book La Francophonie nord-américaine, dir. Yves Fenette, Éléonore Rivard, Marc-Philippe Ilaine (Les Presses de l’Université Laval, 2013) in Histoire sociale/ Social History and an article on fear in New France.

BIO-BIBLIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF FRANCO-AMERICAN AUTHORS

The French Institute’s founding director emeritus, Dr. Claire Quintal, in collaboration with Dr. Armand Charrier, has compiled a bio-bibliographical dictionary of Franco-American authors who wrote in French. Their work, which contains dozens of entries spanning the 19th and 20th centuries, is currently being prepared for electronic publication by the French Institute’s work study student, Anissia Bouesso, an Assumption College graduate student.

Dr. Choquette’s other scholarly activities in academic year 2012-2013 included serving on a doctoral jury at Université Laval in Québec and evaluating a book manuscript for McGill-Queen’s University Press. She also serves on the editorial boards of French Colonial History, Québec Studies, the Journal of Early American History; The American Colonies, 1500-1800, and the Early American Monograph Series of Brill Academic Publishers.

ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

French Institute librarian and archivist Nina Tsantrizis has been elected Secretary of the Archives and Special Collections Interest Group of the Academic and Research Collaborative’s Worcester Chapter. Congratulations, Nina!

In the past academic year, Nina has also cataloged over 700 new items for our print collection and completed a finding aid for the extensive archives of the late Paul Chassé. New collections in process include the archives of Armand Charrier, Claire Quintal, la Fédération féminine francophone canadienne, the Union canadienne Saint-Jean-Baptiste de Bowensville, and the Christian Brothers Missionary Collection.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES


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LA FRANCOPHONIE, ÇA SE FÊTE !

LECTURE BY FRÉDÉRIC RONDEAU

In spring 2013, the French Institute participated in the annual New England celebration of the Journée internationale de la Francophonie. In collaboration with the Quebec Government Office in Boston, it sponsored a lecture by Dr. Frédéric Rondeau, a specialist in cultural studies who teaches courses on contemporary Quebec at McGill University in Montreal. Dr. Rondeau’s engaging presentation was entitled “Political and Artistic Protest in Quebec: From the Quiet Revolution to the Maple Spring.”

We look forward to welcoming another speaker from Québec in March 2014. Please check our website for more information as the date approaches. Au plaisir de vous recevoir à Worcester au mois de mars !

ROBERT LE GALLANT, SON CABARET

Robert Gallant, an alumnus of Assumption Prep and Assumption College, presented a French cabaret sponsored by the French Institute in three French language classes this fall. Students were enlightened and entertained by songs from Le Chansonnier de l’Assomption, the traditional songbook of the College’s bilingual days. Merci Robert et à la prochaine !

UPCOMING EVENTS

JOHN DUFRESNE

Franco-American author and Worcester native John Dufresne will read from his latest novel, No Regrets Coyote, at Assumption College in Kennedy Memorial Hall, Room 112, on Wednesday February 19, 2014 at 7:00 PM.

 André Dubus III wrote in the New York Times of No Regrets Coyote, “If anyone has a vision of the world as compellingly particular and compassionate as John Dufresne’s, I don’t know who...This is lean and honest storytelling that is as moving as it is engaging. Read this book. Believe me, you’ll have no regrets!”

BOSTON CELLO QUARTET

The Boston Cello Quartet will perform a free concert at Assumption College in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit on Sunday March 23, 2014 at 2:00 PM. The quartet was founded in 2010 by four cellists of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, including two natives of France, Blaise Dejardin and Alexandre Lecarme. Through virtuosic programming featuring the classical repertoire as well as jazz, contemporary works, and medleys, the quartet aims to showcase the limitless possibilities of the instrument they love.

Some of the French composers to be featured in their program include Claude Debussy and Emmanuel Chabrier. Venez nombreux !

The Boston Cello Quartet