

**INVITATION TO A 'HISTORY OF THE LONDON FRENCH' PROJECT
SEMINAR AND TO JOIN THE LONDON FRENCH WEB ARCHIVING
PROJECT: Friday 6th May 2011, University of Westminster,
309 Regent Street, London W1**

A Word on The London French Project

'The London French' is conceived as a project with a dual historical and contemporary focus that reassesses the many cultural, social, creative, political, economic and intellectual exchanges that have characterised the relationships between French migrants and London as host city. Broadly, we aim to offer an up-to-date assessment of the varied aspects of the presence of the French in London, and to explore the multiple ways in which this has contributed to London life in the arts, business, industry, education, and the creative industries. The current stage of the project is funded by the British Academy for a series of workshops to bring together our contributors and for further research into the French in contemporary London. We have the support of the French Embassy, the French Institute and the French Consulate here in London. The French Chamber of Commerce is also aware of, and interested in, our work.

Your Invitation

As a follow-up to the project launch at the French Institute on 2nd July 2010, we are pleased to invite you to a seminar on the afternoon of Friday 6th May in the Boardroom at the University of Westminster, 309 Regent Street, London W1 for a session dedicated to a very innovative part of our work on the contemporary London French, a Web Archiving Project which will be lead by our project partner, the British Library's Web Archiving Team. This will be a very exciting aspect of the project for which we plan to have a permanent web presence as well as the more usual forms of academic dissemination.

The Web Archiving Project

The term 'information superhighway' takes on a whole new meaning once you have seen a British Library web archive. The finished product offers options such as a virtual 'street' of thematically linked websites – in this case *Les Français de Londres* – whose homepages constitute the bordering façades which you can either choose to speed past or enter... Just like a real street, these sites will form part of the British Library's, and by extension cyberspace's, permanent landscape, they will be open to all those who wish to explore this significant community, there for posterity and as a marker of the socio-ethnic reality upon which they were founded.

In order to reflect all aspects of the vibrant, contemporary French population in London – from associations to academia, blogging to banking, cafés to communications, discos to doctors, education to estate agencies (and the list could, and should, go on) – we need your contributions. Any websites, web-pages, blog-spots, online directories, e-magazines, video-clips, educational

zones or social networks, in French or English, that are linked to the French community in the UK are potentially of interest to us. Once we have permission from their creators, these internet resources will be saved in the digital archives of the British Library as a lasting testimony to the French presence in London. There are some restrictions regarding which URLs can and cannot be used, but leave that to us, and simply find as many relevant links as you can, whether entire sites or a single page/document accessible via a separate website: the aim is to paint as faithful a picture as possible of this very real presence through virtual means, whose ethereal quality will now for the first time in history be awarded an enduring existence.

We very much hope that as an active member of the London French community you will be able to join us on the afternoon of the 6th May to be part of this exciting development.

Please register with Helena Scott h.scott@westminster.ac.uk by 30th April at the latest.

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