

MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER
Quebec Seminary Collection, 1623-1800
(17th-19th centuries),

Ref No. 2006-18

PART A – ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

1 SUMMARY

The Quebec Seminary Collection, 1623-1800 (17th-19th centuries), describing the birth of Quebec and Canada, is hereby nominated for inclusion in the Memory of the World Register.

Founded in 1663 for the purpose of training priests and evangelizing Amerindians in the diocese of Quebec, which then covered the whole of North America, the Quebec Seminary bears witness to the migration, introduction, continuity and influence of French culture and Catholic spirituality in North America and to their interaction with indigenous cultures and with other cultures of European origin. Its Archives and Library, established early on, contain in particular documents produced or received by its members during the French regime (1534-1763) and the first decades of the British regime (1763-1800). They also include a part of the library of the Jesuit College, the first institution of higher education founded in North America (1653-1765).

By virtue of their large number, their many different origins and their coherence as a collection, these documents form an irreplaceable part of the Canadian and North American culture of Quebec. They constitute an invaluable source for the study of the colonial history of North America. They confirm the decisive role played in exchanges between the Old and New Worlds by Quebec, a four-hundred-year-old cultural, spiritual and political capital placed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1985. They are located in the historical place where they came into being and from which they cannot be dissociated.

2 DETAILS OF THE NOMINATOR

2.1 Name

Claire Simard, Director-General
Musée de la civilisation
C.P. 155, succ. B Québec (Québec) Canada G1K 7A6

2.2 Relationship to the documentary heritage nominated

Opened in 1988, the *Musée de la civilisation* is located in Quebec City, the capital of the province of Quebec, at the heart of a historical area close to Place-Royale, the founding site of French America. This museum is distinguished by its bold and innovative approach. It is intended to serve as a place of knowledge and ideas, a richly-endowed museum, a house of education and a living memory. The young and not so young return to it again and again; there they make discoveries, experience unusual situations, are moved and entertained. Visitors to it find endless opportunities to learn and be surprised, as the museum organizes increasing numbers of activities and mounts several new exhibitions every year. In addition, the museum runs a historic home in Place-Royale, the *Maison Chevalier*, and has for 15 years been putting on activities designed to explain and present the Place-Royale site; in June 1995 the *Musée de l'Amérique française* was incorporated into the museum; and in October 1999 the *Centre d'interprétation de Place-Royale* was added to the museum's museological complex.

As at 31 March 2005, 146 persons were regularly employed by the *Musée de la civilisation*, including 12 supervisory staff, 57 professionals and 77 support staff.

2.3 **Contact person (s)**

Danielle Aubin, Director
Centre de référence de l'Amérique française
Musée de la civilisation
C.P. 155, succ. B
Québec (Québec)
Canada G1K 7A6
Telephone: (418) 528-1777
Fax: (418) 692-5206
Email: daubin@mcq.org

3 IDENTITY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

3.1 **Name and identification**

The Quebec Seminary Collection, 1623-1800

Owner: Séminaire de Québec
1, rue des Remparts C.P. 460, Haute-Ville
Québec (Québec) Canada G1R 4R7

Custodian: Centre de référence de l'Amérique française
Musée de la civilisation
9, rue de l'Université C.P. 460, Haute-Ville
Québec (Québec) Canada G1R 4R7

3.2 **Description**

The Quebec Seminary

Unusually for an archive centre, the archives of the Quebec Seminary form an integral part of the collections managed by the *Musée de la civilisation*. They link up with an important collection of art objects, ethno-historical objects, scientific objects, archaeological artefacts and a library of ancient books containing more than 180,000 works. It is important to note that these various collections have been assembled systematically within the framework of the Quebec Seminary's activities. As the history of that institution cannot be dissociated from that of the society in which it has been operating for more than 300 years, it may be said that the collections reflect not only the development of the Seminary, but also that of Quebec society as a whole.

In this particular context, the archives of the Seminary are of special importance as they offer a threefold source of information, as testimony to the history of French speakers in America, as a source for historical research and as museological documents.

The Quebec Seminary Collection, 1623-1800

Immediately upon being founded in 1663, the Quebec Seminary and its priests began making an immense contribution to intellectual, cultural and social life in New France, as is attested by the many documents preserved from that time.

Among the documents in the archive collection of the Quebec Seminary identified for this nomination, we have made a selective choice based on criteria of period and events. The documents selected are the most representative and significant for the development of the colony, Quebec City, and Quebec and Canadian society.

Nine series and sub-series are included in the nomination from among the 26 series and sub-series making up the archive collection. They pertain to a historical area in North America, created by

France, which over the centuries was to become one of the great regions in the continent. The dates fixing the time parameters for the corpus are 1623 for the beginnings of this new world and 1800 for the end of the French regime and the taking over of the colony by Great Britain.

These unique, authentic and illuminating documents, which are recognized to offer a key to understanding the social development of Quebec and Canada, are contained in the following series and sub-series (see also detailed description in Annex 1):

● SME 1: Founding of the Quebec Seminary and its works

Charters, letters patent, deeds of foundation, regulations, directories, customaries, lists of the first officers, conventions between Monsignor de Laval (founder of the Seminary and first Catholic Bishop of Canada) and the *Séminaire des missions-étrangères de Paris*.

● SME 2: Administration in the Quebec Seminary

Journal of the Seminary (describing day-to-day comings and goings and notable events affecting the Seminary and society in general), minutes of meetings, board meetings, correspondence with Colbert, Louis XIV and Msgr de Laval.

● SME 2.1: Precious correspondence

Letters to and from monarchs (the French kings Louis XIV and XV, the French queens Anne of Austria and Maria Theresa of Austria), popes (Alexander VII, Innocent XI, Innocent XIII, Clement X,) ministers of France (Richelieu, Colbert, Maurepas), and the governors and founders of New France (le comte Buade de Frontenac, Chomedey de Maisonneuve, le comte d'Argenson, le marquis de Vaudreuil, Jeanne Mance).

● SME 4: Account books, foundations and donations

These documents – invoices, account books, ledgers, general registers, registers of landed property and payers of the *cens* land tax – show in detail how the financial resources and properties of the Seminary, particularly its fiefdoms and domains, were managed. They set out in particular the description, quantity, provenance and prices of all articles imported and put into circulation in the colony by the Seminary.

● SME 5: Properties and domains

Acquisitions, property deeds, authorizations and censuses, plans, cadastral records and other documents bear witness to the landed property operations of the second biggest landowner in New France.

● SME 6: Protection of rights

Documents enabling officers to establish the rights and privileges of the Seminary as a landowner, corporate seigneur and administrator.

● SME 12: Spiritual influence

Correspondence and documents showing the organization of the territory, deeds for the institution of ecclesiastical cures and documents relating to the diocese of Quebec, missions in Acadia and the Mississippi, the sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady, parishes and bishops.

● SME 13: The manuscript collection

Handwritten course notes (civil law, physics, chemistry, canon law, theology, history, rhetoric, medicine, astronomy, belles-lettres, architecture, arithmetic and philosophy), dictionaries, catechisms and Amerindian chants, historical documents.

Note: Some of these documents were acquired through donations or bequests.

● SME 15: The map collection

Geographical maps, maps of cities, villages, missions and buildings, showing the extent of exploration and population movements and settlements throughout the continent; these documents supplement and explain the textual documents.

- Provenance

The documents were produced by the officers and members of the Quebec Seminary, by their correspondents in France, in Rome and in the missions, and by the civil and the judicial authorities of the mother country and of the colony.

- State of conservation

The state of conservation of the documents in the collection of archives is excellent. The priests of the Seminary and now the staff of the *Musée de la civilisation* have always taken care to preserve the physical materials on which information is recorded and to safeguard the integrity of their precious contents. Various preservation and conservation measures have been taken since 1995.

- Physical state

Analysis or evaluation, physical state. Characteristics of the document.

Gauthier, Francine. *Évaluation globale des installations, des procédures, des pratiques et des documents du Service des archives historiques et de documentation du Musée de la civilisation*. Québec, March 1997, 44 pages. (**Annexe 4, French only**)

Politique et procédures de préservation des fonds et des collections du Service des archives et de la documentation. Québec: Service des archives et de la documentation, Musée de la civilisation, March 1998. (**Annexe 6, French only**)

- Visual documentation

Photographs annexed hereto show the store rooms where textual documents, manuscripts and books from the library are kept. The white cases are containers made of corrugated polypropylene (coroplast), a non-acidic residue board, made to measure for all manuscripts and rare and fragile works (**Annexes 8, and 9 (page 4), French only**)

- Bibliography

Courchesne, Marie-Josée et Chantal Michaud. *Plus de trois siècles d'histoire à découvrir: Les archives du Séminaire de Québec*. Québec: Service des archives et de la documentation, Musée de la civilisation, 1998, 175 p. (Cahiers du Musée de la civilisation. Les collections). http://www.mcq.org/objets/fonds_archives/index.html

Baillargeon, Noël. *Les missions du Séminaire de Québec dans la vallée du Mississippi, 1698-1699*. Québec: Service des archives et de la documentation, Musée de la civilisation, 2002, 105 p. (Cahiers du Musée de la civilisation. Collections et Archives).

Since 4 May 2005 a permanent exhibition, *L'Œuvre du Séminaire de Québec*, has been on show in the *Musée de l'Amérique française*.

Since September 2005 a permanent exhibition, *Des saisons en Nouvelle-France*, has been displayed on the Museum's website. <http://www.mcq.org/Nouvelle-France/index.html>

Names, qualifications and contact details of experts

Ms Line Beauchamp, Minister
Ministry of Culture and Communications
Government of Quebec
225, Grande Allée Est, 1er étage, bloc A
Québec (Québec) Canada G1R 5G5

Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec
475, boulevard de Maisonneuve Est
Montréal (Québec) Canada H2L 5C4

Ms Lise Bissonnette
Chief Executive Officer

Mr Carol Couture
Curator and Director-General of Archives

Mr Hermann Giguère
Superior General
Séminaire de Québec
C.P. 460, succ. Haute-Ville
Québec (Québec) Canada G1R 4R7

4 JUSTIFICATION FOR INCLUSION

4.1 Authenticity

The authenticity of the documents in the archive collection of the Quebec Seminary is to be understood with reference to two basic concepts, namely, their authenticity within the archive collection as originally established, and the authenticity of each individual document in the corpus.

The documents contained in the archive collection of the Quebec Seminary derive from the internal actors of the institution and/or their relationship with the national and international social context. Moreover, the expansion of this collection, its treatment and, more generally, its management had always been the responsibility of priests serving as archivists in the Quebec Seminary until June 1995, when responsibility was transferred to the *Musée de la civilisation*. Consequently, the vigilance, method and care of the religious communities in respect of their holdings and collections guarantee the authenticity and integrity of the collection and its contents.

4.2 World significance and uniqueness

The Quebec Seminary Collection is of world significance because it bears witness to a sustained and unprecedented mass social phenomenon in the geographical area concerned, namely: the migration, from the Old to the New World, of an age-old institution of education and training, with its actors and traditions; the adaptation of this educational institution and its promoters to entirely new human and geographical realities; and lastly, their integration into the social, economic and political life of the New World, whose underlying structures were thereby affected. The contents of the collection offer evidence of the continual circulation of social developments and ideas between Europe and America following the first discoveries. In addition, it is contemporaneous with the consolidation of France's position in 17th-century America, and it attests to the influence of the Quebec Seminary as a bridgehead of France into the whole of the new continent, from the Gulf of Saint Lawrence to the Mississippi Delta, and from the Atlantic coast to the Rocky Mountains. The Collection is unique and irreplaceable because it is made up of mostly handwritten original documents, because they were produced continuously, without a break, during the period concerned, and because they are located in the very place where they were produced.

4.3 Specific criteria

● Time

This collection bears witness to the age of the “great discoveries” made by the European powers in modern times, and in particular to the colonization of the New World and the continual growth of spiritual, societal and commercial exchanges between Europe and North America. Many documents in the collection report the earliest encounters, in turn peaceful and conflict-ridden, between the European cultures and the Amerindian cultures of the eastern, central and northern parts of the continent. They convey the point of view of the Catholics in their determination to convert the indigenous populations to their faith.

● Place

The collection shows in detail, through maps and drawings in particular, the distinctive settlement pattern of the French in Quebec, in the St Lawrence Valley, in Acadia and in certain other regions of Canada and the United States: land occupation through an original system of “slopes” and “rows”, tapping of natural resources such as fisheries, and creation of fortified centres, in particular Quebec. It also illustrates the invention of missions and “reductions”, which were the prototypes of the Amerindian reservations. For the interior of the continent, it offers distinctive and unmatched accounts of the journeys of discovery and evangelization, in particular descriptions of places and landscapes before their colonization.

● People

The Quebec Seminary collection attests first and foremost to the spiritual and academic training, by way of rigorous teaching, of a clergy of Catholic priests adapted to North American cultures and to the expansionist designs of French culture. It also bears witness to migratory flows between Europe and America (arrival of new settlers) and to the population growth of their descendants (opening of new parishes). It describes how Amerindian communities migrated, were pushed back and shrank in size (missionaries’ reports). It shows in detail the introduction, adaptation and independent development of methods of land appropriation (in particular the seigneurial system), modes of religious organization (in particular parishes), legal codes (in particular the Custom of Paris in civil law) and forms of French power (Governor, Intendant, Sovereign Council, etc.) in North America. It shows the transition from an unstable society based on the fur trade to a stable and increasingly self-sufficient society. It records the introduction and development of techniques for tapping natural resources (agriculture, fisheries, forests). It provides a detailed record of the everyday life of the inhabitants both in peacetime and in wartime. It offers ample testimony to the adaptation of the inhabitants and of the clergy to the new economic, political and religious order that grew out of the conquest of New France by the British Crown (1763). It is also a source of information about the repercussions of the American Revolution (1776). The collection shows in particular the influence exercised by its founder, Monsignor François de Laval, who was beatified in 1980.

● Subject and theme

In all areas of historical science and heritage studies (society, economy, politics, culture, history of architecture, etc.), the collection abounds in first-hand information. It tells us in particular about the adaptation of Catholic precepts and practices to changing ideas and manners over a period of two centuries in a society composed of settlers of European origin and Amerindians. It describes among other things the work of conversion and religious instruction in accordance with the principles adopted by the Roman Catholic Church, the means adopted to combat superstitions and deviant behaviour among the French settlers, the fight against Amerindian beliefs and the containment of the influence of the Protestant Reformation and the Enlightenment in North America. As regards the history of education, the collection offers abundant evidence of the principles and methods of higher education.

● Form and style

Written mainly in French, the documents attest to the use and development of the various levels of language: official, religious and legal terminology; terms of everyday life in the colony, inherited from the French of the mother country and adapted to the new geographical, climatic and other conditions; terms borrowed from the indigenous languages. The priceless documents conserved in the collection include dictionaries and handwritten compilations in the Amerindian languages, which reflect the state of those languages from the 17th to the 19th centuries. The texts of travel tales are a source of countless linguistic and toponymic details. Several documents are in Church Latin, and others in English, following the transfer of New France to Great Britain.

4.4 Rarity, integrity, management

The rarity and the uniqueness of the documents in the archive collection of the Quebec Seminary are due simply to the fact that they were produced by the creators of the collection from the time when the Seminary was founded and that they were the result of the everyday activities and influence of the religious community, giving them the requisite specificity for an archive collection.

● *Integrity*

The archive documents originated with the creators of the collection and were conserved by them (priests of the Quebec Seminary and archivists since the mid-17th century) and then by the *Musée de la civilisation*, whose credentials in the matter of heritage conservation and protection cannot be disputed.

Note: the documents nominated are complete and unspoiled and have never suffered from natural calamities, plunder or vandalism. They have been protected for what they are, namely, national and international treasures.

5. LEGAL INFORMATION

5.1. Owner of the documentary heritage

Séminaire de Québec
1, rue des Remparts
C.P. 460, Haute-Ville
Québec (Québec) Canada G1R 4R7

Superior General: Hermann Giguère

5.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage

Musée de la civilisation
16, rue de la Barricade
C.P. 155, succ. B
Québec (Québec) Canada G1K 7A6

Director-General: Claire Simard

5.3 Legal status

● *Category of ownership*

The documents are owned by a private body, the Quebec Seminary, as they have been since the religious community was founded in 1663.

● *Accessibility*

All the documents, irrespective of the nature of the physical medium on which they are recorded, are accessible to users/researchers through the facility made available at the *Centre de référence de l'Amérique française*. Digitization is facilitating access while keeping to a minimum the handling and circulation of original documents. In 2004-2005, 4,530 inquiries were answered. <http://www.mcq.org/fr/complex/craf.html>

In addition, numerous promotional measures (search mechanism, catalogue, virtual exhibition, live exhibition, printed and electronic publication) have increased content accessibility and brought the documents to a wider international audience.

The commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the city of Quebec, in 2008, will inevitably enhance the **visibility, influence and accessibility** of the archives and books of the Quebec Seminary. A large number of project teams are already drawing on our services for the use of original sources for the purposes of research, printed and electronic publications, festive events, exhibitions, and film and multimedia productions.

Quebec, world heritage city, will be spotlighted by the international mass media in 2008.

Recognition by the Memory of the World programme would be a major asset for Quebec City, for the *Musée de la civilisation*, for the Quebec Seminary and for the whole of Canada. This international renown would be systematically promoted in events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Quebec. **A multi-faceted promotional campaign would be organized, in the most favourable possible context** and with an **international specificity** befitting this kind of recognition and this type of event.

● *Copyright status*

The documents of the Quebec Seminary collection are totally free of copyright because of their age. There is no restriction on their being communicated by the owner or by the custodian.

● *Responsible administration*

The *Musée de la civilisation* is the legal custodian of the Quebec Seminary collection and of all the documents in the Quebec Seminary library (incunabula and mediaeval manuscripts). The ways in which this responsibility shall be exercised are clearly set out in the convention signed by the two parties and approved by decree by the Ministry of Culture and Communications of Quebec.

● *Other factors*

By virtue of its status, the *Musée de la civilisation* is required to comply with the *Archives Act* (L.R.Q., c.A-21.1)

The *Centre de référence de l'Amérique française*, previously known as the Archives and Documentation Service, has been recognized as an approved centre for private archives by the Ministry of Culture and Communications of the Government of Quebec since 1992.

6 MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Operation and management plan

The *Musée de la civilisation*, an internationally recognized institution, gives priority in its operation to the integrated management of the documentary heritage and collections in its care. Its work and funding serve to promote content access, management and lasting protection. The security system, backed by information technologies and permanently stationed security agents, make the museum a high-security area. These factors relating to the conservation and security of the archive groups and collections are a constant concern for the museum management and for the staff of the administrative services concerned.

(Annexes 17, 18 and 19 available in French only)

6.2 Conservation and preservation

Ambient conditions, in the store rooms, are regularly monitored by qualified personnel (engineer, museum technician, curator) from the administrative services, the materials and museum organization departments, the *Centre de référence de l'Amérique française* and the collections department. Readings of the humidity rate and temperature are made daily and checked every month so as to guard against deviations that would be harmful to the materials held in the storerooms.

(Annexes 6, 7, 8, 9 and 20 available in French only)

7 CONSULTATION

7.1 Validation of submission of this nomination by (a) the owner of the heritage (b) the custodian (c) your national or regional *Memory of the World* committee

(a) Hermann Giguère, Superior General, Quebec Seminary

(b) Claire Simard, Director General, Musée de la civilisation

(c) Ms Pauline Dugré
National Committee
Canada Council for the Arts
Ottawa (Canada)

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Not applicable

PART C – LODGEMENT

This nomination is lodged by:

CLAIRE SIMARD, DIRECTOR GENERAL
MUSÉE DE LA CIVILISATION

(Signature)..... (Date)...10.02.2006 (revised 17.1.2007).....

NOTE

In keeping with the recommendations received in December 2006 to revise the nomination, some annexes from the original have been removed. As a result, annexes 2,3,5 and 12 no longer form part of the present nomination.

1 Annex 1

SME - Quebec Seminary

The fonds traces the history of the Quebec Seminary from its founding in 1663 to the present. It is a testimony of activities in the teaching field. The fonds helps to create a better understanding of the development of the institution and of its three institutions: the Grand Séminaire, the Petit Séminaire and Laval University. It provides information on the management of the Seminary's holdings, and in particular, its domain lands. It also describes the priests who worked within the institution and the missionary work it carried out.

In addition, as the Seminary played an important part in the development of the colony, its files illustrate the birth of New France and the implantation of French culture. They also describe the beginning of the educational network in Quebec.

The fonds contains correspondence, founding acts, financial documents, personnel records, teaching documents, seigneurial land deeds and properties of the Seminary, entitlements, its spiritual influence and religious life, publications, manuscripts, photographs, charts and plans.

The fonds includes the following series:

- SME 1 Founding of the Seminary and its works;
- SME 2 Administration of the Quebec Seminary;
- SME 3 Personnel of the Quebec Seminary;
- SME 4 Account books, foundations and donations;
- SME 5 Properties and domains;
- SME 6 Protection of rights;
- SME 7 Role of executor;
- SME 8 Education of young people and the training of priests;
- SME 9 Higher education at Laval University;
- SME 10 Official ceremonies; possessions
- SME 11 Publications;
- SME 12 Spiritual influence;
- SME 13 The manuscript collection;
- SME 14 The photograph collection;
- SME 15 The map collection.

SME 1 Founding of the Seminary

The series describes the founding of the Quebec Seminary, in 1663, by the granting of letters patent by Louis XIV which conferred its legal existence. It relates the unification of the Quebec Seminary with the Séminaire des Missions Étrangères de Paris (1665), resulting in the Séminaire des Missions Étrangères de Québec. The series also gives information on the election of the first officers of the Quebec Seminary and on the regulations governing the proper functioning of the Seminary. It provides information about the founding of the Grand Séminaire (1663), Petit Séminaire (1668) and Laval University (1852). The documents also illustrate specific rules and regulations adopted by the Seminary with respect to the Grand and the Petit Séminaire.

The series includes charters, letters patent, founding documents, rules and regulations, directories, statutes, lists of the first officers, and agreements between Msgr de Laval and the Seminary of Paris.

SME 2 Administration of the Seminary

The series relates to the administration of the Quebec Seminary from its founding in 1663 up to 1990. It provides information on the commercial activities of the Seminary, its history and relations it maintained with various personages. The series gives information on the mandate of religious superiors and proctors, and in particular, on management of daily business and the various properties owned by the Seminary in Quebec and on the Côte-de-Beaupré. The series describes the decisions

taken by various assemblies on management of the Seminary and its works. Likewise, its journal describes events which took place at the Seminary.

The series contains correspondence of several important people such as Jean-Baptist Colbert, Louis XIV and Msgr de Laval; documents relating to religious superiors and proctors including copies of official reports and correspondence; documents on meetings of the Seminary and University Councils; and the Seminary newspaper.

The series contains the following sub-series: *La correspondance précieuse* (1680-1897), *Les affaires des supérieurs et des procureurs* (1851-1990), *Les séances de conseils* (1678-1980).

SME 2.1 La correspondance précieuse (Precious correspondence)

The sub-series contains data of historical importance concerning certain activities of the Quebec Seminary. It narrates the relations maintained by the Seminary with its missionaries in Acadia and Mississippi; with the foreign missions seminary of Paris as well as with personages of considerable political and religious influence who played an important part in the evolution of Canadian society.

Moreover, the correspondence provides information on the leading persons involved in the founding of the Quebec Seminary; its history, heritage, personnel, relations between the bishops and priests, as well as evangelization and Gallicizing of indigenous people.

The sub-series contains, inter alia, correspondence from Louis XIV, Jean-Baptist Colbert, Louis XV, Queens Marie-Thérèse and Anne of Austria, Msgr de Laval, Msgr de Saint-Vallier, Popes Alexandre VII, Innocent XI, Innocent XIII and Clement X.

It includes also correspondence with Buade de Frontenac, Maisonneuve, Richelieu, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, the Count d' Argenson, the Count of Maurepas as well as Jeanne Mance. The sub-series contains correspondence with missionaries such as Pierre Maillard, Jean-François Buisson de Saint-Cosme, Marc Bergier and Francier Ratier; correspondence with such proctors as François-Jacques Montigny, François de Villars, Louis Ango de Maizerets and Antoine Parant; correspondence from the proctors and religious superiors of the Seminary of the Paris foreign missions including Jacques-Charles Brisacier, Henri-Jean Tremblay and Louis Tiberge.

SME 4 Accounts books, foundations and donations

The series covers the administration of financial resources of the Seminary from 1674 to 1992. It helps to follow the evolution of financial management practices from the establishment of New France to the 20th century. Data is provided on the income and expenditure of the Seminary and about the distribution of resources to the Grand Séminaire, the Petit Séminaire and Laval University.

The series also describes the role of the Seminary as an owner of strongholds and domains; it provides information on taxes and administration of seigneurial revenues until their abolition in 1854. It gives a management account of exploitation of the farms, mills and forest owned by the Seminary including the agricultural occupation assumed through the intermediary, among others, of the farms and forestry service.

Furthermore, the series outlines the administration of funds (deposits and loans to private individuals) and sales by the Seminary. Finally, it describes the establishment of foundations and donations, such as the foundations of Msgr de Laval and the subscription campaigns *Aide à Laval* from 1920-1921 and 1948-1952 which provided financial support for the Seminary.

The series contains invoices (1748-1909), accounts books, ledgers, general newspapers, daily expenses and receipts, financial reports on contribution campaigns as well as account books of boarders.

There are also account books for the land registers, plans and taxes for domains in Ile-Jésus, Ange-Gardien, Château-Richer, Sainte-Anne, Saint-Joachim, Baie-Saint-Paul, Saint-Urbain, Laval, Petite-Rivière, Île aux Coudres, Les Caps, Sault-au-Matlot, Petit-Pré, Anse-Saint-Michel, Saint-François-

Xavier, Coulonge and Bergerville. It contains revenue reports on lands affected by the *Loi abolissant les rentes seigneuriales* (law abolishing seigneurial revenues).

It also includes receipt books and expenditure for the farms of Saint-Ignace, Graves de Saint-Joachim, la Petite ferme, la Grande ferme de la Marsolette, Saint-Martin, Saint-Isidore du Sacré-Coeur, Maizerets; receipt books and expenditure for the Crochet flour and saw mills, as well as account books for the use of flour, saw and cordage mills. The series contains registers of pedigreed animals, registers of sales of wheat, butter and milk.

SME 5 Properties and domains

The series contains information on the acquisitions of domains, such as Beaupré by Msgr de Laval, with the aim of ensuring the subsistence of the Quebec Seminary, and describes the establishment of farms and mills.

It includes the donation of movable property and real estate by Msgr de Laval to the Quebec Seminary, in 1680, of all his goods and properties in France and in Canada. Moreover, the series contains the title deeds transactions of the Seminary for the domains of Beaupré, de Beauport, de l'Île d'Orléans, de l'Île-Jésus as well as the fiefdoms of the Île aux Coudres et Sault-au-Matelot from 1626 to 1679. The series describes improvements to and transformations of the buildings and properties of the Seminary.

The series contains information on balliwick meetings, concessions, sale ratifications, official land survey reports, plots, leases, contracts, title transfers, assignations, receipts, summonses, legal edicts, cadastral records, consents and lists as well as plans. It also includes contracts and estimates, tenders for repair and construction.

SME 6 Protection of rights

The series shows the entitlements of the Quebec Seminary, from 1725 to 1944, as a corporate seigneur and landowner. It describes legal steps for the institution to take against bad creditors and the legal battles in which it was embroiled on the subject of fishing, timber and passage rights.

The series contains notes about exchanges or agreements about seigneurial rights, lawsuit files, requests, official reports, judgements, lists of exhibits.

SME 12 Spiritual influence

The series describes the role of the Quebec Seminary in the organization and administration of the Diocese of Quebec, its parishes and its curacies as well as the founding of missions in Mississippi and in Acadia. It depicts the relations of the Seminary with bishops, the Diocese, the Congregation of Notre-Dame and the various parishes including Quebec. It tells of religious life within the Seminary and beatification processes including that of Msgr de Laval.

The series contains correspondence, construction of curacies, documents relating to the missions, parishes, bishops, Sisters of Congregation of Notre-Dame, as well as requests of the Quebec Chapter.

The series includes the following sub-series: Missions, the Diocese of Quebec, religious life.

SME 13 Manuscript collection

The collection constitutes an important source of information on the evolution of teaching methods. It constitutes, today, a privileged historical link because of the great diversity of subjects and the period covered. It contains information about the Jesuits, the languages of the indigenous people as well as the governors of Canada, the life of Philippe Aubert de Gaspé and on school life the end of the 18th century. It is a source of historical, sociological, philosophical, educational, theological and other research.

The collection contains handwritten and printed courses notes by students of the Seminary and Laval University or produced by professors of these institutions. The course notes relate to the civil law, physics, chemistry, canonical right, theology, history, rhetoric, medicine, astronomy, the humanities,

architecture, arithmetic and philosophy. This collection also includes historical manuscripts, of retranscribed historical documents, dictionaries, catechisms and collections of Amerindian songs, official correspondence of the governors of Canada, the original manuscript of “Anciens Canadiens” and some chapters of the memoire of Philippe Aubert of Gaspé, newspaper of siege of Quebec (1759) as well as many other history tomes.

SME 15 Map collection

The collection includes representations of North, Central and South America. The colonies are largely represented from the French regime as well as the English. Details of the exploration voyages in Canada and the United States by the great explorers of the time can be found along with the wars which marked our history. Plans for the establishment of missions and of forts contribute to following the development of the colonies. These maps and plans are often accompanied by historical notes of huge importance. They include a great number of plans showing the evolution of the site and the buildings of the Seminary and the Laval University, as well as the urban development of Quebec, Montreal and surrounding areas.

The collection includes maps and charts some of which can be found in manuscripts, atlases and old books, or in other archival fonds.