

Renaissance Française – USA Awards Ceremony and Reception

under the auspices of

His Excellency François Delattre
Ambassador of France to the United States
Honorary President of Renaissance Française – USA
and

Antonin Baudry
Cultural Counselor of France in the United States



Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Cultural Services of the French Embassy
972 Fifth Avenue – New York City

History of La Renaissance Française

La Renaissance Française was founded in 1916 as a private cultural organization by French president Raymond Poincaré in anticipation of the allied victory in World War I. Its original mission was to facilitate a return to French language and culture in the regions of Alsace and Moselle after years of German domination. As this objective was accomplished between the two world wars, the association was recognized as a public non-profit organization benefiting from the patronage of the French Ministries of Foreign Affairs, of the Interior, of Defense, and of Education.

In recent years, La Renaissance Française has broadened its mission to include the promotion of French culture generally, as a cradle of humanism and respect for all beliefs and nationalities. In the 1980s the organization extended its reach to include all French-speaking countries. Accordingly, delegations were formed in countries recognizing French as an official language such as Switzerland and Belgium, along with Argentina, Canada and Romania. La Renaissance Française continues to establish and encourage delegations worldwide, including the United States, and has formed or is in the process of forming delegations in China, Italy, Lebanon, Madagascar, Morocco, and Russia.

M. Denis Fadda currently serves as international president of La Renaissance Française in Paris. His background includes roles as: *Professeur des universités, Fonctionnaire international, Administrateur de l'Université Senghor d'Alexandrie, Membre de l'Académie des Arts, Lettres et Sciences de Languedoc, and Président (h) de l'Académie des Sciences d'Outre-Mer de France.*

His Excellency François Delattre, Ambassador of France to the United States, serves as *Président d'Honneur* for the Delegation in the United States. Madame Simone Veil, former *Ministre d'Etat*, past president of the European Parliament and current member of the *Académie française*, serves as *Présidente d'Honneur* of La Renaissance Française in Paris.

Founding in the United States

On October 9, 2009, the United States Delegation of La Renaissance Française held its first official meeting at La Maison Française at New York University, courtesy of Professor Tom Bishop. Renaissance Française - USA continues its cooperative tradition of Americans selecting honorees in the United States to be considered for awards by La Renaissance Française in Paris. We express our appreciation to Antoine Guerrier de Dumast, immediate past president of La Renaissance Française, at whose initiative the Delegation in the United States was founded.

Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Cultural Services of the French Embassy

972 Fifth Avenue, New York

Renaissance Française ~ USA

Delegation of La Renaissance Française in the United States

Program

Welcome by Antonin Baudry

Cultural Counselor of France in New York

Greetings sent from François Delattre

Ambassador of France to the United States

presented by Antonin Baudry

History of La Renaissance Française by Jane Robert

President, Delegation in the United States

Recognition of Honorees and Presentation of Medals

Cultural Counselor Antonin Baudry and President Jane Robert

*Renaissance Française – USA expresses its appreciation to
the Cultural Services of France for their support and warm welcome.*

Medal Recipients ~ 2013

Robert D. Peckham, Ph.D.

Médaille d'Or de la Renaissance Française

Bernard Métais, Ph.D., P.E.

Médaille d'Or du Rayonnement Culturel

Claude Lambert

Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur

William C. Carter, Ph.D.

Médaille d'Or du Mérite Francophone



Robert D. Peckham, Ph.D.

Médaille d'Or de la Renaissance Française

This medal recognizes persons who have rendered eminent and exceptional service in areas supported by La Renaissance Française. Eligibility depends on previous awards bestowed by France.



Robert D. Peckham (a.k.a. Tennessee Bob) has taught French in public and private K-12 schools and in public, private and federal government postsecondary institutions since 1968. As a professor in the Department of English and Modern Foreign Languages at the University of Tennessee at Martin, he has given nearly a hundred professional presentations and has offered faculty technology workshops on many college campuses.

Dr. Peckham has published articles, notes and reviews in *The Modern Language Journal*, *The French Review*, *French Studies*, *Speculum*, *Fifteenth-Century Studies*, *The American Association of Teachers of French National Bulletin*, *The Echo: Journal of the Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association*, *The Language Journal – New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers*, *The Baylor Educator*, *Tennessee Philological Bulletin*, *Studies in Medievalism*, *Foreign Language Notes*, *The Forum of Phi Sigma Iota*, and *La Gazette de l'École française de Middlebury*. His book on the French medieval poet François Villon is in major research libraries around the world.

He is on the board of editors for *Tennessee Foreign Language Association Journal*, is the founding editor of the *Société François Villon Bulletin*, and is the director of Globe-Gate Intercultural Web Project, including the Andy Holt Virtual Library. He is also the founder of the French vocal-instrumental duet "Au Coeur du Vent". He was national vice president of the AATF and is currently chair of its Commission on Advocacy.

Dr. Peckham was a recipient of the *Prix de l'Amicale* (Middlebury, 1971), the Commander's Public Service Award (West Point, 1987), the Jacqueline Elliott Award for service and research from the Tennessee Foreign Language Teachers Association (1996), and the Robert J. Ludwig National Distinguished Leadership Award (NYSAFLLT, 2008). In 2009, Dr. Peckham was named *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* by the French government.

Bernard Métais, Ph.D., P.E.

La Médaille d'Or du Rayonnement Culturel

This medal recognizes persons who have rendered distinguished service in the following: French language, literature, fine arts, science and technology, artisanal creativity and the promotion and visibility of the French patrimony (including traditions and artistic heritage).



Bernard Métais is a major contributor to the *rayonnement culturel de la France* by successfully applying his impressive academic credentials (M.S. Ecole Centrale de Paris, Ph.D. Technische Universität of Karlsruhe, Germany, Visiting Professor at the University of Minnesota, registered System Engineer in California and New York, Bechtel Fellow) and his extensive worldwide executive experience in the engineering and construction industry to present and illustrate the technical and scientific aspects of French culture to a diverse American audience including the American Association of Mechanical Engineers, the World Trade Association, the American Association of Accordionists, and many Alliances Françaises in the United States.

He has produced more than a hundred cultural articles and presentations, mostly related to French industrial prowess and to Paris, his native city, on topics such as the metric system, the Eiffel Tower, *la Musette à Paris*, 2,000 years of Paris, Paris Underground, *l'Argot Parisien*, the first 40 years of the automobile, fractals in art, the French in California, the French TGV, and Saint Germain des Prés.

He has also served as a board member or president of several non-profit Franco-American organizations such as the *Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France* (West Coast Chapter), the Alliance Française de Berkeley, the Federation of Alliances Françaises USA, the World of Accordions Museum, and Notre Dame des Victoires Parish in San Francisco.





Claude Lambert

La Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur

This medal distinguishes persons who have devoted themselves to public service, or to social works of a charitable, philanthropic, civic or sporting nature, intended to improve the quality of life.



Claude Lambert arrived in San Francisco from Orléans, France, in 1966, bringing with him his love of his native culture and his knowledge of the French education system, to become one of the principal ambassadors of French culture in Northern California. He was a founder of the first entirely French school in San Francisco, *La Petite Ecole Française*, which became *Le Lycée Français La Pérouse*. He was instrumental in establishing the school at the Alliance Française de San Francisco. He taught at both schools and served on their respective boards for many years.

While still teaching, Monsieur Lambert and his wife, Micheline, purchased and renovated a rundown property on Nob Hill and turned it into a charming bed and breakfast. The Cornell Hotel de France, which houses the well-respected Jeanne d'Arc restaurant, has become a San Francisco landmark, integral to the fabric of the French community in the Bay Area. The Lamberts have hosted many distinguished visitors: well-known writers, artists, members of the diplomatic corps and top French government officials. The Lamberts frequently make their establishment available at little or no charge for French cultural and educational activities. The Cornell Hotel was the headquarters hotel for the 2005 *Assemblée Générale* of the Federation of Alliances Françaises USA.

On July 14, 1994, Mayor Frank Jordan decreed “Claude and Micheline Lambert Day” in honor of the Lamberts’ ongoing contribution to the local Franco-American community. On July 14, 2011, a California Senate Resolution, under the auspices of Senator Leland Yee, recognized and thanked Claude Lambert for a lifetime of achievements for the people of San Francisco.

Born in Orléans, France, Monsieur Lambert attended the *Ecole Normale d'Orléans*. He served for 28 months as an officer during the Algerian War.

William C. Carter, Ph.D.

Médaille d'Or du Mérite Francophone

This medal recognizes those who devote themselves to the development or tightening of linguistic or cultural ties between France and other countries sharing the French language, or to the development of the French language and culture in their country.



William C. Carter received his Ph.D. in French from Indiana University in 1971. He was director of an Ohio University Junior Year Abroad program in Tours, France, and then joined the faculty of the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) and became chair of the Department of Foreign Languages in 1979. He received numerous prestigious grants and fellowships, including those from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Carter is committed to the promotion of French culture and literature in the United States. He was the project director of a semester-long program entitled “Marcel Proust at UAB,” which brought him international recognition. His film on Marcel Proust was broadcast nationally on PBS and later in many other countries. His biography, *Marcel Proust: a Life*, published by Yale University Press in 2000, was selected by *The New York Times* as a “notable book.” In 2013, Yale University Press will publish his revised and annotated version of the famous Scott Moncrieff translation of *Swann’s Way*.

The co-creator of the online site Proust-Ink (www.proust-ink.com), he is one of the most respected American Proust scholars in France, where he is repeatedly invited to give lectures in French, during which he generously shares his expertise. Dr. Carter was honored by the French government with the rank of *Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académiques* in 1989.



Simone Veil de l'Académie française

Honorary President – La Renaissance Française

Simone Veil is acknowledged as one of the world's most courageous, powerful and influential women and is one of the most popular public figures in France. She was the first elected President of the European Parliament, and also served as President of the Judicial Commission for this powerful group. From 1973 to 1979 she served as France's Minister of Health. In France she continues to exert significant political, legislative and social influence.

The recipient of honors in France, the Ivory Coast, Spain, Morocco, Germany, Greece, Venezuela, Italy, Belgium, Israel and the United States, Simone Veil is known for her work on behalf of women's rights, adopted children, older adults and immigration.

When Simone Veil was 17 years old, she and her family were deported to the Nazi concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau and Bergen-Belsen. They suffered unimaginable atrocities. Her parents and her brother died in the camps. Simone Veil and one sister survived. This tragic experience has given her exceptional lifelong personal courage. Her autobiography has been published in English: *A Life: a memoir of Simone Veil* – Haus Publishing.

His Excellency François Delattre

Ambassador of France to the United States

Honorary President - Renaissance Française, Delegation in the United States

Ambassador François Delattre was appointed Ambassador of France to the United States by President Nicolas Sarkozy on January 19, 2011. Prior to his present appointment, Mr. Delattre was Ambassador of France to Canada, a position he had held since 2008, following four years as French consul general in New York (2004-2008), two years as deputy director of the French Foreign Minister's Office (2002-2004), and four years as press and communications director at the French Embassy in Washington, D.C. (1998-2002).

A career diplomat, Mr. Delattre was on the foreign policy team of President Jacques Chirac from 1995 to 1998, with particular responsibility for security and defense issues. Before coming to New York, he was deputy chief of staff to Dominique de Villepin, then foreign minister. In his career at the French Ministry, which he joined in 1989, he has held posts at the French embassy in Bonn and in the Foreign Ministry's Department of Strategic Affairs and Disarmament.

Mr. Delattre holds a degree in international law and is a graduate of the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, of which he is a former honorary president, and the Ecole Nationale d'Administration.

Renaissance Française – USA

Past Honorees

Médaille d'Or de la Renaissance Française

Elizabeth Rohatyn – New York, New York - 2012

Jane and Bruce Robert (selected by Delegation in Paris) - 2012

Ambassador Craig Roberts Stapleton – Greenwich, Connecticut - 2011

Amory Houghton – Corning, New York - 2010

Rebecca Valette – Newton, Massachusetts - 2010

Médaille d'Or du Rayonnement Culturel

Ryan Brown – Washington, DC - 2012

Katharine Branning – New York, New York - 2011

Hugh Macdonald – St. Louis, Missouri - 2010

Médaille d'Or de Solidarité et Valeur

Robin Masee – Brooklyn, New York - 2012

Reid Henri Lewis – Elgin, Illinois - 2011

Lance Armstrong – Austin, Texas - 2010

Médaille d'Or du Mérite Francophone

Mary B. Emory – Milwaukee, Wisconsin - 2012

Christopher Paul Pinet – Bozeman, Montana - 2011

Albert Valdman – Bloomington, Indiana - 2011

Adam Steg – New Orleans, Louisiana - 2010

Robert L. Miller – New York, New York (selected by Delegation in Italy) - 2010

Delegation in the United States

Jane Robert – St. Louis, Missouri, *President*

Liza Forshaw – St. Louis, Missouri, *Secretary*

Bernard Duhaime – Omaha, Nebraska, *Treasurer*

David Black – Chappaqua, New York

Elyane Dezon-Jones – Sarasota, Florida and Paris, France

Thomas E. Horn – San Francisco, California

Margot Steinhart – Glenview, Illinois

President, American Association of the French Academic Palms

Guy Wildenstein – New York, New York

President, American Society of the French Legion of Honor

Congressional French Caucus

Co-Chairs

The Honorable Mary Landrieu

The Honorable John Boozman

The Honorable John Campbell

The Honorable Bob Latta

The Honorable Michael Michaud

The Honorable Adam Schiff

The French Caucus is a bipartisan, bicameral congressional member organization, dedicated to enhanced US-French relations in the spirit of partnership and cooperation. Since its inception in 2003 under the leadership of the Honorable Amory Houghton, the Caucus has fostered dialogue and multicultural understanding around both policy debates and cultural events that contextualize the depth and dynamic nature of French-American relations. (Courtesy: *News From France*, Dec 23, 2010) Renaissance Française - USA maintains a close relationship with the Congressional French Caucus which has sent representatives to our awards ceremonies. Mr. Houghton received *La Médaille d'Or de la Renaissance Française* in 2010 for his role in organizing the French Caucus.

The French Cultural Services in the United States

*Monsieur Antonin Baudry
Conseiller Culturel – Cultural Counselor*



The Cultural Services is a division of the French Embassy in the United States. The Cultural Services was first imagined in the 1930s by Paul Claudel. In 1945 General de Gaulle appointed Claude Lévi-Strauss as the first Cultural Counselor, with the mission of providing Americans (individuals and organizations) with access and resources to engage with French culture and promote it in their own communities.

Today, under the leadership of Antonin Baudry, Cultural Counselor of the French Embassy and Permanent Representative of French Universities in the United States, the French Cultural Services provides French and American artists, intellectuals, arts professionals, and the general public a platform and resources for cultural exchange. It is dedicated to creating transatlantic dialogue in the arts and education from French and American perspectives. Based in New York City, Washington, DC, and eight other cities across the US, the French Cultural Services' principal fields of action are the arts, literature, cinema, French language programs and higher education.

The French Cultural Services is interested in new and challenging ideas that will bring French and American people together in creative collaboration. Programs are offered either directly by the Departments or in conjunction with the Embassy's non-profit partner FACE (French American Cultural Exchange) and the 972 Fifth Avenue Fund. The French Cultural Services also coordinates nominations and award ceremonies for French honorary distinctions awarded to Americans and others living in the U.S. in recognition of exceptional artistic and academic accomplishments.

La Renaissance Française Delegation in the United States

Mission Statement

Renaissance Française – USA, the American Delegation of La Renaissance Française, founded in Paris in 1916, aims to recognize persons who have raised awareness of the French language and francophone cultures among people living in the United States. The American Delegation will act at all times in harmony with the policies of La Renaissance Française.



*The Residence of the Ambassador of France to the United States
Washington, DC*

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