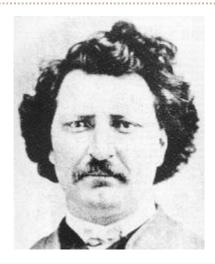
#### Louis Riel and modern culture



Louis Riel's life inspired academic studies, literary and artistic works, exhibitions, novels, poetry, plays, films, documentaries, songs, operas and so much more! Monuments, statues, buildings and organizations commemorate him across Canada, but especially in his birth Province of Manitoba. This serves not only as a testament to his celebrity but also to his important role in the social and political evolution of the French-speaking population of the Province.

This module could be called "Louis Riel - perceptions and representations", as the documents presented here neither recount the story Riel's life nor the two significant historical events of which he was the author. Rather, they showcase a wide range of interpretations of the man and the actions he took. Perceptions of the Métis leader have evolved greatly since his hanging in Regina in 1885. He has been called a traitor, a rebel, a martyr, a hero, a liberator, an intellectual, a tortured man, a beast, a pawn of political men, and countless other things.

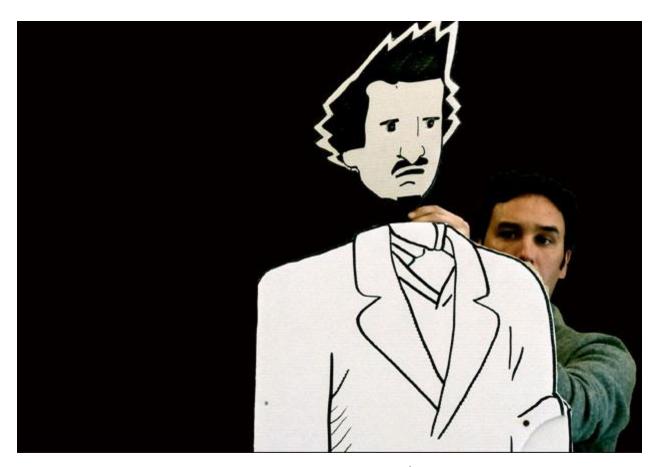
In our archival holdings, the different facets of Riel's character can be explored through multiple first-hand accounts. There are documents dating back to the 1870s, including one written by Riel himself (showing his own perceptions of the events surrounding him), as well as a second document, written by Father Noël-Joseph Ritchot (parish priest of Saint-Norbert), who acted as his advisor. These stand in stark contrast to letters written 15 years later by various members of the Catholic clergy condemning the actions of the "heretic" Riel.

The press in Ontario and Quebec closely followed the events at Red River in 1869-70, the drama that unfolded in the North-West in 1885, and the ensuing Riel trial. The portrayal of Riel in newspaper articles and cartoons of the period reflects both their political allegiances and their national and religious affiliations.

Academics, historians and scholars of various disciplines, were for many years divided into two opposing camps. Some saw Riel as a nationalist and a martyr, while others saw him as a rebel, a traitor and worse. For most Canadians, however, once the controversy surrounding his hanging passed, the memory of the Métis leader was quickly forgotten. For 50 years, Riel's name was hardly mentioned outside the homes of Métis families, who perceived him as a great defender of their rights; a sentiment that remains to this day. However, it should be noted that the centenary of Riel's birth was proudly celebrated in Saint-Boniface in 1944.

After World War II, there was a renewed interest in Riel and his time. New perspectives on Riel emerged through the research of A.S. Morton, George Stanley and Marcel Giraud, among others. These publications provided a fresh new perspective on Riel's role as a Father of Confederation and the founder of Manitoba.

The tragic hero also became a source of inspiration for creative works of all kinds, as artists, sculptors, writers and playwrights sought to interpret his gestures and the complexity of his mind. Then in 1985, one hundred years after Riel's death, projects to commemorate him flourished. In Saint-Boniface, a committee was created to plan activities in francophone communities for the centenary of his death. This included a conference, an exhibition, folk performances, a statue, and a commemorative calendar.



At the end of the 20th century, into the beginnings of the 21<sup>st</sup>, debates in the House of Commons continued as a pardon was sought for the "treason" Riel was found guilty of in 1885. The iconic Métis leader remains part of the public discourse more than ever. In 2016, a Montreal theater troupe staged a bilingual two-dimensional play on Riel's life at the Théâtre La Chapelle. The play by puppeteer, playwright and co-director Zach Fraser was adapted from Chester Brown's acclaimed "Louis Riel, a comic-strip biography", published in 2003.

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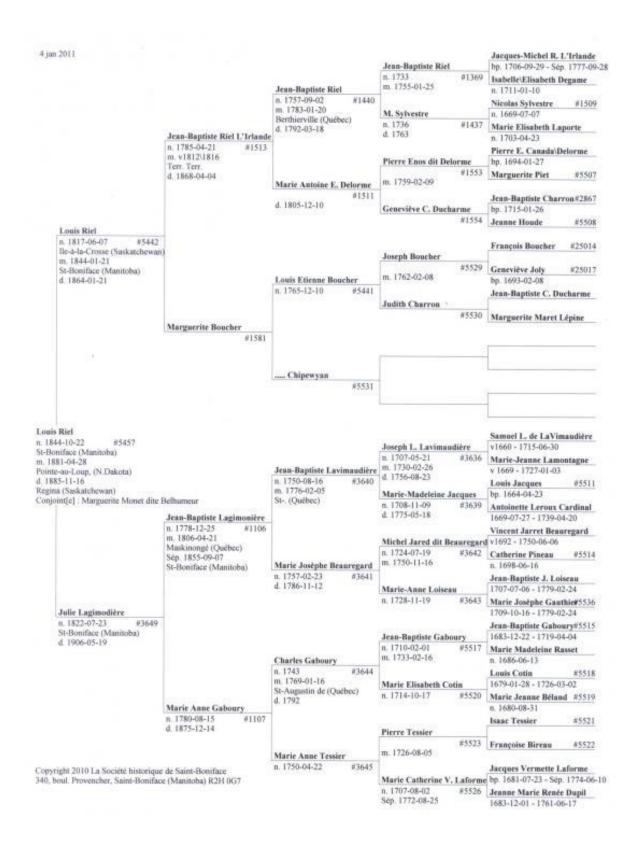
MATTES, Catherine. « Whose Hero? Images of Louis Riel in Contemporary Art and Métis Nationhood », thèse de maîtrise, Concordia University, 1998.

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LA SOCIÉTÉ HISTORIQUE DE SAINT-BONIFACE. *Une Nation Un Leader de la naissance au gibet* = *A Nation a Leader from Birth to the Gibbet*, catalogue d'exposition, Saint-Boniface, La Société historique de Saint-Boniface et le Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, 1985.

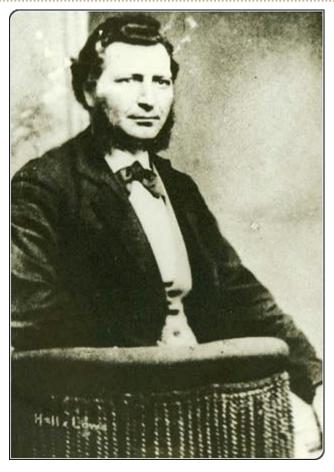
Le gibet de Régina par un Homme bien renseigné, avec présentation de Gilles Martel, Saint-Boniface, Les Éditions du Blé, 1985.

#### Louis Riel's Genealogy



#### **Photos**

#### Louis Riel



Charcoal portrait of Louis Riel circa 1874, photograph by Hall & Lowe. The original, which is part of the collection of the Société historique de Saint-Boniface, embellishes the wall at the entrance to the Centre du patrimoine.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds Antoine Champagne, SHSB19556

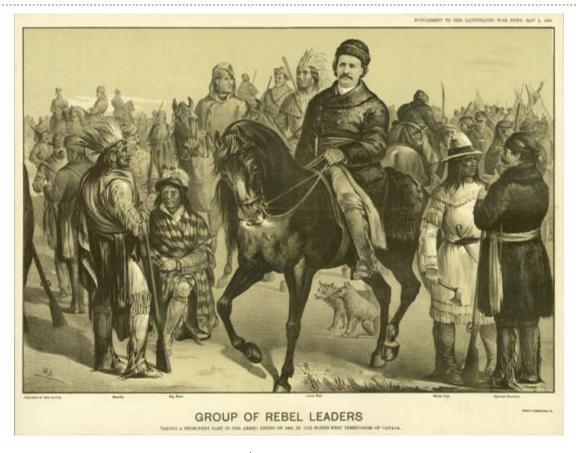
#### Louis Riel Monument



The Louis Riel monument in the Saint-Boniface Cathedral cemetery, decorated with a wreath left by the Union nationale Métisse de Saint-Joseph, in 1913. On November 16th of each year, a ceremony commemorating the death of Louis Riel takes place in front of this monument, which has become a popular tourist spot in Manitoba. The monument was restored in the early 1970s as part of a summer project. In 1985, an inset photo of Riel was added, along with the names of his wife and children.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la SHSB, SHSB14595

#### Leaders of the Rebellion



This engraving, published in the May  $2^{nd}$ , 1885 edition of Toronto newspaper *Illustrated War News*, shows Riel at the forefront of the leaders of the North-West Rebellion, as it was then called.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la SHSB, Série Grands Formats, 01/G29/17

## Illustration by Denis Savoie

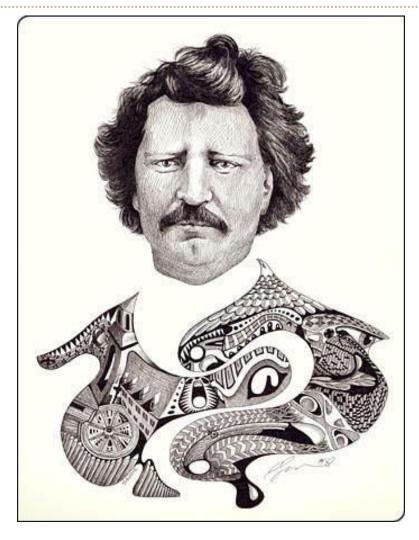
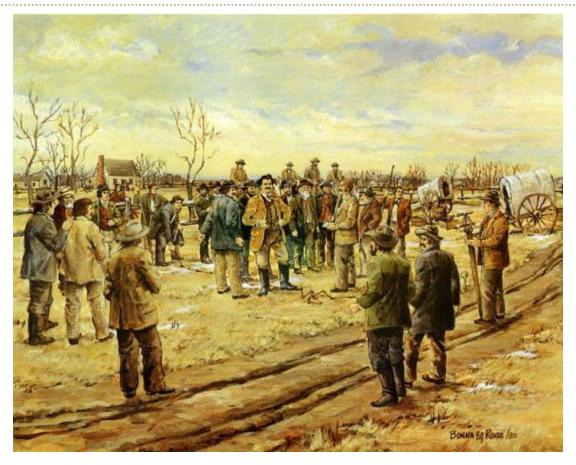


Illustration of Louis Riel by Franco-Manitoban artist Denis Savoie. In his illustration, the artist chose to bring Riel's Indigenous ancestry into focus.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la SHSB, Série grands formats, 01/02/41

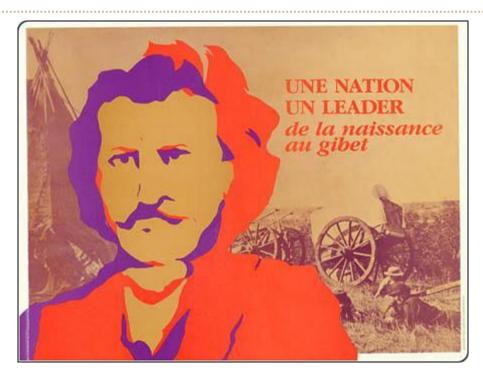
### Resistance – October 11th, 1869



Watercolor by Bonna Rouse illustrating the incident of October 11th, 1869 when Louis Riel ordered Crown surveyors on André Nault's land to cease work and disperse. In this painting, Riel is portrayed as the leader who would later be referred to as a "nation builder". One of a series of 13 watercolors covering the history of Western Canada, it was reproduced in a 1986 calendar distributed by Barber Industries in Calgary. [A commemorative plaque has been erected by the City of Winnipeg in Don Smith Park, corner of Scurfield Blvd and Fleetwood Road, Whyte Ridge.]

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Série Grands Formats, 01/G29/02. Reproduction authorized by Bonna Rouse and Barber Industries.

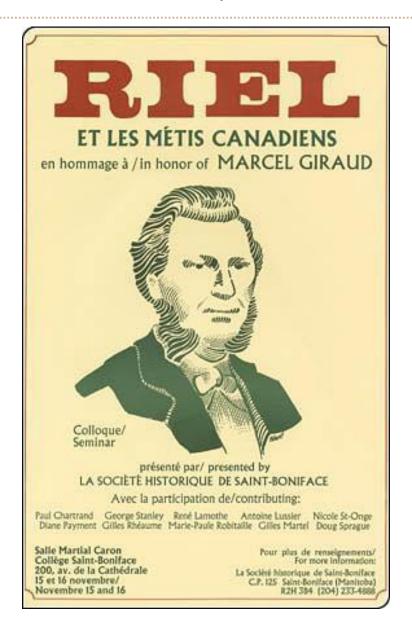
## Exhibit: "Une nation un Leader de la naissance au gibet" (A Nation a Leader from Birth to the Gibbet)



Catalog cover of for the exhibit entitled A Nation a Leader from Birth to the Gibbet shown by the Société historique de Saint-Boniface as part of the centenary activities of 1985. This historical and anthropological exhibit focused primarily on the Métis as a group, while still addressing the various stages of Louis Riel's life.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Une nation, un Leader de la naissance au gibet = A Nation a Leader from Birth to the Gibbet. Catalogue d'exposition, Saint-Boniface, La Société historique de Saint-Boniface et le Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface, 1985

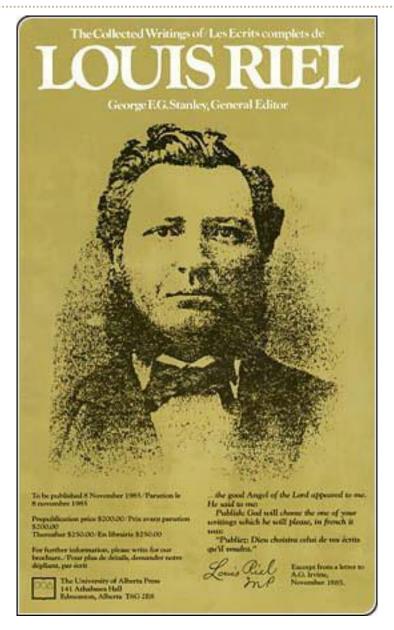
## Poster for Conference: "Riel et les Métis canadiens" (Riel and the Canadian Métis)



Poster for the *Riel and the Canadian Métis* conference. Illustration by Réal Bérard. In 1985, the Société historique de Saint-Boniface organized a conference which allowed academics to share their research on themes relating to Métis history. The conference's proceedings, published a few years later, include the research papers of all ten presenters.

Archives of the Historical Society of Saint-Boniface, General collection of the SHSB, Large Format Series, 01 / G29 / 11

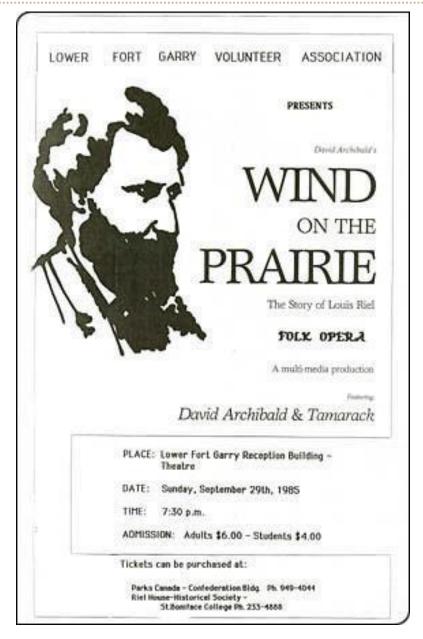
## Poster for Book Publication: "The Collected Writings of Louis Riel"



Poster for upcoming publication of *The Collected Writings of Louis Riel*. This ambitious project came to fruition in 1985 under the guidance of George F. Stanley. It is a critical five-volume edition of all of Riel's known writings at the time of publication.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la SHSB, Série Grands Formats, 01/G29/10

## Poster for Folk Opera: "Wind on the Prairies" by David Archibald



Poster advertising the folk opera *Wind on the Prairies* by David Archibald, presented by the Lower Fort Garry Volunteer Association. In 1985, many Manitoba institutions and associations chose to put on similar shows, inspired by the life of Louis Riel.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la SHSB, série Grands Formats, 01/G29/14

#### Poster for Theatrical Production: "The Trial of Louis Riel" by John Coulter



Poster for John Coulter's play *The Trial of Louis Riel* presented in 1985 by the Regina Little Theater and the City of Regina. The Canadian playwright first staged a play called *Riel in Toronto* in 1950, kicking off an era creative cultural works inspired by the life of Louis Riel. *The Trial of Louis Riel*, a play documenting Riel's trial in Regina in 1885, has been performed in the Saskatchewan capital every year since 1967.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Collection générale de la SHSB, série Grands Formats, 01/G29/15f1

#### "Le Roitelet"



Actor Jean-Louis Hébert plays Louis Riel in Claude Dorge's, *Le Roitelet*, a theatrical production presented in 1976 by Le Cercle Molière, in Saint-Boniface. The scenes unfold in the troubled conscience of Riel, who is a patient at Saint-Jean-de-Dieu Hospital in Longue-Pointe, Quebec.

Collection du Cercle Molière, photo de Charles Lavack

## "Fresque"



In 1985, as part the centennial celebrations, the Danseurs de la Rivière-Rouge, a Franco-Manitoban folk dance group, presents *Fresque*, a show inspired by the life of Louis Riel. In this image, the actor playing Riel writes a poem while a singer dictates the words to him through a lyrical performance called "La Métisse".

Collection de l'Ensemble folkorique de la Rivière-Rouge

### Sculpture by Marcien Lemay



Franco-Manitoban artist Marcien Lemay works on his sculpture of Louis Riel, commissioned by the Government of Manitoba for the 1970 centenary of the Red River Resistance. Ensconced in a curved wall monument created by architect Étienne Gaboury, the sculpture was placed on the Legislative Building's grounds where it would be inaugurated in January 1971. The artwork was the subject of much criticism over the years, and in 1991, representatives of the Métis community along with the government jointly announced that it would be replaced by a sculpture that better reflected Riel in his role as a statesman.

For a discussion of the controversies surrounding Louis Riel sculptures, we recommend Shannon Bower's article on the <u>Manitoba Historical Society website.</u>

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds Marcien Lemay, pré-archivage, boite 1285

#### **Bust of Louis Riel**



This bust of Louis Riel, designed by Franco-Manitoban artist Réal Bérard (right), was cast in bronze in the foundry of William Epp (left) in Saskatoon. The Louis Riel Centennial Committee launched a fundraising campaign for a commemorative monument in 1985. The monument, located on the Saint-Boniface Museum grounds, was inaugurated October 22, 1989, the anniversary of Riel's birth.

Archives of the Historical Society of Saint-Boniface, Fonds du Comité du Centenaire Louis Riel 1985, 131/02/10

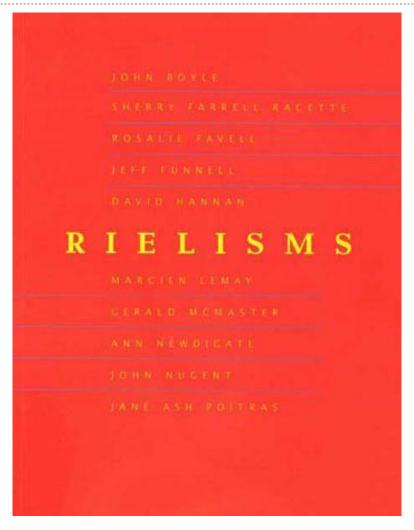
#### "Uneeyen ou Not' bord d'la rivière" (Uneeyen or Our Side of the River)



Uneeyen ou Not' bord d'la rivière is a play inspired by the life of Louis Riel. This tragi-comedy by Michelle Boulet and Thérèse Pilotte was presented in the summer of 1985 at the Centre culturel franco-manitobain.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds du Comité centenaire Louis-Riel, 131/32

#### Exhibit: "Rielisms"



Cover of the exhibit pamphlet for *Rielisms*, presented at the Winnipeg Museum of Fine Arts from January 25th to March 18th, 2001. The exhibit by Catherine Mattes, explores visual interpretations of Riel from the 1960s onwards, by examining 20 works by about a dozen Canadian artists. Among these works is the controversial statue of Louis Riel by Franco-Manitoban sculptor Marcien Lemay.

Rielisms, exhibit pamphlet presented at the Winnipeg Museum of Fine Arts from January 13 to March 18, 2001 and at the Dunlop Art Gallery from May 12 to July 8, 2001, Winnipeg, The Winnipeg Art Gallery, 2001

### Collège Louis-Riel



Collège Louis-Riel is the only French-language secondary school located in the city of Winnipeg. The origins of such an institution date back to the arrival of the first Catholic missionaries at Red River in 1818. The building, which dates from 1967, once housed a bilingual public school, but in 1982, for lack of registrations, the old Institut collégial Louis-Riel closed its doors and was reborn as Collège Louis-Riel, a French high school that inherited the students and staff from the Collège secondaire de Saint-Boniface.

Photo by Lorne Coulson, 2003

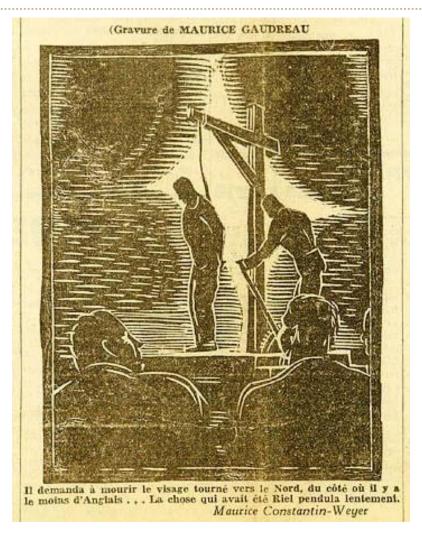
#### Louis Riel School Division



The Louis Riel School Division was created in 2002, by merging the divisions of Saint-Boniface and Saint-Vital. The new name was quite befitting, as Saint-Boniface is the birthplace of Louis Riel, and the family's home (now a national historic site), still stands today in Saint-Vital.

Photo by Lorne Coulson, 2003

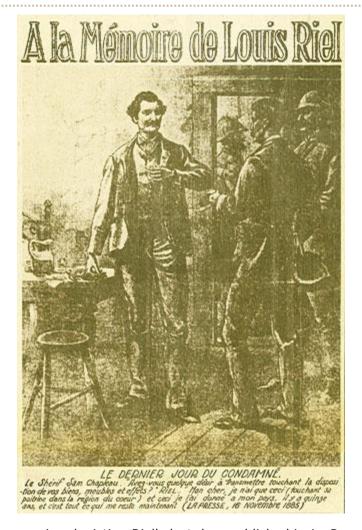
#### Engraving by Maurice Gaudreau



This engraving by Maurice Gaudreau was published with an article entitled "Un homme Louis Riel", in Quebec newspaper *La Nation* (founded in 1936). The editor, Paul Bouchard devoted the entire May 21<sup>st</sup> 1936 issue to Riel and the Métis uprisings in the West. Riel is portrayed as a political martyr, a great defender of Métis property, rights and freedoms, and a victim of Anglo-Orangist rule in Ontario.

La Nation, Thursday May 21, 1936, p.1, Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds de la Société historique métisse, G196 / 56 c.2

### "À la Mémoire de Louis Riel" (In Memory of Louis Riel) - La Presse November 16, 1885

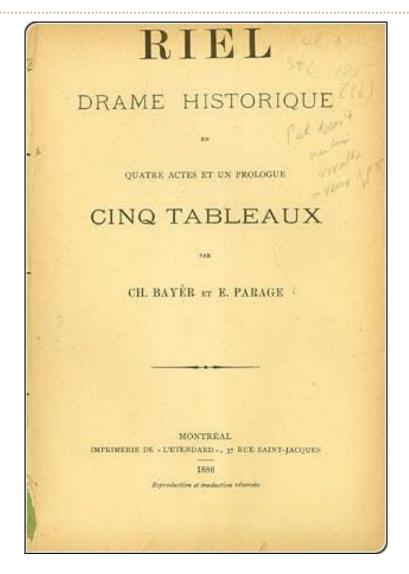


Reproduction of an engraving depicting Riel's last day, published in *La Presse* on November 16, 1885. The daily newspaper was very sympathetic to Riel and the Métis cause and reported that all of Montreal mourned the hanging of the "great patriot". In the November 17<sup>th</sup> editorial, it reads: "Riel vient d'expier sur l'échafaud le crime d'avoir réclamé les droits de ses compatriots" which roughly translates to: "Riel atones for the crime of defending the rights of his compatriots on the the scaffold"

Engraving entitled « À la mémoire de Louis Riel », published in La Presse, November 16th 1885, republished in La Presse, Novembre 16th 1983, p. A8 under the heading « La Presse 100 ans d'actualités ». Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds de la Société historique métisse, G196/65

#### **Digitized Documents**

Historical Drama: "Riel"



Cover of *Riel* a five-part historical drama, by Charles Bayèr and E. Parage, 1886. This drama, set in the Northwest during the events of 1885, portrays Riel as a political martyr.

Charles Bayèr and E. Parage, Riel: Historical drama in 4 acts and a prologue. Five parts per CH.
Bayèr and E. Parage, Montreal, Imprimerie de "l'Etendard", 1886

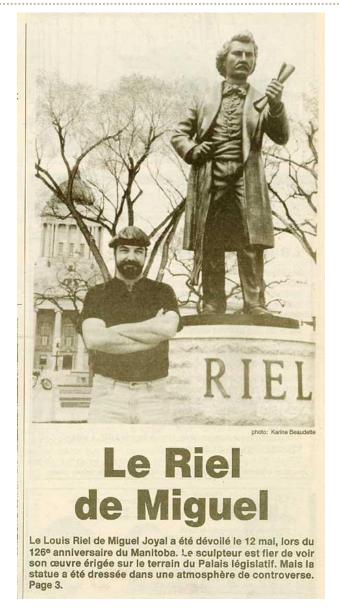
#### Relocating the Riel Sculpture and Monument



To mark its 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface's student council, requested that the controversial sculpture by Marcien Lemay and Etienne Gaboury, be moved to their campus grounds. Having already removed it from the Legislative Building grounds, the provincial government consented. This article, which appeared in the November 1995 issue of *La Liberté*, reports on the relocation of the monument and its surrounding controversy.

Karine Beaudette, « La Statue controversée est de nouveau debout », La Liberté, week of November 24th to 30th, 1995, p. 3

#### The Statesman



The statue of Riel as a statesman, which replaced the one created by Marcien Lemay on the Legislative Building grounds, is the work of Franco-Manitoban sculptor Miguel Joyal. It was unveiled on May 12<sup>th</sup> 1996, the anniversary of the Manitoba Act receiving Royal Assent in 1870. These articles from *La Liberté* report the event.

"Le Riel de Miguel", La Liberté, week of May 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1996, p. 1 and Karine Beaudette, "Louis Riel, père du Manitoba", La Liberté, week of May 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1996, p. 3

#### Centenary Celebrations - The Birth of Louis Riel

### Le centenaire de naissance de Riel brillamment commémoré

Une messe solennelle marque l'ouverture des fêtes. Le chanoine Groulx pronon-ce une causerie sur "Riel et son influence". Nombreuses personnalités religieuses et laiques au banquet.

La ville de St-Boniface et le Manitoba français tout entier ont rendu à Riel l'hommage qui lui était dû. On se souvient de la cérémonie publique tenue à Lido Plage cet été alors qu'on présentait au premier ministre de la province un superbe cadre représentant Riel et ses collègues du Comité provisoire. On a encore fait mieux à St-Boniface et à Winnipeg ces jours derniers: on a rendu à Riel la place qui lui revenait de droit comme un héros national, un grand citoyen et un homme auquel nous sommes redevables des lois de 1870.

Messe

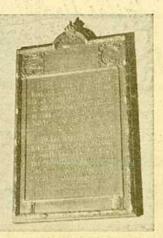
Messe
La cérémonie du samedi 11 novembre débuta par une messe de Requiem chantée par S. Exc. Mgr. G. C. Murray, archeveque coadjuteur de Winnipeg. Son Excellence était assistée de MM. les abbés M. Cournoyer, D. McDougall, U. Forest et R. Bélanger. MM. Cournoyer, Elanger et Forest sont curés de paroisses où se sont déroules les événements de la vie de Riel ou pendant les jours du gouvernement provisoire de 1869. Le chant à la messe fut exécuté par les élèves de l'Institut Collégial St. Joseph, avec une grande perfection et un ensemble prenant. Leurs Excellences Nosseigneurs A. Béliveau et G. Cabana étaient présents, ainsi qu'une trentaine de prêtres et religieux. Dans la nef on remarquait plusieurs des anciens du pays, venus

de près et de loin assister à cette

#### AUX FETES EN L'HONNEUR DE RIEL







neur du centenaire de la naissance de Louis Riel. On remarque sur la photo de gauche un groupe de Métis déposant sur la tombe du héros une couronne de fleurs. Ce sont de gauche à droite: M. cription bilingue suivante: "A la mémoire de Louis Riel, né à St-Alexandre Nault, cousin de Riel, MM. Honoré Riel, Louis Lavallée Boniface le 22 octobre 1844, Chef du gouvernement provisoire de et Louis Riel, neveux du grand patriote. La photo du centre montre les quatre enfants qui tirèrent les rubans du drapeau au dévoi- lit; "Ses compatriotes reconnaissants"; "le 22 octobre 1944". lement de la plaque commémorative: Patricia et Claudette Riel,

Samedi dernier avalent lieu à St-Boniface les fêtes en l'hon- et Louis et Marcel Riel, petits-neveux et petites-nièces de Louis



On November 11th, 1944, the citizens of Saint-Boniface commemorate the birth of Louis Riel. The program includes: a mass, a conference, a banquet and the unveiling of a plaque affixed to the outer wall of the Saint-Boniface Cathedral. This article, which appeared in *La Liberté et le Patriote*, recounts the activities of the day.

« Le centenaire de naissance de Riel brillamment commémoré », La Liberté et le Patriote, November 17th, 1944, p. 1, continued p. 7

#### **PDF Documents**

## "Les événements de 1869 à la Rivière-Rouge" (The events of 1869 at Red River)

Manuscrit Ritchot

#### DENONCIATION DU REV. PÈRE ANDRÉ

Il traite Riel de monstre, d'homme néfaste, il maudit le jour de son apparition.

Riel est seul responsable de la révolte.

Sa devise était argent ou vengeance.

Quelques jours après, soit le 17 juin, le Rév. P. André, vicaire général de Mgr Grandin, et le premier des signataires de la déclaration ci-dessus, écrivait lui-même à la Minerve, une lettre spéciale, qui parut dans ce journal le ler juillet, sous la signature Testis Fidelis (Témoin fidèle). Dans cette lettre, le révérend missionnaire exprime son regret de voir la presse du Bas-Canada essayant de défendre Riel et de «pallier son mouvement insurrectionnel.» Il déclare en même temps que les griefs des Métis ne justifiaient pas une révolte, que les Métis, laissés à eux-mêmes, n'auraient jamais songé à se soulever, mais qu'ils ont été précipités dans la rébellion par Riel, sur qui seul, dit-il, doit retomber toute la responsabilité de leur malheur ; Riel qui voulait tout simplement se faire redouter du gouvernement et se faire acheter; Riel, dont la devise était : l'argent ou la vengeance, et que l'intérêt personnel guidait seul. Le Père André affirme que la population du Nord-Ouest était heureuse et prospère avant que Riel ne vint la troubler, et il «maudit le jour où cet homme néfaste a fait son apparition.»

Voici cette lettre :

SASKATCHEWAN, 17 juin 1885.

Au directeur de la Minerye,

Montréal.

Monsieur le Directeur.

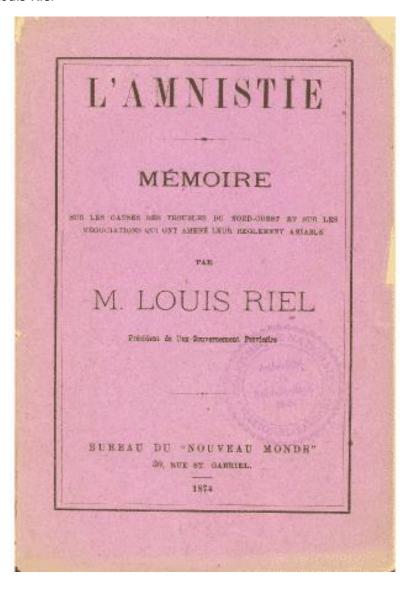
EN LISANT LES JOURNAUX FRANÇAIS DE LA PROVINCE DE QUEBEC, nous ne pouvons nous défendre d'un sentiment d'ETONNE-MENT MELE DE REGRET, de voir la CHALEUR QUE LA PLUPART

This article, published in the Société historique de Saint-Boniface's bulletin, includes the transcription of an original handwritten text by Father Noël-Joseph Ritchot giving his perspective of the events that took place at Red River between June and October of 1869. Ritchot's narrative proves his solidarity with Riel and the Métis as they undertook their first protests against the transfer of their land from the Hudson's Bay Company to the newly established Government of Canada.

Alfred Fortier, « Les événements de 1869 à la Rivière-Rouge », Bulletin de la Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fall 1998, p. 2-8

### Louis Riel's "L'Amnistie" (Amnesty)

"L'amnistie" de Louis Riel



In a pamphlet published in Montreal in 1874, Louis Riel himself describes the events and causes leading to the Red River Resistance in 1869-70, as well as the negotiations which would lead to the Manitoba Act of 1870. At its conclusion, he calls on the government to grant amnesty to all participants of the Resistance, as it was promised during negotiations.

Louis Riel, L'Amnistie : Mémoire sur les causes des troubles du Nord-ouest et sur les négociations qui ont amené leur règlement à l'amiable, Montréal, Bureau du Nouveau Monde,

#### "Le véritable Riel" (The Real Riel)

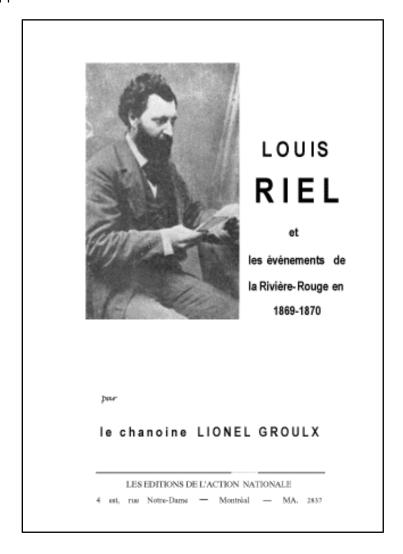
#### Le véritable Riel

After the events of 1885, a pamphlet comprised of a series of letters written by Monseigneur Grandin (Bishop of Saint-Albert), a nun and several missionaries from the Northwest was published in Montreal. In these letters, Riel was denounced as a heretic and a perpetrator, in short, a man quite different from the one who enjoyed the support of the Catholic clergy in Red River fifteen years earlier. In this letter addressed to the director of *La Minerve* in June 1885, Father André expresses his opinion (shared by the other correpondents), of Riel's role in the events of 1885.

« Dénonciation du Rév. Père André », Le véritable Riel tel que dépeint dans des lettres de sa grandeur Mgr Grandin, etc., Montréal, Imprimerie générale, 1887, p. 5-8.

#### **Lionel Groulx**

Lionel Groulx 1944

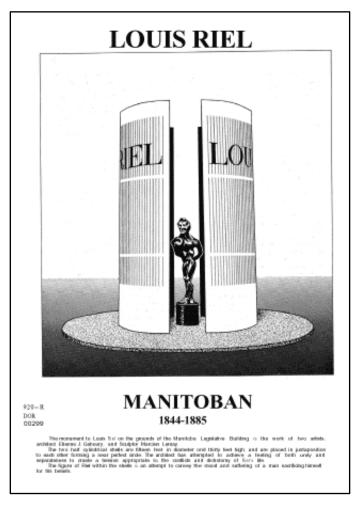


On the centenary of Riel's birth in 1944, Lionel Groulx, an eminent historian, priest, educator and intellectual from Quebec, gave a lecture on Louis Riel at the Société historique de Saint-Boniface. His new interpretation of Riel as the "Father of Manitoba" fit well with previous research done on Métis resistance movements by George Stanley and A.S. Morton in the late 1930s.

Lionel Groulx, Louis Riel et les événements de la Rivière-Rouge en 1869-1870, Montréal, les Éditions de l'Action nationale, 1944

#### Louis Riel Manitoban 1844-1885

Louis Riel Manitoban 1844-1885



To mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the creation of Manitoba, the centennial committee retained the services of Franco-Manitoban historian Lionel Dorge, to write a booklet on Manitoba's entry into Confederation, for schoolchildren throughout the province. The following year, the text was amended to suit a more general audience, and it was distributed at the unveiling of Marcien Lemay's sculpture of Louis Riel on the Legislative Building grounds. This bilingual text published in 1970 represents the "official version" of the events that took place at Red River one hundred years earlier.

Lionel Dorge, Louis Riel Manitoban, text commissioned by the Manitoba Centennial Corporation, 1971.

# "Un dernier mot sur Louis Riel: l'homme à plusieurs visages" (A Last Word on Louis Riel: man of many faces) by George F. Stanley

#### Stanley 1990

During the *Riel and the Canadian Métis* conference organized by the Société historique de Saint-Boniface in 1985, guest speaker George F. G. Stanley, a historian specializing in the history of Louis Riel, gave a speech whose title roughly translates to "A final word on Louis Riel: man of many faces". This presentation provided an overview of Riel's life and summarized how historical interpretations of the Métis leader had evolved since the mid-1930s.

Georges F. Stanley, « Un dernier mot sur Louis Riel : l'homme à plusieurs visages », Proceedings of the « Riel et les Métis canadiens » conference held by the Société historique de Saint-Boniface at the Collège universitaire de Saint-Boniface on the 15th and 16th of November 1985. La Société historique de Saint-Boniface and le Centre d'études franco-canadiennes de l'Ouest, 1990, p. 79-89

#### **Audio**

## "Sur le champ d'bataille" (On The Battlefield)

#### Sur le champ d'bataille

This song, performed by Rosalie Lafrenière of Saint-François-Xavier, Manitoba in 1969, is called "On the Battlefield". Also known as the "song of Louis Riel", it is attributed to Louis Riel, who is said to have composed it when he was a prisoner in Regina in 1885. According to some scholars, the "Chanson de Louis Riel" is a variation of the song "Lettre de sang" known throughout French Canada. It is nonetheless part of the rich oral tradition of the Métis people of Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds Henri Létourneau, sound recordings, BS01137

#### "La Métisse"

#### La Métisse

Patricia Joyal performs "La Métisse", written by Louis Riel to a melody by Franco-Manitoban Denis Connelly. The lyrics express the pride of an anonymous young Métis woman who recounts the 1869-70 events at Red River. This song was performed during a show recorded on March 5th, 1988 as part of the *États généraux de la francophonie*, in Saint-Boniface.

Archives de la Société historique de Saint-Boniface, Fonds de la Société Radio-Canada-CKSB, Productions Enregistrements sonores, Émissions spéciales, Spectacle dans le cadre des États généraux, 5 mars 1988, WPG DAT 146