



## New Hampshire Celebrates Québec's 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

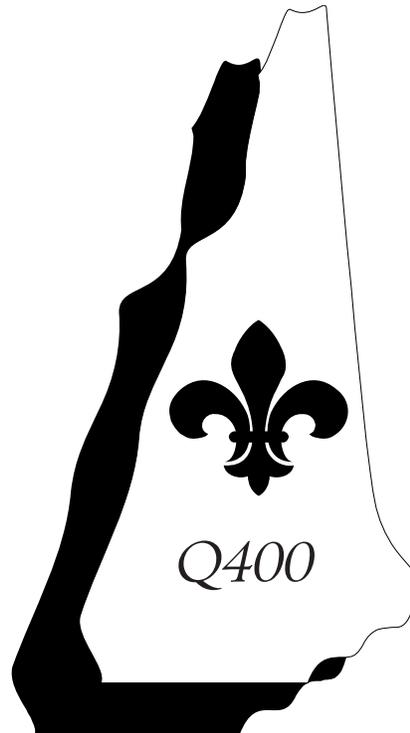
By Van McLeod  
Commissioner,  
NH Dept. of Cultural Resources

This year the Province of Québec is engaged in a year-long international celebration of the founding of its capital, Québec City, by the French explorer Samuel de Champlain in 1608. Events celebrating French culture, both traditional and modern, will be taking place across North America, with the *pièce de résistance* being a major festival in Québec City throughout the summer, including special events on July 3 and 4.

But *Québec 400* is not just for our northernmost neighbors. An important aspect of this celebration is recognizing the ongoing influence of French culture in North America. New Hampshire, of course, has long had a vibrant Franco-American community. In fact, today a major part of our state's population has French ancestors, primarily from Québec.

As commissioner of NH's Department of Cultural Resources, I have been working with representatives from Québec, the United Nations and the French Consulate to create programming across our state which ties in with *Québec 400*. Starting in 2006, a steering committee of representatives from New Hampshire's cultural organizations began meeting to explore different ways to involve individuals and organizations in the celebration.

The steering committee held six outreach meetings throughout the state, from Berlin to Manchester, Laconia to Portsmouth, in the fall of 2006 to inform local cultural leaders and the public about *Québec 400* and to



gauge enthusiasm for the celebration. We met dozens of individuals proud to be part of the Franco-American community, all of whom were excited to create a broad range of programming, everything from creating displays of their ancestors' photographs to performing plays by French authors like Molière. It was truly inspiring to see people take an idea and make it their own.

As this article goes to press, we have already created an online listing of events, <http://www.nh.gov/nhculture/quebec/index.htm>. Anyone who is hosting an event that includes French influence may choose to submit it to this calendar.

I am also pleased to be producing a performance in Québec during the July celebration. Representatives from all the New England states will be sharing a stage, performing traditional music. It is wonderful that New England will be so well represented to such an important international audience.

I hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to participate in the many French-influenced activities taking place in New Hampshire, New England and Québec this year.

*À bientôt!*

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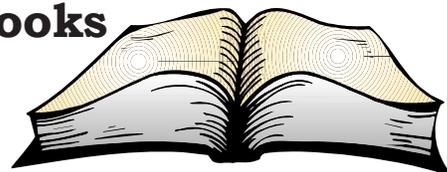
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## **New Hampshire Books**

By Donna Gilbreth



I will admit up front that my personal reading tastes tend toward escapist fiction. I profess my affection for John Grisham novels and similar stories I read while tucked under the covers at night. Therefore, this debut collection of short stories by Rebecca Curtis would not have been my first choice of personal reading material. But *Twenty Grand: and Other Tales of Love and Money* was intriguing, especially due to its strong New Hampshire connection.

The author grew up in Gilford, New Hampshire, and like many other young people, left the state soon after graduating high school. Curtis is now an instructor in the graduate writing program at Columbia University and has been published in *The New Yorker*, *Harper's*, and other literary journals. She is also a recipient of the Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers' Award. The majority of the stories in her first published collection are set in New Hampshire's tourist regions around the lakes and mountains. But the reader is exposed to the backside of the glossy tourist brochures, the realities not revealed to our brief visitors.

Although the author was eager to leave the state, she admits "...when I wrote the stories in this book, each began with the desire to describe a place in New Hampshire that I knew, even if it was an ugly place." In the story "Summer, With Twins" the struggling college student narrator works one summer at a lakeside restaurant where the fat, sleazy owner Boris hits on her, and older waitress Dina struggles to provide for her family. The narrator lives and works with golden girl twin sisters who coast along oblivious to the financial and social difficulties of others.

Another story exposing the other side of New Hampshire's tourist destinations is "The Alpine Slide." The narrator is a 15 year old local girl working one summer at a rundown mountain slide reopened by charismatic Canadian Jacques Michaud. But business is bad, a sliding accident occurs, and Jacques turns out to be a Chicago swindler having an affair with glamorous high school cheerleader Amy Goldman, before eventually skipping town.

The title story is an equally depressing one about a wife and her two children living in the isolation of the New Hampshire mountains while her husband works down at the Pease military base on the seacoast. Constantly without enough money, she travels down to his work one day in a snowstorm to ask for money and ends up losing a valuable family heirloom.

The author appends a personalized tour guide to her favorite attractions in central New Hampshire. I think this is somewhat in apology for her fairly bleak portrayals of the state in her stories. In her brief guide she celebrates the pleasures of strolling Weirs Boulevard, digging for "gems" at Ruggles Mine, or tasting the products from Granite State Candy Shop in Concord or Van Otis Chocolates in Manchester.

# Laconia Celebrates French-Canadian History

By *Jennifer Carroll-Plante*  
*Executive Director, LHMS*

In honor of the 400th anniversary of Quebec, the Laconia Historical and Museum Society is working with the Laconia Public Library and other local organizations to celebrate French-Canadian history in Laconia and compare those experiences a century ago with today's immigrant and refugee experience. Combining a contemporary perspective with a historical anniversary will help to: provide the French-Canadian population of Laconia an opportunity to connect with their own history and celebrate their ancestors' contribution to this region; introduce new immigrants and refugees to the struggles of those who came before them; introduce new immigrants and refugees to the community that they are an integral part of today; introduce the general public to this new population of residents; and promote an understanding of cultural diversity in the Lakes Region.

Laconia Historical & Museum Society (LHMS) will coordinate two exhibitions and a series of five edu-

cational programs during the 2008 season. The exhibition "Je t'aime Laconia" will not only draw from both the historical society's and library's collections but will utilize the stories and resources of area citizens. Oral history interviews with local residents of French-Canadian descent will be used to create exhibition labels and audio clips online. The stories collected will then be added to the permanent archives of the Society to be preserved for future generations. The Laconia Public Library will act as the venue for the exhibition and associated educational programming between May 21st and November 1, 2008.

The Library will also host a French film series, free to the public, this summer in conjunction with the exhibit.

Laconia Historical will also conduct oral history interviews with recent refugees and other newly arrived immigrants to create a second exhibition, "Embracing Laconia." The Laconia Human Relations Committee (an arm of the city council) and Lutheran Social Services of New

England have offered help in conducting the interviews with recent arrivals from Bosnia, Turkey, Iraq, Burundi, and Bhutan. Lakes Region Community College will host "Embracing Laconia" from September 12 to December 28, 2008.

A portion of the exhibit will also be displayed downtown on September 6, 2008, during the Committee's 7th annual Multicultural Market Day which draws approximately 5,000 visitors annually in celebrating diversity and world cultures. LHMS will help kick off the event by hosting a concert with French-Canadian singer/songwriter Josee Vachon on Friday, September 5th.

Planned 2008 programs and special events include a pork pie (tourtiere) cook-off April 5, the New Hampshire Humanities Council lecture and music program "Sprightly Steps," by Adam Boyce on May 19, a roundtable discussion with local residents of French-Canadian descent on June 16, a genealogy workshop with the American Canadian Genealogical Society of Manchester in July, and the fall concert with Josee Vachon.

## The Franco-American Centre Your French Connection in Manchester

By *Adele Boufford Baker*,  
*Quebec 400 Manchester,*  
*Franco-American Centre*

When the Franco-American Centre was founded in 1990 its goal was to reach a wide audience with an active schedule of art and historical exhibits, lectures, films, French language instruction, musical presentations and other offerings. Since that time the Centre has been a destination for the ongoing preservation and development of French heritage culture in the region. It has served as a

community center for francophones and francophiles alike of the Greater Manchester area, New Hampshire, as well as New England.

Many thousands of immigrants of French heritage from Quebec found new lives in Manchester, particularly during the era of industrialization from the mid-19th century into the early 20th century. This year marks the anniversary of the founding of Quebec City by Samuel de Champlain in 1608.

The Quebec 400 celebration will

serve as a catalyst for a wide variety of events and programs that will mark 400 years of French influence in North America. Many local organizations and businesses plan to join in the celebration with exhibits, lectures and musical programs.

The Franco-American community has a stake in these historic commemorations for Quebec's 400th and plans to take this opportunity to promote its roots, its history and its culture. Come celebrate with us! Félicitations Quebec! Learn more at [www.FACNH.com](http://www.FACNH.com).

## Letters About Literature 2008

This past fall the Center for the Book at the New Hampshire State Library invited readers in grades 4 through 12 to enter Letters About Literature 2008, a national reading-writing contest sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress in partnership with Target Stores. To enter, young readers wrote a personal letter to an author explaining how his or her work changed their view of the world or themselves. Readers selected authors from any genre—fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. There were three competition levels in the program: upper elementary, middle school, and secondary. The contest theme encouraged young readers to explore their personal response to a book and then express that response in a creative, original way.

The 2008 competition received 220 letters from New Hampshire students. Twenty-five semi-finalists were selected by a panel of judges work-

ing on behalf of the Library of Congress. These letters were reviewed by a panel of judges here in New Hampshire who selected the Granite State's winning letters:

- A letter to Beverly Cleary from **Angela Wang** of Nashua was chosen as the 2008 Level I NH winner.
- A letter to Carolyn Mackler from **Sydney Spencer**, a student at Oyster River Middle School, was the Level II 2008 NH winner.
- A letter to Jodi Picoult from **Livie Lane** of Dover was the Level III NH winner for 2008.

Each of the winning letters and a list of all of the 2008 Letters About Literature New Hampshire semi-finalists may be viewed at <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/letters.html>. Information on Letters About Literature 2009 will be available on the site in September.

## Ladybug Picture Book Award

New Hampshire children from preschoolers to those in third grade selected *The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School* by Judy Sierra and illustrated by Stephen Gammell, published by Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, as the winner of the 2007 Ladybug Picture Book Award. With 20,037 children casting ballots for their favorite picture book from among 10 titles, *The Secret Science Project That Almost Ate the School* won with 3,021 votes. Ballots and tally sheets for 2008 will be available at <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/ladybug.html> before school starts in the fall. Voting will be held in November 2008 (to coincide with elections).

### 2008 Ladybug Nominees

*When Dinosaurs Came with Everything.* By Elise Broach; illustrated by David Small  
*Would I Ever Lie to You?* By Caralyn Buehner; pictures by Jack E. Davis  
*The Magic Rabbit.* By Annette LeBlanc Cate  
*Bebe Goes Shopping.* By Susan Middleton Elya; illustrated by Steven Salerno  
*The Perfect Nest.* By Catherine Friend; illustrated by John Manders  
*Woolbur.* By Leslie Helakoski; pictures by Lee Harper  
*Help! A Story of Friendship.* By Holly Keller  
*The Wizard.* By Jack Prelutsky; illustrations by Brandon Dorman  
*Duck at the Door.* By Jackie Urbanovic  
*A Dog Needs a Bone.* By Audrey Wood

## IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

By Charles Shipman  
Chair, NH Dublin Committee

The New Hampshire State Library is one of 169 libraries from around the world that participate in nominating books for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. The IMPAC Dublin Award is the world's richest literary prize for a single work of fiction published in English.

We recently submitted our nominees for the 2009 award (which is actually awarded for books published in 2007). Our choices were:

- *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*  
by Dinaw Mengestu
- *The Septembers of Shiraz*  
by Dalia Sofer
- *The Archivist's Story*  
by Travis Holland

It will be a few months yet before the 2009 "longlist" of nominees is announced, but the winner of the 2008 Dublin Award will be announced June 12. It's no easy feat to win the Dublin; there were 146 titles nominated for this year's prize. That list was pared down to only ten "shortlist" titles by a committee of international writers and academics.

Last year's winner was *Out Stealing Horses*, by Norwegian author (and former librarian) Per Petterson and translated by Anne Born. Who will take the prize this year? Go to <http://www.impactdublinaward.ie> and find out! While you're there, be sure to browse through the lists of nominated titles both past and present. You're sure to find a number of terrific novels that you might otherwise never come across.

# I'm interested in the Franco-American experience in New Hampshire; what should I read?

**Maybeth Anderson**, Librarian, Dover High School and Regional Career Technical Center suggested two titles from her library's collection:

*Of Kings and Fools: Stories of the French Tradition in North America.* Collected, translated, and retold by Michael Parent and Julien Olivier. (Little Rock, Ark.: August House Publishers, 1996)

*The Franco-Americans of New England: A History.* By Armand Chartier; translated by Robert J. Lemieux and Claire Quintal; revised and edited by Claire Quintal. (Manchester, NH: ACA Assurance; Worcester, Mass.: Institut Francais of Assumption College, 1999)

**Cynthia Riley**, Librarian at Somersworth High School, said, "I immediately think of Grace Metallious when I think of the N.H. Franco-American experience, along with stories of mill workers in Manchester and other mill cities and towns." She also suggested *Amoskeag: Life & Work in an American Factory City and Mills and Factories of New England*, "which is a beautiful collection of photos (with ghostly reminders of the countless workers who toiled there without any time to write stories and books)."

**Melissa Stearns** at the Franklin Pierce University Library suggested:

*Charlotte Bakeman Has Her Say.* By Mary E. Finger; illustrated by Kimberly Rose Batti. (Children's)

*The First Franco-Americans: New England Life Histories from the Federal Writers' Project, 1938-1939.* By C. Stewart Doty.

*Marie Blythe: A Novel.* By Howard Frank Mosher. (Mostly in Vermont, but partly in NH)

*The French-Canadian Heritage in New England.* By Gerard J. Brault.

*Les Franco-Américains de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, 1776-1930.* By Yves Roby. (in French) [There is an English translation of this title, by Mary Ricard, available from Septentrion Publishing]

*Franco Americans: We Remember.* (A videorecording of an NHPTV program (1999) hosted by Tom Bergeron.)

*Manchester's Mill History.* (A sound recording with New Hampshire Public Radio reporter Kevin Gardner.)

**Mary Cronin**, Madison Library, suggested Anita Shreve's *Fortune's Rocks*: "While not the main setting of the book, there is a rather frank and bleak portrayal of the conditions for Franco-American workers and families in a fictional Dover, NH type area."

Among the suggestions made by author and Franco-American history expert **Julien Olivier** were:

Anctil, Pierre. *A Franco-American Bibliography. New England.* Bedford, N.H.: National Materials Development Center, 1979. Recognized as the most comprehensive bibliography available at the time of its publication, this annotated work remains highly useful but must be supplemented to include works which have since appeared.

Belair, Richard L. *The Fathers: A Novel.* Boston: Branden Publ. Co., Inc., 1991. The latest in a long tradition of Franco-American novels depicting the life and evolution of the group. Set in Woonsocket, R.I., in the 1920s, it is a man's search for his father, and for his God (Father) in the context of a social upheaval in which the temporal authority of the spiritual fathers (Church) was contested.

Chodos, Robert, and Eric Hamovitch. *Quebec and the American Dream.* Toronto: Between the Lines, 1991. This excellent book looks at contemporary Quebec with particular regard for its historical relationship with the U.S., seen as highly important in the evolution of the French-language province in Canada. Franco-Americans, descendants of 19th century economic immigrants in the Northeast, play a significant part in this story, and their own odyssey is explored.

Demers, Normand J. *Revolution in Quebec. A Past Rejected...A Future in Doubt...An American Reflects on the Dynamic but Divided Society of His Heritage.* Portsmouth, NH: Peter E.

Randall Publisher, 1995.

Hendrickson, Dyke. *Quiet Presence.* Portland, Me.: Guy Gannett Publishing Co., 1980. Dramatic, first-person accounts. The true stories of Franco-Americans in New England.

Ledoux, Denis (ed.). *Lives in Transition. An Anthology of Contemporary Franco-American Writings.* Lisbon Falls, Me.: Soleil Press, 1991. Insights into Franco-American history and culture through the poems and short stories of 12 authors.

Parent, Michael and Julien Olivier. *Of Kings and Fools. Stories of the French Tradition in North America.* Little Rock, AR: August House Publishers, Inc., 1996. Stories pertain to Franco-Americans and French-Canadians. Some are folk tales which originated in France and were brought to North America. There are also original stories by the authors.

**Mary Ahlgren**, Hall Memorial Library (Northfield/Tilton, NH), suggested *Papa Martel: A Novel in Ten Parts* by Gerard Robichaud (Doubleday, 1961) as "a great one. We used it for a book discussion a while ago, and it brought back many memories for some of the group. The mills, the church, Catholic schools, big families..... And of course anything by Ernest Hebert!"

**Christine Hague** at the Weare Public Library suggested *Amoskeag* by Tamara Harevan, "which is a good pictorial and has interesting text."

*The Sugaring-Off Party* by Jonathan London and illustrated by Gilles Pelletier is a children's picture book that came to mind for **Evelyn DeCota** at the Philbrick-James Library in Deerfield.

**Cab Vinton** at the Sanbornton Public Library suggested Jeffrey Lent's novel *Lost Nation*, which has a French-Canadian theme.

**Adele Boufford Baker** suggested that most of the books available at the Franco-American Centre's bookstore would be suitable as an answer to this question.

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## River of Words

*By Pamela Michael  
ROW Executive Director*

River of Words (ROW) is a California-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our goal is to get kids excited about learning, and to connect informed and engaged citizens with business people, government agencies, and learning communities, working together toward common, self-defined goals.

We've been conducting training workshops for teachers, park naturalists, grassroots groups, state resource agencies, librarians and others since 1995, helping them to incorporate observation-based nature exploration and the arts into their work with young people. In addition to helping improve children's literacy—and cognitive skills like investigation and critical thinking—River of Words' multidisciplinary, hands-on approach to education nurtures students' creative voices as well, through instruction and practice in art and poetry.

The results have been successful beyond our most audacious hopes—

- community partnerships in support of education and watersheds
- creek clean-ups and restorations
- student poetry clubs and art exhibitions
- oral history projects
- school gardens
- Girl Scout Watershed patches, developed in conjunction with US EPA
- many more wonderful projects

Perhaps the best way to understand our impact and mission is to visit our website ([www.riverofwords.org](http://www.riverofwords.org)) and view some of the poems and artwork created by children around the world.

These extraordinary works have been submitted to our free, annual environmental poetry and art contest,

conducted in affiliation with The Library of Congress Center for the Book. The contest theme is watersheds, a meaningful, scalable way of looking at the whole of nature. We accept poems in English, Spanish and American Sign Language (submitted on videotape). The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live, and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover and is open to any child in the world, from 5-19 years of age. Older students must have not yet completed high school. There is no charge to enter and students may enter on their own, or as part of a group (classroom, Girl Scout troop, 4-H, etc.). Winners are announced each April at a gala event at the San Francisco Library. The Grand Prize and International winners win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC, to attend the ROW Award Ceremony at The Library of Congress. Past contest finalists from New Hampshire include Molly Goelzer (Durham), Bailey Irving (North Hampton), Madeleine Bennett (Epping) and from Peterborough, Michelle Dovovan, Allegra M. Hyde, Molly C. Brown, and Emily Sharpe. The annual deadline for the contest is February 15th for entries from the USA. Completed rules and details are at [www.riverofwords.org/contest/index.html](http://www.riverofwords.org/contest/index.html).

Through the universal language of art—painting, drawing, and photography—students learn not only about their own homegrounds but, in sharing their work with each other, about other bioregions and cultures, as well. The watershed art and poetry submitted to River of Words is exhibited around the globe and is seen by millions of people each year. Every painting, every poem contributes to an informed appreciation of the natural world and the interconnectedness of all beings.

# Keeping French in Manchester

## La Librairie Populaire Celebrates 30 Years

by Brian Early

It was 30 years ago this Saturday that a French bookstore opened in Manchester. And 30 years later, after bookstores have come and gone, La Librairie Populaire still stands on Orange Street. For all that time, Roger Lacerte, 72, has owned and operated the store, commuting almost daily from his home in Lowell, Mass., where he started the bookstore out of his home when his friends were looking for books about the Quiet Revolution that was taking place in Quebec, Canada.

"I didn't have any furniture in the house, but I did have a book case," Lacerte reminisced recently. "That's how it all started." That was back in 1962. Soon his house was filled with books. He picked Manchester as more centrally located than Lowell or Nashua to serve French-speaking New England. "It was a good spot for marketing," he said.

He first thought that religious books would sell well, but that business wasn't as strong as he hoped, and Lacerte instead found business in genealogical books, though, in recent years, he hasn't sold any more genealogy books. Books, music, greeting cards and anything in French,

Lacerte sells. Robert Perrault, a modern language instructor at Saint Anselm College and a local historian, has been a regular customer for years. There are also a few of his books on the shelves, including a history of Manchester in French. His recent book on Manchester postcards is one of the few books in the store in English. The only books in English are ones that deal with Franco-American history in the area. Recently, one of Perrault's cousins from Canada died. "I wanted to send her husband a French sympathy card," he said, and La Librairie Populaire was the only place in the area where he could find one. "I think it's a miracle that this bookstore is still around."

But operating a French book store is not all that Lacerte does. He's active in the Franco-American community. In Lowell this past summer he was named Franco-American of the year. He's the founder of the social organization Le Club Richelieu in Lowell, and he's president of the Lowell chapter of the Association Canado-Américaine. On Sunday mornings, he can be heard playing French music on WFEA, keeping up the tradition that the late Joe Maltais started in 1992. He also teaches French at Nashua HS South.

The retail landscape of Orange Street has changed in the past 30 years since he first arrived. In 1977, there was a cobbler shop, an antiques dealer and a jewelry store. Now, he's the only retail shop on the street. "It's a big juggling act trying to survive," Lacerte said. The dropping value of the U.S. dollar has made imports from Canada and France more expensive. "We just buy what we really need." Buying what is needed is more difficult for Lacerte than for traditional bookstores. Usually, book distributors will buy back unpopular books. Because Lacerte buys books internationally, his book distributors do not offer buy-backs. "You have to be very careful of what you buy," he said.

And while Franco-American culture has diminished in the area, and it's been years since French was heard on the street corners, Lacerte works to keep the heritage alive. "He's almost like a missionary," Perreault said about Lacerte.

*This article was originally published on 11/29/2007 and is reprinted here with permission of the author and Hippo Press.*

**La Librairie Populaire**  
**18 Orange St., Manchester**  
**Phone: (603) 669-3788**

## New England's Franco-American Writers

Between 1815 and 1930 over a million people left Quebec and moved to the United States, many settling in New England. The Franco-Americans established communities that reflected the faith and the culture they had left behind in Quebec. Storytelling was an important part of French-Canadian life and many New England writers have Franco-American roots. Learn more about New Hampshire's Franco-American writers in the New Hampshire Author's Database at [www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/literary/nh\\_authors.html](http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/literary/nh_authors.html). Here are a few examples: Richard L. Belair, Josaphat T. Benoit, Gregoire Chabot, Armand B. Chartier, Paul P. Chassé, Robert Cormier, Henri D'Arles, Rosaire Dion-Lévesque, Normand Dubé, Ferdinand Gagnon, Jacqueline Glasson Fuller, Ernest

Hebert, Jack Kerouac, Adélarde Lambert, Grace Metalious, Julien Olivier, Robert B. Perreault, E. Annie Proulx, Adolphe Robert, Gérard Robichaud, Adrien Verrette.

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**Center for the Book**  
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*The mission of the Center for the Book at the NH State Library is to celebrate and promote reading, books, literacy, and the literary heritage of New Hampshire and to highlight the role that reading and libraries play in enriching the lives of the people of the Granite State.*

## **The Library of Congress Expands *France in America***

Last July the Library of Congress completed a major expansion of its bilingual “France in America” online presentation with the addition of 247 items from its collections. “France in America,” part of the Library of Congress’s Global Gateway Web site, is a cooperative project of the Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The first part of the site, launched in Paris in May 2005, explores the history of the French presence in North America and the interactions between the French and American peoples from the 16th to the early 19th centuries.

The recently added content documents the links between France and the United States in the 19th and early 20th centuries in such areas as politics, immigration, scientific exchange, literature and the arts. These materials include rare books relating to the

continuing role of France in the Caribbean, postcards and photographs from France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and 42 English-language translations of popular French writers from the Seaside Library Folio Collection in the Library’s Rare Book and Special Collections Division. Other items added to the site include the correspondence of John Slidell, the Confederacy’s commissioner to France, and papers from Mary Church Terrell, a prominent African-American educator and civil rights advocate who traveled in France in 1888-1890 and kept a diary in French.

A large volume of the new material highlights the importance of contacts in the fields of aviation and motion pictures as part of the interaction between the two countries. Included

are selections from the papers of Wilbur and Orville Wright that demonstrate their relations with French flight enthusiasts; selections from the Tissandier Collection on the History of Aeronautics relating to the activities of the French aviation pioneers Gaston, Albert and Paul Tissandier; and 28 early silent films produced by the pioneering French motion picture houses of Gaumont, Pathé Frères and the Société Lumière at the end of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th century.

Introduced by historical narratives and annotations that are provided in both English and French, the collections in “France in America” are a valuable resource for teachers and students of American and French history, international relations and the French language.

**<http://international.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/>**