Albert BÉLANGER (1874-1942)

In the Guide officiel des Franco-Américains for 1938, Albert Bélanger, the editor of this work, wrote the following about himself:

Albert A. Bélanger, publisher, industrialist, and secretary-treasurer of the Guide Franco-Américain, Inc., born on January 15, 1874 in Hochelaga, Québec to Alexandre and Aurélie Lapierre; married to Miss Clara Charron; father of four children; studied at the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the Académie Commerciale of Montréal; was an advertising agent for Montréal’s Le Monde; studied advertising in New York; was manager of the advertising department for L’Indépendant and Le Journal in Fall River, Mass.; was publisher of N.E. [New England] Cotton Journal [1899]; is publisher of several works on Franco-Americans; member of various Franco-American clubs and organizations. Property owner and voter. Address: 114 Sumter Street [Providence, Rhode Island] (p. 287).

In his foreword to the thirteenth edition of the Guide franco-américain, published in 1940, Adolphe Robert, president of the Association Canado-Américaine, wrote the following about the editor: “This thirteenth edition is evidence of two essential truths: for over forty years, the tenacity of Mr. Albert A. Bélanger has 1. shed light on the French fact in the United States, 2. provided proof that this French fact persists.”

For many years, Albert Bélanger was the publisher-publicist and the secretary-treasurer of the Guide Franco-Américain, Inc., published in Providence, Rhode Island. On the title page of the
1935 *Guide*, Albert A. Bélanger calls himself “Propagandist-Publicist-Publisher” of what he announces to be “the 11th Illustrated Edition,” while pointing out that these *Guides* began in 1899.

According to Bélanger, this *Guide*, published in 1935, “shows the importance of what is called the French and Catholic survivance in the United States.” Later in this same text, he says that the information contained in it “testifies to a vitality, a strength of resistance, a spirit of initiative, and a fidelity to duty of which we can be proud.”

Invited to write a foreword for the twelfth edition, published in 1938, Josaphat Benoit, editor-in-chief at *L’Avenir National* in Manchester, New Hampshire, observed: “For more than forty years, Mr. Albert A. Bélanger visited the Franco-American communities in New England; thanks to the help of clergy and the French-speaking elite, he has collected a treasure-trove of information, meticulous data, and biographical and historical details that require long and laborious research.” Furthermore, Benoit wrote, “we are quite surprised that this considerable work has been achieved by only one man.” He declares that the author of these *Guides* has contributed “more than any other to making known the importance and extent of French survivance in the United States.”

In this same *Guide*, published in 1938, Bélanger lists twenty-one works which he claims to have published, beginning in 1891. They include his *Guides*, which he would continue to publish until the late 1930s (p. 491).

Albert Bélanger had to stop publication of his *Guides* after the thirteenth edition due to an illness from which he later died. Having purchased the *Guide* in 1944, Lucien and Thérèse Sansouci published a fourteenth edition in 1946, which would be the last. The Sansoucis then went on to publish a magazine called *Le Phare*.

Claire QUINTAL
WORKS

Publisher of the following works:

- Vie de Mgr Antoine Labelle, de St-Jérôme (1891)
- Portraits des papes, de St Pierre à Léon XIII (1893)
- Vie de l’honorable Honoré Mercier (1894)
- Index professionnel de la province de Québec (1894)
- Index professionnel du Canada (1896)
- Guide franco-américain de la Nouvelle-Angleterre (1899)
- New England Cotton Journal (1899)
- Le triomphe de la tempérance (1914)
- Programme des fêtes à l’occasion du dévoilement du monument du Sacré-Cœur, à Fall River, Mass. (1920)
- Les Franco-Américains et la guerre mondiale (1921)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1922)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1923)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1925)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1927)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1929)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1933)
- Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis (1935)
- *Guide officiel des Franco-Américains des États-Unis* (1938)

The list of works compiled by Albert Bélanger in 1931 includes the following reference: “IN PREPARATION: *Guide Franco-Américain* published in English. For distribution in all the libraries of the United States and Canada, as well as all the major American newspapers” (p. 632). As this English-language *Guide* has left no trace, it appears that the enormous work was beyond the ability of a man who was already elderly and sick.

*English translation by Aminata Keita, Salem State University*