

# The French Review

## *From the Editor's Desk*

There are several items to be announced in this issue of the *French Review*, which gives my Editorial more of the appearance of a *bloc-notes*.

First, as indicated in my February Editorial (Vol. 84.3), in the aftermath of the decision to phase out established programs in foreign languages, classics, and theater at State University of New York, Albany, the *French Review* is publishing in the current issue a special report provided by Marie-Christine Koop, Past President of the AATF, whom I would like to thank for writing such a useful article in a very short time frame. This article, "Making a Case for French: Arguments and Resources" (910–16), is also available, with active Web links, on the *French Review* Web site (click on the "Current Issue" tab).

<http://www.wvu.edu/depts/mcl/french/FR>

Second, a follow-up to my comments in the March Editorial (Vol. 84.4) about the use of robots in order to teach beginning English classes in South Korea: according to more recent online articles, the objective is to replace, by the end of the decade, most of the 30,000 native speaker English teachers (many of whom come from the United States) currently working in that country. Whether or not such an outcome will be technically or financially feasible within only a few years, it would, ultimately, not only deprive some of our students of an opportunity to live and work abroad, but also raise broader questions about the future of introductory language teaching as a profession. The silver lining to this somewhat ominous development is that a technologically-advanced nation is taking the issue of foreign-language learning seriously, and is planning to make courses available to all its schoolchildren, as early as the kindergarten level. Perhaps we would do well to follow suit.

<http://encoreedusud.blogspot.com/2010/01/le-28-janvier-2010-en-coree-du-sud.html>  
<http://www.fkcci.com/fr/decouvrir-la-coree/actualites-coreennes/janvier-2010.html>  
<http://www.sbs.com.au/news/article/1467287/Robots-teach-Korean-students>

Third, our special issue on Québec (Vol. 84.6) will be published next month, in honor of the upcoming AATF Convention in Montréal, July 6-9, 2011. The Convention will include a *French Review* session, during which the Editors will introduce the journal's modifications (new rubrics, formatting, Web site) for Vol. 85. This will be an opportunity for readers and authors to meet with members of the editorial team, and to make comments and suggestions.

Finally, a reminder about the two main items on the Announcements pages (1093–94). First, the special issue to be published in May 2012 (Vol. 85.6): "Les Lumières, au passé et à

présent." The deadline for submission of articles is: August 1, 2011. Second, the start of two new rubrics in Vol. 85 of the *French Review: Actualités du monde francophone* and *Lettrismes*. Designed for shorter texts, these new rubrics will complement the *French Review's* extensive scholarly offerings. There is no deadline for submission, as these will be ongoing rubrics.

Edward Ousselin, Editor in Chief