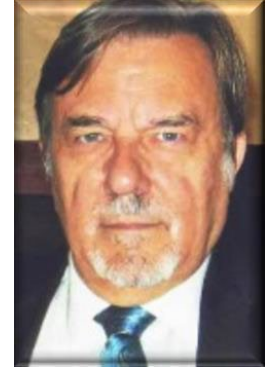


Armand Chartier (1938-)

Armand Chartier was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts on May 19, 1938 to Joseph-Émile and Bertha Lemaire Chartier. He attended the parochial elementary school of St. Anthony of Padua parish, which has one of the most beautiful churches in New England. At that time, the school was run by the Sisters of the Holy Cross (CSC) and the Sisters of the Seven Dolors.



After eight years of schooling, Armand earned the highest score on the annual exam administered by the Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique (USJB). He received the Abbé Philiass-L. Jalbert Scholarship from the organization to fund eight more years of schooling. The USJB was a mutual aid society, and one of their goals was to assist young Franco-Americans in pursuing higher education either in Québec or at Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts. According to Chartier, he obtained the scholarship thanks to the teachings and sage advice of Sister Marie de Sainte-Rolleinde, CSC, who successfully taught French to eighth grade students at the St. Anthony's school in 1951-1952. She is the one who suggested that Armand's parents enroll their son in the Joliette Seminary (high school) in Québec. That institution was run by the Clerics of St. Viator, who had an excellent reputation as educators. Armand spent five years there before returning to the United States to obtain his bachelor's degree at Assumption College in Worcester in 1959. Founded by the Augustinians of the Assumption, a congregation of French origin, Assumption at that time assumed the role of perpetuating the study of French language and cultural traditions among Franco-Americans.

Armand Chartier, having lived in Québec for several years, became one of the top French students in the college, in both written and spoken language. He would spend two years taking advanced courses in French literature.

After graduating from Assumption College with his bachelor's degree, Armand began teaching at the high school level, first in Dracut, Massachusetts, then in his hometown of New Bedford. Firmly anchored in the culture of his French-Canadian ancestors from a young age, Chartier would devote his entire teaching career to promoting his ethnicity.

He served in the military from 1961 to 1964, followed by two years as a reservist, before returning to his studies. He earned his master's degree and doctorate between 1965 and 1970 at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, thanks to a scholarship from the National Defense Education Act (NDEA). After completing his graduate degrees, he returned to teaching, but this time at the college level, starting as Assistant Professor at North Adams State College (today the Massachusetts College for the Liberal Arts) in 1969. There, he would become chair of the Modern Languages department. At this public institution, Chartier began an exchange program for Québécois and American students, a program partially funded by the American and Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission, which had just been established by the Massachusetts legislature in 1968. This grant also allowed Chartier to create courses in Canadian Studies.

In 1971, Chartier became Assistant Professor at the University of Rhode Island, where he taught until his retirement in 2000. He obtained tenure there and was promoted to full professor in 1988. After retirement, he was named Professor Emeritus.

During his career at the University of Rhode Island, Armand Chartier created courses on Québécois literature, multiculturalism in New England, and French North America. He taught two sections of each course, one in French and one in English, to bring together two different student populations. He also served on numerous academic committees throughout his career as a professor.

On the state level in Rhode Island, he was appointed to the Canadian French Cultural Exchange Commission by then Governor Frank Licht, when the commission was formed in 1972 thanks to Father Thomas M. Landry, O.P. Chartier was also a consultant for the television series “Chez nos gens” from 1973 to 1974.

The French government gave him a grant in 1980, and the Québec Government awarded him two research grants in addition to a subsidy for the completion of his book *Histoire des Franco-Américains*, published in 1990. An English translation of this book was published in 1999.

Biographies of Armand Chartier are included in the *Annuaire biographique de la francophonie* as well as the *Dictionnaire de l’Amérique française* for 1988. The Conseil de la vie française en Amérique (CVFA) appointed him to the Ordre de la Fidélité française in 1987. He received the Grand Prix medal from the Société Historique Franco-Américaine in 1991 and a certificate of merit from the French Institute at Assumption College in 1992.

He originally did research in the field of nineteenth-century French Studies, leading to a publication on Barbey d’Aurevilly, written in English, in 1977. However, Chartier never forgot “les siens,” his own people. He wrote several articles on Franco-American authors like Rosaire Dion-Lévesque and Adolphe Robert for the *Dictionnaire des œuvres littéraires du Québec* (DOLQ), volumes II and IV. In 1976, he edited a special issue of the journal *Modern Language Studies* on Québécois literature, which included his own bibliography. A lover of bibliographies, he became a member of the Modern Language Association’s prestigious Committee on Bibliography in 1974, and he convinced the committee leadership to add a section on French-Canadian literature. Between 1974 and 1981, he provided approximately 700 book titles and reviews for inclusion in the annual mailing of the *Modern Language Association International Bibliography*, an essential reference work used by literary researchers across the country. He also

authored about fifty book reviews for academic journals. He is currently working on an anthology of the best Franco-American literary and historical texts.

Finally, it should be noted that Armand Chartier is co-editor of the present dictionary of Franco-American authors for which he authored a great many biographies and bibliographies.

Thus, throughout his career, Armand Chartier's goal has been not just to advance his own academic interests, but to promote the literature and history of Franco-Americans.

Claire QUINTAL

English translation by Dr. Elizabeth Blood, Salem State University

WORKS

Books

- *Anthologie des meilleurs textes de l'histoire et de la littérature franco-américaines* (in progress)
- *Barbey d'Aurevilly*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1977, 191 p. Biography and critique of the works of an important nineteenth-century French author who is becoming better known.
- *Dictionnaire des auteurs franco-américains de langue française*. This project, co-edited with Claire Quintal in collaboration with Leslie Choquette, is available on the website of the French Institute at Assumption University and will eventually appear in print. English translations are being provided by students from Salem State University under the direction of their professor, Dr. Elizabeth Blood.
- *French New Bedford*. New Bedford, MA: La Ligue des Présidents and Manchester, NH: Association Canado-Américaine, 1993, 40 p. First historical overview of this important community.

- *Histoire des Franco-Américains de la Nouvelle-Angleterre, 1775-1990*. Sillery, QC: Éditions du Septentrion, 1991. 436 p. Thanks to his colleagues, professors Claire Quintal and Robert Lemieux, Armand Chartier's work was translated into English and published as *The Franco-Americans: A History*. Manchester, NH: ACA Assurance and Worcester, MA: Les Éditions de l'Institut français, 1999, vii, 537 p. This edition includes a "Postscript: The 1990s," by Armand Chartier and Claire Quintal.

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- « Introduction bibliographique à la civilisation du Québec ». *Contemporary French Civilization*, vol. 3, no 2, 1979, p. 265-296.
- « Jack Kerouac, Franco-Américain ». *Revue d'histoire littéraire du Québec et du Canada français*, vol. 12, 1986, p. 83-96.
- « La littérature franco-américaine de la Nouvelle-Angleterre : origines et évolution ». *Revue d'histoire littéraire du Québec et du Canada français*, vol. 12, 1986, p. 59-81.
- « Nouveaux regards sur la Franco-Américanie: bibliographie descriptive d'études récentes ». *Vie française*, vol. 41, no. 1 (January 1989), p. 63-86. Covers Franco-American Studies during the years 1979-1988.
- « Pour une problématique de l'histoire littéraire franco-américaine ». In Quintal, Claire and André Vachon, eds. *Situation de la recherche sur la Franco-Américanie*. Québec: Conseil de la vie française en Amérique, 1980. p. 81-100.
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- Between 1980 and 1984, Armand Chartier also edited eleven articles for the *Dictionnaire des œuvres littéraires du Québec*. Montréal: Éditions Fides, 1980-1984.