

# The French Review

## *From the Editor's Desk: Report for the French Review, 2009–2010*

FR statistics for articles submitted 1 June 2009–31 May 2010 (vol. 83)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Accepted</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	<u>Under Evaluation</u>	<u>No Decision</u>
Literature	57 (55.8%)	20 (35.1%)	23 (40.4%)	12 (21.1%)	2 ( 3.4%)
Pedagogy	19 (18.7%)	8 (42.1%)	8 (42.1%)	3 (15.8%)	—
Civilization	12 (11.8%)	7 (58.3%)	5 (41.7%)	—	—
Film	10 ( 9.8%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	3 (30%)	1 (10.0%)
Linguistics	4 ( 3.9%)	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	—	—
Totals	102 (100%)	39 (38.2%)	42 (41.2%)	18 (17.6%)	3 ( 3%)

After twenty-three years on the editorial board of the *French Review*, it is difficult to say goodbye! It was Ron Tobin, my predecessor, who first asked me to join the board in 1987 to succeed Priscilla Clark as Review Editor for Civilization (now Society and Culture). In 1992 I became Assistant Editor for Civilization and in 1996, Managing Editor. Then Ron designated me as his successor and the Executive Council of the AATF elected me Editor in Chief in 1998. Now it is 2010 and time to turn the reigns over to my successor, Edward Ousselin of Western Washington University, Bellingham. Previously I appointed Edward/Edouard (he uses both his French and English names) as Editor for Creative Works. He has chosen Michel Gueldry of the Monterey Institute as his Managing Editor. Michel has been an Assistant Editor for Society and Culture for the past several years.

Some wise person once said that one should always choose associates who are smarter than oneself if one hopes to be successful. Finding such people was never a problem for me! Indeed, I have many people to thank for helping me to serve the *French Review* and its readers these past twenty-three years. First and foremost are the Assistant Editors who read and evaluate many articles from among the 100 plus articles we receive every year. They and all of the members of the *French Review* staff are simply the best in the business. It is hard to believe that unpaid volunteers can be so unflinchingly dedicated to the interests of teachers of French, all our other readers, and the profession which we share, but the members of the editorial board of the *French Review* are totally committed. In my professional life of over 40 years I have never seen so much good will. Along with the Assistant Editors, Review Editors must be singled out as well. They solicit reviews year round and edit them for each issue. Our Assistant Editor for Dissertations in Progress also primes the pump to keep you up to date on what prospective members of our profession are up to. Another demanding job is that of Advertising Manager, a position currently held by the recently elected president of the AATF, Ann Sunderland. In fact, Ann has succeeded in increasing the number of ads taken out in spite of the downturn in the economy.

This said, as a former Managing Editor I can tell you that the hardest job of all is that of Managing Editor. The physical and interpersonal demands of this position are beyond belief. Managing Editors have had heart attacks in the middle of their tenures and several,

including myself, suffered from double vision at times. The reason is that Managing Editors must read something on the order of 3600-4000 manuscript, galley, and page proofs (not to mention blue lines) every year. So it is more than fitting that I recognize my wonderfully talented Managing Editors: James P. Gilroy, Clyde Thogmartin, Sharon Shelly, and Wynne Wong. They carried out their duties at a very high level and several of them made innovations that have improved our journal. It is not really possible for me to express my gratitude to them in words.

I must also thank the Executive Secretary of the AATF, Jayne Abrate, who took over her position when I began mine. Jayne has always supported me in my job as Editor and has served as a sounding board and confidant whenever there were difficult problems to be dealt with. She has also given me free reign to explore new ideas and carry out my duties as I saw fit while at the same time she managed the purse strings adroitly. In fact, in our first meeting to discuss new directions it was Jayne who suggested that we might want to add a column on contemporary France. This idea later became the rubric "Bloc-notes culturel" written by James P. McNab. April Walsh and Darla Phoenix, past and present administrative assistants of the AATF were always generous in helping me with a myriad of details and forms regarding membership among other questions, and I thank them for their good will and great sense of humor.

Jane Goepfer (Editor of the *National Bulletin*) and I pursued an already good friendship in working out cooperative ventures between the *NB* and the *FR*. One of the most fruitful was the *Mots chassés*, for which Colette Dio creates exercises drawn from her popular column "La Vie des mots" and Jane publishes them in the *NB*. One of my greatest pleasures has been working with Colette, a superb linguist and etymologist.

Naturally, I must thank the many Presidents of the AATF with whom I worked very closely and who always backed me. They include Albert Valdman, also Review Editor for Linguistics, as he was finishing his term as President (Albert also contributed a number of articles to special issues). Gladys Lipton (recently named "Commandeur" in the Order of Academic Palms) began her term when I began mine and was a source of unflagging support and a great counselor. She also pushed me in the right directions. I am also proud to have benefited from the support of former Editor in Chief (1974-86) and President of the AATF, Stirling Haig. Stirling first helped me during the tough transitional period following my election and has been the most dedicated of readers of the *French Review*. He has never failed to point out (constructively) areas that could use improvement and to praise initiatives he found to be successful. In many ways Stirling is really the *grand patron* of the *French Review* (he served for many years as a Trustee of the AATF). Jean-Pierre Piriou also supported my work and suggested that I put together a special issue on Francophonie (cf. special issue of 2004 in honor of our joint meeting with the FIPF in Atlanta organized by Jean-Pierre, Jayne Abrate, Alain Braun, and myself). Margot Steinhart, a former Review Editor for Course Materials and Methodology, worked hand in glove with me and supported and encouraged new initiatives. Margot has the great quality of empowering people and asked me to come up with names for keynote speakers at AATF meetings including Azouz Begag and the team of Julie Barlow and Jean-Benoit Nadeau. Marie-Christine Koop, the current Review Editor for Society and Culture, brought her great energy to the job and inspired me with her own work as editor of several collections of essays on contemporary France and Québec. Now Ann Sunderland, an old friend and former member of my advisory council, has done a great job in working with Edward Ousselin and me during the transition.

I must thank Ronnie Moore of WESType Publishing Services, Inc., who has been with the journal from the beginning and has wrought order out of chaos with every issue. Her layout and design work is the best. C'est elle qui a le plus souvent sauvé les meubles!

Aside from the Bloc-notes culturel rubric and the *mots chassés* we also introduced new columns such as the hands-on and experientially-based, "In Your Corner: Focus on the Classroom." It was Carol Herron, one of our pedagogy assistant editors, who came up with the title. Carol is stepping down this year after 28 years with the journal. We also added the rubric, "Professional Issues," in order to offer thoughtful debate about hot topics in our

profession. Another decision was to put out an annual special issue, something that had not been done before. Indeed, we had a number of firsts, including two special issues on pedagogy, one on Martinique and Guadeloupe, another on Belgium, one on Francophonie in the United States, another on cinema, and my last special issue, Algérie/France. We also published a seventy-fifth anniversary issue, a special issue on Québec, another on Paris, and a compilation of articles on the literature and culture of Sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb and France, the Antilles, and Vietnam. That issue featured my favorite original cover—one depicting masks from all over the world. In fact, all of our special issues featured original covers. The regular cover was the work of Marc Grosvalet, an art photographer and the official photographer for the commune of Villejuif, just south of Paris on the Nationale 7 (the road to Orly).

Montana State University, Bozeman, my home of the past 29 years, supported reduced loads for me so that I could pursue my passion for the *French Review*, and I had wonderful graphics support from first J. Moss Hartt and then Kristin Drumheller, two very talented graphic artists. Ellen Hall managed our Website with great good will. The university also provided monies for my assistants for many years.

French Cultural Services provided annual grants from the beginning. These were used to defray the costs of special issues related to France and the Francophone world. Ambassadors Bujon d'Estang and Jean-David Levitte were supporters and readers of the *French Review*. More recently, the new French Ambassador to the United States, Pierre Vimont, has also lent support. The government of Quebec provided a grant for the special issue on Quebec, and the Belgian government, as well as the French authorities in Liège, including Consul General Patrick Fers, provided valuable support for the special issue on Francophone Belgium and the annual meeting held there in 2008.

A number of staff members have retired in the past year and I want to mention their names: Carolyn Gascoigne, Edward Benson, Mary Donaldson-Evans (more than 15 years), Raymond Gay-Crosier (more than 20 years), Donna Kuizenga (more than 15 years), Gita May (two different terms adding up to more than 20 years), Carol Herron (28 years), and Gisèle Lorient-Raymer. In their place we welcome Sarah Jourdain, Cathy Yandell, Susie Hennessy, Kate Conley, Jennifer Perlmutter, Chris Coski, John Greene, and Madeline Turan. Edouard will introduce other new members whom he has appointed to the editorial board in the December issue.

Finally, I want to thank the scores of members of the Executive Council of the AATF for their support and advice over the years. I am proud to count many of them as friends. Last but not least, it is you, the readers of the *French Review*, who have sent me your ideas or letters to the editor, or spoken with me at meetings and told me what you liked and what you wanted added or changed. This interchange has contributed to the success that we have enjoyed.

Now I am passing the red pen on to Edward Ousselin. I know that he will bring new ideas and add to the distinction of our journal, which has the largest distribution of any scholarly journal of French studies in the world, including about 1100 library subscriptions.

Au revoir et bonne continuation!

Christopher P. Pinet

## In Remembrance of: Anne Slack (1915–2010)

Anne Slack, past president of the AATF, passed away on 12 February at age 94, in Ithaca, New York. Now is the time to eulogize this dynamic and innovative French teacher who so well exemplified the mission of our association.

Anne Slack was born in 1915 to French parents living in Oran, Algeria. Having earned her *Licence-ès-lettres* at the University of Algiers, she put her English skills to work during World War II as translator/interpreter for the Engineering Headquarters of the Mediterranean Theater of Operations of the US Army. For the excellent performance of her duties in Algeria and Morocco, she was awarded the Emblem for Meritorious Civilian Service. It was while on mission in Casablanca that she met her future husband Raymond who was serving in the US Navy. She and Ray were married in April 1947 in Niagara Falls, New York.

In the early 1950s, the Slacks moved to Schenectady where Anne taught elementary school French, first at the Brown School and then as Coordinator of FLES for the entire city. It was during this time that she collaborated with the local television station WRGB to create the innovative *Fun with French* program which was featured in a photo spread in *Life Magazine* in May 1956. The program continued to grow in popularity and soon was being transmitted to 110 local FLES classes. One can say that Anne Slack pioneered distance learning before the term even existed. As she began exploring the potential of what was then new audio-visual media to introduce students to spoken French and the beauty of French culture, she quickly recognized the necessity for trained classroom teachers to reinforce the televised presentations and taped activities.

In 1959, the Massachusetts Modern Language Project and WGBH enticed Anne Slack to move to the Boston area to join the newly created *Parlons français* team as TV teacher and associate director. In addition to her on-screen persona, Anne played an instrumental role in developing the lessons. These were supplemented with photographs and sequences filmed in France, as well as conversational scenes with puppet figures created by Bill and Cora Baird. Anne was also a contributing author on the tapes, the workbooks and teacher in-service materials.

For Americans growing up in the 1960s, she was simply Madame Slack, the well-loved on-screen French teacher for the television program *Parlons français* which was viewed by over two million elementary school students as part of the "21-Inch Classroom" program. *The Saturday Evening*

*Post* wrote, "Anne Slack is perhaps the best of TV teachers." *Parade Magazine* publicized the program with an illustrated article on her and her family. *McCall's Magazine* honored her in 1963 with their Golden Mike Award for her "Service to the American Future."

It was during this same period that Anne Slack became deeply committed to the AATF and its mission. For over fifteen years, beginning in 1968, she edited "*Le Coin du pédagogue*" for the *French Review*, addressing linguistic questions and responding to teachers' queries. Locally, she served as president of the Eastern Massachusetts AATF chapter. In 1972, she was elected to a three-year term as AATF Vice President with the primary responsibility of administering the summer scholarship program in France, a task she performed with great enthusiasm.

Anne Slack served as President of the association from 1977 to 1979. In her first year, she organized our annual *Congrès* in Paris. This was the first time that an AATF convention was held outside of the United States. She followed this with a memorable convention in Martinique in 1979, setting in motion a tradition whereby every few years French teachers would be able to attend meetings in Francophone settings and thus enhance their linguistic skills and cultural awareness.

After the *Parlons français* project was completed, she accepted the position of Lecturer in French at Boston University in 1970. She also hosted weekly French radio broadcasts in Boston. In 1976, she was named Senior Lecturer of French at Harvard University, a position which she held until 1993. During the 1980s, she taught several summers on the faculty of the Middlebury French School.

As a college teacher, Anne Slack instilled in her students an appreciation of the elegance of the French language and the beauty of a well-turned phrase. Her expectations were high—both for herself and for her students. It was during her university years that she co-authored a two-level secondary school series, *French for Communication* (1979) and a first-year college French text, *A propos! Communication et culture: un début* (1983).

In 1994, Anne Slack moved to Ithaca, New York. Never one to remain unoccupied, although well in her eighties, she joined Catherine Porter's team at Cornell University and contributed her linguistic expertise to the translation of the 1100-page anthology *Le Savoir grec* which was published in 2000 by the Harvard University Press under the title *Greek Thought*.

Over the years, in recognition of her life-long commitment to the promotion of French language and culture, the French government named her *Officier* and then *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes académiques*. She was also honored as *Chevalier dans l'Ordre du Mérite*.

Anne Slack lived a long and full life of exemplary service and friendship. We in the AATF will deeply miss her inspirational presence.

Rebecca M. Valette  
Professor Emeritus, Boston College