

The James Geddes, Jr. Lecture Series presents:



“James Geddes, Jr.: Teacher, Traveler, Pioneer in the Study of North American French”

**By Yves Charles Morin, Professor Emeritus,
Université de Montréal**

When: Monday, March 28, 2011 @ 4:15 p.m.

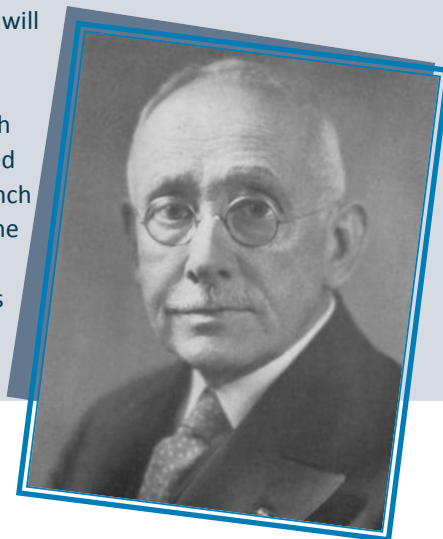
Where: Boston University Stone Science Building B50
(675 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA)

Followed by a reception in the Geddes Language Center,
site of a new exposition in honor of James Geddes, Jr.,
Professor of Romance Languages at BU, 1887-1937.

Who was Geddes, anyway ?

We will begin with a brief overview of the life and times of James Geddes, Jr., presented by Prof. James Iffland (Chair, BU Department of Romance Studies), and a short history of the Geddes Language Center, presented by its current director, Robert Rothstein. Then, BU Assistant Professor Luc Baronian (himself an expert on North American French dialectology) will introduce the featured speaker.

Prof. Morin will speak about James Geddes's contribution to the study of North American French from the perspective of the issues that were current at the end of the nineteenth century related to language change, dialectal conservatism, and prototypicality. Geddes concluded that the French spoken in Carleton (Quebec) was nothing but the early standard language spoken in France in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, a conclusion that was the precursor of a spirited debate that was to occur 100 years later. Prof. Morin will discuss how Geddes's work was received during his own time and later on and present new evidence in support of the original claims by Geddes.



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