

THE WALLOON

Newsletter of Societé Huguenot de la
Nouvelle-Orléans

Issue II

June 25, 2008

UPCOMING EVENTS !

September 14, 2008 – South African Wine Tasting with amuse-gueules at the historic home and gardens of board member Patricia Strachan, 1134 First Street, New Orleans, 5-7 p.m.
\$20 contribution per person, please.
Save the Date !

November 30, 2008 – Annual Meeting
New Orleans Country Club
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Save the Date !

Spring 2009 – Fabergé Event at NOMA
Stay Tuned.....

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THE SOCIÉTÉ IN REVIEW- CHARTER OFFICERS

At the first annual meeting of the Societé on December 6, 1974, the following officers were installed:

Founders: Beale Howard Richardson IV
David Oliver Crumley

President Emeritus: B. H. Richardson IV

President: W. Ferguson Colcock

Vice Presidents: Frank G. Strachan, John Poitevent, Erwin W. Smith, Jr.

Secretary/Geneologist: David O. Crumley

Recording Secretary: Mrs. Peter C. Cabral

Treasurer: B. H. Richardson IV

Deputy Treasurer: Ralph Persell

Historian: Roger P. Sharp, Jr.

Deputy Historian: Mrs. Charles L. Brown

Registrar: Mrs. Atwood L. Rice

Deputy Registrar: William Kernan

Captain of Color Guard: D.O. Crumley

Chancellor: Edward Butts Poitevent

Deputy Chancellor: John Dart

Surgeon: Dr. John S. Anderson

Deputy Surgeon: Dabney Ewin, M.D.

Chaplain: Rev. David S. Crumley

Auditor: John P. Clement III

Parliamentarian: Mrs. Joseph V. Schlosser

Advisory Committee: John Dart, Jr., R.

Kirk Moyer, Mrs. Earl A. Richard, Miss

Ann L. Schlosser, George A. Seaver, Mrs.

Patricia M. Segleau.

Apparently, enthusiasm for the founding of the Societé was such that one third of its charter members held offices !



FAMOUS HUGUENOTS:

A HUGUENOT OF DISTINCTION

PETER CARL FABERGÉ:

b. May 30, 1846 – d. September 24, 1920

Fabergé, perhaps the most famous and admired jeweler and goldsmith of his time, was of Huguenot descent. He was born in St. Petersburg, Russia, to jeweler Gustav Fabergé and his Danish wife, Charlotte Jungstedt. Gustav's father's family were Huguenots who fled from France to Russia (indirectly via Germany), along with many other Huguenots.

Peter Carl Fabergé was fortunate to have been provided an excellent education by his parents, studying his chosen field of jeweler's craft in Russia and abroad before returning to Russia to join his father's jewelry business in 1870. He and his brother first attracted major international attention through his displays at the Pan-Russian Exhibition in Moscow in 1882. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed goldsmith and jeweler to the Russian imperial court by Tsar Alexander III. He also served as court jeweler to other European royal houses.

Fabergé made an Easter egg each year for Tsar Alexander III to give to his wife and one for his mother. Fabergé also produced a host of other beautiful decorative objects in his unique style.

Fabergé's style was opulent, just this side of ostentatious even, using not just the standard gold and other precious metals used by other jewelers of his time, but taking his creations to an entirely new and unprecedented level through the incorporation of precious and semi-precious stones and a mixture of an incredible array of designs. He was required to open several offices in Europe and to employ a large staff of workers to accommodate the demand for his beautiful products.

The Fabergé Gallery at the New Orleans Museum of Art has re-opened. The new exhibition, made possible by a group of Southern collectors, is larger and contains a broader range of Fabergé objects than the Museum has ever exhibited before.

There are a total of 82 objects on exhibition, including 44 miniature Easter Eggs by Fabergé which are displayed on three separate objects: 13 on a miniature golden tree, 19 on a 17th century gold Russian necklace and 12 on a bracelet.

The new installation includes, but is not limited to, Fabergé Easter Eggs, a box in the form of an Easter egg, a pink clock set with pearls that were owned by the Tsarina of Russia, a Bismark Box laden with 90 carats of diamonds, an Imperial Horse Guard helmet, cigarette and card cases, clocks, inkwells, letter knives, glue pots, photograph frames and stamp viewers.

But the collection is not all glitter and gold. Fans of history will be fascinated by an enamel and palisander wood frame that contains a period photograph of the Grand Duchess Anastasia in court dress.

Anastasia, of course, was one of the many victims of the Russian revolution.

Sources: The Cross of Languedoc, January 2007, Janice Murphy Lorenz, Editor;
New Orleans Museum of Arts

THE GIFT SHOP :

Huguenot Postal Stamp Notecards

\$8.50 per boxed set of 12 different designs, which includes shipping. Measures 5-1/2 by 4-3/4 inches; envelopes are included.

Order form at:

www.huguenot.netnation.com/store/orderforms/StampForm.htm

OR

Email: jgre6266@aol.com

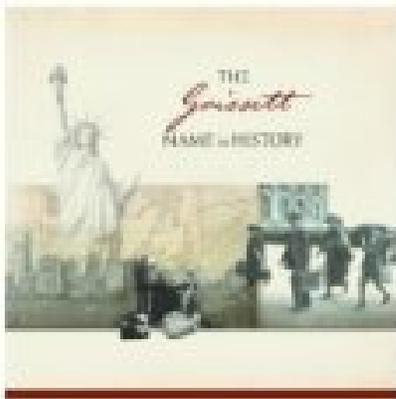


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HUGUENOT TRAVEL DESTINATIONS: CHARLESTON, SC

On April 30, 1680, 45 Huguenots arrived in Charles Towne to escape religious persecution, and, in 1687, proudly erected the first Huguenot Church on the corner of Church and Queen Streets. The Huguenot Church in Charleston is the oldest continuously active Huguenot congregation in the United States today. Annually a French Service is conducted commemorating The Edict of Nantes.



As Charleston grew, so did the community's cultural and social opportunities, especially for the elite merchants, many of whom were Huguenots. Benevolent societies were formed by several different ethnic groups including the South Carolina Society (Hall, 1804, 72 Meeting Street), founded by French Huguenots in 1737.

One of the homes of one of the wealthiest Huguenot descent merchant families, the Joseph Manigault House (1803), 350 Meeting Street, is a historic house museum and is deemed one of the finest examples of Adam or Federal architecture in the United States.

The Huguenot Society of South Carolina was established in 1885, and was the pattern for the Huguenot Society of New Orleans when it was established in 1973. Its headquarters and extensive library of records is located at 138 Logan Street, Charleston, SC 29401 Phone: 1-843-723-3235.

HUGUENOT HERITAGE: THE DIASPORA – SOUTH AFRICA

By Elizabeth Sewell

Diaspora: Dictionary.com says the word means “any group migration or flight from a country or region; dispersion.” Religious persecution that results in diaspora is always an atrocious event, but no one could predict one of the more historic and eventually enjoyable benefits of the Huguenots seeking refuge in South Africa 350 years ago.

Thousands of French Huguenots fled to Holland in the late 1680’s following the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV. This, however, was not the first group of people that had sought a safe haven there due to religious persecution. The English Protestants, escaping Mary Tudor, came; German Protestants arrived during the Thirty Years War; Walloons and Flemings fled the Spanish under the Duke of Alba. All in all, there were just too many people for the small country of Holland at that time to support.

So, in 1684, the directors of the Dutch East India Company recruited 80 reformed faith families to move to South Africa. They were given land, tools, seeds, and other items to establish them as farmers and craftsmen, e.g.,

“... a large number of colonists shall be sent out. These must include French refugees of the reformed religion, especially those understanding the cultivation of the vine, the making of vinegar and the distillation of brandy.”

Thus, they were specifically asked to settle there in order to produce wines for the provisions of the Dutch East India Company ships and crews that stopped there to restock before sailing further east.

Unfortunately, the first voyage was not without its problems. The voyage took three and a half months, and supplies of food and water became scarce. The water supply became so low that the colonists were actually forced to drink the wine stores they had brought! Nevertheless, these original families survived and many more followed. By the end of the 17th century, there were estimated to be 3,000 men in the “Valley of the French” in South Africa.

These colonists found a land that had never been farmed. The only inhabitants had been a roving tribe, the “Hottentots”, who were wandering, threatening natives.

However, these hard-working Calvinists were just the right people to colonize and establish a new society. They cultivated crops of wheat, orchards, and vineyards. They made wine and liquor and raised cattle. The first vineyard was actually planted by the Jan van Riebeeck, the founder of Cape Town, whose wife was a French Huguenot.

Through the years the commercial wine cultivation that was started by the Huguenots in South Africa increased such that today, South Africa is the world’s 8th largest producer of wine.

Please join on us Sunday, September 14th for the Huguenot Society of New Orleans South African Wine Tasting and hear the story from our own Howard Soper about the visit of the South African Marine vessel, the S.S. Huguenot, to the Port of New Orleans!

Sources: Diaspora Essays of W. Ferguson Colcock, Memory & Identity edited by Bertrand Van Ruymbeke and Randy J. Sparks, Wine of Origin booklet SAWIS 2005-Aug-13, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.