

# CURATOR'S NOTE

AUGUST 2018



- stipules 3cm, peu glabres  
- feuilles glabres

*Rosa johannensis* Fern 6-1-

1995.X.1190

**HERBIER DE L'ABBE ERNEST LEPAGE**

RIMOUSKI, QUEBEC, CANADA

No. 1834 *Rosa* Date 6-7-40

Nom *Rosa Williamsii* Fernald

Habitat Rochers calcaires

Localité Anse-à-Bouleau, Bic

Coll. par l'abbé ERNEST LEPAGE

Ident. P.Ls.Marie

**INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS  
COMMUNITIES** IN THE MUSÉE  
DE LA NATURE ET DES SCIENCES  
**COLLECTION** DEVELOPMENT

**2<sup>nd</sup> part: The Botanical Collection**

As we saw in the first part of this newsletter, many collections acquired from religious communities in recent decades bear witness to the importance of the role played by these communities in the development of the Museum's collections. This second part looks at the botanical collection, and particularly the actors who helped to write this page in the history of the natural sciences in Quebec.

### **The botanical collection and the Allyre Couture Reserve**

Today the botanical collection of the Museum has 4,053 specimens registered and entered in databases. It is for the most part made up of voucher specimens of plants and includes algae, mosses, lichens and mushrooms that have not yet been entered in the database. These probably have not yet delivered up all their secrets.



*False Solomon's seal, (1995.X.883B) collected in 1968 at Chenail-du-Moine by Allyre Couture and Brothers Adrien Saint-Martin, Pouliot and Chabot.*

### **The contribution of Allyre Couture**

Among the donations made in 1988 and 1989, we find the personal collection of Allyre Couture, part of which is also preserved in the Marie-Victorin Herbarium at the Université de Montréal and at the Louis-Marie Herbarium at the Université Laval.

Labels on these voucher specimens provide information, specifically the name of the persons who accompanied Couture on these plant hunts, which allow us to look back at a time in botany teaching and research in Quebec. Among those mentioned, we note Fabius Leblanc, also known as Brother Fabius of the Clercs de Saint-Viateur (c.s.v.), a specialist in bryology and ecology, who gathered 173 plants in Gaspé in 1950. That same year, Father Casimir Le Gallo, Père du Saint-Esprit and eminent botanist of his time, also collaborated, providing 10 plants from Mont-Blanc in the Lower St. Lawrence region. Father Le Gallo, from France, is famous for his studies of mosses, algae, lichens, liverwort or hepatics and marchantia, which he gathered on Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, in the French Antilles and in Guyana. Another is Brother Étienne-Adrien (Adrien Saint-Martin) of the Frères Maristes (f.m.s.) who gathered 51 plants in the Montérégie region. Collaborator of Allyre Couture in 1967 and 1968, he was the head of the department of biochemistry at Collège Marie-Victorin in Montreal North. Another collaborator was Brother Joseph-Adonis, (f.m.s.), who accompanied Allyre Couture in the Montérégie in 1968. Also known as Alcide Chabot, he was one of the first in his congregation to have obtained an undergraduate degree in science from the Université de Montréal.

A very careful researcher/scholar, Allyre Couture called upon eminent botanists in Quebec and in Canada to validate his identifications. The labels showed, among other things, frequent verifications by Albert Legault. Before he left the priesthood, while he was known as Brother Sylvio of the Frères des Écoles chrétiennes (f.é.c.), Albert Legault was a professor of botany and curator of the herbarium at the Université de Sherbrooke.

Allyre Couture's donation also contained many specimens which he did not gather but which came from herbaria set up by schools or other botanists including some who were well known. For example, we find four plants collected between 1938 and 1942 by Brother Dominique, Frère du Sacré-Cœur (s.c.), also known as Dominique Campagna. The heading of the herbarium *Herbier du Cercle Stadacona*, Quebec appeared on the voucher specimens. This group organized botanical exhibits that earned the praises of specialists.

Five plant voucher specimens were collected between 1937 and 1941 at La Trappe d'Oka by Father Louis-Marie (Lalonde). He was responsible for the botanical laboratory at the Institut Agricole d'Oka in 1923. Note that twenty voucher specimens, identified with his name, also came from the herbarium *Scolasticat de l'École Normale des Soeurs Servantes du Saint-Coeur de Marie*. This donation was received in 2011 from the congregation.

Finally, 94 voucher specimens were given by Allyre Couture bearing a label from Abbé Ernest

Lepage. He was a specialist in the study of mosses and lichens and is famous for the explorations he led by canoe in different parts of Canada. On three of these voucher specimens, we can see the name of Abbé A.A. De Champlain, the botanist who introduced Lepage to plant observation in 1925. They were frequent companions on plant collecting expeditions.

We should also note that 55 plants were collected in 1951 by Brother Louis-Rolland in Cabano, in the Témiscouata area. We have very little information about this Frère du Sacré-Cœur.

#### The contribution of Abbé Jean-Paul Sainte-Marie

The collections given by Abbé Jean-Paul Sainte-Marie between 2009 and 2015 provide a glimpse into more regional botanical history. Not counting the plants that he himself collected in the Lower St. Lawrence region in the 1960s, Abbé Sainte-Marie preserved plants that had been mounted earlier by students and priests from the Séminaire de Sherbrooke. Among these is a very old plant collection of some 60 voucher specimens mounted

1995.X.1060 125-36.20

**HERBIER DE L'ABBE ERNEST LEPAGE**  
RIMOUSKI, QUEBEC, CANADA

No 1908 Date 12-7-40

Nom *Arenaria lateriflora* var. *typica* (Regel)

Habitat Champs St-John,

Localité Baie des Cochons, Bic

Coll. par l'abbé ERNEST LEPAGE

Ident. E.L.

*Sabline latérflore* d'Ernest Lepage (1995.X.1060)



between 1893 and 1926 by various members of the natural history society, the Société d'Histoire naturelle, of the Séminaire Saint-Charles-Borromée, including J. E. H. Garand, J. A. Parent, L. M. Lemay, J. A. L. Adam, and Albert M. Marcotte. An herbarium of 587 plants collected by Philippe Messier, also a priest and professor of sciences at the Séminaire from 1925 to 1972, was also added. Philippe Messier spent more than 60 years at the Séminaire and mounted his herbarium in 1932 during his science studies at Université de Montréal. In the collection of Abbé Sainte-Marie there were as well 23 plants collected by Léon Marcotte. Many came from Montjoie, a resort area on Lac Montjoie that was popular with priests from the Séminaire and from the Sherbrooke Diocese.

As well, some twenty voucher specimens collected from 1935 to 1937 in the Montebello region bear witness to the interest in botany demonstrated by Marie Cambron, known as Sister Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc of the Sisters of Charity community in Ottawa, and her brother, Joseph Cambron. She was born in Sherbrooke in 1885. Sister Sainte-Jeanne-d'Arc was a fervent disciple of Brother Marie-Victorin.

#### The contribution of the Sisters of Saint Anne in Lachine (Historical centre of the Sisters de Saint-Anne)

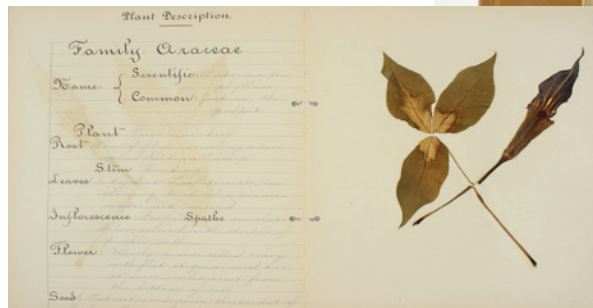
The donation received from the Sisters of Saint Anne (s.s.a.) in 2007 was a plant collection of 120 voucher specimens prepared between 1891 and 1904. The calligraphy of these voucher specimens is unique, a testimonial to the care and patience of Sister Marie-Siméon in her work. One of her young students, Miss Stella Cummings, was clearly influenced by her professor. She carefully applied herself to the lettering of 76 voucher specimens, which are preserved in a binder.

Added to this lot is a collection of 72 mosses and lichens gathered by Sister Marie-Jean-Eudes, (s.s.a.), between 1929 and 1968, several of which were identified by François-Hippolyte Dupret, a Sulpician priest, bryologist and bee-keeper.

In summary, these collections have all been put together by individuals who were enthusiastic botanists who, in several cases, spent many years collecting, identifying, documenting and mounting these plants which today are herbaria preserved with care at the Musée de la nature et des sciences. These herbaria teach us about the plant species of Quebec and their distribution and provide insight into the collaboration that was so important for the development of the science of botany.



Common buttercup, (2007.3.3.76) collected by Sister Marie-Siméon s.s.a.



Jack in the pulpit (2007.3.2.36) - Herbarium, Stella Cummings, 1906



Dahlia?  
—

"Forever Shine."  
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# HOW TO CITE OUR NEWSLETTER

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## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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