



News From France

Vol. 15.01
January 2015

A free monthly review of French news & trends

In Washington and beyond, a successful end to 2014 for France and America



© Samuel Tribollet

Ambassador of France to the U.S. Gérard Araud pictured with Vint Cerf, an American Internet pioneer who is considered one of the fathers of the Internet. Mr. Cerf received the Legion of Honor on December 12 at Ambassador Araud's residence in Washington, D.C. For more on this story, see page 2.

From the Ambassador's Desk: A message from Gérard Araud

Dear friends,

As we close the chapter on 2014 to make way for 2015, I wanted to take the opportunity to wish you a happy New Year and reflect upon a very successful year at the Embassy.

2014 was a fantastic year for France and America for many reasons, one of the most important being that it marked the 70th Anniversary of the Allied Landing on D-Day. French citizens remain grateful to the American veterans that fought valiantly alongside their European partners 70 years ago. This was the message President Hollande had for President Obama when he attended the moving ceremonies in Normandy last June, alongside many other heads of State and veterans. These events came after a very successful State visit by President Hollande to Washington, D.C. and San Francisco last February, through which the stakes of our bilateral relationship were heightened in the diplomatic and business sectors.

Today, France and America work side by side to address common international threats and challenges. From North Africa to the Middle East, in the fight against terrorism, we are combating the barbaric actions of Daesh and other extremist groups. In Eastern Europe, we are working together to find a political solution to the crisis in Ukraine. In Iran, we have not ceased our efforts to reach a comprehensive solution on the country's nuclear program. Globally, we are addressing issues such as the Ebola outbreak and the dam-

ages of climate change, for which Paris will host the 21st United Nations Conference at the end of next year. Beyond these challenges, France and America continue to foster important partnerships in business, technology and innovation. France remains a strong investor in American business and every day hundreds of thousands of Americans work, thanks to French companies and investments and vice versa. During each and every one of my first visits outside the nation's capital, I was met with the warmth of local and French communities alike, from New York to Miami.



© S. DG

Culture is an indelible part of the friendship between our two countries, which have never been at war with each other and share a rich common history. This year was no exception, as we witnessed a number of remarkable projects come to fruition, including the opening of French-English book store Albertine Books in New York, containing over 14,000 titles in both languages.

In 2015, *L'Hermione*, an exact replica of the ship that brought the Marquis de Lafayette to America, is set to arrive on the East Coast. It will sail by the historical sites of Yorktown and Mount Vernon, and will arrive in the bay of New York on the 4th of July. I hope you will follow this incredible journey, as well as all the partnerships that continue to flourish between our two countries, over the next year.

Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year to you and yours, and best wishes for 2015!

inside

Current Events 2

France-U.S. compensation agreement

Interview with the Expert 3

Justin Vaisse, Director of Policy Planning

In Depth 4

2014 in pictures

Business & Technology 6

French-American Innovation Day

Culture & Society 7

French films up for Academy Awards

France & America 8

24 veterans receive Legion of Honor



News From France

A free monthly review of French news & trends

NFF is also available online at:
www.ambafrance-us.org

www.facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
[@franceintheus](https://twitter.com/franceintheus)

Vint Cerf, pioneer of the Internet, decorated as Officer of the Legion of Honor

On December 12, Ambassador Gérard Araud bestowed upon Dr. Vinton Cerf the insignia of Officer of the National Order of the Legion of Honor during a ceremony at the French residence in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Cerf, who is widely known as one of the “fathers of the Internet,” has established a close relationship with France by collaborating with the French Institute for Research in Computer Science and Automation (INRIA).

Dr. Cerf has dedicated his life to identifying and developing new technologies all over the world. He has worked for major innovative companies such as IBM and Google and has already received other prestigious international awards and honorary degrees in recognition of his extraordinary work and contribution to technological developments.

France Alumni platform launched by Campus France

On November 26, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius announced the launch of the social network France Alumni, developed for former students who have studied abroad in France. The website will help connect the nearly 300,000 foreign students who pursue their education in France after they have finished their studies abroad.

The inauguration ceremony featured a presentation by Geneviève Fioraso, French Minister of Higher Education and Research, and Campus France Chief Executive Antoine Grassin. Afterwards, notable members of the France Alumni network spoke about the opportunities afforded to them by studying in France. The participating alumni included Mohamed Salah ben Ammar, Tunisian Minister for Public Health, Jennifer Flay, director of FIAC, an international contemporary art fair, and John Parkes, managing director of Ubisoft France.

The site is the first of its kind to unify alumni from all over the world who have studied in France, creating networking opportunities among alumni in both the public and private sectors.

Through France Alumni, Campus France officials hope that France will profit from the cultivation of lasting connections with its innovative and accomplished foreign student population.

France and the U.S. sign Holocaust compensation agreement



Ambassadors Patrizianna Sparacino-Thiellay and Stuart Eizenstat sign the agreement at the State Department.

▲ On December 8, France and the United States signed an agreement to establish a compensation fund for certain Holocaust victims deported from France who did not receive money from the original French compensation program established in 1946. The original program established by France was intended to provide reparation and compensation to the victims of anti-Semitic persecutions by German occupation authorities and the Vichy regime.

This year has been marked by a number of important collaborations between France and the United States, as the two countries also celebrated the 70th anniversary of D-Day and the Allied landings in Normandy and Provence, during which U.S. troops joined France in fighting for the liberation of Europe from Nazi oppression.

French Ambassador at Large for Human Rights in

charge of Holocaust Issues, Patrizianna Sparacino-Thiellay, and United States Special Advisor on Holocaust Issues Stuart Eizenstat signed the agreement during a ceremony at the State Department in Washington, D.C. After the signing ceremony, both Ms. Sparacino-Thiellay and Mr. Eizenstat gave a speech.

Ambassador Sparacino-Thiellay called the compensation fund a landmark achievement, noting, “This important agreement marks, in both symbolic and concrete terms, a new and crucial stage in the commitment made by the French Republic to Holocaust victims.”

Ambassador Sparacino-Thiellay also commended survivors of the Holocaust and the Righteous Among the Nations, those who defied the Nazi regime and ensured the survival of countless Jews. Looking to the future, she said, “For all the generations to come and for the six million victims of the Holocaust, we must continue to support all the witnesses’ remembrance efforts. It is therefore deeply moving to contribute today to this duty of remembrance.”

Ambassador Eizenstat spoke about the negotiation process with the French government in order to establish this new system, calling Ambassador Sparacino-Thiellay “a remarkable, dedicated, and talented partner.”

Ambassador Eizenstat acknowledged that the French have already done much to protect Jewish people threatened by the Nazi regime, saying, “75 percent of French Jews were saved, due to the courage of average French men and women and French churches, who saw their Jewish compatriots as equal French citizens.” In speaking about the program, he said, “We strongly believe this agreement will provide much more meaningful relief to people around the world than litigation that would last many years, come at great cost, and with very uncertain results.”

Campus France holds luncheon for its education partners



Attendees of the Campus France luncheon on December 11, which was held at the French Embassy's *Maison Française*.

▲ On December 11, Campus France held a luncheon for staff members of American universities and study-abroad programs responsible for advising students that choose to study in France. This lunch provided an opportunity for the Campus France team to thank these advisors for their promotion of France as a top study-abroad destination, and to speak about the goals of the French government and the Embassy to mobilize students to study in France in 2015.

Attendees of the lunch spoke very highly of their experience working with Campus France. Conrad Zeutenhorst, an Advisor at the University of Maryland, said that Campus France is readily available to aid students

in obtaining a visa, which can be one of the most complicated processes when preparing for a study-abroad program in France: “If I have a question or if a student asks me a question I can’t answer, Campus France is just a phone call away. I’ve been really lucky that Campus France has been able to come up to College Park to actually do the orientation with their students, set them up with Campus France, and explain to them what they need to be turning in by when.”

Jason Sanderson, Assistant Director of Curriculum Integration and Assessment at Georgetown University, spoke about the factors contributing to students’ decisions to study abroad in France. Mr. Sanderson told *News From France* that the profile of students looking to study in France has evolved over the past few years: “A student that studies abroad in France does not necessarily have to be a French *major*. I’m definitely looking at students that see French as the vehicle to study whatever discipline their major may be.” Mr. Sanderson said that new partnerships which give students the option to enhance their experience abroad by conducting research in a certain discipline—such as the one that Georgetown is launching with Sciences Po in Lyon this coming fall—are drawing a new profile of students.

This well-attended lunch allowed representatives from universities and study-abroad organizations to exchange ideas among their colleagues, as well as speak with Campus France about ways in which they may better utilize the agency as a resource for their students in the coming years.

Justin Vaisse, Director of Policy Planning at the French MFA

▲ Historian Justin Vaisse, director of the Policy Planning Staff at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, visited Washington, D.C. recently to meet with French and American officials as part of a seminar on cyber issues. He spoke with *News From France* about his role at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and his objectives in visiting Washington.

What is the role of the Center for Analysis, Planning and Strategy (CAPS)?

CAPS, the French policy planning staff, was largely modeled after the U.S. one, which was created by then-Secretary of State George Marshall in 1947, with George Kennan as its first director—Kennan is the well-known diplomat and foreign policy intellectual who coined the term “containment” and defined the policy that was followed vis à vis the U.S.S.R. during the Cold War.

Our mission is not very different from that of the American policy planning staff. One task is to be at the intersection between the world of expertise—be it French academia, think tanks or researchers from other countries – on the one hand, and French diplomacy on the other hand. We are trying to harvest the best research there is and make it policy-relevant, useful to diplomats and decision-makers, including the Minister. That requires us to be constantly in touch with the research world, participate in conferences and seminars, follow the latest trends of research.

Our second mission is not public. It consists in advising the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the major directions of French foreign policy, on the crises he has to face, on the decisions he has to make. To do so, we have two assets. First, we are relieved from the heavy day-to-day work that the other directorates of the Ministry (the directorates dealing with the Middle East, with Africa and so on) are loaded with, which gives us precious time to read various sources other than diplomatic cables, think and discuss about major evolutions, and anticipate future trends. Second, we are not bound to follow the official political line. On the contrary, we are supposed to think outside the box, criticize current policies if necessary, but also suggest policy changes and new initiatives—including coordination with other policy planners, like my German counterpart with whom I frequently exchange views and projects.

What is the goal of your visit to Washington?

I came to Washington for what we call in our jargon a “track 1.5 meeting.” Track 1 is when foreign diplomats meet to negotiate. Track 2 is when think tankers meet to explore new ideas – including when their respective countries can’t talk to each other. What we call “track 1.5” is when think tankers meet, but also invite a couple of officials. It allows for a free discussion and exploration of ideas that do not officially commit any government, but maintains a connection to actual decision makers.

So yesterday we held a Track 1.5 seminar at the Brookings Institution on cyber issues, which are growing in importance and complexity both for France and the U.S. The point of such meetings is not to reconcile our opinions and preferences and eventually agree on everything, but to discuss our differences and minimize them. Thus we talked about cyber issues like the governance of the internet, the question of IP theft and cyber espionage, as well as the question of how we protect critical infrastructure. We had a wide-ranging discussion among French and American experts and officials, trying to come up with policy recommendations.



© SFG

After the discussion, I also went to the White House with my team to see Michael Daniel—he is President Obama’s point man to coordinate all policy aspects of cyber issues. We tested some of the ideas that we had come up during the seminar with him. So the cyber issue was the main purpose of my trip—but I also met with other experts and officials, as well as old friends from my Washington days.

At CAPS, a large part of your role is research and analysis of foreign policy. What topics are of particularly high interest to the center today?

Given the world we live in, we spend a lot of time on crises. And you know how many crises occurred during the summer of 2014, with the conjunction of Gaza, Syria and Iraq with the Daesh offensive, Ukraine, and Ebola, as well as a number of ongoing crises, whether in Libya, Mali or the Central African Republic. Even though we always try to see beyond the horizon, we also work on more immediate crises because that’s when the Minister asks for our advice, as a complement to that of his advisers and the directorates which deal with these issues.

In addition to working on these crises, we do long-term work—like on cyber issues. Another example, something that we’re working a lot on this year and will be working on even more in 2015, is climate change. As you know, France will be hosting the 21st Conference of Parties of the Rio Protocol on Climate Change in Paris in December. It’s a major challenge, because that is the deadline that the international community gave itself to reach a comprehensive, universal agreement among all countries to reduce their emissions of CO2. So that involves a lot of diplomacy which is not technical in nature, which is really political—and France, as the host country of that conference, will be at the forefront of common efforts. It will be a huge meeting with 20,000 delegates and probably as many NGOs and experts, so all in all close to 50,000 people. CAPS has been working on the issue, trying to provide help and advice to the climate teams that are working on the conference—but also trying to shed a different light on issues, working specifically with some countries that are crucial to the success of the negotiation—India or Brazil in particular. 

Applications for Chateaubriand Fellowship now open

The Chateaubriand Fellowship Application for 2015-2016 is now open to motivated students wishing to enrich their studies by completing a research project abroad. The grant, offered by the French Embassy, sponsors outstanding American PhD students who wish to conduct research in France for a period of four to nine months. There are two programs: the first is a fellowship in STEM: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This Fellowship is supported by the Embassy’s Office for Science and Technology (OST), and awarded to students at American universities seeking to conduct their doctoral research in a French lab.

The second Chateaubriand Fellowship is HSS: Humanities and Social Sciences, offered by the Cultural Services of the Embassy in conjunction with Campus France. PhD students who seek to do research on any Humanities and Social Science discipline in France may apply for this prestigious grant. All qualified candidates interested in either of the Chateaubriand programs should apply by January 20, 2015.

Mayors Anne Hidalgo and Bill de Blasio speak out on AIDS

On December 1, Mayors Anne Hidalgo of Paris and Bill de Blasio of New York published a column in the French newspaper, *Libération*, on the occasion of World AIDS Day. The article discussed the importance of activism, awareness, and enhancing treatment to save the lives of people affected by the disease the world over. Together, Ms. Hidalgo and Mr. de Blasio stated that “AIDS is not just a health crisis, but also a human rights crisis.”

The two mayors seek to help UN-AIDS eradicate AIDS by 2030, a goal they set for themselves through an accelerated strategy. In speaking about the crisis, the leaders wrote, “There is much to do. We need to bring important resources to fight AIDS: medical, legal, social and administrative. And we must educate. The longer we wait, the more there will be people who will suffer and die needlessly.”

Ms. Hidalgo and Mr. de Blasio have set goals to educate their cities’ residents about the transmission of AIDS and the importance of getting tested, especially among the regions most heavily affected. The mayors plan on remaining faithful to human rights and continuing their activism on the cause.

in depth: 2014 in review

Pictures worth a thousand words: a successful year for France and the United States





© U.S. Department of Defense/Glen Lavett

***L'ambassade de France vous souhaite
une très bonne année!
Happy New Year from the French Embassy!***

A picture is worth a thousand words: on these pages, you'll see images of a successful year between France and the United States captured in a collection of photos.

The year 2014 saw a number of exciting developments in Franco-American relations in the United States.

2014 was marked by a successful State visit, as President Hollande came to the U.S. at the invitation of President Obama in February. In turn, President Obama visited Normandy in June, upon the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe by Allied Forces. Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius met numerous times with his counterpart, Secretary of State John Kerry, to discuss international issues, just as many other members of the French government also traveled to the U.S.

In all of these meetings between French and American officials, the protection of international citizens remained a top priority, as the two countries continue to work together on issues such as the international coalition against Daesh (ISIL), the fight against Ebola, negotiations on Iran's nuclear program, and a solution for the crisis in Ukraine and Russia.

Every day, French businesses and organizations work to deepen ties with American investors, fostering a growing economy and hosting a number of events which aim to promote improvements in science and technology for a more advanced global society. Initiatives such as French Tech, which encourages the growth of startups, ensures that French companies remain innovative and well-connected with countries boasting strong technology sectors, notably the U.S.

Cultural exchanges between France and America remain ever-important and strong, and this year saw the implementation of two major cultural projects. Albertine Books, featuring over 14,000 titles in English and French, opened on September 26 in New York. Additionally, on September 7, *L'Hermione*, an exact replica of the ship that carried the Marquis de Lafayette from France to America, completed successful sea trials in Rochefort. The ship will officially set sail for America in April of 2015. At the Embassy and Consulates around the country, we look forward to another dynamic year between France and the U.S.



© WireImage



© Albertine.com

Page 4, clockwise from top: Presidents Hollande and Obama walk outside the White House during President Hollande's state visit on February 10-12; Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Laurent Fabius meets with Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington, D.C. on May 11-13; Ambassador of France to the U.S. Gérard Araud presents his credentials to President Obama at the White House on September 18; French citizens form a slogan in solidarity with American citizens on the 70th anniversary of D-Day; Presidents Obama and Hollande greet a veteran during a D-Day ceremony in Normandy, France. Page 5, clockwise from top: Minister of Defense Jean-Yves Le Drian walks up the steps of the Pentagon with counterpart Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel on October 2; Minister Laurent Fabius joins Cultural Counselor Antonin Baudry and Ambassador Gérard Araud at the opening of Albertine Books in New York on September 26; French Secretary of State for Digital Affairs Axelle Lemaire speaks at The Cultural Services Of The French Embassy In The United States' *Direct To Series* Season 2 Screenings And Panel Discussions at Writers Guild Theater on October 28, in Beverly Hills, CA.

Exposons la France hosted by Osons la France in Paris

French organization Osons la France hosted an exhibition entitled "Exposons la France" at the Grand Palais from December 4-7 in Paris. Osons la France was created in 2012 by Aude de Thuin with the goal of fostering initiatives to end "French bashing" and combat negative stereotypes about France. Exposons la France gathered major French players in innovation and business to discuss ways in which France can rediscover confidence and restore optimism in its economy.

The event featured an economic summit co-hosted by French magazine *Challenges*, as well as a business exposition featuring "200 builders of Tomorrow," and a forum open to the public with several seminars geared towards young people ages 16-25.

Minister of the Economy, Industry, and the Digital Sector Emmanuel Macron spoke at the Economy Summit about French taboos, and how the country may address these ideological challenges in order to create growth in economy and business.

Karl Lagerfeld, head designer and creative director of fashion house Chanel, Jeffrey Immelt, president of General Electric, and many more notable French politicians and businesspeople were invited to speak at the Summit to advance the understanding of politics, the image of businesses and the economy.

Marché de Noël held at Dallas International School

On December 7, the Dallas International School hosted their first annual French-style holiday market. This year, the market was inspired by the annual *Marché de Noël* which is hosted in Strasbourg, France.

The organizations Alliance Française, Dallas Accueil and Dallas International School worked together in order to co-host this event. The Dallas International School offers a French-English education to students from preschool through high school, while Dallas Accueil is a non-profit organization which seeks to connect French speakers in the Dallas area with the American community.

Local artisans and businesses came in order to sell their best holiday goods. The event also had free Christmas snacks, or *gouter de Noël*, for the kids in attendance.

Held at the Waterview Campus of the Dallas International School, this wonderful market provided an opportunity for enthusiastic Francophiles to purchase holiday gifts and support local businesses.

FAID fosters dialogue among experts on energy storage



Donald R. Sadoway, John F. Elliott Professor of Materials Chemistry, at MIT, speaks at FAID 2014.

▲ Providing reliable energy to the world's growing population and simultaneously addressing climate change are two major issues facing the world today. French-American Innovation Days 2014 (FAID 2014), held on December 8 and 9 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Media Lab in Cambridge,

MA, intended to explore solutions to these seemingly contradictory problems by focusing on the topic of Innovation in Energy Storage. Large-scale energy storage, connected to the electric grid, will allow greater use of intermittent, renewable energy sources such as solar photovoltaic or wind energy. The conference aimed to address the question of how these new technologies in the energy field may be brought to the market place.

FAID 2014 was organized by the Office for Science & Technology of the Embassy of France in the U.S. in partnership with MIT, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) and France's CEA (Atomic Energy and Alternative Energies Commission). The event brought together academic leaders such as Professors Michael Aziz from Harvard, Don Sadoway from MIT and Dr. Laurent Antoni from CEA, entrepreneurs from start-ups like Sinode, McPhy or Ambri, and specialists from large industrial companies such as Schneider Electric, Airbus, United Technologies, Lockheed Martin and National Grid. Over 40 speakers attracted more than 300 experts representing innovation in the field of energy storage, and presented both cutting-edge research and industrial solutions available today that can solve the conundrum of providing more energy while decreasing our carbon footprint.

FAID is an annual event that brings together scientists, entrepreneurs and investors from both France and America. The ultimate goal of each conference is to initiate co-operative activities and develop business in the technological field between both countries. This year's conference gathered companies of varying size, high level researchers and universities, which were all enthusiastic about progress in the energy field. After FAID 2014, it is clear that the industrial world is embracing "green energy," and this business opportunity will be attractive to both countries as France prepares to host the COP21 Paris Climate Conference in 2015.

"Hello Tomorrow Challenge" launched for promising startups

▲ December 15 marked the commencement of the second edition of the "Hello Tomorrow Challenge," a competition which seeks to foster connections between scientists, investors and researchers while boosting France's goal of promoting creativity and entrepreneurship.

The "Hello Tomorrow" association was created by French citizens Xavier Duportet and Arnaud de la Tour in 2015. The Challenge intends to create competition among international startup companies to inspire further projects based on scientific and technological ideas that promise innovation in sectors such as materials and manufacturing, food and agriculture, healthcare, information technologies, transport and mobility, and energy and environment.

Teams of French and foreign researchers that are currently working on interdisciplinary projects in these sectors will participate in the Hello Tomorrow Challenge at the Institute Pasteur in Paris, one of the world's leading research centers. To create the best pool of innovators, the Challenge invites international universities and research labs to promote the event. With the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development, at least 40 events have been created in over 50 countries on five conti-



The Hello Tomorrow Challenge was launched on December 15, and will select semifinalists by February 2015.

nents to endorse the Challenge.

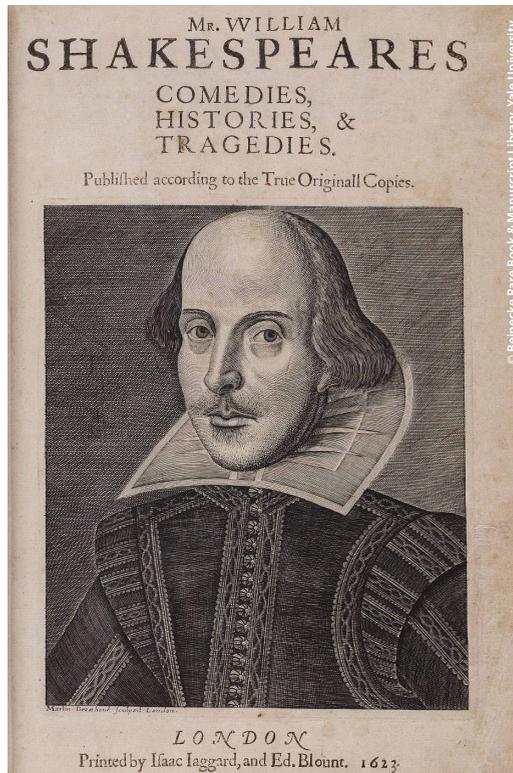
After all proposals have been submitted by February 15, 2015, the top 30 semifinalists will be granted expert support from other researchers and scientists and funding for international media attention from February-June 2015. These semifinalists will have the opportunity to compete for the grand prize, 100,000 Euros, to fund the expansion and implementation of their projects. The community of "Hello Tomorrow" looks to bring together leaders of innovation to impact the future of the economy.

Rare edition of Shakespeare's works discovered in France

▲ An American Shakespeare expert has confirmed the authenticity of a rare First Folio of William Shakespeare that was discovered in a library in St. Omer, located in the Pas-de-Calais department of France. Eric Rasmussen, a Shakespeare expert and professor at the University of Nevada in Reno, travelled to France in November to inspect the folio. The edition was found while research was being carried out for a special exhibition on the relationship between the Calais region and the United Kingdom. First Folios are among the rarest books and works of reference, as only 232 copies remain in existence, one of which is held in the National Library of France. The collection contains 36 plays, and is considered the only reliable text for about 20 of these plays.

This First Folio was published in 1623, and is entitled "Mr. William Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies." Although the front cover page was found to be missing, Dr. Rasmussen was confident of the authenticity of this First Folio, calling this particular copy "magnificent." Because of their scarcity, these texts are tracked and kept under constant watch, and a new one appears about every decade or so.

Not many scholars have been able to visit the new discovery, but medieval experts who have viewed it have already expressed enthusiasm about the finding, as it will offer a unique insight into the ways in which Shakespeare is tied to Catholic culture. The rarity of these First Folios makes the discovery all the more significant, as the finding of a new First Folio creates an exciting opportunity for scholars to further explore the cultural context of the famed playwright's works.



The title page of one of Shakespeare's First Folios, which was originally published in 1623 and contains 36 plays.

13 French films to be represented at 2015 Academy Awards



At the 87th Annual Academy Awards in Hollywood, two French films and 11 French co-productions will be represented in the Foreign Language Film Award Category. Tune in February 22, 7 pm EST to see which films bring home an Oscar.

▲ Two French films and 11 French co-productions will be represented at the 87th Academy Awards in 2015, in the Foreign Language Film Award category. The two French films nominated in the Foreign Language category are *Saint Laurent*, directed by Bertrand Bonello, and *Timbuktu*, directed by Abderrahmane Sissako and shot in Mauritania.

Saint Laurent tells the story of the life of acclaimed fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent, focusing on the years from 1967 to 1976, during the peak of his career. Saint Laurent is played by French actor Gaspard Ulliel. Léa Seydoux also appears in the film, playing Loulou de la Falaise, Saint Laurent's muse and the inspiration for many of his designs.

Timbuktu takes a look at the brief occupation of the title city by members of the militant Islamic rebel group Ansar Dine. The film was nominated for the Palme d'Or at

the 2014 Cannes Film Festival, which is the highest prize awarded at the festival. Although it did not win that award, the film is expected to do very well at the 2015 Academy Awards.

The French co-productions include *Two Days, One Night*, directed by Luc and Jean-Pierre Dardenne, which was co-produced in France, Belgium and Italy, and *Mateo*, directed by Maria Gamboa and co-produced in Columbia and France.

One of the peculiarities of the Best Foreign Language Film Award is that it is not presented to a specific person, although it is accepted by the winning film's director. Unlike many other Academy Awards, the Best Foreign Language Film award is a source of pride for the entire submitting country.

Atlanta hosts "French Community Night" for player Evan Fournier

On December 12, the Atlanta Hawks held a French community event to show their support for French player Evan Fournier, who took on the Hawks as part of the Orlando Magic. Members of the French community received discounted tickets to the game, and the first 30 children ages six to thirteen had a chance to be part of the "Dream Team." The first 100 guests of the French community were also granted access to participate in an exclusive pre-match before the game.

Fournier, who is from from Saint-Maurice, France, played for French teams Nanterre and Poitiers before being drafted by the Denver Nuggets. He began playing for the Orlando Magic in June 2014. Even as a rival player, the French community was excited to welcome Fournier, who hails from their home country.

While Fournier earned 18 points for the Orlando Magic, his team ultimately lost to the Atlanta Hawks, who won 87-81.

"A Dialogue with Landscape" showcased in Washington, D.C.

The Cultural Services of the Embassy of France, in partnership with the Cross MacKenzie Gallery of Washington, D.C., presented the exhibition *A Dialogue with Landscape* by Rafael Torres Correa, a well-known Cuban artist, on December 2. The exhibition was Correa's first solo exposition in the Washington, D.C. area, and ran through January 3, 2015.

Born in Cuba, Correa showcased his first art display in France in 1997. His work connects identity with landscapes and illustrates the emotional ties created between people and the spaces around them. Correa says of his work, "My view is a celebration of nature, as I set down the question of our relationship with the natural world. I work with matter, analyzing the relationships between society and nature according to a given geographical context."

Correa used a mixed media technique to create his masterpieces, which appear almost wet to the eye. Between 2009 and 2012, he explored the relationship between people and landscape in French Guiana, and presented several exhibitions with the support of French space agency Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales. He has exhibited his work in France, Spain and Mexico, and now lives and works in the Washington, D.C. area.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Arnaud Guillois

EDITOR
Benoît Cormier

MANAGING EDITOR
Courtney Vinopal

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Courtney Vinopal

STAFF WRITERS
Abby Fram, Vanessa Morales, Alison Verbeke

To change your address, subscribe (for free) or unsubscribe, please contact:

**NEWS FROM FRANCE
FRENCH EMBASSY
PRESS & COMMUNICATION SERVICE**
4101 Reservoir Road, NW
Washington, DC 20007-2182

Tel: (202) 944-6060
Fax: (202) 944-6040

www.franceintheus.org
info@ambafrance-us.org
www.facebook.com/FranceInTheUS
Twitter: @franceintheus

24 veterans presented with Legion of Honor in Washington



Veterans present for the Legion of Honor ceremony on December 10 gathered together at the *Maison Française*. Many Legion of Honor ceremonies have been held this year, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe.

▲ On December 10, American veterans and their families gathered at the *Maison Française* for a ceremony awarding 24 recipients with the Legion of Honor.

The National Order of the Legion of Honor is the highest decoration bestowed in France. Many American veterans that served in France during World Wars I and II have received this honor, particularly as this year marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Europe by Allied Forces.

Olivier Sérot Almeras, Consul General of France in Washington, spoke to the veterans present at the ceremony, and thanked them for the sacrifices they made in the face of great danger so that French citizens could maintain their freedom.

"Without you Americans, we would have been unable

to maintain our freedom," Mr. Sérot Almeras said, "We will never forget what you have done for us. This is the cornerstone between our two countries, our two people."

After being bestowed with the honor, the veterans gathered with their families and fellow brothers in arms to celebrate this important accomplishment.

The veterans awarded were George Alezander Aubrey, Arthur Breyer, Donald Coe, Clement Dowler, Frank Robert Feduik, Edward Franey Jr., William Georgov Jr., John Gordon, Robert Hall, Donald Hepler, John Horne, William Hornsby, Albion Hutcherson, Darius Jones, William Jucksch, Charles Keel, Joseph Maguire, William McCallister, Charles McGuire, James McLeod, William Minton Jr., Peter Munger, Eric Wiesenhutter, and Rudolph Zamula.

Permit NO. 4620
Washington, DC
PAID
U.S. POSTAGE
MAIL
FIRST CLASS
PRESORTED

A free monthly review of French news & trends

