

## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.424  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** figurine | Eiffel Tower | OM | spelter | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs | Paris, France | World War II  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:**



**Object ID:** 6.425  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** dipper | Brass Dipper with Decorative Handle | brass | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card- brass

**Object ID:** 6.426  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Handkerchief | linen | French Gratitude Train | Merci Train | souvenirs  
**Date:**  
**Description:** card - white linen handkerchief.  
large rip in the center.



## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.428  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** bowl, sugar | Spelter Sugar Bowl | OM | spelter | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:**



**Object ID:** 6.429  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** plate | Avant, Avant, Lyon Le Melhor | wood | oak | carving | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** Carved wooden plate of oak. Front is carved in relief with a lion rampant at center. The rim of the plate has a raised border with "AVANT, AVANT, LYON LE MELHOR" (Forward, Forward, Lyon Is The Best) carved around the rim.  
card- made of wood.



**Object ID:** 6.430  
**Department:** Art & Architecture  
**Collection:** Art & Architecture  
**Synopsis:** statue | unknown | Madonna | bisque | marble | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs | World War II | France | catholicism | Religion | icon  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card-white statue  
**History:** French Gratitude Train (Merci Train)



## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.431  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** plate | Souvenir Plate with Storks | spelter | dining | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs | World War II  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card- very small.



**Object ID:** 6.432A  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** cup | Silver cup and saucer with rosewood handle | silver plate | Rosewood | silver | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | World War II  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card- silver



**Object ID:** 6.432B  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** saucer | Silver cup and saucer with rosewood handle | silver plate | silver | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card- silver



## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.434  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** fan | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs | World War II  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** Black fan with a floral pattern.



**Object ID:** 6.435  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** doll | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card - Doll, with black & gold dress.



**Object ID:** 6.436  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** doll | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** Doll, gold dress & white cap.



**Object ID:** 6.437  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** doll | Korean | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs | World War II  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card - Doll, with Korean dress.

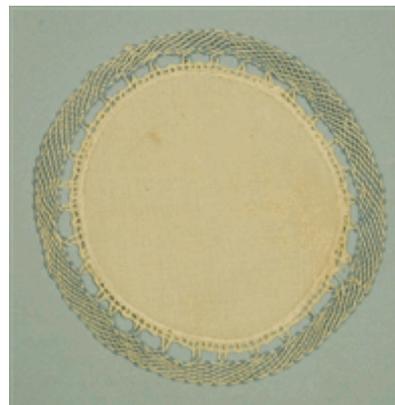


## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.438  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** doll | Jester Doll | clown | toy | childhood | French Gratitude Train | Merci Train | souvenirs | World War II  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** card - Doll, with clown dress.



**Object ID:** 6.439A  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | cotton | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs | handwoven lace | lace making | World War II | doilie  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** Diam: 5 13/16in; D: 1/8in  
**Description:** doilies/crochet/a-f



card - six white doilies (a - f).

Doilies circulator white cotton trimmed with blue lace. Each have some rust-colored staining.

**Object ID:** 6.439B  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | cotton | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** Diam: 5 13/16in; D: 1/8in  
**Description:** doilies/crochet/a-f

card - six white doilies (a - f).

Circular white cotton trimmed with blue lace. Each consists of some rust-colored staining.

## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.439C  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | cotton | Merci Train |  
French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** Diam: 5 13/16in; D: 1/8in  
**Description:** doilies/crochet/a-f

card - six white doilies (a - f).

Circulatory white cotton trimmed with blue  
lace. Each has some rust colored staining.

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**Object ID:** 6.439D  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | cotton | Merci Train |  
French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** Diam: 5 13/16in; D: 1/8in  
**Description:** doilies/crochet/a-f

card - six white doilies (a - f).

Circulatory white cotton trimmed with blue  
lace. Each has some rust-colored staining.

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**Object ID:** 6.439E  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | cotton | Merci Train |  
French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** Diam: 5 13/16in; D: 1/8in  
**Description:** doilies/crochet/a-f

card - six white doilies (a - f).

Circulatory white cotton trimmed with blue  
lace. Each had some rust-colored staining.

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## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.439F  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | cotton | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** Diam: 5 13/16in; D: 1/8in  
**Description:** doilies/crochet/a-f

card - six white doilies (a - f).

Circulatory white cotton trimmed with blue lace. Each has some rust-colored staining.

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**Object ID:** 6.440A  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | Merci Train | French Gratitude Train | souvenirs  
**Date:** 1948  
**Description:** doily/lace/4/a-d

card - four lace doilies (a - d).



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**Object ID:** 6.440B  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | Merci Train  
**Date:**  
**Description:** doily/lace/4/a-d

card - four lace doilies (a - d).



## Object Report

**Object ID:** 6.440C  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | Merci Train  
**Date:**  
**Description:** doily/lace/4/a-d  
  
card - four lace doilies (a - d).



**Object ID:** 6.440D  
**Department:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Collection:** Fashion & Textiles  
**Synopsis:** Doily | unknown | lace | Merci Train  
**Date:**  
**Description:** doily/lace/4/a-d  
  
card - four lace doilies (a - d).



**Object ID:** 6.444  
**Department:** Cultural History  
**Collection:** Cultural History  
**Synopsis:** doll | velvet | lace | embroidery | ribbon |  
French | Belgium | Merci Train | French  
Gratitude Train  
**Date:**  
**Description:** card - Doll (French or Belgium). Black velvet  
dress, embroidered apron, lace petticoat with  
ribbon trim. White cap.



## Object Report

**Object ID:** 10.215  
**Department:** Military History  
**Collection:** Art & Architecture  
**Synopsis:** painting | Kerfelec, Louis |  
Saint-Guenole-Maree d'Equinoxe | oil | paint |  
paper | wood | World War II | French  
Gratitude Train | Merci Train  
**Date:** 1947-1949  
**Dimensions:** H: 22in; W: 19in



## Object Report

**Description:** card- oil painting "Saint-guenole-Maree d'equinoxe". French mercy train after WWII.

worksheet It's a painting without frame: a storm on the ocean in the Britany coasts in France (the name of the village is Saint-Guenole.). Lots of waves and in the background rocks. Many houses are in the background too--3 Fafers in the bottom of this painting= the drawing of the "Train de la reconnaissance Francaise" and informations about the people to who the painting was dedicated. colors: black, blue, white, brown, grey.

This painting has been done in oil upon the surface of what appears to be pressed cardboard. It is a sea scene of waves crashing against a remote rocky, coastal area with a few small dwellings shown to the extreme right, center of the painting. The sky is heavy and sombre with dark clouds and the sea is equally turbulent as if it were depicting a storm in progress. There is some damage to the top left side of the painting where the paint has come off and also on the far lower right corner. Each of the four corners are dented and paint is flaked off in places all around the edges. There is a signature in the lower right corner which reads "Louis Kerfelec" in black paint with an underline.

On the reverse, there is a sticker in the upper right hand corner showing the traditional logo of the Merci Train as described in this "History" section showing the front of a train engine, three flowers and a circular seal which reads: "Train de la Reconnaissance Francaise, au Peuple Americain" [To the People of America, the French Train of Memory]. Below this is "From" and the name and address of the artist and donor, Mr. Kerfelec, 90 Rue Carnot, L'orient. In the center of the reverse side there is a white sticker with the title of the painting "Saint - Guenole Maree d'equinoxe," and the artist's name.

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To the far left side, roughly centered, is another piece of white paper affixed to the back and in blue ink is written: [translation from the French] "offered in memory of my good friends who were stationed at Plouay et Bubry: Captain Clave, Captain Robert H Streich, 723 W Elm St, Titusville PA USA, William D Eaton 6th Park Ave, Bloomfield New Jersey, Philip Weinstein 410 South Delsea Drive Clavton New Jersey." At the bottom is the artist's name and address again, "Louis Kerfelec, 20 rue Carnot, l'orient, Morbrihan." [Brittany, France]

## Object Report

**History:** card- French Mercy Train after WWII.

In November 1947, a train left Los Angeles, CA, pulling 11 freight cars of food, clothing and medical supplies headed for France. The initiative was led by Drew Pearson (popular newspaper columnist and radio commentator) in the mid-1940s as a gesture of friendship by the American people to the French. As the train headed for New York, cars were added along the way as various states and communities contributed donations. Wealthy businessmen, large and small organizations across the U.S., contributed food, milk and other items as a grassroots effort to reach out to the French people. By the time it reached the east coast, the train's contents estimated worth (in 1947) was \$40 million. The freight cars were loaded onto the ship the SS American Leader in NY harbor. The people of France were so grateful for the items they received from the "Friendship Train" that they wanted to express their gratitude in return and came up with the idea of sending a "Merci" box car full of gifts back to the American people. The criteria was that the gift should represent something French, something of France; and, that it must be something precious to the donor, something that would signify a sacrifice.

The French committee had special gift tags printed with the train's symbol: a floral bouquet with a frontal view of a steam locomotive. The three flowers are symbolic of Flanders Field. These tags were attached to or accompanied each gift and written on the tag was the name and address of the donor. Gifts ranged from valuable works of art and artifacts to handmade simple gifts, dolls, china and wedding dresses. The French War Veterans Association took over the project and decided to fill 49 boxcars, one for each state in the union and one for Wash., DC. The boxcars were painted blue, white and red diagonal stripes and lettered in black on the stripes on one side of the cars were the

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words, "The Train of French Recognition" and on the other side in English were the words, "Gratitude Train." These 49 boxcars were then filled in 1948 in Paris with more than 52,000 gifts. The train traveled to LeHavre and then each car was loaded onto the freighter, Magellan.

The ship landed in NY Harbor in early February 1949. The boxcars went to American Legion posts across the country. The gifts in the boxcars were distributed as each state deemed appropriate. Some gifts went to museums, schools, and some to private individuals. Tennessee's Merci Train car is currently in Bristol. The caretakers are the American Legion post 145.

Notes about the artist: Kerfelec was an amateur painter and a butcher by trade. His shop was at 99, rue Carnot a L'Orient although the address on the label reads 90, rue Carnot. He did a few exhibits in salons local to the region. He was a membr of the Bureau de la Societe des Beaux-Arts de L'Orient as treasurer. In 1977, he was guest of honor for the salon of the Beaux-Arts of L'Orient. Some of his painting were purchased by the town of L'Orient. He remained within the figurative style of landscape from Brittany. (info via Merci Train Researcher Dindy Daring and Alex is (lexi.int@gmail.com)).

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## Object Report

**Object ID:** 10.247  
**Department:** Military History  
**Collection:** Art & Architecture  
**Synopsis:** painting | Caron, Gerard | Notre-Dame de Paris | oil | paint | wood | World War II | Notre Dame Cathedral | Church | Cathedral | catholic church | Paris | France | Religion | art | French Gratitude Train | Merci Train | fishermen  
**Date:** 1948  
**Dimensions:** H: 19in; W: 15.5in; D: .25in



## Object Report

**Description:** card- color oil painting of Notre-Dame, Paris  
By Gerard Caron. Merci Train.

worksheet Oil painting on rectangular board.  
Shows 2 fishermen, river, bridge and Notre  
Dame Cathedral in the background. Signed  
in left corner g. Caron, dated 1948. Title:  
"Notre-Dame de Paris" in black at base.

Upper right edge has area of paint loss. Rest  
of picture is fine except for general cracking  
of plywood surface. colors: green, white,  
black, tan, blue, red and radio commentator)  
in the mid-1940s. There is also some white  
paint coming through at the upper right hand  
corner and down the right side of the painting.  
Presumably, the artist white-coated the board  
before beginning this painting. There is also  
a mysterious small circular spot of red paint  
near the center of the painting under the  
bridge as though it were dropped there by  
mistake. And, the same red paint seems to  
have mysteriously smudged a few inches  
down by the figure of the seated fisherman in  
blue.

The skies are blue and there are trees in full  
green foliage as the two fishermen in the  
foreground sit and stand near one another. The  
bridge (believed to be the Pont Neuf) cuts  
horizontally through the painting and the  
banks of the Seine are clearly visible on the  
edges of the piece. The water reflects the  
green leaves of the trees and the white of the  
bridge and skies. The standing fisherman (on  
the right) is wearing a white beret and a grey,  
long overcoat and black trousers. There is a  
small folding chair near his leg with red and  
white seating and black legs.

The reverse side is painted in a shiny white  
paint but the cracks in the wooden panel are  
quite clear. In the center there is a white  
square with the artist's name "Caron Gerard  
(16 ans [years]), 'etudiant' [student], 110 Rue  
de Rennes, Paris, VI eme [6th  
arrondissement/district]. Around the sides of  
the square are blue strips of paper about 2

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inches wide that form a square except at the bottom where the paper forms a point. There are white line sketches of drums and flags and cannons which all form a border.

There are also a few scribbled lines of blue to the left of center.

On the top right hand corner, a Merci Train label with logo seal has been attached. It reads, "Art Student 16 years old." From Mr. Caron, 110 rue de Rennes, Paris (6th)

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**History:** worksheet Part of group of paintings done by people on the "Merci Train". This artist was 16 years old & a student from Paris. His address is on back of painting. Also stamp from train. colors: green, white, black, tan, blue, red.

In November 1947, a train left Los Angeles, CA, pulling 11 freight cars of food, clothing and medical supplies headed for France. The initiative was led by Drew Pearson (popular newspaper columnist and radio commentator) in the mid-1940s as a gesture of friendship by the American people to the French. As the train headed for New York, cars were added along the way as various states and communities contributed donations. Wealthy businessmen, large and small organizations across the U.S., contributed food, milk and other items as a grassroots effort to reach out to the French people. By the time it reached the east coast, the train's contents estimated worth (in 1947) was \$40 million. The freight cars were loaded onto the ship the SS American Leader in NY harbor. The people of France were so grateful for the items they received from the "Friendship Train" that they wanted to express their gratitude in return and came up with the idea of sending a "Merci" box car full of gifts back to the American people. The criteria was that the gift should represent something French, something of France; and, that it must be something precious to the donor, something that would signify a sacrifice.

The French committee had special gift tags printed with the train's symbol: a floral bouquet with a frontal view of a steam locomotive. The three flowers are symbolic of Flanders Field. These tags were attached to or accompanied each gift and written on the tag was the name and address of the donor. Gifts ranged from valuable works of art and artifacts to handmade simple gifts, dolls, china and wedding dresses. The French War

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Veterans Association took over the project and decided to fill 49 boxcars, one for each state in the union and one for Wash., DC. The boxcars were painted blue, white and red diagonal stripes and lettered in black on the stripes on one side of the cars were the words, "The Train of French Recognition" and on the other side in English were the words, "Gratitude Train." These 49 boxcars were then filled in 1948 in Paris with more than 52,000 gifts. The train traveled to LeHavre and then each car was loaded onto the freighter, Magellan.

The ship landed in NY Harbor in early February 1949. The boxcars went to American Legion posts across the country. The gifts in the boxcars were distributed as each state deemed appropriate. Some gifts went to museums, schools, and some to private individuals. Tennessee's Merci Train car is currently in Bristol. The caretakers are the American Legion post 145.

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**Object ID:** 10.259  
**Department:** Art & Architecture  
**Department:** Military History  
**Collection:** Art & Architecture  
**Synopsis:** painting | Astoul, A. | "Le Tigre" (Georges Clemenceau) | paper | oil | charcoal | Clemenceau, George S. | France | World War II | tiger | French Gratitude Train | Merci Train  
**Date:** 1947 - 1949  
**Dimensions:** H: 19in; W: 23in



## Object Report

**Description:** Tiger (Georges Clemenceau) card- Drawing of a tiger by A. Astoul. Merci Train. "The Tiger" is Georges Clemenceau of France.

worksheet Painting of George S. Clemenceau pictured as a tiger. Painting has tears along edges. Tiger's mouth is open. Written on back the name of painting "Le tigre" Written in French is information about the picture. A sticker on backside labels as Merci Train. colors: brown, black, white.

This is a mixed media piece painted upon linen on board. Although the painting is, in itself, in good condition, the edges of this large tiger portrait are stained, torn, ragged with pieces of the cardboard missing. There is a border left around the edge of the painting created by the artist about one half inch on the long side of the piece, and about 1 1/2" margin on the top and bottom of the painting. The dominating colors range from beige to very dark brown and the subject is a very large tiger's head with its mouth open and four fangs showing. The artist has signed his work in the bottom right corner in a curved manner in black paint. it reads "A. Astaul [I think].

On the reverse side there are two strips of brown packaging paper (approx 1 1/2") affixed to the left and right edges but both are quite frayed and tattered and the right strip is coming off the bottom corner. The back is badly stained but there is a Merci Train label with logo on the left center of the backing with the words "Vendee (France) to US.A." [this is a region on the Atlantic (west) coast of France]

Someone, presumably the artist, has scrawled in black characoal, across the upper and central part of the reverse side, in French but the letters are blurred and hard to read. [translation: Mask of Clemenceau. "Le Tigre" A. Astoul. ]

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**History:** worksheet The "Merci Train" brought gifts to give Americans for their help during WWII. Georges Clemenceau (1841-1929) was premier of France 1906-1909, 1917-20. He was known as "The Tiger".

In November 1947, a train left Los Angeles, CA, pulling 11 freight cars of food, clothing and medical supplies headed for France. The initiative was led by Drew Pearson (popular newspaper columnist and radio commentator) in the mid-1940s as a gesture of friendship by the American people to the French. As the train headed for New York, cars were added along the way as various states and communities contributed donations. Wealthy businessmen, large and small organizations across the U.S., contributed food, milk and other items as a grassroots effort to reach out to the French people. By the time it reached the east coast, the train's contents estimated worth (in 1947) was \$40 million. The freight cars were loaded onto the ship the SS American Leader in NY harbor. The people of France were so grateful for the items they received from the "Friendship Train" that they wanted to express their gratitude in return and came up with the idea of sending a "Merci" box car full of gifts back to the American people. The criteria was that the gift should represent something French, something of France; and, that it must be something precious to the donor, something that would signify a sacrifice.

The French committee had special gift tags printed with the train's symbol: a floral bouquet with a frontal view of a steam locomotive. The three flowers are symbolic of Flanders Field. These tags were attached to or accompanied each gift and written on the tag was the name and address of the donor. Gifts ranged from valuable works of art and artifacts to handmade simple gifts, dolls, china and wedding dresses. The French War Veterans Association took over the project and decided to fill 49 boxcars, one for each

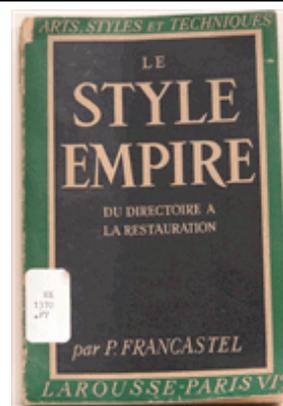
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**Object ID:** 2016.17.1  
**Department:** Military History  
**Collection:** Books & Booklets  
**Synopsis:** book | Le Style Empire | paper | ink | French Gratitude Train | Merci Train | Train de la Reconnaissance Francaise | Paris, France | World War II  
**Date:** 1939  
**Dimensions:** V: 6.875in; Hz: 4.5in; D: 0.375in



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**Description:** This is a small paperback French publication that was previously on the shelves of the TSM library. It is in relatively good condition given that it came from France in the 1940s. The cover is primarily black with beige letters that read: "Arts, Styles et Techniques [at the very top], Le Style Empire Du Directoire a la Restauration [middle], and par P. Francastel [at the bottom]." This is a Larousse-Paris VIe edition.

The paper cover is in good condition except that there is a minor tear in the top left corner. The paper spine has some of the paper off exposing the edge of bound pages.

On the back of the book, the former TSM library inventory label is still affixed to the cover although it has been crossed out with black ink. There is also a white library label on the lower left front cover with library catalog number NK 1370.F7. There is a seal in the center which appears in beige ink of a bird with spread wings and the words: "Je Seme, Tout Vent." [I sowed the winds.]

Inside the front cover is marked Tennessee State Museum in red ink. The book was published in 1939 in Paris and is an attempt to explain the history of France's Empire Style, an early-19th-century design movement in architecture, furniture, other decorative arts, and the visual arts that flourished between 1800 and 1815. The book contains 104 pages.

In the rear of the book there is a card pocket with library check out card inserted which was placed there when it was on the shelves of the TSM library. There is also a recognizable label with train logo and flowers of red, white and blue, seen in other items belonging to the Merci Train donation. This book is stated to be from: Librairie Larousse, 114 Bd Raphael, Paris.

**History:** From the French Merci Train collection of donations

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