
AATF National Bulletin

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEACHERS OF FRENCH

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1 · NOVEMBER 1975

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

For several years I have been agitating for *another* AATF periodical. That is not because I had in any way lost faith in the *French Review*. As a literary scholar by temperament and practice and as a former review editor of the *French Review*, I have every reason to support that publication for what it is: an essentially scholarly magazine in the field of literature and pedagogy. Any popular appeal that it might have can be due only to the intrinsic interest of scholarly subjects.

In these times of crisis in the teaching profession and when American teachers of French, for the first time in their history, have their own identity crisis, we need a publication which communicates *news* more rapidly and more dramatically than the *French Review* with its slower deadlines and scholarly format is capable of doing. I use the term *news* in the broadest sense. I obviously mean day-to-day items such as operational details of the National French Contest, Summer Scholarships, etc., but I also mean news about the present state of our French profession: great experiments which have succeeded like French Language Week in New York last spring; the morale of our high school French teachers (I know nothing about that and am worried). I also have more ambitious ideas about eventually having a periodical which tells us what is going on in France. Two years ago we seemed on the verge of having a joint publication with the French Cultural Services which would achieve these two objectives of *professional news* and *news about France*. At the time of those negotiations, AATF was not prepared to finance its half of the enterprise. The result was that the Cultural Services launched its own periodical, and now the AATF has done likewise.

In appointing Professor Stanley L. Shinall as editor of the *AATF National Bulletin*, I have asked him to find out what our constituents want as a publication to supplement the *French Review*. Among secondary school teachers particularly there has been a very vocal group (whether a minority or a majority I have never been able to determine) who have clamored for a new publication. Now that this publication exists, even in a limited form, the time has come to assist the new editor by comments and suggestions in order to give maximum usefulness to this undertaking.

Douglas W. Alden

RENDEZ-VOUS À LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS



Jacques Hardré

All members of the AATF will want to converge on New Orleans for the Christmas holidays 1975, for that is where our Forty-eighth National Convention will be held (Hotel Fairmont, December 26-30). All AATF conventions are worth attending, of course, but this one promises an exceptional educational and cultural experience since it will be held jointly with the World Congress of the *Fédération Internationale des Professeurs de Français*.

What is the F.I.P.F.? It is a federation grouping some fifty national associations of teachers of French, in various parts of the world, whose total membership numbers close to 50,000 teachers. Founded in 1969, the F.I.P.F. has as its primary goal the support of all efforts undertaken to strengthen the teaching of French in all its aspects and at all levels. Since it is a federation, it cannot work directly with individual teachers but must deal with them through their national associations. Thus, a secondary goal of the F.I.P.F. is to help create national associations in countries where none exist. In recent months, associations have been founded in Iran and in Senegal and others are in the process of formation in Greece, Egypt, and Morocco.

Those of us who have for many years belonged to an association need not be told of the advantages to be derived from participating in the activities of a national association. But we all need to be reminded occasionally that the problems we face in our profession may well be similar to those confronting our colleagues in Malawi or South Korea, in Brazil or Finland, or even in Canada or France.

This is why a convention of the F.I.P.F. held simultaneously with that of the AATF should afford a unique intellectual experience, for it will bring to New Orleans delegations of teachers of French from the four corners of the world, from countries where French is taught as

a native, as a second, or as a foreign language. There will therefore be ample opportunity for all who attend to meet and discuss with colleagues of many lands, to become aware of the universal implications of their profession, and to share in the enthusiasm of discovery and recognition.

Several AATF chapters have contributed to the fund established to help defray the expenses of delegates from developing countries. These colleagues will be met in New Orleans by representatives of the chapters concerned and, inevitably, close personal links will be forged. This is another important goal of the F.I.P.F.

A detailed program of the joint convention will appear in the December issue of the *French Review*, but it would not be superfluous here to indicate the main events and attractions.

No specific activities have been planned for the first day of the convention so that the participants will have ample time to check in the hotel or in the dormitory (Loyola University), to register if they have not done so beforehand (we strongly urge preregistration), and to do as much sight-seeing as possible, since the remaining days will be crowded with activities.

Ceremonies will open the morning of December 27th, featuring speeches by the governor of Louisiana, Edwin Edwards, the Mayor of New Orleans, Moon Landrieu, and the French Senator Jacques Habert, as well as brief remarks by the presidents of the various associations involved and by the president of CODOFIL, James Domengeaux.

In the afternoon, the complete program will be given to all participants, who can then choose among the various F.I.P.F. and AATF study groups and sections. The schedule has been arranged to allow each conventioneer to stay with one group for the duration of the congress or to participate in succeeding discussions dealing with a great variety of subjects (pluralism, textbooks, literary criticism, literary history, the teaching of culture and civilization, French literature outside France, cultural and literary relations between France and the French-speaking countries and America, etc.).

In the evenings, entertainment in the form of folk music, dancing, theater, and film will be offered free of charge to all who have registered.

An excursion through the Cajun country and to Lafayette, home of CODOFIL (Committee on the Development of French in Louisiana), has been arranged for December 28 (\$25 per person charge). A similar excursion is being considered for December 30 and 31 for both foreign colleagues and others.

The accomplishments of CODOFIL in the resurgence of the French language in Louisiana have caught the attention of French-speaking people around the world. Many have written to say that they are looking forward to their stay in Louisiana because they want to see for themselves what CODOFIL is doing.

On the last morning (December 30), after the General Assembly of the F.I.P.F., a synthesis of the papers, discussions, and decisions of the convention will be presented to allow those who could not participate in all groups to be informed of what was done. A special

bulletin of the F.I.P.F. will publish a summary of the proceedings and some of the position papers presented. This bulletin will be distributed to all who registered for the convention.

Finally, a special flight to Martinique and a five-day stay at the new and modern Hôtel de la Marina is being offered to those who want to prolong their French cultural experience a little longer.

Thus, a combined program of study and entertainment with local, national, and international overtones will be at the disposal of all who come to New Orleans. Shall we see *you* there?

Jacques Hardré
Président
F.I.P.F.

Fédération Internationale des Professeurs
de Français

Troisième Congrès Mondial

American Association of Teachers of French

Quarante-Huitième Congrès National

Société des Professeurs Français en Amérique

NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS, LOUISIANE, U.S.A.

26-30 décembre 1975

Hôtel Fairmont

Programme

Le 26 décembre

9h00-12h00 — Réunion du Bureau de l'AATF
(Chancellor Room)

13h00-18h00 — Réunion du Bureau de l'AATF
(Chancellor Room)

13h00-18h00 — Réunion du Bureau de la FIPF
(Mayor's Chamber)

L'inscription des congressistes aura lieu à partir
de midi à l'entresol de l'Hôtel Fairmont

The AATF *National Bulletin* is published four times a year, in September, November, January, and April, by the American Association of Teachers of French, 57 East Armory Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61820. Application to mail at second-class postage rate is pending at Urbana, Illinois. Office of publication: 1002 West Green Street, Urbana, Illinois.

LE BICENTENAIRE

A tous les professeurs de français! Nous entrons dans l'année du Bicentenaire.

Le bureau national de l'AATF a nommé un comité chargé de coordonner les initiatives, les projets, les actions qui seront entreprises. Il comprend: pour les régions du Nord-ouest et du Sud-ouest, Mme Jeanine Gaucher-Shultz (présidente, Southern California Chapter); pour le Middle West, M. Georges Joyaux (regional representative, AATF); pour la région Est, Mme Anne Slack (vice-president, AATF); pour la région Sud-est, M. Edouard Morot-Sir (vice-president, AATF).

A l'échelle nationale, le bureau a recommandé les décisions suivantes: faire de la conférence AATF de 1976 le congrès du Bicentenaire, centrer le concours national autour de thèmes célébrant l'anniversaire de la République et les relations historiques franco-américaines, solliciter l'appui et l'intervention du gouvernement français dans des projets à la réalisation desquels l'AATF serait associée.

Mais il est certain que la plupart des célébrations se feront dans le cadre des écoles, des collèges et des universités, dans les manifestations organisées par les villes, les comtés et les états. C'est là que chacun de nous se doit d'assurer une participation française! Des Français ont été présents à la naissance de la République. Soyons de nouveau présents demain, pour montrer à tous le sens profond de notre profession, et pour prouver que ce nouvel acte de foi dans la République est aussi, pour nous professeurs de français, un acte de foi dans la permanence de la solidarité culturelle qui unit les Etats-Unis et la France.

Coordonnons nos efforts et nos projets à l'échelle locale. Que chaque chapitre ait son comité du Bicentenaire! Rappelons partout, dans les salles de conférence, à la radio, à la télévision, dans les manifestations officielles, que la culture française est une part importante de l'héritage américain, et qu'elle est ainsi associée aux oeuvres de l'avenir!

Pour le comité du Bicentenaire, Edouard Morot-Sir

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SOCIÉTÉ HONORAIRE DE FRANÇAIS

Dear SHF Sponsor (or future SHF Sponsor):

The SHF membership card has had a face lifting! We have just had printed new membership certificates like the sample you see below (unfortunately colorless and reduced in size here). The student's name and the date of the award will be printed on the certificate by our professional calligrapher. We think it is very impressive and hope that you will send us your reactions.

Watch for our fall issue of *L'Elan*, the official bulletin of the Société Honoraire de Français. It will contain some of the literary production we have received over the summer, as well as information about our annual meeting in New Orleans in December. This year the SHF will award a summer study scholarship, graciously donated by Schiller College, to one of its members. Qualifying information and application blank will be found in the next issue of *L'Elan*.

If any AATF member is not already a sponsor of a chapter of the SHF, the only national honor society for secondary school students, and he would like information concerning the establishment of a chapter, please have him contact this office. We would also be happy to forward copies of past issues of *L'Elan* to those who might be interested.

We have presently over 400 active chapters of the SHF in the United States and Canada. Our growth can only benefit you and your students.

Stephen Foster, Sec.-Treas.
Société Honoraire de Français
57 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820

SOCIÉTÉ HONORAIRE DE FRANÇAIS

sous les auspices de l'AATF

Le Président de la SHF certifie que

est membre de la Société Honoraire de Français en raison de sa connaissance approfondie de la langue et de la culture françaises.

Le
P.O. le Secrétaire

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

As you read the president's letter of charge, you will see that the *AATF National Bulletin* is to function as a channel of communication within the profession. The editorial staff solicits your comments, recommendations, and responses to material appearing here. Just as importantly, we seek your contributions. We urge that regional news of national interest to teachers of French (bicentennial plans, special conferences, or workshops) be submitted for inclusion. Short articles describing local programs and activities which have proven successful in stimulating school and community interest are especially welcome. Four issues of the *Bulletin* are planned for each year. The second and third issues will appear in January and April. Materials for inclusion in these issues should be received by December 15 and March 1 respectively, and be typed double-spaced using a fifty-four-space line. This is your *Bulletin*; send your news to:

S. L. Shinall, editor
AATF National Bulletin
57 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820

IN MEMORIAM

With a profound sense of loss and sadness, we inform our membership of the recent death of Mme Colette Stourdzé, who succumbed October 17 following a lengthy illness. Mme Stourdzé's name is familiar to many through her good offices as Secrétaire Générale of the F.I.P.F. and her work at the Centre d'Etudes Pédagogiques. For many of us who have been privileged to study under her in France, her name is virtually inseparable from the study of French syntax at the Ecole Supérieure. Generations of Middlebury students, among others, will recall her summer courses in Vermont and her regular courses in Paris with a keen sense of appreciation for the quality of instruction she provided. Her unflagging vitality, her insights into the problems facing teachers of French à l'étranger, her love of and respect for the wealth and expressiveness of the French language, her uncompromising insistence upon excellence of student performance — all coupled with a vibrant sense of humor, an impartiality, and a generosity which led her to share with her students a philosophy of language teaching and, more generally, of life itself: these things remain as valued memories for her students. Through them, she has undoubtedly entered many more classrooms to touch many more students of French than she would have imagined. We, her students and friends, are grateful for her and her rich legacy.

S. Shinall

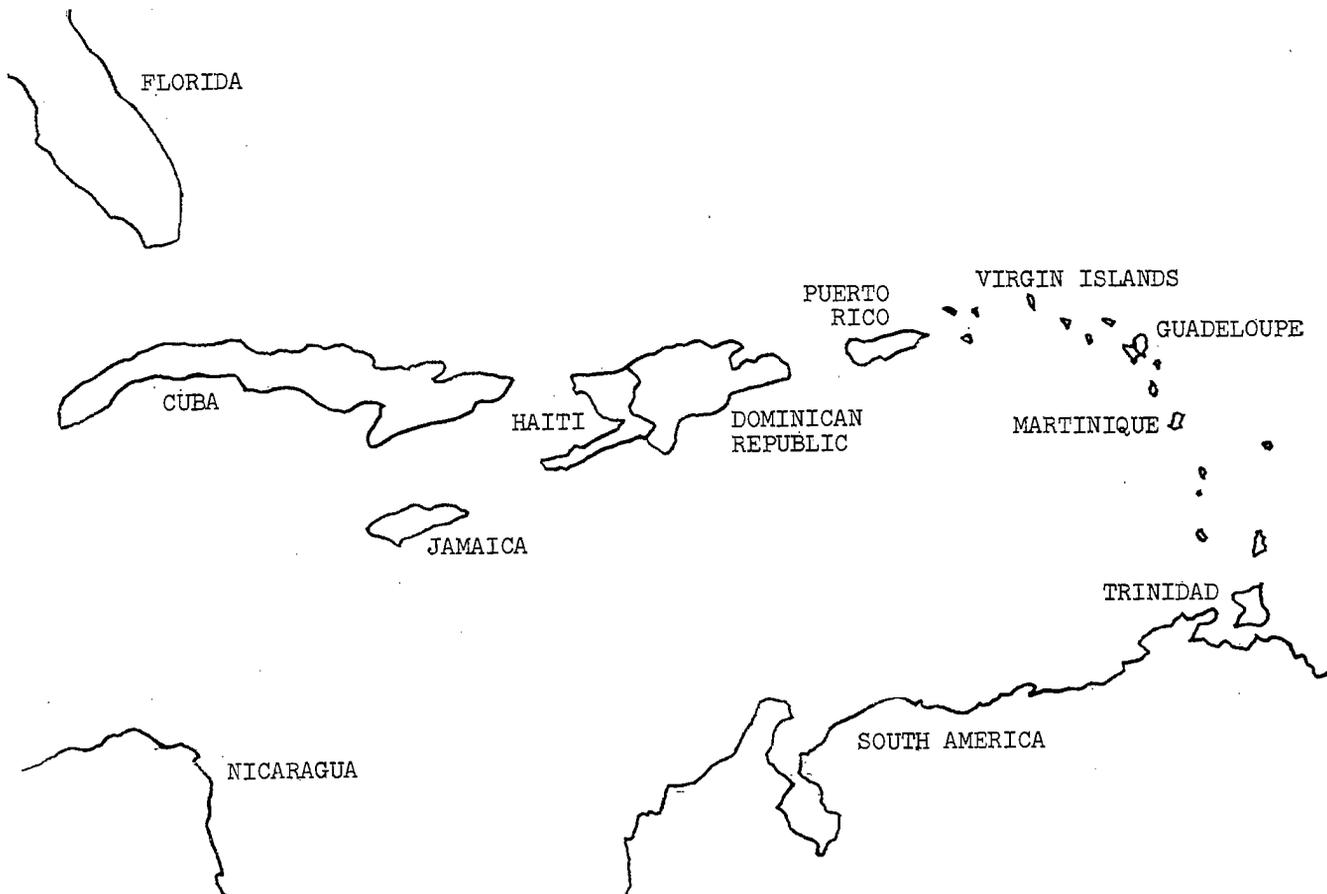
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORTS ON MARTINIQUE AND GUADELOUPE

Francophonie is receiving much attention nowadays, particularly black *Francophonie*, and the United States has some of the most interesting concentrations of the latter practically on its doorstep. The French possessions of Martinique and Guadeloupe lie just beyond Puerto Rico in the semicircular chain of the West Indies which makes a wide sweep from Florida to South America enclosing the Caribbean Sea. I chose this area for my 1975 vacation, partly to see for myself this intriguing subtropical area, but also for another, more businesslike purpose. The AATF has been taking an interest in this French-speaking part of the world, and several years ago the Executive Council asked the executive secretary to investigate the possibility of aiming one of our national conventions in that direction. More immediately, a post-convention excursion to Martinique is planned for December 1975. I went to the French islands armed with introductions to the management of the Hôtels Méridien provided by Air France (Air France owns the Méridien chain). Through further contacts made with Martinique businessmen at the Fort-de-France Rotary Club meeting, I was able to take a fairly good look at the hotel situation while also inspecting the tourist attractions. Though hardly an authority on the French West Indies, I have at least a sufficient impression of the two islands, particularly of Martinique, to answer some of the more frequently asked questions about them.

Hotels and Tourism

Martinique covers 388 square miles and has a somewhat kidney shape. Fort-de-France, a city of about 100,000, is located on the north side of a large bay that indents the west coast of the island. I stayed at the Hôtel Méridien, which has a beautiful location across the bay from Fort-de-France on a small peninsula called Pointe du Bout. The Méridien has 300 rooms and is the largest hotel in the French West Indies. It was opened two years ago, almost simultaneously with the Hôtel Méridien of Guadeloupe (280 rooms). It is large enough to be visible in the distance across the water from the city, and of course from the hotel one can also see the city and the big Caribbean cruise ships that drop anchor outside it each week. One of the particularly delightful experiences of a sojourn at the Méridien Martinique is to sit on the terrace of the hotel in the evening quaffing a cool drink, listening to a concert by the tropical crickets, and watching the twinkling lights of Fort-de-France across the bay. The trip by car around the bay from the city to the hotel takes forty minutes, but there is a ferry, *la vedette*, which makes the trip across the water in twenty-five minutes and runs every hour up to 1 a.m. I would estimate the distance to be about eight miles, and the ride costs 5 francs, or 8 francs a round trip. The short trip is very pleasant, and the ferry is heavily used not only by tourists but also by local commuters.

Pointe du Bout seems destined to become the outstanding tourist center of the Antilles. Besides the three hotels



already located there, two other large ones are under construction, and just down the beach about half a mile beyond the peninsula is the Martinique Marina. On the Pointe du Bout next to the Méridien stands the Hotel Bakoua (named after a variety of palm tree from whose fronds is woven a conical hat, also called a *bakoua*). This is a well-known, four-star resort inn which offers, among other things, folkloric dances by a native troupe every week for the entertainment of its guests and other visitors. Directly behind the Méridien and the Bakoua is the small Hotel Madinina (twenty rooms) with an excellent restaurant called Chez Sidonie. (Madinina is the original Indian name for Martinique, "Island of Flowers.") What is destined to make the Pointe du Bout the center of tourism of the French islands is the construction of two additional hotels, each within a stone's throw of the Méridien and the Bakoua. The Hôtel de la Marina will have 200 rooms and is already partially in operation. This property is of particular interest to our members because it is where the FIPF and the AATF members will stay during the Christmas excursion to Martinique from New Orleans. Though intended for transient occupation, it is set up more like apartments. Every unit has a kitchenette, and the units are divided into efficiency, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom suites. The company which is constructing it is also adding a French café which will open on a promenade along the wharf, a Chinese restaurant, a "superette" (the French

also use this monstrous word, compounded of an augmentative prefix joined directly to a diminutive suffix!), and miscellaneous shops. These additions will be ready presumably by the time our excursion group reaches Martinique. There is still another hostelry of 200 rooms, the Frantel, going up next to the Hôtel de la Marina. With 800 rooms concentrated in one small area, Pointe du Bout will offer the most impressive lodging facilities of any place in the French islands, unless it is shortly surpassed by the hotel explosion also going on all over Guadeloupe. It should be mentioned that both islands are havens of the *Club Méditerranée*. Martinique has one "Club Med" hotel and Guadeloupe has two. Air France, which provides the only direct flights from the U.S. and France, is booked almost solid with the "Club Med" traffic in summer.

The largest number of tourists, to judge by the patrons of the Méridien, are the French. They probably supply 50 percent of the clientele, and the Americans are undoubtedly next with about 30 percent. Italy seems to be sending quite a few tourists, and the remainder includes Germans, Swiss, British, Canadians, and Spanish speakers from the nearby islands and from South America. Surprisingly, among the local population you don't find as much knowledge of English, even in the shops, as you might expect, in view of the large number of English-speaking tourists. All the large hotels offer English lessons to their employees, and they seem eager to acquire

the American idiom of their tourist customers. I attended a number of English classes at the Hôtel Méridien, and found myself invited to participate. The French West Indies would seem to offer good job opportunities for persons trained to teach American English and having a knowledge of French.

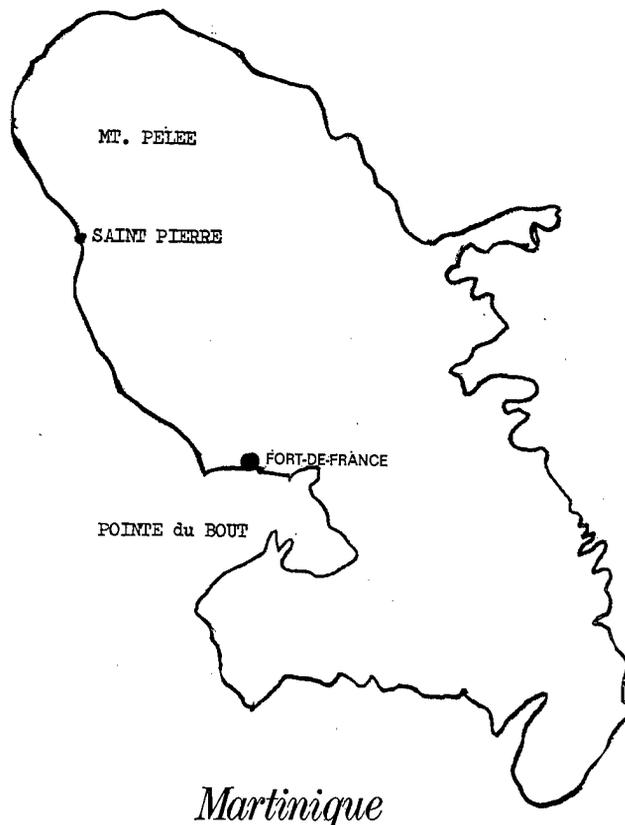
One of the interesting influences of the American tourists on the cuisine of the French Islands is that the Méridien Hotel (and probably all the large resort hotels) offers a *petit déjeuner américain*. This consists of fruit (grapefruit, pineapple, mangos, watermelon, papaya), fruit juices (orange, grapefruit, and guava juice), American cereals and milk, and eggs with sausage and bacon, plus the usual French staples of coffee, croissants, brioches, and marmalade. The pineapple, mangos, and guava juice are delicious, but the melons and grapefruit are but pale imitations of the luscious U.S. products. The French tourists seem to enjoy these copious breakfasts, which are served buffet style, and load up their plates as much as the Americans. Another traditional feature of these island hostelrys which is peculiarly West Indian is that travelers arriving at any hour of the day or night are served a complimentary "planter's punch" containing a powerful infusion of rum.

History and Sights of Martinique

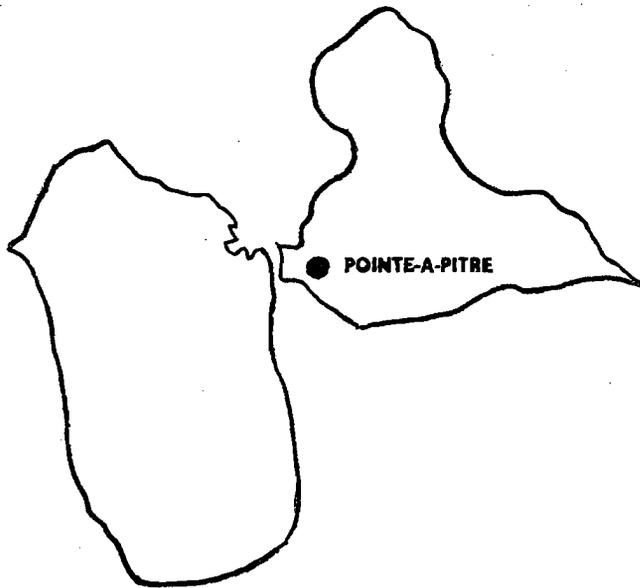
Martinique is mountainous throughout, and in the northwest section near the inactive volcano Mont Pelée the elevation rises to nearly 5,000 feet. In that area is an impressive tropical forest. Martinique is perhaps most famous for two things: it was the birthplace of the Empress Josephine and the site of one of the great earthquakes of history. Josephine, the first wife of Napoleon I, was born on a sugar plantation about three miles from where the Méridien now stands. The other most interesting historical spot is the town of St. Pierre on the northwest coast. St. Pierre was destroyed during an eruption of Mont Pelée in 1902. This catastrophe, which took the lives of 40,000 people, was one of the most severe earthquakes in history (so listed in the *Time* magazine lead article on earthquakes in its issue of September 1, 1975). St. Pierre has now been rebuilt, but some of the ruins of the 1902 tragedy, as well as a museum devoted to the event, can be seen there. As a result of this eruption and earthquake, Fort de France replaced St. Pierre as the leading city on the island.

Climate and Clothing

The summer temperature in Martinique and Guadeloupe ranges from about 75 degrees Fahrenheit at night to the lower 90's during the day, although I never actually had a thermometer available to check my estimates. However, there is a constant breeze from the ocean which makes these temperatures much more endurable than they would be in Illinois or Ohio. And of course at the higher elevations of this mountainous island the air is cooler. Many of the shops in the cities are air-conditioned, but the doors are usually left open, waste-



fully allowing the cool air to escape into the street. The three- and four-star hotels like the Méridien have their sleeping rooms air-conditioned, but their lobbies and dining rooms are open to the ocean breezes and are prolonged into terraces overlooking the water. The prevailing material used for clothing is cotton; you just don't see synthetic fabrics, because they are too hot. The local population *never* wears shorts, men or women; if you see anyone in shorts, you know it's a tourist. An occasional pants suit may be seen on an *Antillaise*, but rarely. Dresses are preferred, no doubt because they are cooler. The women's dresses are usually in bright prints. A favorite pattern is madras, a sort of greenish plaid. At the Hotel Méridien in both islands the female employees wear dresses of madras, and the *maîtres d'hôtel* wear jackets of the same material. It is always seen in the headdress of the native costume. In Guadeloupe the headdress seems to be a simple cap, but in Martinique it is wound into a turban leaving one, two, or three points on top. Three points means "My heart is taken," two points means "My heart is committed, but I'm still open to suggestion," one point indicates "I'm free." As for the garb of the tourists, it is very casual, as it is around any beach hotel. At breakfast and lunch, anything goes, including bathing suit ensembles. At the evening meal the tourists dress more formally. Many of the women wear long dresses (still of cotton) with sun backs. A few of the men put on jackets, even neckties, but the majority are satisfied simply to appear in a bright sport shirt.



Guadeloupe

Language

The language spoken in Martinique and Guadeloupe is standard French. The constant interchange of personnel between France and the Antilles seems to have kept the island language in line with that of the mother country. There is a constant coming and going of government employees, teachers, businessmen, military personnel, and French tourists, and of course the Antilles youth who seek a higher education go to French universities to study. Occasionally I heard some of the people chattering in Creole, but most of the blacks I passed in the street were speaking a French that was as understandable as any you would hear in France.

Idioms

The French expression for the West Indies is *les Antilles* and the expression used there in referring to a member of the local population of black or mixed race is *un Antillais, une Antillaise*. Whether such an expression is ever applied to a white person born in the French West Indies, I didn't have enough conversational contact to find out. When they mean specifically *une Antillaise* of Martinique, and not of Guadeloupe, they say *une Martiniquaise*. I always heard France referred to as *la métropole*, and the island version of "in France" is *en métropole*. The distinction is appropriate, because these islands are France — overseas departments which are represented in the French Chamber of Deputies like other departments. And incidentally, they always say *en Martinique, en Guadeloupe*. (The rule about *en* or *à* with names of islands is, as you may recall, a bit erratic.)

Race

The population of the islands is 97 percent black. Actually, many of the people are of mixed race, and the

combination of Indian, French, and African elements seems to have produced a rather handsome people. Those pretty *Martiniquaises* you see on the postcards are actually not the exception. I commented on the fact that there seemed to be many more people of mixed race in Martinique than in Guadeloupe, and a local Frenchman gave me the historical reason. During the French Revolution the revolutionaries set sail for the islands to carry on their bloody work there. They reached Guadeloupe and slaughtered all the wealthy people, who were of course white. But the population of Martinique called in the British, who occupied the island and refused to allow the revolutionaries to land. The contact between the races is easy-going and friendly, and there seems to be no racial tension. Couples of mixed race are rather common. In the observation of at least this tourist, the people of all shades of complexion seem to associate on a casual, unselfconscious basis.

After visiting both islands I would say that Martinique is much the more interesting of the two, the more sophisticated and eager to receive visitors, and the better provided with hotel accommodations in proximity to its largest city. At the same time I have fond memories of the loveliest white sand beach imaginable at the Hôtel Méridien in Guadeloupe — but at \$28 cab fare's distance from Pointe-à-Pitre and the airport! If the AATF were ever to hold one of its conventions in the French West Indies, it would almost certainly have to move its date temporarily to the summer months, as the AATG and AATSP have done when meeting outside the U.S. June and September are the months when the hotels are willing to offer favorable group rates. All the summer months are *basse saison* and therefore bring lower prices, but in July and August the hotels are flooded with *congé payé* tourists from *la métropole*. At whatever season of the year, the French West Indies is a fascinating part of the world, particularly for the French-speaking visitor.

PEDAGOGICAL NEWS AND NOTES

by Alexander D. Gibson

A *Newsweek* (84, XXVI, 1974) article, as reported in the April 1975 *MLJ* ("Notes and News"), cites an "elementary school language course called the first multilingual FLES program" in operation at New Rochelle Academy with an assist from an Iona College professor. The program is unique in that it provides two classes per week in each of four languages: French, Spanish, Italian, and German.

The same issue of the *MLJ* reports an article which appeared in the *ADFL* Bulletin (6, II, 1974). It describes a nationwide survey undertaken by the Olympus Research Corporation of Salt Lake City. Supported by a grant made by the U.S. Office of Education, the project bears the title "Languages for the World of Work." Its goals are: 1. "to obtain data regarding the specific needs for language proficiency in government, business, and industry; 2. to develop a model curriculum

integrating second-language learning into the course of study in other appropriate disciplines."

The Olympus Corporation has completed a "comprehensive list of more than 5,000 businesses and government agencies with multilingual needs." This information, broken down geographically, will be available for the guidance of students, instructors, and administrators in individual regions.

Interested parties should communicate with Professor Ernest Wilkins, director, Languages for the World of Work, Olympus Research Corporation, 1670 East Thirteenth South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84105.

The August-September issue of *France* reports a June interview given to *Le Monde* by Michel Guy, head of the new Secretariat of State for Culture created by President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing. We quote: "Our modern societies herd us into uniformity, yet in each individual there is the potential for creative talent... It is not one culture that should exist, but several cultures. It is imperative to strive for autonomy, to enable each person to use his freedom to be creative. I am talking about culture for each person, not culture for everyone."

M. Guy recognizes that "responsibility for culture cannot be centralized. The state can only deal with cultural affairs in cooperation with the local communities." He continues: "It is in the towns, the departments, and the regions themselves that cultural needs have to be detected, expressed, and evaluated. Except for a few sectors — for example protection of the national heritage which should remain to a large extent under the jurisdiction of the state — I believe that the fundamentals of culture should be approached from below, not from above. The state can produce initiatives and provide support; it can make the sometimes necessary corrections and provide financial assistance."

NEWLY ELECTED HONORARY MEMBERS ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THEIR CERTIFICATES

Among its bylaws the AATF has one that reads: "The Executive Council may elect Honorary Members to whom the *French Review* will be sent." (Bylaw 1.7. under "Membership"; see page 968 of April 1975 issue, *French Review*.) Accordingly the president of the AATF annually appoints from among the members of the Executive Council a committee on honorary members which brings in its recommendations at the annual meeting. The nominees are always either AATF members who have rendered outstanding service to the association or luminaries of the francophone literary, educational, and diplomatic world. After the nominees are voted on by the Executive Council and the Assembly of Delegates, the president of the AATF writes to them inviting them to accept honorary membership. If they accept, the executive secretary then sends them their certificate of membership, informing them that they will henceforth receive a complimentary copy of the *French Review* and that their names will appear among the list of honorary

members at the head of the directory published every year in the May issue of the *French Review*. All three of the distinguished personages nominated at the annual convention in 1974 accepted, and after the executive secretary sent them their certificates, he received the following gracious replies:

Cher Monsieur,

Je vous remercie de tout-coeur de m'avoir nommée membre honoraire de cette association et de m'envoyer votre bulletin.

Avec mes meilleurs sentiments.

[Signed] S. de Beauvoir
Le 27 juin 1975
Paris

Cher Monsieur,

J'ai bien reçu le certificat établissant que je suis devenue membre honoraire de l'Association Américaine des Professeurs de Français. Je vous redis mon plaisir de cette marque de sympathie et vous remercie de tout coeur.

Accompagnant cette lettre je vous envoie un exemplaire de mon plus récent ouvrage, paru il y a quelques semaines.[*]

Veillez croire, Monsieur, à mes sentiments les meilleurs.

[Signed] Gabrielle Roy
Petite-Rivière-St. François
Province of Quebec,
Canada
Le 24 juin 1975

(* The Executive Secretary greatly enjoyed the reading of this volume of short stories entitled *Un Jardin au bout du monde*.)

Cher Collègue,

Je tiens à vous remercier très vivement de votre lettre du 16 mai, ainsi que du Diplôme l'accompagnant.

Je suis extrêmement sensible à l'honneur que m'a fait le Comité Exécutif de l'A.A.T.F., et vous prie de transmettre mes remerciements aux membres de ce Comité.

Puis-je profiter de cette occasion pour vous dire que personnellement j'apprécie beaucoup ce que fait l'A.A.T.F. et, plus particulièrement, son très dévoué et compétent Secrétaire Exécutif pour défendre la cause de notre Langue et de la Culture française?

J'espère avoir le plaisir de vous revoir, peut-être à la Nouvelle-Orléans en décembre prochain, et, en attendant, je vous prie d'agrèer, cher Collègue, l'expression de mes sentiments bien sincèrement dévoués et les meilleurs.

[Signed] Pierre Brodin
Directeur des Etudes
Lycée Français de
New York
le 20 mai 1975
New York

THE NATIONAL FRENCH CONTEST: AN AGELESS PHENOMENON



Sidney L. Teitelbaum

In an age of "throw out the old" and "hurrah for the new," the National French Contest is an anachronism. For 1976 marks the *forty-first year* that the American Association of Teachers of French has sponsored this annual event.

What is of at least equal significance is that the Contest (or *Le Grand Concours*, as it has come to be called) has witnessed a miraculous period of growth. Enrollment has increased in each of the past four years.

Several factors have combined to effect this "second renaissance":

1. Grass roots enthusiasm
2. Extensive publicity
3. Superior testing instruments
4. Increased prizes
5. Local coordination of *Le Grand Concours* with other French events (International Fair, exhibits, picnics, etc.)

A brief explanation of these factors would seem in order, so that they can be studied by those who want to become part of this ageless phenomenon.

Grass roots enthusiasm: Each chapter's contest efforts are coordinated by one or two contest administrators. They contact teachers, send out publicity, explain contest procedures at chapter meetings, make hundreds of calls, send out hundreds of letters, order materials from National — in short, they drive themselves feverishly to bring about a successful contest experience for their colleagues. An active, diligent contest administrator is the most important key to a dynamic contest.

Extensive publicity: To support local efforts, the national office of the contest publicizes *Le Grand Concours* in its newsletter of the same name which is sent to each AATF member four times a year. Alma Silvernail, national chairman of publicity, sends names of high-scoring students to local foreign-language newsletters, periodically sends out contest releases, and helps chapters plan local publicity. Articles and ads appear in the *French Review*.

Superior testing instruments: Gilbert Muller, national chairman of test development for secondary schools, and Al Jekenta, national FLES chairman, have organized committees of outstanding teachers and testing experts. Examination content is based upon recent surveys which reflect the content currently being taught, rather than upon theoretical French. Annual critiques by

every chapter are scrutinized carefully to update our efforts.

Increased prizes: The *Larousse* college scholarship and the *Ambassade de France* summer study trips to France head a long list of national prizes. Cameras, calculators, subscriptions, books, and medals are offered by the contest to national winners. Regional representatives award regional prizes; chapters award local prizes.

A rather un-French innovation was introduced in 1973: awarding a *Certificat de Mérite* to every participant. This procedure was approved by AATF as a way of thanking students for volunteering their time to . . . take a test! Designed as a one-time experiment, the certificate has drawn so many positive responses that we plan to continue it for the fourth successive year. Furthermore, prizes are being constantly solicited from firms and individuals.

Local coordination: A practice engaged in by a mere handful of chapters is now followed in ever-increasing numbers. Since the actual contest exams take but an hour, contest administrators plan a whole day of French festivities. Fairs, exhibits, films, picnics, parties — the variety is as extensive as local imagination and effort will allow. In short, two words that would never be combined in one breath *are* combined for *Le Grand Concours*: fun and testing.

Additional major features that set the National French Contest apart from other language contests include the following.

Fairness in placement: Edward E. Farnsworth, national chairman of eligibility, has worked assiduously to develop specific guidelines which guarantee fairness in competition. Students of like background and experience are grouped for testing and prize determination. The eligibility form is a model of precision.

Eight levels of testing: A national FLES test and one designed especially for students in their first year of French highlight the variety of offerings which no other language contest offers.

International competition: The National French Contest is offered not only within the United States and Canada but also to dependent children of overseas-based American personnel. These children do not compete for awards with their domestic counterparts; separate prizes are sent.

The deadline for entering students in the 1976 *Concours* is February 6. Teachers merely have to contact the contest administrator for their chapter before that date. A complete listing of administrators is to be found in the October and December issues of the *French Review*.

For further information, contact your local administrator or me.

Sidney L. Teitelbaum
National Director
Box 86
Plainview, New York 11803

1976 AATF SUMMER SCHOLARSHIPS

A detailed description of these scholarships appears in the October issue of the *French Review* (p. 101). Following is the information relative to the "Grenoble Scholarships" — number 4 in the *French Review* description.

Twenty *stages de perfectionnement* will be granted in the summer of 1976 by the French government and the French Cultural Services in New York City. As in the past two summers, they will take place during the month of July and will last a period of three to four weeks.

Because the French government wishes to encourage younger teachers to become familiar with France, its culture and civilization, its system of education, etc., only applicants up to 45 years of age (as of January 1, 1976) will be considered. No exceptions can be made.

The scholarships cover:

- tuition, room, and board at the University of Grenoble;
- train travel (second class) from Paris to Grenoble and return;
- half of the air fare from New York City to Paris and return, on Air France flights only. This sum will also be applicable to Air France flights originating from other points in the U.S.

The curriculum will be tailored to the needs of the American teachers with emphasis on language, phonetics, and civilization.

In order to avoid misunderstandings, we wish to specify that:

- Attendance to the full *stage* will be compulsory.
- Housing will be at the Cité Universitaire (private rooms) and not in French homes.
- The scholarship recipient will not be allowed to have any member of his family living with him on campus (or near him off-campus) for the duration of the *stage*.

These scholarships (like numbers 1, 2, and 3 described in the October issue of the *French Review*) will be granted solely by the AATF. All requests addressed to the *conseiller culturel* will therefore be forwarded by him to the AATF scholarship chairman who is responsible for all scholarships.

As opposed to Scholarships 1, 2, and 3, recipients are not required to spend more time than the three to four weeks of the *stage*. But it is hoped that they will want to take advantage of the grant to the fullest and stay in France as long as they can afford to.

The rules for eligibility and application for these scholarships are the same as those outlined for all scholarships in the October issue of the *French Review*. Interested members are urged to read carefully all these rules before sending their applications.

Application blanks for all scholarships are available from the chapter presidents and must be processed through them.

Anne Slack
Scholarship Chairman

1976 AATF FLIGHTS TO FRANCE

Affinity Flight No. 1

This is a *Chicago* departure aboard Air France with a stop in Montréal to permit East Coast passengers to board the flight.

Chicago-Paris-Chicago	May 25 — August 19	\$442.00*	<i>Tax</i>	<i>Final</i>
Montréal-Paris-Montréal		\$334.00*	<i>per</i>	<i>payment</i>
			<i>person:</i>	<i>due:</i>
			\$3.00	April 25
Affinity Flight No. 2			<i>Tax</i>	<i>Final</i>
New York-Paris-New York	June 27 — August 24	\$485.00*	<i>per</i>	<i>payment</i>
			<i>person:</i>	<i>due:</i>
			\$3.00	May 20
Affinity Flight No. 3			<i>Tax</i>	<i>Final</i>
New York-Paris-New York	July 5 — September 1	\$485.00*	<i>per</i>	<i>payment</i>
			<i>person:</i>	<i>due:</i>
			\$3.00	June 5

* This is the *full adult fare*. Children two to twelve pay 50 percent of full fare, and infants 10 percent of full fare. Exception is made with Flight No. 1 where children two to twelve pay \$227.50 for the Chicago departure (infants \$48.50). These are prices quoted us in September 1975 and are subject to change. All travel is aboard regularly scheduled flights; a minimum of forty (40) seats have been reserved for each AATF flight. Affinity flight participants must be AATF members six months prior to departure.

APEX (Advance Purchase Excursion) flights: In addition to the above Affinity flights which offer stays of eight weeks or more, the AATF can obtain APEX flight fares for its members. The proposed stay must be between twenty-two and forty-five days, and full payment must be made sixty days prior to departure, or one week within booking date, whichever comes first. Flights may originate in any city serviced by Air France: Chicago, New York, Boston, Washington, Houston, or Los Angeles. The AATF will provide its members with APEX cancellation insurance at no cost to them. If you would like further information about this program and how this form of travel can be adjusted to your travel schedule, please contact our office. (All AATF scholarship winners must book either Affinity or APEX flights through the AATF.)

Payments: The request for a reservation must be accompanied by the application form and a deposit of \$100.00 per person (\$10.00 infant). Full payments are due as indicated above. Checks should be made out to *AATF Flights to France* and mailed to the address below.

Tickets: Tickets for Affinity flights will be available ten to fifteen days prior to departure and will be mailed directly to the address indicated by the passenger on the application form. If the passenger prefers, the tickets can be left at the ticket counter in the airport of departure.

Car lease and insurance: We have been authorized by Air France to distribute information on their newly adopted car lease plan. The AATF can also assist passengers with flight liability and trip protector insurance. Write us for details.

Educational programs for students and their teachers to France, the Baltic countries of Western Europe, and the French Caribbean — and Montréal-Québec for Mid-western members only — are available. This program is sponsored directly by Air France which has asked the AATF to distribute information to interested members. Write us.

AATF Flights to France
57 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, Illinois 61820

American Association of Teachers of French Application for Passage

AATF Member

Name _____
(please print your name in full as it appears on your passport)

Address _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

- Please hold my tickets at the counter on day of departure.
 Please send tickets to the following address ten to fifteen days before departure:

_____ (street) (city) (state) (zip)

Eligibility for Affinity flights requires that the applicant's membership date from at least six months prior to the date of departure. Only immediate family members traveling with the AATF member are eligible for Affinity flights. Please supply ages of any children traveling with you.

Additional Passengers:	Relationship to AATF Member:	Age, If Child:
Name _____	_____	_____
Name _____	_____	_____
Name _____	_____	_____

Enclosed is my check other in the total amount of \$ _____ representing full payment deposit for round trip seat(s) on AATF Flight:

- | | |
|--|---|
| No. 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago-Paris-Chicago | No. 2 <input type="checkbox"/> NY-Paris-NY (June 20 — August 24) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Montréal-Paris-Montréal | No. 3 <input type="checkbox"/> NY-Paris-NY (July 5 — September 1) |

_____ (signature of applicant) (date)

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

Contemporary French Civilization, a new interdisciplinary journal devoted to the study of French-speaking cultures throughout the world, is designed to address the needs of faculty (secondary and advanced levels) in French, history, political science, sociology, and other related disciplines. In the forefront are the 25-30,000 French-language teachers in the U.S. alone who share the serious and often difficult task of acting as the chief interpreters of French-speaking cultures for thousands of students. The Editorial Board includes, among others, Pierre Aubéry (SUNY Buffalo), Mustapha Bénouis (Hawaii), Edward Gargan (Wisconsin), Genelle Morain (Georgia), D. Bruce Marshall (South Carolina), and Laurence Wylie (Harvard).

Articles, annotated bibliographies, interviews, notes, and reviews are solicited from persons wishing to share their knowledge and insights with a broad, diversified audience. However, submissions of a purely linguistic, literary, or pedagogical nature will not be considered. Contributors are requested to forward the original plus two copies of the manuscript. All material — in French or in English — must be double-spaced with footnotes appearing at the end. Initially, the journal will be published biannually, with the first issue (200-250 pages) appearing in the fall of 1976. Any special issues will be sent to subscribers at no additional cost. *Editorial correspondence*: B. J. Quinn, General Editor, Department of Modern Languages, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana 59715. *Books for review*: Pierre Aubéry, Review Editor, Department of French Studies, SUNY-Buffalo, Buffalo, New York 14261. *Subscriptions* (one

year: individuals, \$8.00, institutions, \$10.00; two years: individuals, \$14.00, institutions, \$18.00; overseas, add \$1.00 per year): Phillip Crant, Managing Editor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina 29208.

Dr. Jacques Hardré, Kenan Professor of French and Chairman of the Department of Romance Languages at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, has been invited to attend the annual Assembly of the African Agency of Cultural and Technical Cooperation to be held in Port-Louis, Mauritius, from November 10-15, 1975. Dr. Hardré will serve as consultant to the agency, composed of representatives of the governments of the French-speaking African states, and will represent the International Federation of Teachers of French, of which he is president.

The *Bureau de Correspondance Scolaire* of the AATF now has a superabundance of names of French boys, aged twelve to fourteen, who are waiting to correspond with American boys. If you have classes in this age bracket, we can assure your immediate satisfaction. Write to the Bureau de Correspondance Scolaire, AATF, 57 East Armory Avenue, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

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Urbana, Illinois

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