

EDITOR'S NOTES

1987. - The introduction to this year's issue cannot but be reassuring. By the end of May, our graduate family increased by eighteen new students, recommended by the Department and accepted by the Dean. As I am writing these lines, on the last day of a capricious yet magnificent spring, twelve other applicants are being considered for admission to our M.A., M.A.T. and Ph.D. programmes. This is a sextuple of what we had in 1977.

The quality of those admitted is improving and the percentage of students eligible for Dalhousie and Killam scholarship support is encouraging. It is gratifying to see the number of excellent Nova Scotian and Maritime candidates, as well as the variety of students applying from abroad. North America, the British Isles, Europe, Africa and Asia are represented this year.

Why try to explain the reasons of the interest in the Dalhousie French graduate programme? Let us simply hope that if success is well grounded good response will continue. *Initiales*, incidentally, is one of the factors which make our programme a little different from others. Here is an abstract of the new issue.

VOLUME SEVEN. - The volume contains seven articles: two by Ph.D. students, three by M.A. students and two by students in the M.A.T. programme.

Michael Brophy's refined and well-balanced reflection explores the tension between the social character of language and the poetic need of what the author calls, in a tradition going back to scholastic philosophers, individuation of the poetic message.

Pierre M. Gérin demonstrates once more his remarkable versatility in a lively account of *Almanach Vermot*, first published in 1889, which, though marginal from a purely literary point of view, has become a revealing testimony of French culture.

The chapter from Ginette Richard's M.A. thesis, rich in excellent observations of actual usage, describes one type of personal pronouns in the spoken French of Acadian communities of Chéticamp (Inverness County) and Pubnico (Yarmouth County) in Nova Scotia.

Rannveig Yeatman's M.A. thesis is a discerning study of Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* (1857), based on the notion of semiotic space: the chapter selected here sheds light on Emma's world through the space of escape, characterized by movement and lack of stability.

Beverley Shaw explains her conception of the iconic value of poetry and uses it in a minutious and interesting analysis of the poem *Automne malade* (Alcools, 1913) by Guillaume Apollinaire (1880-1918).

Sylvie Lanes comments upon the relation between language and culture, and upon its relevance in second language teaching, as observed during her experience as French instructor at the Université Sainte-Anne.

Blair Wheaton's contribution is an independent critical analysis of comparable chapters, dealing with the Pluperfect and Past Conditional, in two textbooks of French: *Le français international-5* (1975) and *Vive la France-6* (1983).

In addition to the regular items contributed by faculty, there is a valuable bibliography of books on Quebec French literature prepared by Betty Bednarski and Irena Oore.

The French version of departmental documents informing about the M.A. and the Ph.D. programmes was provided by Roland Bonnel.

Mille mercis to Yvonne Landry and Marie Pothier for their help.

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