

Normandy, and son of Etienne Ranvoyzé and his wife, Marie Jeanne Poitras. François Ranvoyzé, the silversmith, was married on 25th November, 1771, to Vénérande Pellerini. Whether he learned his craft from one of the above silversmiths in his native city, or was sent to Paris to serve an apprenticeship to one of the more experienced members of the goldsmiths' guild there, cannot at the present moment be precisely determined. That this French-Canadian silversmith enjoyed a considerable patronage from the ecclesiastics and churches of the province of Quebec is proved by the many examples of his skill which are preserved to this day, notwithstanding the losses sustained by various causes, such as fire and theft. The writer found evidence of his workmanship surviving in the Archbishop's palace in Quebec, in the Basilica; in the Ursuline Convent; and in Lorette, where, as has already been mentioned, his son became the parish priest. All the silversmiths above mentioned were born in Quebec or vicinity.

François Ranvoyzé was an envious man. A premium would not tempt him to accept as an apprentice the boy Laurent Amyot, soon to become Quebec's most talented silversmith, lest he should prove a formidable competitor. This boy was therefore sent by his father to Paris to learn his craft, and there he worked hard for two years, from 1784 to 1786, in the atelier of a goldsmith, whose name unfortunately has not been traced. The young Amyot returned to Quebec fully equipped for his craft, and during the remaining 33 years of Ranvoyzé's life was a steady and successful competitor, achieving as he did a large measure of success in supplying Quebec churches with sacred vessels and ornaments. Much of his success was due to the increased patronage which arose from the virtual severance of ecclesiastical connection between French-Canada and old France from the days of the Revolution and the consequent dissolution of the religious houses in France.

Laurent Amyot's workshop was on Mountain Hill in Quebec, where he died in 1838.

About the time of Amyot's death, Francois Sasseville began working as a silversmith at the corner of Palace Hill and Charlevoix Street, whether apprenticed to Ranvoyzé or Amyot, future researches into the history of the silversmith's craft in Quebec will, it is hoped, reveal.

The present writer during an enjoyable and instructive visit to Quebec in quest of knowledge for the history of this craft was privileged to converse with an old silversmith named Ambroise Lafrance, who was then in possession of the tools of Laurent Amyot, which had descended to him from the above François Sasseville, then to Pierre L'Esperance, who worked at the same address from 1863 to 1882, and