

**Claude Picard's paintings on postcards
MCC-00473**

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
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Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Claude Picard's paintings on postcards

Creator/Collector: Marie-Anne Gauvin

Collection number: MCC-00473

Shelf list number: UM-473

Dates: 1985-2005

Extent: 1 folder (.05 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was found within other documents in the Acadian Archives and probably brought in by Marie-Anne Gauvin before 2009.

Language: French and English

Conservation notes: All images were inserted in polyester sleeves for protection.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

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Citation: Claude Picard's paintings on postcards, MCC-00473, Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes, University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: Not applicable.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information: Claude Picard was born in Edmundston, New Brunswick, on February 11, 1932. In 1946, he won a national award in art competition at the age of 14. He undertook a study tour of three years in Europe, from 1956 to 1959, mainly in Italy: Florence and Rome. He painted landscapes of his region, portraits, murals and historical scenes. Many of his portraits are in Ottawa: the Canadian Senate and the National Library; at the Legislative

Assembly of New Brunswick; at the University of Moncton; the New Brunswick Museum in Saint John.

In the early 60's, he painted two murals for the church of Notre-Dame-des-Flots of Lamèque, NB. In 1966, he painted the mural "*The Discoverer*" for the Edmundston Community College. In 1985, he created for the City of Edmundston an historical mural entitled "*Life in Madawaska from 1785-1985*". In 1986, he won the competition organized by Parcs Canada for the realization of six murals on the history of the Acadians, in permanent exhibit at the Memorial Church of Grand-Pré, NS. In 1992, he created four paintings depicting the history of the Acadian, for the "*Museum of Citadelle Vauban*" in Belle-Île-en-Mer, France; a mural "*Forever young*" for the Golden Age Club of Saint-Basile, NB; another mural "*He imposed His hands*" for the church of Saint-Jacques, NB. In 2001, a historical mural commemorating the founders of the study circles of the Caisses populaires in New Brunswick, was commissioned by the Federation des Caisses populaires acadiennes of Caraquet.

For many years, he painted portraits for the Sports Hall of Fame in Edmundston and Campbellton. He received twice a grant from the Canadian Art Council, in 1982 and 1992. He won the *Gold Professional Award of the Society of Graphite Designers of Canada* for his paintings appearing on the historical map "*Acadian Odyssey of a people*" in 1990. In 1992, he received the *Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada*. In 1996, he received an *Honorary Doctorate of Fine Art degree from the University of Moncton*. In 2004 he was named "*Personnalité Richelieu 2004*" by the Club Richelieu of Edmundston. The same year, he won the *Miller Brittain Award for Excellence in the visual arts* offered by the Council of arts NB.

In 2005, six large historic murals depicting "*Momentous Milestones of the Acadian people*" are installed by the Association of the Acadian Museum of PEI in Miscouche. He received in 2005 the award "*The saw-whet owl*" from the Association of the Acadian Museum of PEI, Miscouche "*for the Acadian cause*". On August 15, 2005, the first official day cover that reproduce his painting "*The departure into exile 1755*" is unveiled by Canada Post in Caraquet, NB. In 2005, the City of Edmundston honored him "*for his commitment to the advancement of the arts*".

In 2006, he was inducted into the "*Art Hall of Fame*", Edmundston, NB; was given the *Louis Napoléon-Dugal (SAANB) award* for his contribution to the promotion of French and Acadian culture in Madawaska. In 2006, a room where his 6 paintings are exhibited in the Acadian Museum of PEI in Miscouche is named "*Galerie Claude Picard*".

In 2010, a retrospective of his work since childhood took place at the Galerie Colline of the Madawaska Historical Museum, University of Moncton, Campus Edmundston, NB. In 2010, a painting "*La Bataille de la Ristigouche*" is commissioned by Parcs-Canada, Québec. On August 28, 2012, he received the *Medal of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II*.

Married to Jeanne Soucy, they have two daughters, Brigitte and Lucie. Mr. Picard passed away on September 13, 2012.¹

¹ <http://www.demelerlespinceaux.umce.ca/biography-claude-picard>

Biographical Information: Marie-Anne Gauvin was born June 8, 1929, in New Canada Plantation (Daigle), the daughter of Auguste Gauvin and Bertha Caron. The family moved to Madawaska where she attended local schools and graduated with honors in 1948. She attended the Aroostook State Normal School (now University of Maine at Presque Isle) from which she received a three-year certificate in Education. She attended Gorham State College and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Education. She taught in elementary grades in Connecticut and there she enrolled into a master's degree to become a French educator. Her thesis, *Linguistic and Cultural Heritage of the Acadians in Maine*, has been published and has been a source of enlightenment for the people of the St. John Valley and beyond.

She occasionally gave lectures about Acadian history and their heritage to educational groups and organizations. She retired in 1988 and came back to her roots in Madawaska. She enjoyed 20 years of retirement and became involved in the founding of *Le Club Français*.

In 1999, she was one of 12 county women featured in the *Women, Work and Community* for the year 2000 calendar in recognition of her inspiration and contribution to family and community. In 2000, she was elected to the Franco Acadian Hall of Fame by the 121st Legislature in Augusta. As an active member of *Le Club Français*, she created a newsletter, *Le Fanal*, which included her personal articles under the name *La pie bavarde*. She was instrumental in securing a trust fund for *Le Club Français* from Mr. & Mrs Marvin Mikesell of Chicago.

In 2006, the University of Maine at Fort Kent conferred upon her a degree of Doctor's of Humane Letter, *Honoris Causa*, noting in particular, her outstanding lifelong career as an educator and scholar of the French language, as well as the heritage and contributions of the Acadian people's culture. Marie-Anne had a well-deserved reputation as a relentless advocate for the preservation and active use of the French language in the valley. Marie-Anne passed away on April 14, 2009.

Scope and content: This collection consists of seven colored postcards and one colored magazine clipping depicting paintings by Mr. Claude Picard. Six of the postcards are a representation of paintings illustrating the Deportation and losses of the Acadians from their lands. They hang in the Grand-Pré Memorial Church at Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia,

One postcard is of a Christmas Nativity scene at the Cathedral in Edmundston, New Brunswick that Mr. Picard painted. Not dated.

The colored magazine clipping is of a fresco titled *La vie au Madawaska 1785-1985* which is located at the Edmundston City Hall.

Inventory:

Folder 1:

- Item 1: *Le paradis terrestre/Early Acadia 1635-1755*
- Item 2: *Le serment d'allégeance/Oath of Allegiance 1730*
- Item 3: *L'ordre de deportation/The Deportation Order 1755*
- Item 4: *Le depart vers l'exil/Ships take Acadians into exile 1755*
- Item 5: *On incendie leurs villages/Settlements are burned 1755*

Item 6: *Migrations et retour/Migrations and Return 1755-1800*

Item 7: *Crèche de Noël à la Cathédrale d'Edmundston, N.B.*

Item 8: *La vie au Madawaska 1785-1985*