IN MEMORIAM

Charles A. Rocheleau
(1913-2014)

Charles A. Rocheleau, a retired commander, intelligence officer, and assistant Naval attaché in Bonn and Paris for the U.S. Navy, died at Strathmore Farm, his home in West Virginia, in 2014. Cmdr. Rocheleau was born in Worcester and attended Assumption College, graduating in 1934. He received a master’s degree from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. A loyal member of the French Institute, Cmdr. Rocheleau bequeathed to us his collection of books on French Canada and Franco-America, curtesy of Charles Belisle, a fellow graduate of Assumption College. We are deeply grateful to them both.

Marcel L. Raymond
(1931-2015)

Marcel L. Raymond, a longtime supporter of the French Institute, died in his hometown of Lewiston, Maine in 2015. He graduated from St. Charles Borromeo Seminary before enlisting in the United States Air Force during the Korean War. After his military service, he received master’s degrees in French and in Education from the University of Ottawa. Relocating to Worcester, he was active in Franco-American organizations such as the Harmony Club, and he established a French Resource Center, “Chez Marcel.” He hosted “L’heure française” on WCUW Worcester Public Radio weekly for over a hundred years before returning to Lewiston in 2010 to be close to his family. The Marcel Raymond Scholarship for French Studies at the University of Maine in Augustata honors his memory.

RAYMOND H. FREDETTE BOOK DONATION

The French Institute is deeply grateful to retired United States Air Force Lt. Col. Raymond H. Fredette for generously donating to the French Institute his extensive and fine collection of books on French-Canadian and Franco-American history and culture.

Lt. Col. Fredette grew up in Gardner, Massachusetts and is the first cousin of Dr. Raymond J. Marion, who served at Assumption College for many years. A military historian of note, he is the author of *The Sky on Fire: The First Battle of Britain, 1917-1918* (1966), a book that remains in print to this day. Lt. Col. Fredette is also a well-known expert on the life of aviator Charles Lindbergh.

The Raymond H. Fredette book collection at the French Institute honors the memory of Lt. Col. Fredette’s cousin and namesake, Raymond J. Marion. It consists of well over a hundred books on French Canada, New England, and the important Franco-American heritage of our region. We extend our sincere thanks to Lt. Col. Fredette for the gift of these excellent works that enhance our collection significantly.

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE


The owner, who inherited the set from his father, generously plans to donate the proceeds from the sale to the French Institute. If you are interested, please contact us at instfran@assumption.edu or (508) 767-7415. Merci infiniment!

FRENCH INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW LIBRARIAN

It is with the greatest pleasure that the French Institute welcomes our new librarian and archivist, Elizabeth “Libby” Lipin. A native of Gardner, Massachusetts and a painter specializing in pastels, Libby received her MLS from the School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College in 2010. She joined the staff of the D’Alzon Library and Information Science at Simmons College in 2012, becoming familiar with the College’s unique special collections in North American Francophone Studies. We are delighted that she accepted the position of French Institute Librarian and Archivist in 2015.

In March 2015, Franco-American singer and songwriter Josée Vachon gave a wonderful performance in the Salon of La Maison Française at Assumption College in celebration of the Journée internationale de la Francophonie. We look forward to organizing another event in March 2016 as part of the annual Célébrations de la Francophonie en Nouvelle-Angleterre. Please check our website for more information as the date approaches. Au plaisir de vous recevoir à Worcester au mois de mars !

http://www.assumption.edu/academics/academic-institutes/french-institute
SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

The director of the French Institute, Dr. Leslie Choquette, participated in a number of national and international conferences during academic year 2014-2015. As President of the American Council for Québec Studies, she assisted in planning and presided over the 19th Biennial Meeting of the association in Montreal in October 2014. Her responsibilities included introducing Christine St-Pierre, Madame la Ministre des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie du Québec, who spoke on behalf of the Québec Government.


In 2015, Dr. Choquette served on an evaluation committee for the Fonds de recherche du Québec—Société et culture, the Québec Government’s funding agency for grants in the humanities and social sciences. She has been invited to join the committee and will serve on it again in 2016.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE DIRECTOR


NEW ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS

Thanks to the foresight and generosity of our donors, the French Institute has received three important new archival collections in the past academic year. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude for each of these precious gifts: to Joceline and Monique Lemaire for the archives of their late father, Hervé B. Lemaire; to Dr. Vaneeta D’Andrea for her doctoral research on the Fédération Féminine Franco-Américaine; and to Dr. Jacqueline Finn for the Harpin-Sansoucy Family Archive, including rare correspondence between Franco-American immigrants in New England and their family members in Québec.

Hervé B. Lemaire Collection

These diverse materials were collected and preserved by Hervé B. Lemaire (1923-2014), who was very active in Franco-American organizations throughout New England for many decades.

La Fédération Féminine Franco-Américaine


Dr. D’Andrea, who is Professor Emerita at the University of the Arts in London, U.K., did extensive oral history interviews with many members of “La Fédé,” which will now be available to scholars for future research.

Harpin-Sansoucy Family Archive

Compiled by Dr. Jacqueline Finn of Worcester, the Harpin-Sansoucy Family Archive contains over a hundred letters exchanged by members of two French-Canadian families in the United States and Canada, from 1909 to the late 20th century. In addition to providing English translations of all the letters, Dr. Finn has written a historical narrative exploring the lives of both families, generation by generation. Beginning with the arrival of one soldier from France 350 years ago and his decision to settle in Saint-Ours on the Richelieu River, Dr. Finn describes her ancestors’ successes, traditions, and challenges in rural Canada, leading to their eventual search for better lives in Montreal and Massachusetts. Immigrating to Southbridge in 1909, they later settled on a farm in Shrewsbury and finally in Worcester, where their descendants still live and engage in business.

1909 letter from Napoleon C. Harpin, Southbridge, Massachusetts, to his daughters Antoinette and Anne-Marie in Québec.