Arthur Côté Collection

MCC-00562

Total boxes: 2 + 6 freestanding books
Linear feet: 2.13ft

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Arthur Côté Collection (MCC-00562)

Shelf List Number: UP-562, UM-562, Books (preservation room)

Collection Overview

Creator

Arthur Côté and family

Dates

1898-1925

Extent

2 boxes plus 6 books that were cataloged separately.

Provenance

Barbara Hull of Woodland, Maine, donated the materials to the Acadian Archives in May 2024 after first approaching the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Professor Kimberly Sebold recommended the Archives due to the presence of French-language items.

Hull acquired a set of nesting trunks in the 2010s. She discovered a variety of items belonging to Arthur Côté or his relatives in a compartment in the smaller trunk. The person who sold the trunks to Hull did not claim a family connection to the Côtés; the chain of custody is therefore unclear. Labels show that the trunks belonged to Lorraine St. Laurent in the 1940s, when they were shipped by rail between Sanford, Maine, and Nashua, New Hampshire. St. Laurent is not known to have had a familial relationship with Arthur Côté.

The items inside the chests were likely kept by a close relative, perhaps one of Arthur's siblings, after their parents' passing, which would explain why the materials remained in Maine (Arthur moved to California around 1930).

Language

English
French

Conservation Notes

Postcards, images, and other similarly sized materials rehoused in clear archival sleeves and a photographic box. Images were taken of the travel trucks, which were returned to the donor. The two booklets were housed in a manuscript folder and box.

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access:

No restrictions

Physical:

No restrictions

Technical:

No restrictions

Rights Statement

Copyright has been assigned to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes.

Recommended Citation

Arthur Côté Collection (MCC-00562), Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Arthur Joseph Côté was born in Springvale, Maine, on July 10, 1896, to Reza and Délima Côté, both natives of Quebec. His father had immigrated to the United States from the Centre-du- Québec region. The family lived briefly in Amesbury, Massachusetts, at the turn of the century, after which they settled in Sanford, Maine. In both locations, Reza worked as a weaver in textile mills. According to his World War I registration card, Arthur Côté had brown eyes and black hair; he was of medium height and had a medium build.

Côté studied at the Séminaire Saint-Charles-Borromée in Sherbrooke, Quebec, during the 1910- 1912 academic years. It appears his first written language was English; only in 1911 did he begin writing his parents in French. While in Sherbrooke, he won prizes in French and arithmetic.

He may have followed his father into the textile mills. The August 2, 1915 issue of the *Biddeford Daily Journal* reported on a Manufacturers' League baseball game in which an Arthur Côté, possible the same, was playing; it included a cartoon. One of the 1911 postcards in this collection also mentions baseball.

At the time of World War I, he was working for the Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation in Quincy, Massachusetts. In November 1918, he applied for a Seaman's Certificate of American Citizenship. He had last sailed in September 1918 on the *City of Savannah*. In February 1919, he sailed from Genoa, Italy, on the *Westfield*, which was destined for New York City; he appears on the ship's roll as a "messman" (perhaps a cook). His last stated address was then his parents' home in Springvale. However, in England, in 1919, he gave his parents his mailing address as the Seamen's Institute in New York City. The Institute represented and supported men employed in the merchant marine. Côté sailed to China and made a stop in Hawai'i in 1921. He was still in a maritime trade around 1925.

A newspaper ad for his services indicates that Côté settled in the U.S. Southwest around 1930. He married Grace Dixon in California in 1936. In subsequent years, he operated a painting business in Los Angeles. He died in Los Angeles on December 2, 1966.[1]

Scope and Content

Postcards, photographs, and brochures collected by Arthur Côté and family members between 1898 at the latest and approximately 1925, were all accessioned; they are itemized below in the collection inventory.

The collection had thirteen books, all but two of which were in French. Côté received at least six of them as prizes for achievement in different courses at the Séminaire in Sherbrooke. Two bound booklets of images from Contantinople and Tunisia are presumed to have been collected by Côté during his travels. The *Types tunisiens* booklet consists of postcards, none of which were used.

Archives staff added Arthur Côté's application for a Seaman's Certificate of American Citizenship, dated November 18, 1918, to the collection's administrative file. The document includes Côté's photograph. Source: U.S., Applications for Seaman's Protection Certificates, 1916-1940, New York, 125 - New York, Ancestry.com [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Original data: Application for Seaman's Protection Certificates, 1916-1940. 1151 Boxes. NAID: 2788575. Records of the Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, 1774-1982, Record Group 41. The National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Arrangement

Postcards, photographs, and brochures were placed in an archival binder. Books that Côté received as prizes in Sherbrooke were cataloged and added to the Acadian

[1]Beyond the information contained in the donated postcards and books, biographical elements of Côté's life were drawn from Ancestry.com collections and from Newspapers.com.

Reference section. The bound booklets of images from Contantinople and Tunisia were placed in an archival folder in the manuscript section of the Archives.

Separated Materials

Books with inscriptions: Cataloged and added to the Acadian Reference section

- J. Dominique, *L'horloger de Saint-Gouëno*. Paris, Tournai: Casterman, n.d. Prize awarded to Côté on June 19, 1911 for arithmetic. Call number: PQ845 .D66 [19-] Fre

- G[...], *Adhémar le Templier*. Paris, Tournai: Casterman, n.d. Prize awarded to Côté on June 19, 1911 for "Dictées" (spelling tests). Call number: PQ845 .A35 1878 Fre

- P. L'Olivier, *Gunde-Kar*. Paris, Tournai: Casterman, n.d. Prize awarded to Côté on June 19, 1911 for grammar. Call number: PQ845 .O45 [1892] Fre

- Georges Price, *Les trois disparus du "Sirius."* Tours: Alfred Mame et fils, n.d. Prize for excellence awarded to Côté on June 19, 1911. Call number: PQ845 .P75 1907 Fre

- Réginald, *Les merveilles de la charité*. Paris, Tournai: Casterman, n.d. Prize awarded to Côté on June 19, 1911 for "Manuel de phrases" (phrases textbook). Call number: PQ845 .R44 [1904] Fre

- Alfred Weber, *Le Saint Evangile de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ*. Verdun, Braine-le-Comte: Oeuvre catholique de la diffusion du Saint Evangile, ca. 1909. Prize awarded to Côté on June 19, 1911 for religious instruction. Call number: BS2263 .W4 [1909] Fre

Nesting trunks (2) with shipping labels: Returned to the donor

- These trunks, one large and the other slightly smaller, contained all other items in this collection. Archives staff photographed the trunks before returning them; the images appear in the administrative file. Sizes: Large trunk, 34⅛" (w), 20" (d), 23" (t); small trunk, 30⅛" (w), 16¾" (d), 21" (t). According to surviving labels, these trunks were shipped by rail between Sanford, Maine, and Nashua, New Hampshire in 1946 and 1949. They belonged to Lorraine St. Laurent at that time.

Various other materials: Returned to the donor

- Charles Dickens, *Olivier Twist – Condensed and Retold by Matthias R. Heilig*. Instructor Literature Series. Danville, N.Y.: F. A. Owen Publishing Company, 1916. Stapled brochure.

- Two newspaper clippings were also found in the donated materials. One was titled "Modern Etiquette," authored by Roberta Lee; and the other, "America At War," a poem, by Eddie Guillemette.

Unlabeled books: Returned to the donor

- F. P. B., *Nouveau traité des devoirs du Chrétien envers Dieu*. Nouvelle édition. Montreal: C. O. Beauchemin et fils. First page and inner back cover signed by Côté, Sherbrooke, September 14, 1910.

- C. Guenot, *Le fils aîné de l'Eglise*. Nouvelle édition. Epopées de l'histoire de France. Tournai, Paris: Casterman, n.d.

- J. N. Hunt, *The Progressive Course in Spelling in Two Parts*. New York City: American Book Company, 1904. Inner front cover signed by Côté, Sherbrooke, September 14, 1910.

- J. M. A., *La boussole de la vie*. Lille, Paris: Desclée, de Brouwer et Compagnie, n.d.

- *Méthode de plain-chant*. Quatrième édition. Montreal: Arbour et Dupont, 1910. First page signed by Côté, Sherbrooke, September 14, 1910.

- *L'Office de la Semaine sainte selon le Missel et le Bréviaire romain*. Quebec City: J.-A. Langlais et fils, 1907. First page signed by Côté, Sherbrooke, April 7, 1911.

- *Sadlier's Excelsior – Fifth Reader*. New York City: William H. Sadlier, 1877. Inner front cover signed by Côté, September 14, 1910; first page also signed, Côté, Sherbrooke, September 14, 1911.

Subject Headings

Books
Military service, voluntary
Postcards
School prose-awards

Related Materials

Jean Paul Collection (MCC-00461)

Collection Inventory

Series I: Dated and/or signed postcards

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	1	Unsigned addressed to Miss [sic] Reza Cote. Cover: I'm Getting Hungry (illustration of a dog in a box)	1906-06[?]-13

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	2	Arthur Coté to Reza Coté. Cover: Watering the Horses in the River St. Francis at Military Camp, near Sherbrooke, Que.	1910-09-16
1	3	J. A. Côté (uncle) to Arthur Côté. Cover: Catholic Church, Barton, Vt.	1910-10-24
1	4	J. A. Côté (uncle) to Arthur Côté; no postmark, date, or stamp. Cover: Unidentified church	Undated
1	5	Arthur Coté to Reza Coté. Cover: New Bridge on the St. Francis River, Sherbrooke, Que[.]	1910-11-10
1	6	Unsigned addressed to Dr. B. M. Moulton. Cover: A Merry Christmas (poinsettias and winter scene).	1910-12-24
1	7	Arthur Coté to Reza Côté. Cover: St. Michael's Cathedral, Sherbrooke, P.Q.	1911-03-24
1	8	Message and addressee scribbled and illegible. Cover: Unidentified group of students and teachers likely at Séminaire Saint-Charles.	1911-06
1	9	Bill [no last name] to Arthur Code, sent from Victoria Beach, N.S.; Illegible Cover: An Ox-mobile, Digby, N.S.	Undated
1	10	Illegible name, to Arthur Côté. Cover: Best Wishes from Canada—Indian Types (illustrations of Indigenous people).	1911-08-30
1	11	Elwyn Gowen to Dr. B. M. Moulton. Cover: To Greet You Right Heartily—A Merry Christmas (holiday illustration).	1911-12-25
1	12	Walter ["your best friend"] to Arthur Coté. Cover: Indian's Last Leap, Springvale, Me.	1912-04-18
1	13	Unsigned addressed to Arthur Coté, sent from Quebec; Cover: West Illegible View of Grand River, Gaspe Co.	Undated
1	14	Ethel [no last name] to Dr. B. M. Moulton. Cover: Masonic Temple, Portland, Maine	1912-04-22
1	15	Unsigned addressed to Edna L. Bean. Cover: Hearty Greetings (illustrated flowers and nature scene).	1912-04-28
1	16	A[?] Levine[?] to A. Cote. Cover: No illustration.	1915-12-07
1	17	A. Cote to Réza Coté. Cover: Genova - Monumento Galliera.	1919-02-17

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	18	A. Côté to his parents; no postmark or stamp. Cover: Things are Going Up at Fowey (with accordioned photos of Fowey, England).	1919-09-12
1	19	Albina[?] S. Neil[?] to Reza Côté. Cover: General View of Merrimac Street, Looking West, Haverhill, Mass.	1920-11-20
1	20	A. Cote to his parents; no postmark or stamp. Cover: Unidentified people, likely Native Hawai'ians.	1921-05-30
1	21	Arthur to Delina Côté. Cover: Malta—Scesa Marina.	1925[?]-11-30
1	22	Post office card for Arthur Côté of Springvale, Maine.	Undated
1	23	Elisabeth Délina [no last name] Réza Côté. Cover: I wish you Illegible happiness (illustrated nature scene).	Undated
1	24	Packet of images of Montreal, Quebec, addressed to Delina Côté.	Undated
1	80	Résa Coté to Arthur Côté. Cover: Two children (color). [This card was later found in one of Arthur Côté's book, hence the out-of-sequence numbering.]	1914-11-09

Series II: Turn-of-the-century black-and-white photographs on cardstock

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	25	Two boys standing on a veranda, which is also seen in item 35	Undated
1	26	Two young men standing before a brick wall.	Undated
1	27	Séminaire Saint-Charles-Borromée hockey team.	Undated
1	28	Young man in suit (studio portrait).	Undated
1	29	Man standing in a field.	Undated
1	30	Six young men.	Undated
1	31	Two men standing, one seated.	Undated
1	32	Two men standing, one seated (same as item 31).	Undated
1	33	Man standing; he also appears in items 31 and 32	Undated

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	34	Two men standing.	Undated
1	35	Schoolchildren with teacher.	Undated

Series III: Postcards (North America)

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	36	On the Magog River, Sherbrooke, Que.	Undated
1	37	The Pier looking South, Old Orchard, Me.	Undated
1	38	You don’t know beans until you come to Boston.	Undated
1	39	Boston, Mass.—Harvard Medical School Courtyard.	Undated
1	40	(old North), Christ Church—Boston, Mass.	Undated
1	41	Public Library, Boston, Mass.	Undated
1	42	D. Steven’s Farm Bldgs. and Alcove Church, Alcove, N.Y.	Undated

Series IV: Postcards (Other)

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	43	Mansion House & Cheapside, London.	Undated
1	44	Houses of Parliament & Westminster Bridge, London	Undated
1	45	Blackfriars Bridge, London	Undated
1	46	St. Paul’s Cathedral (West Front), London	Undated
1	47	Tower Bridge & Tower of London	Undated
1	48	West Front, Westminster Abbey, London	Undated
1	49	The Marble Arch, London	Undated
1	50	London: Hyde Park; Rotten Row; Marble Arch; Constitution Hill; Westminster Abbey; Houses of Parliament; Buckingham Palace	Undated
1	51	Tower Bridge, London	Undated
1	52	St. Martin’s Church, Trafalgar Square, London	Undated

1	53	St. James Palace, London	Undated
1	54	Recordaçõe de Lisboa [Souvenir of Lisbon] with accordioned images of Portugal	Undated
1	55	Accordioned images of bullfighting, possibly in Spain	Undated
1	56	Native Hawai'ians	Undated
1	57	Native Hawai'ians	Undated
1	58	Native Hawai'ians	Undated
1	59	The Courtland Hotel, Honolulu	Undated
1	60	Alice Mackintosh Memorial Tower, St. Andrew's Cathedral, Honolulu.	Undated
1	61	Twin Cocoanuts [sic], Hawaii	Undated
1	62	Pineapple Plantation, Hawaiian Islands	Undated
1	63	Papaia Fruit Treee, Hawaiian Islands	Undated
1	64	Oahu College, Honolulu	Undated
1	65	On the Beach at Waikiki, Honolulu, T. H.	Undated
1	66	Cutting Sugar Cane, Hawaiian Islands	Undated
1	67	Painted scene, likely from China ("Union Postale Universelle"/East Asian script on back).	Undated
1	68	Painted scene, likely from China ("Union Postale Universelle"/East Asian script on back).	Undated
1	69	Gyosen Bank, Dairen [Dalian]	Undated
1	70	The Tokiwa Bridge, Dairen [Dalian]	Undated
1	71	Unidentified woman	Undated
1	72	Colorized postcard titled "Happy dreams"	Undated

Series V: Miscellaneous items

Box	Item	Description	Date
1	73	Subscription slip for children participating in the “Cueillette de fruits d’or” under the leadership of the Précieux-Sang monastery in Saint-Hyacinthe, Quebec; the slip bears Louise Breton’s name.	1898-11-14
1	*74*	*Souvenir du Jubilé prêché en octobre 1904 à l’église du Sacré-Coeur 1904-10 d’Amesbury, Mass. par le RR. PP. Barolet, C.SS.R.*	Undated
1	75	Pratiques de l’Apostolat, religious exercises with a calendar of 1910-12 recommended readings for December 1910; Côté’s name appears at the top.	Undated
1	76	The Hands of Fraternity, New Haven, Connecticut, Knights of Columbus brochure.	Undated
1	77	12 reasons why you ought to be a Knight of Columbus, New Haven, Connecticut, Knights of Columbus brochure.	Undated
1	78	Cropped illustration depicting John the Baptist.	Undated
1	79	Notre Dame de Lourdes – Springvale, Maine. S.l. Stapled brochure. List of subscribers for the new “church-school.”	ca. 1916

Series VI: Bound booklets

Box	Folder	Description	Date
2	1	Souvenirs de Constantinople. S.l: n.p.	Undated
2	1	Types tunisiens – 24 cartes postales. ND. Phot. S.l.: n.p.	Undated