

La Gazette du Moulin à Nef

Number 6, April 2003

President's Letter

Dear Friends, Old and New,

Over the past few weeks I have been thinking about the importance of cultural exchange, the opportunity for children to see and know other peoples and other countries, and the need for all of us to understand the customs and cultures of different regions in the world. It is clear to me that travel opens our eyes to a larger world, and a larger way of thinking, and I am now, more than ever, committed to what we are doing in Auvillar. I am determined, as is everyone involved with the Moulin à Nef, to continue our work, to further cultural exchange, and to offer people on both sides of the ocean a chance to see the countryside of our respective lands. It is in the countryside that we find the time to explore history, to visit with people, and to become familiar with the roots of a culture.

It is with the delight of discovery, the deepening of understanding, be it about history, the process of an artist, or the roots of dance, that we grow and develop into richer human beings. While world leaders debate, parry for position, and make decisions that may profoundly affect us all, it is the day to day living, the humble act of building a life, and living it well, that we ordinary folk can do. Individually we can make a difference. It is with this in mind that the directors and friends of the CECA map out the visits planned for this coming summer and develop opportunities for more exchange.

In May we (Denverites and the Denver International School) anticipate a visit from the children of Auvillar. How exciting this will be! By then we will have pinned down the details of other programs on which we are now working. Then, during the summer we will welcome back some old friends (see the schedule under "Auvill'Art 2003") and meet some new ones. I promise you there will be some fun in and around Auvillar this summer. We hope that you will come to share it with us!

Chin chin, *Susan Saarinen*

PS: I was very sorry to hear from Marie Joly, a parent of one of the students planning to come to Denver, that the children learned last night that they have not been authorized to go. The children cried. We understand why they cried, and we also understand why the authorities are concerned about the children's safety at this particular moment in the world. My fervent wish is that all of the children of Auvillar will eventually have an opportunity to visit us, but it won't be the same:-)



"Auvillar Market" by John Lencicki

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Unless otherwise indicated, articles have been written by members of the CECA Board



La Gazette on the Web

The Gazette is published in French and English and printed in black and white. If you would like to see or print out the color version, it is available on our website:

<http://www.moulinanef.org>

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The Future of the Moulin à Nef

The time is nearing when the Donnell Kay Foundation will transfer ownership of the Moulin à Nef property to a new owner who will agree to pursue the mission of the Center for Cultural Exchange as it was initially conceived.

With this in mind, the Foundation has printed a brochure, a page of which is reproduced here. This document has been sent to a number of universities and cultural organizations in the U.S., as well as to potential French candidates.

If you wish to receive more information on the transfer, which is to be a gift on the part of the Foundation, you may contact the Donnell Kay Foundation directly:

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Restoration Update

In the Gazette Number 4, we announced the next phase of construction at the Moulin à Nef, that is the paving of the space between the two buildings and around their perimeters.

The work began in March 2003, under the watchful eye of Mr. Didier Médale, architect in Valence d'Agen and Mr. Christian Morini of Bardigues. The Moulin à Nef will thus be ready to welcome next summer's artists, inside and out.

As for the surrounding property, plans continue for the vineyard which will be planted as soon as the long and inevitable administrative formalities have been addressed. We would like to thank all our friends who have been so generous with their time and energy in accomplishing both the theoretical and practical tasks that this project has involved. Among them, we are particularly grateful to Thierry Combarel and above all to René Dauty without whose vision the vineyard would not have gotten this far.

Some past participants and programs have been associated with:

- Alliance Française, Denver, CO
- Art Students League of Denver
- Port Aven School of Art
- Le Conservatoire de Toulouse
- Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design
- Museum of Outdoor Arts in Denver
- Ecole de Beaux Arts de Toulouse
- Denver International School
- Ecole de Musique de Valence d'Agen
- Viers Peindre Mon Village — local painting competition
- Les Danseurs de Brulhois — folk dance troupe
- Ecole d'Auvillar
- Local cultural associations

Painters, musicians, photographers and dancers are among those who gather here from around the world.

"The world is a book, and the person who stays at home reads but one page"
St. Augustine

Interested parties desiring more information should contact the Donnell-Kay Foundation:

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Page from the brochure

It Has Been Ten Years Already!

As Barbara Lencicki reminds us (see the article on John's workshop in this issue), the Auvill' Art programs began ten years ago. Barbara remembers that first evening when the people of Auvillar tried to teach the traditional "Se Canto" song to the Americans who had picked up a little French perhaps but not much Occitan.

Time went by and the exchanges between this small village in Southwestern France and the United States multiplied and diversified. We saw the Danseurs de Brulhois in various universities in Colorado demonstrating folk dances from Auvergne, the Basque country and Gascony. We saw them one night in 1995 at the Grizzly Rose, a huge dancehall in the northern suburbs of Denver where the cowboys of the Great Plains and the cowboy wannabes gather on Saturday nights. At first stunned and speechless, our Gascon friends pulled themselves together quickly and took to the floor confidently to learn the dances of the American West.



We watched as Emanuel Martinez and his wife orchestrated the creation of the mural conceived by the school children of Auvillar which now animates the wall of the school, passing out paintbrushes to whoever stopped by to contribute to the realization of this project.

We saw the strange emotion which came over Jean-Bernard Lalanne, winner of the painting contest Viens Peindre mon Village, and his wife as they visited the ghost town of Keota in the Pawnee National Grasslands, a feeling which he later translated into a painting.

We observed as Tim Flynn, Amy Laugesen and their students Travis, Becky, Alyssa and Mike, responding like Jean-Bernard to the magic of their surroundings, created "La Nef", the evocative sculpture which can be seen at the entrance to the Port by the Moulin à Nef.

We remember the astonishment and delight of the representatives of Auvillar at the opening of the first Auvill' Art exhibit at one of the most prestigious art galleries in Denver. It must have seemed to them that everyone in the state knew our charming village. And it was almost true!

But this issue of the Gazette isn't big enough to tell all the stories from the last ten years. In this short period, wonderful exchanges have taken place and friendships have been born. They are only examples of what is possible, foundations for future exchanges which will enrich the lives of all those who take part. We hope you will join us in wishing long life to the Moulin à Nef!!

The Castex: A Valuable Collection

There exists a collection of watercolors which represent 46 of the designs that inspired the decoration used on the faïence of Auvillar. The paintings were made by a teacher named Pierre Castex who, in 1789, lived in a house in the Port next door to M.J. Landevet, a faïence maker. (see the article in Gazette number 1 entitled "History of Faïence".)

It is easy to see the relation between the subjects in this collection, executed with a genuine talent for decoration and color, and the motifs found on the traditional faïence for which Auvillar is known. The "Castex" can be seen in the Museum of Auvillar.

The "Cebo", or onion flower, is of course the motif most often associated with the ceramics of Auvillar and an obvious choice to name the Moulin à Nef building that houses the ceramics studio. (See also the article in the last issue of La Gazette entitled "Stones That Speak".)



Colorado Trip Postponed

Nineteen students from Auvillar were scheduled to visit Denver from the 6th to the 23rd of May this year. Both the town and the parents were united in an effort to send these children to stay with their friends at the Denver International School and experience the “American way of life”. Host families, tickets, passports...everything was ready.

The students were dreaming of this trip, joyfully anticipating their stay in Colorado, counting the days. In Denver, the arrangements were all in place for an unforgettable experience.

Alas, the French administration has informed us that, under the present circumstances, they could

not authorize the trip. We understand and we share the enormous disappointment and the sadness of the

A Message from the Director

Hello Geneviève.

We understand your disappointment, but this decision was predictable given the rising tension at the present time.

All the people involved in this project, the children and their families here in Denver share your feelings. It is sad but we can keep hoping; you never know.

Rest assured that we will be ready to welcome you at any time, even on short notice, if the situation should change.

With best wishes,

Hervé Jardonnet

Director, Denver International School

Yet, it is in this adversity that we must find strength. For the students, who adore this idea of exchange, we must carry on. For the second year in a row, the world situation has led to the cancellation of this projected trip to Denver. When peace is restored, we must do whatever we can to keep this idea alive. For both children and adults, on both sides of the Atlantic, this exchange is a source of enrichment and mutual understanding.

Next October, we would be pleased to welcome a new group of American students and to build together a new foundation for 2003-2004.

Geneviève Galan

Director, School of Auvillar

children, both French and American, the families and all the other people involved in this exchange.



John Lencicki's Workshop

The Auvill'Art program, which has promoted cultural exchanges with artists and musicians (and now filmmakers and elementary students!) from abroad, will celebrate its 10th anniversary this summer.

Some will well remember that first summer of 1994 when a small group of artists from Colorado, among them Quang Ho, Kim English, John Lencicki and Carole Buschmann, arrived in the village and were instantly met with the hospitality of M. et Mme. Merle, M. Louis Vila, M. et Mme. Vincent Lairon, Mme. Andrée Capgras, Francis Sohier, la famille Jaubert, and many others. Do some remember the note left by the post office on the foyer of each household... alerting the Auvillaraïses to the impending arrival of these artists and to the fact that "some may not speak our language very well", inviting the citizens to be kind to them? That

kindness was there, and multiplied in spades during the next decade as artists from Colorado returned year after year and were later joined by others from the northeastern United States, and from Poland and other parts of France.

John Lencicki remembers well the first summer, and hearing for the first time 'Se Canto' in the nighttime garden of the Maison Vielhescazes. He will return to Auvillar in mid-July with a group of his adult students to whom this experience will be as fresh as it was to him in 1994. Based at l'Hotel de l'Horloge, and at le Moulin à Nef

studios under the kind auspices of the CECA, this diverse group will study technique and artistic expression with John but also hopes to profit from the many chances for cultural exchange and

L'Eglise de St. Pierre and the Tour de l'Horloge will also be included, John's instruction will concentrate on concept, value, structure and composition with exercises and daily critiques which the public is invited to watch.

John also looks forward to introducing his students to French artists working in town, and to the group of A7! Local art students will be encouraged to join John's group on a private basis.

The students are a varied group from around the United States, with interests in history, bicycling, wine, architecture and the Chemin de St. Jacques as well as painting. Some speak a little French. They hope to return home spreading the word about the many activities of the CECA and of this beautiful village, which their teacher learned to love (way back in 1994! For more information contact johnlencicki@hotmail.com or (en français) Françoise Bres at bregude@ecentral.com.

Barbara Lencicki



education in Auvillar. John plans not to miss the events surrounding "Viens peindre Mon Village".

The artists will venture to Moissac so that they may practice sketching the banks of the canal on the way. They will be working at the market in Valence d'Agen as well, but of course will be in Auvillar for most of their painting, and drawing days. You may encounter them under the Halle, learning to paint the reflections of the sun on the water of the Garonne, propped among sunflowers on the hills above town, and most assuredly planted in front of the gardens and houses of Le Port.

Draw and Paint with Lynn Pauley

While she is in town this summer, Auvillar's own New Yorker, artist Lynn Pauley, hopes to be able to offer a class to anyone interested in working on site. Some knowledge of English would be useful but, as Lynn has proven in the past, there are many ways of communicating...

For information, dates and materials please e-mail her at: pauleylynn814@aol.com.

"Working with Artists" brings Digital Photo Workshop to the Moulin à Nef

The word photography literally translates to "writing with light", a young process developed in the late 1800's. Since its discovery scientists and artists alike have applied these processes to communicate concepts and perceptions of the world. Over the years since then many photographers have moved away from its original use as a purely documentary process to offer the world a form of personal creative expression. Whether through manipulation of the various technical processes or simply by framing a segment of reality in an abstraction, photographic interpretations of life have brought us new awareness.

Since the late 1980s, the computer and digital printing have become powerful tools for the creative spirit. Working with Artists Photographic Workshops offers ongoing programs teaching Adobe Photoshop, piezography, archival color inkjet and other techniques available to artists in this exciting new medium alongside more traditional programs in fine art photography such as platinum printing.

In September 2003 Working with Artists will bring Denver photographers Celene Bridgford (American) and Joseph Amram (French) to Auvillar for a workshop in digital photography. An ad-

ditional French guest artist will also speak and participate in various events and presentations. Celene and Joseph both have extensive backgrounds in traditional fine art photography and have happily embraced the potential offered by the latest digital technologies for color and black and white image creation.

With this exciting new workshop at the Moulin à Nef, WWA will offer an adult workshop which will include hands on work with professional quality digital cameras, scanners and final printmaking. Upon completion of this week in Auvillar, participants will be comfortable with the use of several levels of technology, and come away with a solid idea of what possibilities the medium offers to the aspiring photographic artist. For those who already



Joseph Amram

own cameras, the workshop will provide an opportunity to explore the functions and applications of this new tool. Those who bring their own equipment will need to make sure it is adequate and we recommend contacting Working with Artists beforehand. Integrated throughout all parts of the workshop there

will be discussion of ideas. It will be expected that by the end, everyone will produce a number of prints to be shown at a closing reception.

In addition to the adult program, Joseph Amram will offer children in the community an afternoon making digital prints. Up to 10 children, ages 8-13 will be welcomed. Celene and Joseph will show some of their work and discuss their past and current work as photographic artists.

For more information about Working with Artists, visit them online at www.workingwithartists.org or call the Executive Director, Marsea Wynne in Denver Colorado, USA at 303.477.5128.

Working with Artists is committed to offering programs that inspire and intensify the involvement of artists in their medium. We are very excited to be working with the CECA and to have the privilege of offering our programs in the beautiful village of Auvillar. It is our hope to bring French visitors to Colorado for a similar workshop program.

Marsea Wynne



©2002 Celene Bridgford

The Art of Gastronomy

This summer, for the first time, the Moulin à Nef will venture into new territory by offering a program based on the cuisine of the Southwest. A specially chosen group of six Americans will take advantage of a pilot program developed by the Hotel Restaurant de l'Horloge and comprised of three sections: cooking, tasting and exploring local culture.

A trip to the market in Valence d'Agen accompanied by Serge François, well-known chef at the hotel, will begin the adventure. Returning to Auvillar with the best produce the

region has to offer, the participants will learn to prepare regional specialties guided by the experience of the Chef. Some dishes may even be canned to enable the lucky cooks to take them home to impress their families and friends.

Having gotten a glimpse of how it is done, our friends will then proceed to the tasting phase of the visit which will include a Gascogne dinner at the Restaurant de l'Horloge, a gala dinner at l'Aubergade in Puymirol and a special lunch at the Restaurant Pont Napoléon in Moissac. They will be

introduced to the wines of the Cave de Donzac but also to those of the Domaine de Tariquet and the Armagnac chez Simone in Montréal du Gers.

Visits of a more cultural nature will be interspersed to help digestion including tours of Auvillar, the Cloisters in Moissac and the feudal village of Larresingle.

This incredibly rich program will fit miraculously in the week of July 6th to 12th in order to leave our well-fed Francophiles the time to arrive in Paris for the Bastille Day fireworks.

Before leaving France, they have been invited to participate in a French-American golf tournament to be held at a golf course in the suburbs of Paris. Look for the results in the next issue of the Gazette.



Writers of Auvillar

Up until the Second World War, numerous poets participated in the activities of the Cloucado Marcabrun. This group was made up of seven well-known "félibres" (a sort of poet/storyteller) who competed in annual literary contests. They are associated with the festival of Saint Noé.

All the members of this "Cloucado" devoted themselves to singing the praises of their homeland, Gascony. Among them were Elie Pimpeterre, the blacksmith, General de Bressolles, J. Cavailles, the carpenter, Camille Imbert, André Barrié, François Barrié, Louis Verdier and many others.

We gave the name Cloucado to the smaller Moulin à Nef building to honor the memory of these men who themselves honored Auvillar and who should not be forgotten. Some examples of their work can be found on the Auvillar website: <http://www.auvillar.com>. (see also the article in the last issue entitled "Stones That Speak".)

Auvill'Art 2003 Calendar

June	1-30	James Paradis, painter returning to Auvillar. Exhibition with Bruno Riboulot June 19-22
July	7-12	Gastronomy Workshop*
	14-18	(or August 4-8) On-site Workshop with Lynn Pauley
	11-25	Ceramics Workshops with Susan Saarinen
	20-30	John Lencicki's Painting Workshop*
	15-7 Aug.	Bryan MacFarlane, artist in residence
	21-25	Gache Ceramic Workshop*
Sept	2-9	Digital Photography Workshop with Jay Dickman*
	21-27	Digital Photography Workshop with Working With Artists

**Indicates programs that are not yet confirmed. Current events may force some cancellations at the last minute. Other programs may be added.*



Eddy Matalon and Mark Wilkinson

A Festival of Moments

As I recall my weekend at the Auvillar Cinema Rencontre, I am struck that I remember so clearly the little moments:

After a pleasant morning remarkable for the excellent café crème up the hill, I headed over to the first event of the festival. I walked, looking at the ground admiring the new road in front of my mother's house in the Port. Turning the corner to see a jazz band on the street ripping out "TGV", I had the feeling that I was in exactly the right place doing exactly what I was supposed to be doing.

Wandering the grounds at the Domaine des Thermes while my mother bought red and rosé wine for the garden party, I stopped for a moment to look down at the hillside pasture. The cool of the breeze and the heat of the day balanced comfortably. I regarded the white clouds piled upon the hills in the distance.

There were other pleasant moments: chatting about cinema over wine with Eddy, arguing about politics with the jazz band, being scolded by Anicette for having ordered a café crème after dinner (quelle horreur!) and talking about the 'business' with David Schmal.

France for me had become mostly memories of my time in Paris at University. Now, thanks to the Cultural Exchange Center of Auvillar at the Moulin à Nef, it has come alive again in the present. I'd like to thank all the people who helped put the Cinema Rencontre together, the Auvillalais who supported our events, and everyone who attended our screenings. I had a wonderful time.

Mark Wilkinson

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Our next issue will be sent in the fall of 2003