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CD-ROM

Louisiana
French

This CD-ROM represents the first concrete product of an ambitious project whose goal is to provide readily available resources that focus specifically on the lexicon of Louisiana French (LF). The Louisiana French Dictionary Project is financed by the National Endowment for the Humanities (Division of Preservation and Access, grant # PA-23298-99) and several universities. The project team is grateful to the Louisianians who have generously offered their time and their knowledge throughout the fieldwork/data collection phase, providing samples of Louisiana French speech.

*A la découverte du français cadien
à travers la parole*



\$17.50

*Discovering Cajun French
through the spoken word*

The Louisiana French Dictionary Project is directed by Albert Valdman in collaboration with Barry Jean Ancelet, Amanda LaFleur, Michael D. Picone, Kevin J. Rottet and Dominique Ryon. These team members collected and transcribed the speech samples.

David M. Rojas, Deborah Piston-Hatlen, Kathryn Propst, Madeleine Gonin, Meei-Yun Tyan and Tamara Lindner edited the CD-ROM.

Photo: Philip Gould

Those who are interested in LF will be able not only to consult a representative list of terms from the language's lexicon and to read texts illustrating how the language is used in everyday communicative interactions, but also to hear the speech of French-speaking Louisianians. This CD-ROM brings together 35 transcribed texts totaling 155 pages from which we have taken over 100 minutes of oral excerpts, some from interviews recorded on site, others from radio archives. The whole collection covers the speech of 32 towns in 13 parishes of the French-speaking Triangle. All of these parishes, with the exception of Terrebonne, are represented in the oral excerpts; there are, however, over 30 pages of transcribed text from Terrebonne Parish.

This CD-ROM presents a large variety of linguistic contexts. Not only the usual dialogues between an interviewer and a native speaker, but also conversational exchanges, often between different generations of Louisiana natives, are found here. The participants treat a broad range of subjects: domestic life, married life, work in the house and on the land, pastimes and occupations such as hunting and fishing, as well as the usual themes of ethnological inquiry with cultural relevance such as folk beliefs, local celebrations, and traditions like the "boucherie" and house dances "fais dodo." The life histories evoke some of the community's important historical events. A musician talks about a tour in Europe, and a centenarian describes in minute detail how contraband whiskey (the famous "moonshine") was produced. The CD-ROM also contains lists of all the words that appear in the corpus, as well as concordances that show uses of a word accompanied by a brief context.