

Seminar The Seven Years War in America



Tuesday, September 15, 2009

At the Chapel of the
Musée de l'Amérique française

Presented by
The National Battlefields Commission
in conjunction with the
Société généalogique canadienne-française
and the Musée de la civilisation

THE SEMINAR A few words...

In their quests to expand their economic and political influence, France and Great Britain faced off against one another numerous times. Over the years, the antagonism between the two nations spread to their colonies. In 1754, hostilities in the Ohio Valley foreshadowed a global conflict that would be fought on North American soil between New France and the Thirteen Colonies. Two years later, war was officially declared between France and Great Britain and their respective allies.

In the United States, the war would be known as the French and Indian War, while Canadians would refer to it as La guerre de la Conquête, or War of the Conquest. The stakes were high for the French and British colonies, with territorial expansion and the control of natural resources hanging in the balance. With Great Britain planning a massive invasion of New France, France dispatched contingents of regular troops as reinforcements. Soldiers and civilian allies squared off in a series of battles that would culminate in France's loss of New France.

Two hundred and fifty years after the Battle of the Plains of Abraham—a pivotal event in the Seven Years War—it is appropriate to reflect on the conflict and its consequences. To that end, the National Battlefields Commission, the Société généalogique canadienne-française and the Musée de la civilisation invite you to this seminar, which will bring together historians from Canada, the United States, France and England. Lectures will cover the issues surrounding the Seven Years War and how the conflict played out in North America. Participants will also be able to assess the role of soldiers and civilians in the war that would change the course of North American history.



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PROGRAM

- 9:00 am Opening remarks, words of welcome :
André Juneau, Chairman, National Battlefields Commission
François Tremblay, Director, Department of Exhibitions and International Affairs, Musée de la civilisation
Gisèle Monarque, Chairwoman, Société généalogique canadienne-française
- 9:15 am Presentation on the historical context of the Seven Years War by Colonel **Frédéric Guelton**, Head of the Land Forces section of the National Defence Historical Service (France), and **Serge Bernier**, Director, History and Heritage, Department of National Defence (Canada). (In French)
- 9:40 am Presentation on the research project and book entitled *Combattre pour la France en Amérique. Les soldats de la guerre de Sept Ans en Nouvelle-France* [Fighting for France in America: Soldiers of the Seven Years War in New France], by **Marcel Fournier**, Director, Project Montcalm (Quebec). (In French)
- 10:00 am Break
- 10:15 am Presentations (20 minutes per speaker) – Moderator: **Alain Laberge**
- **Jean-Pierre Poussou**, Université de Paris IV (France) – Events in New France and American interests in the Seven Years War as seen by historians of the 19th and 20th centuries. (In French)
 - **Luc Lépine**, Project Montcalm (Quebec) – French and British military strategy in the Seven Years War in New France, 1755–1760. (In French)
 - **Bertrand Fonck**, Defence Historical Service, Vincennes (France) – Particularities of the French Army's practice of command in Canada during the Seven Years War. (In French)
 - **Nicholas Westbrook**, Director, Fort Ticonderoga (United States) – American civil and military participation in the Seven Years War.
 - **René Chartrand**, Ottawa (Canada) – The contribution of Canadian militias to the Seven Years War in New France. (In French)
- Q&A period*
- 12:10 pm Lunch on your own
- 2:15 pm Presentations (20 minutes per speaker) – Moderator: **Rénauld Lessard**
- **Olivier Chaline**, Université de la Sorbonne, Paris (France) – Canada in the Franco-British naval confrontation in the Seven Years War. (In French)
 - **Peter MacLeod**, War Museum, Ottawa (Canada) – Aboriginal peoples and the Seven Years War in New France.
 - **Laurent Veyssière**, Heritage Conservator, Department of National Defence, Paris (France) – Louis-Antoine de Bougainville: Officer under Montcalm during the Seven Years War. (In French)
- 3:15 pm Break
- 3:30 pm Presentations (cont'd) – Moderator: **Jacques Lacoursière**
- **Stephen Brumwell** (England) – Global precursors to and consequences of the Seven Years War.
 - **Jacques Mathieu**, Université Laval (Quebec) – Recollections of the Seven Years War in Canada. (In French)
 - **Desmond Morton**, McGill University, Montreal (Quebec) – The British occupation and the survival of the French-Canadian nation. (In French)
- Q&A period*
- 5:00 pm Closing remarks – Wrap-up by **François Cartier**, McCord Museum (Quebec). (In French)
- 5:30 pm Book launch party