

A BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE WRITINGS IN, AND ABOUT THE
CREOLE DIALECT OF LOUISIANA

PREFACE

Although a Frenchman, C. C. Robin, is the first, as far as I know, to mention the Creole Dialect of Louisiana, the credit for the initial philological study belongs to a New Orleans Creole, Dr. Alfred Mercier, who in 1880 published a short pamphlet—"Étude sur la Langue Creole en Louisiane"—which is still the cornerstone upon which all later philologists have based their researches. Lafcadio Hearn called it a pioneer effort, the most valuable and curious contribution to American philology he had ever seen, and said that its few eloquent pages were highly prized abroad.

Prof. Alcée Fortier was the next Louisianian to write about the grammar of the Gombo, but his chapter in his "Louisiana Studies" is, in reality, but an amplification of Dr. Mercier's little treatise. Professor Fortier's outstanding service was in the collecting and publishing of a great many of the animal fables which would have been lost but for him.

George W. Cable and Lafcadio Hearn approached the subject from the human interest angle. They have both written fascinating articles and Cable has preserved a good deal of the music of the songs as well.

The other authors listed fall, for the most part, into two classes—those who have collected and published songs and stories composed by the Negroes and those who have chosen the dialect as a vehicle for their own original work.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE CREOLE DIALECT OF LOUISIANA

AUGUSTIN, Major John

1. CHANSON CRÉOLE.

This is one of a series of songs in the dialect composed by Major Augustin and published in the *Times-Democrat* in the 1880s.

The verses are reprinted in "Bits of Louisiana Folk-Lore" by Alcée Fortier, pp. 68-9.

2. TCHOMBO LI.

Another song of this series. It was set to music by W. T. Francis and published as sheet music by Junius Hart in New Orleans in 1888.

BEAUMONT, Joe

1. TOUCOUTOU. (The song.)

Beaumont was a colored barber of New Orleans who composed the words and music of this song just prior to the Civil War. For the words and story, see: "Toucoutou" by Edward Larocque Tinker, New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1928.

For the music, see: "Bayou Ballads."

For biography, see: "Les Écrits de Langue Française en Louisiane," par Edward Larocque Tinker, p. 31.

CABLE, George Washington

1. HISTORICAL SKETCH BOOK AND GUIDE TO NEW ORLEANS.

Edited and compiled by several leading writers of the New Orleans Press. New York: Will H. Coleman, 1885.

This guide book prepared for the Cotton Exposition of 1884-5 is the most interesting ever written. Both Lafcadio Hearn and Cable were contributors, the latter furnishing an article on Creole Songs (pp. 153-160) in which the words of many of them are given.

2. THE DANCE IN PLACE CONGO.

An article in the *Century Magazine* of February, 1886, giving a most colorful account of the slaves dancing on

Congo Square in New Orleans, together with the words and melodies of many of the songs to which they danced.

3. CREOLE SLAVE SONGS.

An article in the *Century Magazine* of April, 1886. It is an exhaustive and most interesting treatise, giving both words and music of many of the songs. Prof. Alcée Fortier, in "Bits of Louisiana Folk-lore," criticizes severely Cable's spelling of Creole.

CHOPPIN, Jules

1. LA CIGALE ET LA FOURMI.

Published in the "Comptes Rendus of the Athénée Louisianais" of New Orleans of May, 1896, p. 479.

For purposes of comparison, this fable is reproduced in the Creole dialects of Louisiana, Martinique and the island of Reunion.

2. LE LOUP ET LE CHIEN & LE CHÈNE ET LE ROSEAU.

"Comptes Rendus," September, 1896, pp. 536-7. Two fables translated into Creole dialect verse.

3. ENTRETIEN SUR LES 12 MOIS DE L'ANNÉE PAR UN VIEUX NÈGRE ST. JACQUOIS NOMMÉ "PA GUITIN."

"Comptes Rendus," January, 1897, pp. 17-20.

"Comptes Rendus," March, 1897, pp. 57-61.

An account, told in Creole dialect verse, of an old Negro's activities through each month of the year. It is interesting not only linguistically but also from the point of view of customs.

4. LES SINGES ET LE LÉOPARD.

"Comptes Rendus," July 1900, p. 114.

It is the same fable told first in correct French verse and repeated in Creole dialect verse.

5. LA CHASSE CHAOUÉ.

"Comptes Rendus," March, 1898, p. 257.

It is the story of a hunting expedition told in Creole dialect verse.

6. L'HUÎTRE ET LES PLAIDEURS.

"Comptes Rendus," September, 1898, p. 341.
Creole dialect verse.

7. LE LIÈVRE ET LA TORTUE.

"Comptes Rendus," January, 1902, p. 56.
Negro fable in Creole dialect verse.

DE MORUELLES, Zenon

1. PITI BONHOMME GODRON.

A Creole dialect fable which was said to have been printed at Waterloo, Louisiana. I have never seen a copy. Alcée Fortier has reproduced it from the original ms. in his "Bits of Louisiana Folk-Lore."

DITCHY, Jay K.

1. LES ACADIENS LOUISIANAIS ET LEUR PARLER.

Published by Institut Français de Washington, Washington, D. C., 1932, p. 272.

This is a glossary of some 3000 words in common use among the Acadians of Louisiana which differ from Standard French. Although it does not properly belong in this list, I include it because it contains some few of the words in use in the Gombo.

EUSTIS, Celestine

1. COOKING IN OLD CREOLE DAYS.

New York, R. H. Russell, 1903.

This charming little cookbook, written by a lady of New Orleans, contains, in addition to its recipes, the words and music of 8 Creole songs and street-cries. Pages 87-8 contain a number of the proverbs.

FORTIER, Alcée

1. THE FRENCH LANGUAGE IN LOUISIANA AND THE NEGRO FRENCH DIALECT.

An article reprinted from the transactions of the Modern Language Association of America. Vol. I, 1884-5, p. 16.

2. BITS OF LOUISIANA FOLK-LORE.

Extracted from the Transactions of the Modern Language Association of America, 1887, Vol. III, Baltimore: 1888.

It contains 10 fables (Negro) with their translations into English and copious notes; also "Piti Bonhomme Godron," reproduced from an ms. of Zenon de Moruelle, written in 1884, some proverbs and the words of several Creole dialect songs. p. 69.

3. LOUISIANA STUDIES.

Literature, Customs and Dialects, History and Education. New Orleans: Published by F. B. Hansell & Bro., 1894.

Contains a splendid discussion of the phonetics and grammar of the dialect and in addition has a translation of a small part of the "Chanson de Roland" into Creole. pp. 134-147.

4. LOUISIANA FOLK-TALES.

In French dialect and English translation. Collected and edited by Alcée Fortier.

Boston and New York: Published by the American Folk-Lore Society by Houghton Mifflin & Co. London: David Nutt, 270 Strand. Leipzig: Otto Harrassowitz, Querstrasse, 14. 1895.

Reprinted by G. E. Stechert & Co., N. Y. p. 122.

It contains 15 animal fables, 12 Marchen or Fairy Tales and an appendix with 14 additional stories, 10 of which had already been published in "Bits of Louisiana Folk-Lore."

5. CONTES LOUISIANAIS EN PATOIS CREOLE.

In "Comptes Rendus," September, 1900. p. 142.

It contains 4 Negro animal fables in the Creole dialect.

HEARN, Lafcadio

1. THE CURIOUS NOMENCLATURE OF NEW ORLEANS STREETS;
SOME LITTLE CREOLE SONGS.

Appeared in the *Commercial* (Cincinnati), February 18,

1878. This article was reprinted in "Occidental Gleanings" by Hearn, Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1925. pp. 263-275.

2. DR. MERCIER'S ESSAY ON THE CREÔLE PATOIS.

An editorial in the *New Orleans Item* of July 10, 1880.

3. A CREOLE SONG.

The words of a Creole dialect song in the *New Orleans Item* of July 26, 1880. Reprinted in "Creole Sketches," pp. 115-116.

4. NOTE ON CREOLE PROVERBS OF THE WEST INDIES.

A leader in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat* of December 31, 1882. All the proverbs here given are reprinted in "Gombo Zhèbes." Hearn obtained his information from an article in *Meschacébé* (a Louisiana Parish newspaper) of October 23, 1875. Some of the proverbs mentioned are also in use in Louisiana.

5. GOMBO ZHÈBES.

A little dictionary of Creole proverbs, selected from six Creole dialects. Translated into French and into English, with notes, complete index to subjects and some brief remarks upon the Creole idioms of Louisiana. New York: Will H. Coleman. 1885. p. 42.

A very valuable contribution with most informative notes. Fifty-one Louisiana proverbs are included.

6.* THE CREOLE PATOIS.

An article in *Harper's Weekly* of January 10 and 17, 1885. It is a very cursory treatment of the subject.

7.* SOME NOTES ON CREOLE LITERATURE.

An editorial in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat* of June 13, 1886. It is a discussion of "Bibliographie des Traditions et de la Littérature populaire des Frances d'outre-mer," by Gaidoz & Sebillot, Paris.

8.* THE SCIENTIFIC VALUE OF CREOLE.

An editorial in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat* of June 14, 1886.

9.* A SKETCH OF THE CREOLE PATOIS.

An editorial in the *New Orleans Times-Democrat* of October 17, 1886.

10. TWO YEARS IN THE FRENCH WEST INDIES.

Harper Bros., New York, 1890. Last Edition 1925.

In an appendix Hearn gives four dialect songs from Martinique in their musical settings. They resemble so closely some of the Louisiana songs that the different versions may have sprung from the same original.

11. CREOLE SKETCHES.

Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1924.

On pages 84 and 115 the words of Creole songs are given.

12. OCCIDENTAL GLEANINGS.

New York, Dodd, Mead & Co., 1925.

Vol. I contains important references to the Creole dialect on the following pages: 270-275, 188-191, 203-207, 227-234.

*NOTE. The starred items, numbers 6, 7, 8, and 9 are reprinted in *The American Miscellany* by Lafcadio Hearn. Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1924.

HENRY, William

1. A long series of mordant satires written in the dialect and directed against the Negro officeholders in Reconstruction days, was published by Henry in the *Carillon* of New Orleans between 1872 and 5.

Some of the contributions were written under the pseudonym, "Henri San Quartier" and others were unsigned.

KREHBIEL, Henry Edward

1. AFRO-AMERICAN FOLKSONGS.

By Henry E. Krehbiel, New York and London, G. Shirmer, 1914.

One of the most valuable books written on the subject. It has several most illuminating chapters on Creole dialect songs of Louisiana and reproduces the words and music of many of them. The material for these chapters was supplied by Lafcadio Hearn and George W. Cable.

LANE, George S.

1. THE NEGRO-FRENCH DIALECT.

Language: Journal of the Linguistic Society of America, Vol. XI, No. 1, March, 1935, pp. 5-16.

An excellent scientific study of the grammar and pronunciation of the Creole Dialect as spoken in St. Martinville, Louisiana. Phonetic transcription is used throughout.

LE JEUNE, Emilie

1. CREOLE FOLK SONGS.

An article giving the words of many Creole dialect songs, which appeared in the *Louisiana Historical Quarterly*, Vol. II, No. 4, October, 1919, pp. 454-462.

Madame Lejeune supplied Cable with many of the songs which he published.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY, Baton Rouge, La.

1. CREOLE FOLKLORE IN PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION.

2. CREOLE DIALECT.

3. A PHONETIC STUDY OF THE CREOLE DIALECT.

4. A PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION OF THE CREOLE NEGRO'S MEDICAL TREATMENTS, SUPERSTITIONS, AND FOLKLORE IN THE PARISH OF POINTE COUPÉE.

5. CREOLE FOLKLORE OF POINTE COUPÉE PARISH.

6. THE NEGRO-FRENCH DIALECT.

7. A STUDY OF THE SYNTAX AND MORPHOLOGY OF THE VERB OF THE CREOLE DIALECT OF LOUISIANA.

The above are titles of theses written by graduate students of the Louisiana State University for their master's degrees. Typewritten copies are on file in its library and are being edited for publication in a linguistic magazine, which the University proposes to issue in 1936.

MERCIER, Dr. Alfred

1. ÉTUDE SUR LA LANGUE CREOLE EN LOUISIANE.

No cover or title page. Signed at end. p. 19. 1880.

This is a reprint from the "Comptes Rendus of l'Athénée Louisianais" of July, 1880. p. 378. It is the first and still the best article on the Creole grammar ever printed in Louisiana, and contains an animal fable which is the criterion of correct orthography for the dialect. This fable was taken down by Dr. Mercier from an old colored man and was first printed in the *Meschacébé* of June 24, 1876, under the pseudonym of "Vié Jack."

Mercier sent a copy to Eugène Rolland, who published it in Vol. V of "Faune Populaire de la France."

Mercier called it, "Mariage Mlle. Calinda," but Fortier reproduces it in "Bits of Louisiana Folklore" on p. 30 under the title of "Compair Bouki è Compair Lapin,"—No. 5.

Under the same nom de plume Mercier published a second fable in the patois in *Meschacébé* of July 15, 1876.

2. L'HABITATION SAINT-YBARS, ou Maîtres et Esclaves en Louisiane. Récit Social par Alfred Mercier. Nouvelle-Orleans; Imprimerie Franco-Américaine, 1881. p. 231.

It is a novel of life on a Louisiana plantation owned by Creoles about the time of the Civil War. Much of it is autobiographical and it contains many pages of dialogue in the Creole dialect.

3. FABLES D'ÉSOPE TRADUITS EN PATOIS CRÉOLE.

In "Comptes Rendus of L'Athénée Louisianais" of May, 1890. p. 74.

4. LA CIGALE ET LA FOURMI, Fable traduit en Patois Creole In "Comptes Rendus" of May, 1896. p. 478.

PITKIN, Helen

1. AN ANGEL BY BREVET.

J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1904.

This novel contains the words and melodies of five Creole dialect songs.

READ, William A.

1. LOUISIANA-FRENCH.

Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, La., 1931. p. xxii, 253.

This valuable and interesting book on the different varieties of French spoken in Louisiana contains a list (pp. 116-128) of fifteen words of African origin still in use in Louisiana. Page 148 has a Gombo song with its translation.

ROBIN, C. C.

1. VOYAGES DANS L'INTERIEUR DE LA LOUISIANE, etc.
(during the years 1802-1806) Paris, chez F. Buisson, 1807.

Vol. III, pages 185 to 189, contain the first discussion of the Creole Dialect of Louisiana and its grammar that I have found.

ROUQUETTE, Rev. Adrien

1. MOKEUR SHANTEUR.

It is a poem written about the mocking bird by Abbé Rouquette and first published in the "Propagateur Catholique" of New Orleans. It was later set to music by W. T. Francis under the title of "Zozo-Mokeur." It is a good example of the white man's writing of the Negro dialect as a literary amusement, and it was reprinted in a pamphlet called "Mandeville" by "Taléske-Chata" (Dejans) published in New Orleans in 1918.

2. CHANT D'UN JEUNE CREOLE.

It is a dialect poem addressed to Lafacadio Hearn, in which Rouquette urges him to come and call on him. It

probably first appeared in the "Propagateur Catholique" but was reprinted in 1918 in "Mandeville."

3. CRITICAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN ABOO & CABOO.

Edited by E. Junius. 1880.

This was a satirical attack upon George W. Cable, written by Rouquette under the pseudonym "Junius." On pages 23 and 4 there is a dialect poem making scurrilous but unfounded charges against Cable.

SCARBOROUGH, Dorothy

1. ON THE TRAIL OF NEGRO FOLK-SONGS.

By Dorothy Scarborough. Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1925.

It contains 9 Creole dialect songs and music.

THIERRY, Camille

1. REGRETS D'UNE VIELLE MULATRESSE.

A poem in the dialect written by Thierry, an octoroon born in New Orleans and educated in Paris. It appeared in "Les Vagabondes, Poésies Américaines," a little volume of verse he published in Bordeaux in 1874.

TINKER, Edward Larocque

1. LAFCADIO HEARN'S AMERICAN DAYS.

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1924. p. 382.

Contains an account of Hearn's researches and interest in the Gombo.

2. TOUCOUTOU.

Dodd, Mead & Co., New York, 1928. p. 312.

It is a novel of New Orleans life just before the Civil War. It tells the true story of the tragedy which gave birth to the Gombo folksong, "Toucoutou," and has a short glossary.

3. LES CENELLES. Afro-French Poetry in Louisiana.

In "The Colophon," Part 3, Sept., 1930. A limited edition of fifty copies of this article was reprinted for the author by the Spiral Press.

This article is primarily concerned with the Louisiana men of color who published poetry in Standard French. Some of these, however, like Camille Thierry, wrote also in the dialect.

4. LES ÉCRITS DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE EN LOUISIANE AU XIX^E SIÈCLE.
Champion, Paris, 1932. p. 402.
Contains the lives and bibliographies of many of the authors who wrote in the dialect, among them Beaumont, Choppin, Fortier, Henry, Le Jeune, Mercier, Rouquette and Thierry.
5. LOUISIANA GOMBO.
In the "Yale Review," Vol. XXI, No. 3, March, 1932, p. 567-579.
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE FRENCH NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS OF LOUISIANA.
Reprint from the Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society for October 1932. Am. Ant. Soc., Worcester, 1933. p. 126.
Contains the history of the *Carillon* and the *Meschacébé*—two Creole journals which published many articles in Gombo.
7. CABLE AND THE CREOLES.
Reprinted from "American Literature," Vol. 5, No. 4, January, 1934.
Gives an account of Cable's relations with the Creoles, and of how he sang Gombo songs when on tour with Mark Twain.

WAKEFIELD, Edward

1. WISDOM OF GOMBO.
An article appearing in the "19th Century," Vol. XXX, p. 575 et seq. on Creole dialect proverbs. It gives a few of those current in Louisiana.

WOGAN, Marguerite B.

1. CANCAN KISINIÈRES. "Cooks Gossip."

By Marguerite B. Wogan, New Orleans, 1931.

A one-act play in dialect with its translation into English.

LE CARILLON.

This was a weekly published in French in New Orleans between 1869 and 1875 and edited by Dr. Durel. Many satirical articles written in the Creole dialect and aimed at the Negro politicians and officials appeared in it. They constitute the largest collection to be found of the white man's attempts to write in the dialect and show most graphically the rancor and resentment engendered by Negro rule in Louisiana. Many of them were written by William Henry. I have a complete file.

LE MESCHACÉBÉ.

This was a weekly published in French in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana. Between 1858 and 1877 it published 7 African fables in dialect, the words of many Creole songs of Negro origin and some dialect verse written by white men. Lafcadio Hearn obtained a great deal of material from its files, which he used in his essays on this subject, and most of the Haitien proverbs in "Gombo Zhèbes" came from a collection printed in this paper on October 23, 1875.

COLLECTIONS OF CREOLE SONGS AND MUSIC.

1. CREOLE SONGS FROM NEW ORLEANS in the Negro Dialect.

Set to music by Clara Gottschalk-Peterson. Published by The L. Grunewald Co., New Orleans, 1902.

2. BAYOU BALLADS.

Twelve Folk-Songs from Louisiana. Texts and music collected by Mina Monroe. New York, G. Schirmer, 1921.

3. SIX CREOLE FOLK-SONGS.

With original Creole and translated English text by Maud Cuney Hare. New York, Carl Fischer, 1921.

Accompaniments are also by her.

4. MUSIEU BAINJO.

Adapted and arranged with piano accompaniments by G. A. Grant-Shaefer. New York, The Arthur P. Schmidt Company, 1924.

5. SLAVE SONGS OF THE UNITED STATES.

Edited by Wm. Francis Allen, Chas. Pickard Ware and Lucy McKim Garrison. New York, A. Simpson & Co., 1867.

It contains seven songs with music and Creole dialect words, collected on Good Hope Plantation, St. Charles Parish, La.

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