

Gerry Morin collection of sheet music and legal instruments, 1839-1961

MCC-00246

Total boxes: 2
Cubic feet: .50 cubic feet

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**Gerry Morin collection of sheet music and legal instruments, 1839-1961
(MCC-00246)**

Shelf List Number: UM-246, BM-246

Collection Overview

Creator

Morin, Gerry

Dates

1839-1961

Extent

1 box, 1 oversize folder in an oversize box (.50 cubic feet)

Provenance

Material was acquired from Gerry Morin, December 2003 and April 2004.

Language

English

French

Conservation Notes

None

Conditions Governing Access and Use

Restrictions

Access: No restrictions

Physical: No restrictions

Technical: No restrictions

Rights Statement

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Recommended Citation

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Collection Description

Historical and Biographical Information

Gerry Morin, son of Ida Pelletier and Joseph Denis Morin, was born in Ste-Agathe, Maine in 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.

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 primarily of sheet music for French songs, mostly written by Albert Larrieu and published in Montreal. One piece of music is entitled "March! March! All Ye Brave Sons of Maine!", which is noted as "a parody of the favorite Scotch Song, 'All the Blue Bonnets are Over the Border,'" and published in Boston by H. Prentiss, circa 1840 (H. Prentiss opened at the address printed on the music in 1839 and changed names in 1847). A 1909 publication of Canada's national song, "O Canada!" is also in this collection. Also included is the sheet music, "Evangeline," sung by Dolores Del Rio in Edwin Carewe's production of *Evangeline*, as well as Maude Hanaford and Vicot Young's *Land of Evangeline* (1920). The collection also contains two legal instruments: Senator George D. Aiken's "Report to the Senate on the Fifth Meeting, Held at Washington, D.C., June 8-9, 1961" from the Canada-United States Interparliamentary Group, and "Documents relating to trespassers on the public lands," from the Maine legislature in 1839.

Arrangement

The sheet music is arranged by composer, then by date; the legal instruments are arranged by date.

Separated Materials (If Applicable)

Published materials were removed from the collection and cataloged separately. See donor file for complete list.

Subject Headings

Legal instruments--Maine
Music--Canada
Music--Maine
Public lands--Maine
Sheet music

Related Materials

Evangeline Artifact Collection, (MCC-00510). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Gerry Morin Collection, (MCC-00244). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Gerry Morin engraving and lithograph of *Evangeline*, (MCC-00245). Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	Item	Description	Date(s)
1	1: Legal instruments, 1839-1961	1	9th legislature, no. 31, House. "Documents relating to trespassers on the public lands." Smith and Robinson, Printers to the State, 46p.	1839

- 2 87th Congress, 1st session. Canada-United States 1961
Interparliamentary Group. "Report to the Senate on the
fifth meeting, held at Washington, D.C. June 8-9, 1961
by Senator George D. Aiken, Chairman of the Senate
delegation." July 25, 1961. Committee print, printed for
the use of the Committee on Foreign Relations.
Washington D.C.: U.S. government Printing Office, 7 p.
- 2-5: Sheet music, 1840-1929
- 2 Hanaford and Jolson
- 1 Hannaford, Maud (lyrics and Victor Young (music). 1920
"Land of Evangeline." New York, Boston: G. Schirmer.
- 2 Jolson, Al (music) and Billy Rose (lyrics). "Evangeline." 1929
New York: Irving Berlin, Inc. As sung by Dolores Del
Rio in Edwin Carewe's United Artists Production,
"Evangeline."
- 3:Larrieu
- 1-2 Larrieu, Albert. "Visions candiennes, première série." 1918
Montreal: Ed. Archambault. 2 copies.
- 3 Larrieu, Albert. "Au Pays des érables." Deuxième série 1921
des Visions canadiennes. Montreal: Ed. Archambault.
- 4 Larrieu, Albert. "Chanson de la veillée." Deuxième série 1921
des Nouvelles chansons de chez nous. Montreal: Ed.
Archambault.
- 5 Larrieu, Albert. "Nouvelles chansons de chez nous." Undated
Montreal: Edmond Archambault.
- 4: Nohcor-Tremblay, Amédée
- 1 Nohcor, Alfred and W. Donato. "Oh Oh Oh! (ce n'est Undated
pas difficile)." Quebec: Ernest Tremblay
- 2 Todd, Robert. "O Canada, National Song." Toronto: A. 1909
Cox and Co.
- 3 Tremblay, Amédée. "Dix-huit chansons populaires Undated
du Canada." Ottawa: J.L. Orme et fils.
- 5: Tremblay, J.R.
- 1-2 Tremblay, J.R. "La Complainte du Chômeur." Lyrics Undated
only; to the tune of "Filé, Filé ô mon Naivre." 2 copies.
- 3-4 Lyrics to four songs: "A la Campagne," to the tune of Undated
"You Brought a New Kind of Love to Me," from the
movie *The Big Pond*, starring Maurice Chevalier;
"Vous etes mon nouveau Bonheur," written by J.R.
Tremblay to the tune of "Around the Corner;"
"Charmaine," French lyrics by J.R. Tremblay; and
"Laisse Moi te Dire," to the tune of "Let Me Call
You Sweetheart." 2 copies.
- 2 1 1 One oversize folder, 11 in. x 17 in., contains: "March! ca. 1840
March! All ye Brave Sons of Maine!" Boston: H. Prentiss.