

Classic Poetry Series

Joseph Quesnel
- poems -

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Joseph Quesnel(15 December 1746 - 3 July 1809)

Joseph Quesnel was a French Canadian composer, poet, and playwright. Among his works were two operas, *Colas et Colinette* and *Lucas et Cécile*; the former is considered to be the first Canadian opera.

Quesnel was born in Saint-Malo, France, where he attended the Collège Saint-Louis, in 1746. After finishing his studies, he shipped on board a man-of-war, visited Pondicherry and Madagascar, travelled in Africa, and after three years returned to France. After resting a few months, he set out for French Guiana, and afterward visited several islands of the Antilles and explored part of Brazil. In 1779, he travelled to North America on a French vessel which was captured by the British. Quesnel was taken to Halifax, Nova Scotia and then Montreal. He married Marie-Josephte Deslandes there and became partners in business with Maurice-Régis Blondeau, his mother-in-law's new husband.

He died of pleurisy at Montreal in 1809 several months after he had dived into the Saint Lawrence River to save a drowning child. Quesnel was the subject of the comic opera *Le Père des amours*, written by Eugène Lapierre in 1942.

Quesnel's son Jules Maurice Quesnel travelled with Simon Fraser on his journey to the Pacific Ocean; the town of Quesnel, British Columbia is named for him. Another son Frédéric-Auguste became a lawyer and politician; his daughter Mélanie married lawyer Côme-Séraphin Cherrier.

Songe Agréable

Joseph Quesnel

Stances Marotiques À Mon Esprit

Joseph Quesnel

Stances Sur Mon Jardin De Boucherville

Joseph Quesnel