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# A Curious Virgin in the New World: Editorial Strategies in the Creation of Madeleine Hachard

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## Résumé

Madeleine Hachard was one of the twelve Ursulines who left France in 1727 to establish a convent in Louisiana. The daughter of a *procureur* in the *Chambre de Comptes* in Rouen, Hachard is the most famous of these women because of the publication in 1728 of a series of letters sent to her father describing her voyage across the Atlantic. Ever since their rediscovery in the mid-19th century, these letters have been treated as authentic. However, the editorial strategies adopted by the letters' Rouen printer, Antoine Le Prévôt, reveal that they are a hoax designed to parody Jesuit publications. Prévôt strategies, which involve plagiarizing purloined manuscripts, altering them for humorous content, using inexpensive paper, and publishing with a *permission tacite*, all point to the fraudulent nature of the Hachard letters. A possible motive may have been Prévôt's dispute with the printers of Jesuit publications in the Rouen guild.

**Mots-Clés:** Rouen, parody, permission tacite, Ursulines, femmes

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