

**Gerry Morin *Evangeline* collection  
MCC-00245**

**Finding Aid**

**Prepared by Kathryn Donahue, January 2009  
Revised by Anne Chamberland, February 20, 2009  
Updated June 2020  
Updated July 2020  
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes  
University of Maine at Fort Kent  
Fort Kent, Maine**

**Title:** Gerry Morin *Evangeline* collection

**Creator/Collector:** Morin, Gerry

**Collection number:** MCC-00245

Shelf list number: BM-245, AX-245

**Dates:** ca. 1870 - 1958

**Extent:** 2 oversize boxes (1.35 cu. ft)

**Provenance:** All items were sent to us by Gerry Morin through his brother in 1997 and 2020

**Language:** English

**Conservation notes:** Not applicable.

**Access restrictions:** No restrictions on access.

**Physical restrictions:** Due to their fragile states, the materials should be handled with extreme care.

**Technical restrictions:** Not applicable.

**Copyright:** Copyright has not 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

**Citation:** Gerry Morin *Evangeline* collection, MCC-00245, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Separated materials:** None

**Related materials:** MCC-00244 Gerry Morin collection; MCC-00246 Gerry Morin collection of sheet music and legal instruments.

**Location of originals:** Not applicable.

**Location of copies:** Not applicable.

**Published in:** Not applicable.

**Historical information:** **Sebastian Miniatures** are a series of small ceramic sculptures or figurines first produced by Prescott Woodbury Baston Sr. in Arlington, Massachusetts in 1938.

Many pieces are of historical figures such as George Washington, but are also of classic literary characters, and scenes of life, particularly in New England, United States, where Mr. Baston created his pieces.<sup>1</sup>

Since 1938, *Sebastian Miniatures* have been designed, copyrighted, put into production and then hand painted. The original artist was Prescott W Baston and the tradition was carried on by his son, Woody Baston. Sebastian Miniature has a copyright date on each sculpture. From 1938 until 1945 the sculptures were made in a studio located in Arlington, MA at which time the studio was moved to Marblehead, MA and remained there until 1975. Prescott W Baston was the artist of all of the pieces made at these two studios.

The oldest / original sculptures made in Arlington (1938 – 1940) were imprinted on the underside of the base. There are three different imprints that were used during this time. **From 1941 – 1945 the remainder of the sculptures made in the Arlington, MA studio have no labels nor were they imprinted.**<sup>2</sup>

### ***Historical information: Canuck Pottery Evangeline Ware***

Canuck Pottery, Ltd. - Saint John, N.B. then c. 1964 Labelle, Quebec. Operation was a continuation of Foley Pottery .Canuck Pottery was established as a continuation of Foley Pottery c1938 in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. Foley Pottery began c1890's by James Foley, born in England in 1857, and continued under his son Fenwick Foley in the Foley residence. Fenwick's sons Percy and Alphonse started Canuck Pottery with a new factory building about 2 miles from their home. Originally known for making coloured jugs for perfume and souvenir novelties, they began creating dinnerware and decorative items naming the line Evangeline Ware. An early ad from the 1940's touted their use of Fundy clays handcrafted by descendants of the original Acadian settlers.<sup>3</sup>

### ***Biographical information:***

Gerry Morin, son of Ida Pelletier and Joseph Denis Morin, was born in Ste-Agathe, Maine on February 1945, the 10th child of a family of 13 children. He was raised in a typical French-Catholic home where the language spoken was uniquely French. He never heard spoken English until enrolled in the elementary schools in the community. From that point on, all his education was uniquely in the English language. His French was totally oral and spoken, really never exposed to French books, magazines, newspapers, or other written format. Most of his education was taught by the nuns of the Daughters of Wisdom. Many of these nuns were originally from New York and the curriculum was basically that which they had been educated under, very Irish and English.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sebastian\\_Miniatures](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sebastian_Miniatures)

<sup>2</sup> <http://sebastianminiatures.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://mandicrafts.blogspot.com/2012/08/canuck-pottery-evangeline-ware.html>

He graduated from St Agatha High School in 1963 and enrolled as a Freshman at Fort Kent State College. While at FKSC, he worked in the library on a part time basis. Gerry was part of the team responsible for the physical movement of the library collection from Cyr Hall to its present site (which was until that time the gymnasium). During that time, he had decided to pursue a library degree and had enrolled at Louisiana State University. At the last minute, he changed his mind and decided to take a year or two off to earn extra money. Late that September, he accepted a teaching position in MSAD #33(St. Agatha and Frenchville). The temporary break lasted over 27 years. During his teaching career, his duties included teaching self-contained classes, Junior High Reading, and finally district librarian.

During his first years of teaching, the teachers of MSAD #33 were given the opportunity to take part in a federally funded bilingual program. The summers were filled with workshops on personal growth and discovery, self-assertion techniques, and sensitivity training. As a result of these workshops, Gerry rediscovered his roots and identity. Sponsored trips to Montreal, Quebec City, towns along the south shore of the St Lawrence and a summer course in Dijon, France made him realize the richness and depth of his cultural heritage. It served as the impetus for him to organize and lead the efforts to establish the Ste-Agathe Historical Society. If he wanted the town's story preserved and promoted then it would have to be done the citizens of that town. Waiting for outsiders and "experts" to come around and tell our story was now becoming an unrealistic expectation.

Gerry taught school until the mid-1980's when the opportunity to pursue his Master's degree in Library Science became a reality. He enrolled in the Masters of Library Science at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Gerry spent a full summer at their home campus. Other courses were offered at the University of Maine at Orono. He completed the MLS in the summer of 1987 and at which time Gerry was serving as the MSAD #33 District Librarian. He served in that capacity until 1994. In 1995, Gerry accepted the position of Library Director for the Dyer Library in Saco, Maine and retired from that position in 2003.

His main residence has been Old Orchard Beach for the past 15 years and Gerry spends many weekends rummaging through used bookshops, flea markets, and antique shops looking for material related to the St John Valley history, language, or culture.

After all these years, he is still intrigued by the amount of historical information which was never introduced in their education or shown to them as they were growing up. Gerry cannot understand why they were never given the opportunity to know the full richness of their cultural heritage or language. It is his hope that many of the items given to the Acadian Archives will provide the next generation with the opportunity to discover their heritage and story.

***Scope and content:***

This collection consists of an engraving and a lithograph depicting Evangeline Bellefontaine of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's poem, *Evangeline*; two Sebastian

Miniatures figurines, Evangeline and Gabriel; 15 pieces of glazed Evangeline Canada pottery by Canuck Pottery circa 1958. (see inventory for list).

Both the engraving and the chromolithograph are of the same original image, an oil painting of Evangeline created by Thomas Faed in approximately 1854. The original oil painting was one of two images of the character Evangeline that hung in Longfellow's home in Portland, Maine (information on Faed's original painting from the Maine Historical Society). The engraving, which is untitled, was published by F. Sala and Co. of Berlin, Germany. The chromolithograph was published by Colton, Zahm, and Roberts of New York. The lithograph bears the same title and inscription as the original painting: "Evangeline. 'Sat by some nameless grave, and thought that perhaps in its bosom He was already at rest, and she longed to slumber beside him.'" While neither image is dated, both firms were producing similar work between 1850 and 1890.

In June 2020, two *Sebastian Miniatures* collectable figurines and a *Sebastian Miniatures Collectors Guide* were added to this collection. The figurines, Gabriel and Evangeline, and the book were sent by Mr. Morin in February 2020 to be added to this collection. Evangeline's figurine measures 6.6cm tall and the base is 2.6cm in diameter. Evangeline's figurine is wearing a blue green bonnet, yellow handkerchief and apron, light green shirt and orange skirt and is standing on a round light yellow base. Gabriel is 6.9cm tall and his base is 2.8cm in diameter. Gabriel is wearing a light green tricorne hat, yellow golden jacket and knee high sox, and light green pants. The figurines were probably made between 1941 and 1945 in the Arlington, Massachusetts studio and have no labels nor were they imprinted. Although, on page 29 of the book, the figurines show a date of 1939. The book, *Sebastian Miniatures Collectors Guide*, has a copyright date of 1980 by Sebastian Studios.

In July 2020 were added 15 pieces of glazed pottery *Evangeline Ware* made in Saint John, New Brunswick and/or in Labelle, Quebec. There are three teacups with three saucers, six coffee mugs, one sugar and one creamer bowl, and one teapot with lid. All items are dripped glazed green on brown or dripped glazed green on green and all are in excellent condition.

### ***Inventory:***

#### **BM-245 Box 1/1**

- Item 1: Untitled engraving of Evangeline. Berlin: F. Sala and Co. Unter-den-linden, 51.
- Item 2: "Evangeline." Chromo-lithographed and published by Colton, Zahm, and Roberts, N.Y. On reverse: "'Sat by some nameless grave, and thought that perhaps in its bosom He was already at rest, and she longed to slumber beside him." Mounted on a wooden frame.
- Item 3: *Gabriel* ceramic Sebastian miniature figurine circa 1941.
- Item 4: *Evangeline* ceramic Sebastian miniature figurine circa 1941.
- Item 5: *Sebastian Miniatures Collectors Guide*. 1980

***Inventory:***

**AX-245 Box 1/1**

**(Note: added to collection July 2020 as per donor)**

- Item 1: Green drip on brown glazed tea cup, Evangeline 1005 Canada. 3 inches high and 3 inches in diameter.
- Item 2: Green drip on brown glazed tea cup, Evangeline 1005 Canada. 3 inches high and 3 inches in diameter.
- Item 3: Green drip on brown glazed tea cup, Evangeline 1005 Canada. 3 inches high and 3 inches in diameter.
- Item 4: Green drip on brown glazed tea saucer, Evangeline 1005 Canada. 5 inches in diameter.
- Item 5: Green drip on brown glazed tea saucer, Evangeline 1005 Canada. 5 inches in diameter.
- Item 6: Green drip on brown glazed tea saucer, Evangeline 1005 Canada. 5 inches in diameter.
- Item 7: Green drip on brown coffee mug, Evangeline 935 Canada. 3.5" high x 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Item 8: Green drip on brown coffee mug, Evangeline 935 Canada. 3.5" high x 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Item 9: Green drip on brown coffee mug, Evangeline 935 Canada. 3.5" high x 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Item 10: Green drip on brown coffee mug, Evangeline 935 Canada. 3.5" high x 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Item 11: Green drip on brown coffee mug, No markings. 3.5" high x 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Item 12: Green drip on green coffee mug, no markings. 3.5" high x 2.5 inches in diameter.
- Item 13: Green drip on brown creamer, Evangeline 903 Canada. 3 inches high to top of handle by 2.75 inches wide at opening.
- Item 14: Green drip on brown sugar bowl, Evangeline 904 Canada. 3 inches high to top of handle by 2.5 inches wide at opening.
- Item 15: Green drip on brown teapot with lid. No markings. 4.5 inches high to top of handle by 3 inches wide at opening.

**Processing Action:**

Item 1, "Untitled engraving of Evangeline" with shelf list number BM-245 (1/2), was wrapped in acid free paper tissue and placed in an archival oversize box, 20 ½ in. long x 16 in. wide x 1 ½ in. deep, for preservation.

Item 2, "Evangeline." Chromo-lithographed with shelf list number BM-245 (2/2), was wrapped in acid free tissue paper and placed in an archival oversize box, 20 ½ in. long x 16 in. wide x 1 ½ in. deep, for preservation.

Items 3 & 4, *Gabriel & Evangeline* were wrapped in tissue paper and placed in archival oversize box with shelf list number BM-245.