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James Myall

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Our Websites:
usm.maine.edu/franco
facebook.com/usmfranco
youtube.com/usmfrancoamerican

Contact Us:

Franco-American Collection
Room 153
USM Lewiston-Auburn College
51 Westminster Street
Lewiston, Me, 04240

753-6545
franco@usm.maine.edu

Hours
Monday - Thursday
9 - 4

From the Coordinator:

Summer at the Collection often means taking stock. With the campus seeing fewer students, and many local residents away at camp, it gives the Collection's staff and board a chance to take a step back and catch their breath. We had a successful series of events over the past year, and we're hoping to repeat many of them, including the popular sing-along sessions (see below). As always, community participation in these is vital - we wouldn't be anything without your help!

In addition, I was able spend some time on a long-awaited reorganization of the Collection's archives. Our rear stacks have been reorganized to make items easier to find, and we're hoping to begin entering the remaining 2/3 of our uncataloged books onto the state-wide URSUS cataloging system, making it possible for you to view our published collection with the click of a mouse.

On the theme of visibility, take the chance to look at our re-designed website, and our ever-growing social media channels - on Youtube and Facebook (links at the bottom of the page). Obviously, these pages are for you, our audience, and we love hearing your feedback.

À Bientôt!

James



(Rear) Jacynth Jacques, Irene Mercier, Helene Sylvain
 (Front) Jeanette Gregoire, Irene Coady

Sing-Along Sessions Return!

Start flexing your vocal chords, dust off your dancing shoes, and shine up your spoons – French sing-alongs are back at the University of Southern Maine's Lewiston-Auburn College! We had a great turn-out for our first session of the fall on September 28th, but you're still in time to join USM's Franco-American Collection at **1:15 on Wednesday, October 19** for an hour of songs, jigs and reels.

Traditional favorite French songs will feature prominently in the session led by Jacynthe Jacques and accompanied by Jeanette Gregoire on piano. Contributions of your own songs and stories are always welcome and encouraged. Lyrics will be provided, so no knowledge of French is required, and a friendly atmosphere is guaranteed at this free event. Regulars and new-comers are equally welcome in this group, which ranges from age 7 to 100. Bring a friend!

Facebook

If you're on Facebook, why not 'like' the Franco-American Collection? It's a great place to keep tabs on what we're doing, and it contains lots of information on the wider Franco community in Maine and the nation. Find out what you're missing at www.facebook.com/usmfranco and 'like' us today!

Youtube

We also have our own Youtube channel. Primarily, we're using this to publish clips of our sing-along sessions and other public events. In addition, we are gradually digitizing some of our oral histories, and publishing these online. It's a great chance to listen to first hand accounts of Franco life. Each of these will also be published to our website, but for the latest updates, and to find all our videos in one place, visit www.youtube.com/usmfrancoamerican and click 'subscribe'

New Website

Along with the rest of the University of Southern Maine, the Collection has a new website layout. We've also taken the opportunity to add a whole lot of new content:

- * Breaking news and upcoming events
- * Reports and photographs of past activities
- * A selection of videos from our oral history collection
- * Background information on our history, bylaws and board of directors
- * Links to other online Franco resources
- * Webforms to sign up to our mailing list, or request research information from the Collection.

Visit us now at www.usm.maine.edu/franco (note the slightly altered address). We love the new look, but let us know what you think - is there anything else you'd like to see added?

Recent Donations - Merci!

- * From Mrs. Monique Couturier: microfilm of *Le Messenger*; movie reels of Mayor Robert Couturier
- * From Mr. Lionel Messervier: memorabilia from the *C'est Si Bon* band.
- * From Lewiston-Auburn Magazine: a gift subscription for our archives.

The Voyage of Jacques Cartier

In honor of the Columbus Day holiday, here's an extract from the Voyages of Jacques Cartier, the French discoverer of New France. This extract, translated by James Myall from the original French, records Cartier's arrival in the Iroquois village of Stadacona, near present-day Quebec City, on September 14, 1535:



"We arrived at Stadacona, where there was as good soil as can be seen, and very fruitful, full of the most beautiful trees, of the kind found in France, such as chestnuts, ash, walnuts, plums, yew, cedar, vines and hawthorns, which bear fruit as large as damsons and other trees, under which grass grows as well as in France, without seed nor plowing.

After having visited the place and found it to be suitable, the Captain and the others retired in the boats to return to the ships, and just as they were leaving the river [the St. Charles], we found, in front of us one of the lords of the people of Stadacona, accompanied by several, men and women. The lord began to give a sermon in the manner of that land, that is, full of joy and confidence. Women danced and sang constantly, standing in the water up to their knees. The captain, seeing their good love and good will, brought the boat close, and gave them knives and small glass rosaries; this elicited a wonderful joy, so that they stood as we left, and travelled with us for about a mile or so, the people singing, dancing and leading a celebration of our arrival.