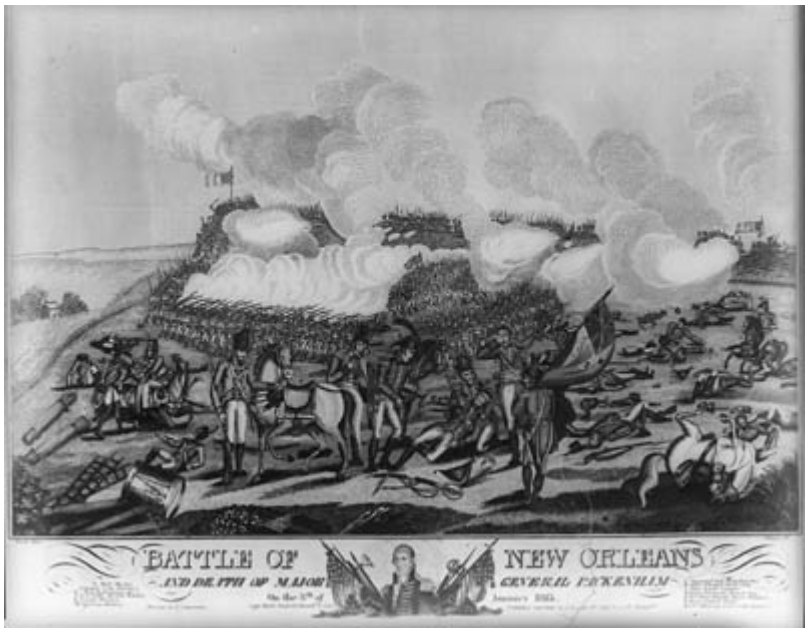
The Undigested History of the Nantucket Atheneum



“Do [these pamphlets] represent what the Atheneum’s generous donors perceived as important materials of the day, things that any major cultural repository should hold?”

My Dinner with GW



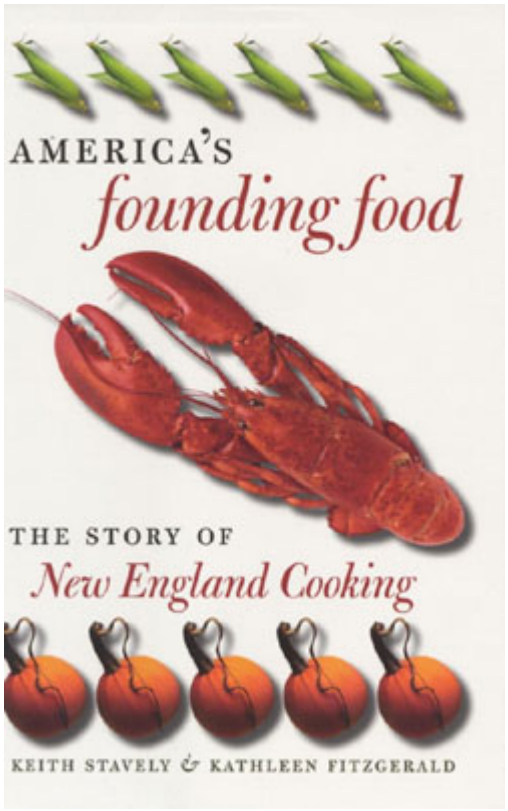
“As the war with Iraq loomed through the 2002-03 school year, we heard echoes from conflicts throughout U.S. history.”

History Made from Stories Found



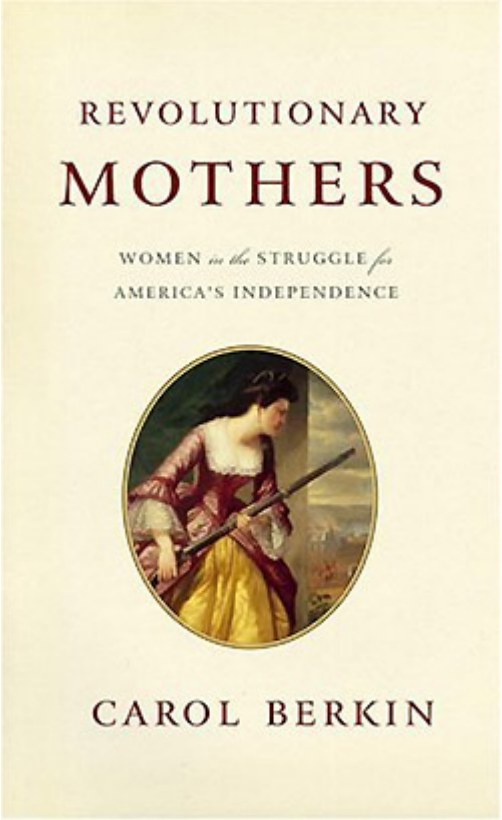
Historical inquiry may often be blocked by the prior agenda of the historian.

Beyond Baked Beans



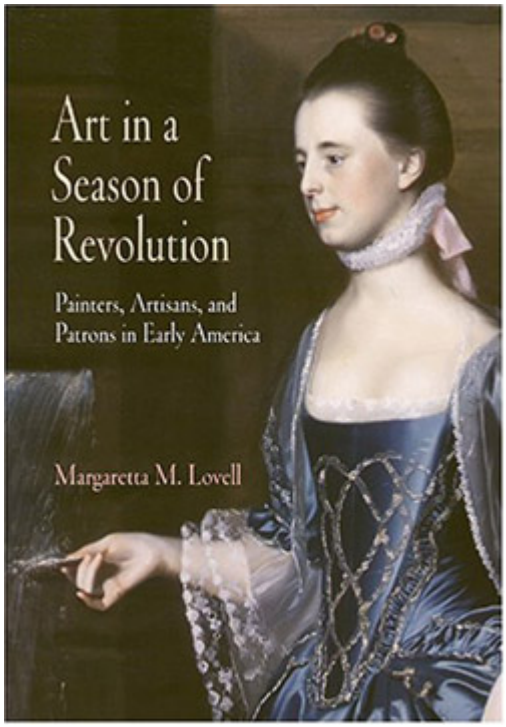
The most significant accomplishment of America’s Founding Food is the truly impressive collection of lively and illuminating primary-source accounts.

Enduring Independence



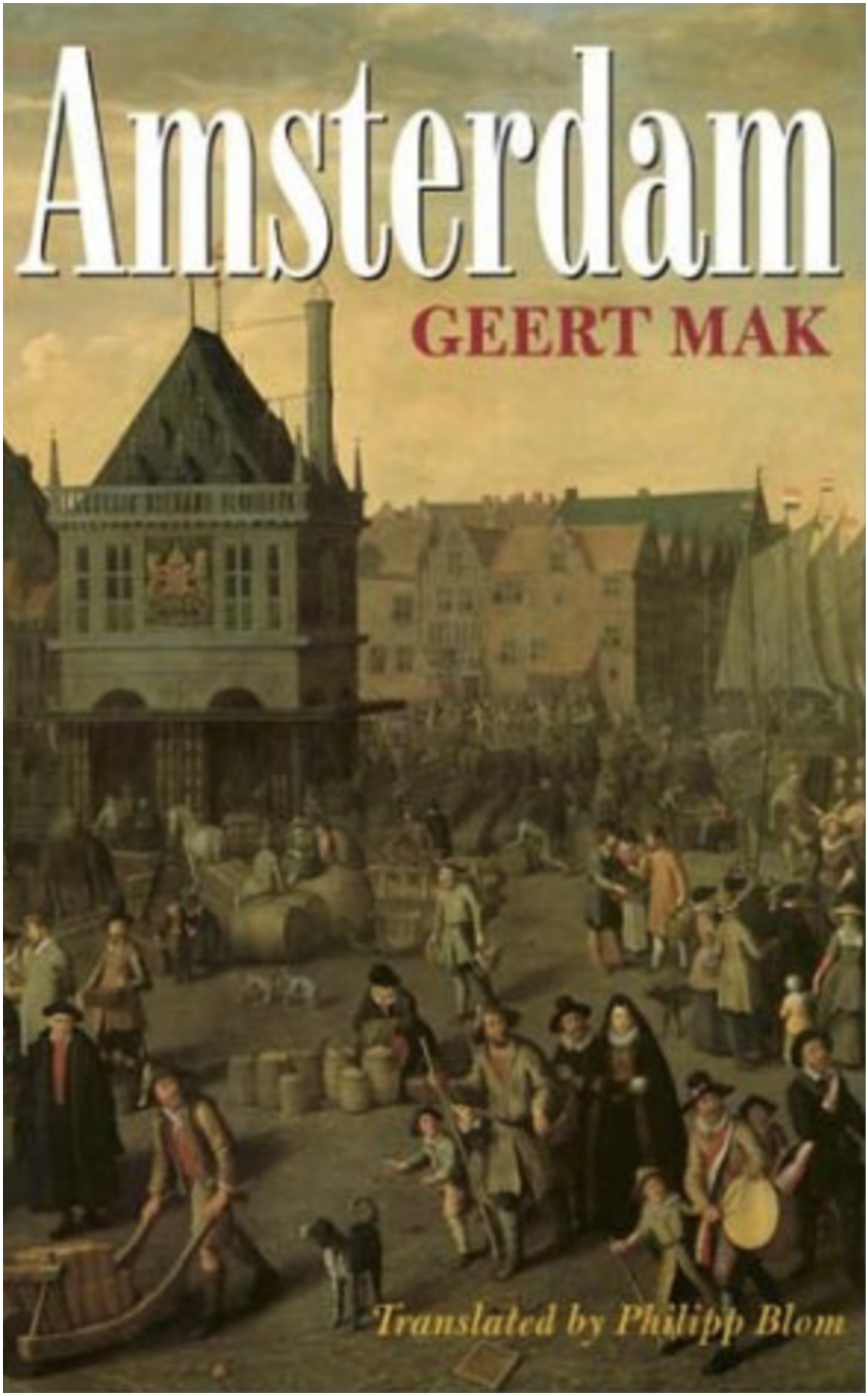
In place of powdered wigs and radical ideals, Berkin shows us bloody legs and dirty shirts.

“They Had Faces Then”



Among artists and craftsman, Lovell notes how kinship and patronage were often closely aligned.

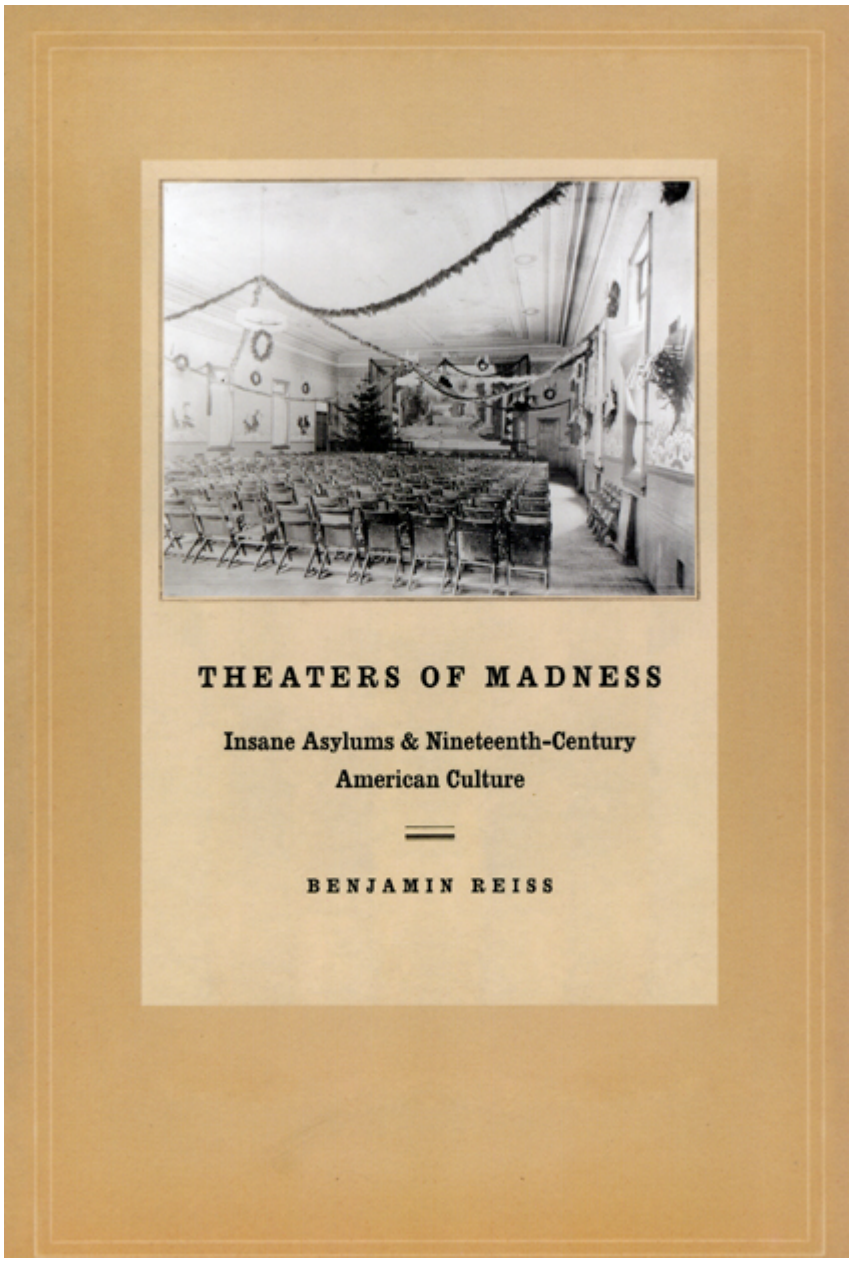
Olympia’s Gaze


Amsterdam
GEERT MAK
Translated by Philipp Blom

Presented as part of the special issue “Early Cities of the Americas.”

“Taken together, Paris and Amsterdam throw into bold relief the radical nature of the nineteenth-century city.”

The Asylum as a Literary Institution



Presented as part of the Special Literature Issue

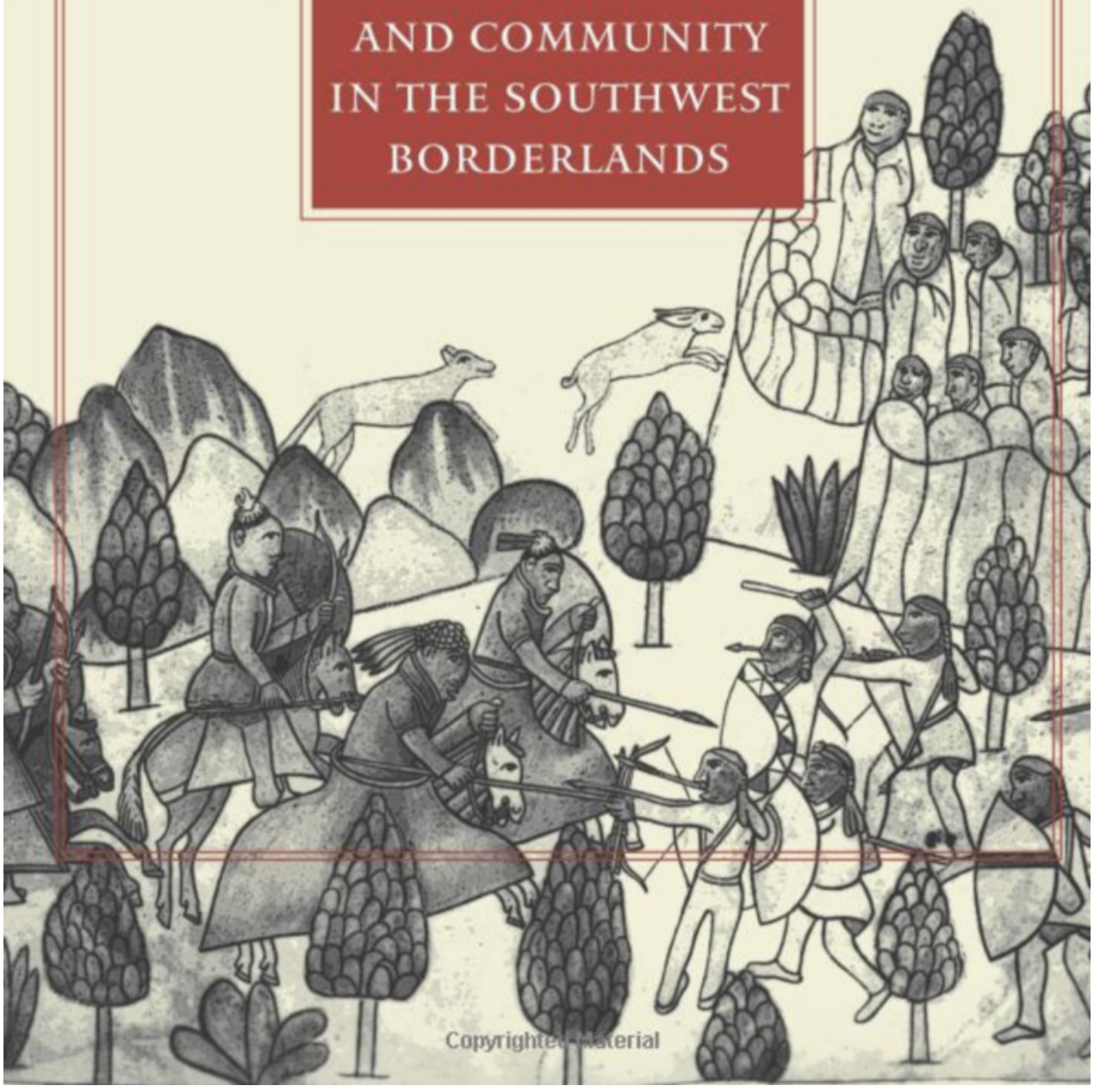
What then can the history of the asylum tell us about meanings and forms of liberal culture?

Borderlands Bondage

JAMES F. BROOKS

CAPTIVES & COUSINS

SLAVERY, KINSHIP, AND COMMUNITY IN THE SOUTHWEST BORDERLANDS



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“Alongside horses and sheep, captives moved throughout the borderlands economies.”

France in America – La France en Amérique



The Common-place Web Library reviews and lists online resources and Websites likely to be of interest to our viewers. Each quarterly issue will feature one or more brief site reviews. The library itself will be an ongoing enterprise with regular new additions and amendments. So we encourage you to check it frequently. At the moment, the library is small, but with your help we expect it to grow rapidly. If you have suggestions for the Web Library, or for site reviews, please forward them to the Administrative Editor.

France in America—La France en Amérique

Library of Congress and Bibliothèque nationale de France
http://memory.loc.gov/intldl/fiahtml/fiahome.html

The result of a joint venture between the Library of Congress and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, this fully bilingual digital project documents the role of France in American history from the colonial era through the nineteenth century. The site is part of the Library of Congress’s “Global

Gateway" initiative in collaborative digital ventures with other national archives, currently involving libraries in Spain, Brazil, Russia, and the Netherlands.

"France in America" has two phases. The first, now online, covers the history of New France, French involvement in exploring and colonizing a North American empire, and the French role in events "which indelibly marked the history of the United States: the French and Indian War, the American Revolution, and the Louisiana Purchase." A second phase, to be developed over the course of 2006, will focus on nineteenth-century relations between the two countries, with an emphasis on "trade, immigration, scientific exchange, and literature and the arts."

The material is organized into several themes, such as "Exploration and Knowledge," "Imperial Struggles," and "Franco-Indian Alliances." Each section has links to illustrative documents, including complete books and prints. Clicking on "Alliances," for example, and going to the subheading of "To 'Civilize' and Convert" reveals a contextual introduction and two primary sources, including Jesuit missionary Paul Le Jeune's 342-page *Relation* for the year 1634. Documents relating to mixed-race unions, or *métissage*, appear under the "Cohabitation" heading. There is also a chronological table, neatly organized into events in France and events in America, the latter of which are further subdivided according to explorations, colonization, and conflicts and diplomacy.

Explanatory materials and helpful links for online research abound. There are descriptive maps—easily understandable maps, like those found in textbooks, which delineate political boundaries and main Indian groups—as well as contemporary maps generated by explorers and cartographers. Under "About the site," visitors can find recommendations for further reading as well as a valuable list of links. These include one to a fully searchable English translation of the multivolume *Jesuit Relations*.

The project directors also recommend two other important sites "dedicated to the shared history of France and North America": the French Ministry of Culture's "La Louisiane française, 1682-1803" and a collaborative French-Canadian site, "Nouvelle-France, horizons nouveau". Both are visually appealing, with attractive flash elements involving maps, abundant primary-source materials, and images; the French-Canadian site is bilingual.

A visitor to "France in America" will be impressed by a key aspect of the institutional partnership: access to huge collections. In the introductory information regarding the French companion site, "La France en Amérique", the reader learns that Gallica, the Website of the Bibliothèque nationale, has "76 thousand digitized texts and 80 thousand images to date."

Clearly, the bicentennial commemorations of the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark voyage have contributed to renewed interest in the history of

Franco-American relations. For researchers, students, and anyone else inclined to pursue that interest, “France in America” is an excellent place to start.

This article originally appeared in issue 6.2 (January, 2006).