

# The French Review

## *From the Editor's Desk*

The American Association of Teachers of French and the *French Review* have always had the closest and most cordial of relations with Quebec, our francophone neighbor to the north and home to the world's second largest French-speaking population. Over the years the AATF has held conventions on a regular basis in either Montreal (most recently in 1998) or in Quebec, and the *French Review* has devoted four special issues to Quebec and its literature and culture, more than for any other francophone country. The current issue, "Le Québec et le Canada francophone," expands our horizons and perspectives on Francophonie in both Quebec and other parts of French-speaking Canada. We were blessed by the large number of high quality submissions for this special issue and this windfall enabled us to offer a wide variety of articles on different themes. Not only can we offer you articles on literature (the 1998 issue was almost exclusively devoted to literature), but also essays on the interconnections between art and literature (especially painting), as well as on film, society and culture, pedagogy, and an interview with Jean-Marc Massie, a *conteur* who has revitalized the short story genre.

The very first article, "Masculinité et hockey dans le roman québécois," is a tour de force which explores the history of hockey players, their popularity, and the myths surrounding them as depicted in both novels and other media down to the present. The second piece is equally compelling and discusses the evolution of women's theater during the last thirty years in the plays of the feminist Carole Fréchette. From militant feminism to post-feminism, the feminist perspective is presented in all its complexity. Articles on Gabrielle Roy are always germane, and the third essay considers the contact of the English and French languages and English and francophone culture in Roy's *La Détresse et l'enchantement*. The next article considers *L'Endessous l'admirable* of Jacques Brault as an example of the disenchantment that characterized many Quebec texts in the 1970s. The last of the essays in this section examines Acadian identity as a function of travel to and from Acadia in the works of Dyane Léger.

In the section entitled Art and Literature the first piece considers the autobiographical work, *Le Pavillon des miroirs* of the exiled Brazilian psychologist, writer, and painter, Sergio Kokis. His rendering of poverty in the society of the northwest region of Brazil underscores the interconnectedness of painting and writing. The next article presents the impact of the painting of British Columbian artist Emily Carr in the Quebec author Jovette Marchessault's play about Carr. Amerindian influences are also considered.

The film, *L'Ange du goudron*, directed by Denis Chouinard, focuses on the hot and paradoxical topic of immigration in Quebec, especially Algerian immigration, and the unexpected syncretism that has resulted from the contact of Catholicism and Islam. The author shows how, ironically, the arrival of new immigrants has led to challenges to long-held Quebec values and self-images.

Under Society and Culture another author furnishes an up-to-the-minute analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Quebec economy. Yet another essay considers how reforms in primary education in Quebec in 2001 have led to new approaches to the study of French as a second language in a variety of settings, including immersion programs. Our issue closes with the interview of Jean-Marc Massie already alluded to.

I have many people to thank for their vital roles in helping to bring this special to fruition. Myrna Delson-Karan and Jane Moss, our two Quebec literature and culture specialists, served with me as readers for the volume and brought the best of their critical faculties to bear on the articles submitted. Sharon Shelly, our Managing Editor, has lent her discerning eye to the copy-editing of all the articles, messages, and book reviews to form an attractive package. Yannick Godbout, head of Direction Etats-Unis of the Ministère des Relations internationales of Quebec, with whom I began collaboration in 2003 in Martinique, has generously offered me help and guidance at every turn and helped present our grant proposal to Madame Monique Gagnon-Tremblay, the Vice-première ministre of the Ministère des Relations internationales and Ministre responsable de la Francophonie. I am pleased to say that the proposal was funded and we have received a \$2,000 subsidy for this special issue. The AATF is also grateful for the six summer scholarships to Quebec funded by the Ministère for the summer of 2005. I owe another debt of gratitude to Denis Auclair, Conseiller en communication, Direction des communications et des relations avec les médias (Ministère des Relations internationales), who not only arranged a message of welcome from the Mayor of Quebec, Jean-Paul L'Allier, but also provided the French Review the photo of the Hôtel du Parlement (1877), which graces our cover along with the flag of Quebec. J. Moss Hartt, a graphics wizard and Director of Montana State University Web Communications, refined and enhanced the photo image provided by Denis Auclair and worked with Allen Press, our printer in Lawrence, Kansas to finalize the cover. As always, our typesetter, Ronnie Moore, of WESType Publishing Services, put the whole issue together. I am sure that you can now appreciate the teamwork, cooperation, commitment, common sense of purpose, and good humor that such an endeavor takes. I hope that you will enjoy reading this special issue as much as we have enjoyed putting it together for you. For my part, things have come full circle since I first had the privilege of studying Quebec literature, culture, and society, and meeting her dynamic and welcoming people on the SUNY-Plattsburg program in 1982.

Margot Steinhart, Jayne Abrate, and Myrna Delson-Karan have all worked tirelessly to put together an outstanding convention in Quebec from 7-10 July. I urge you to join us for this great celebration of "Le Québec et le Canada francophone."

A bientôt, à Québec

Christopher P. Pinet