We talked to Mrs. Shelby Davis Friday about the reception given in her home for delegates to the Congress of the French Speaking Americas. One short conversation with her makes us believe that these French-speaking people must have been as delighted with her as she was with them.

Her observations of the visitors? Sophisticated, liberal, free thinkers, bon vivants, charming, polished, curious about our way of life. She was particularly fascinated by the continental custom of handkissing. “They kissed your hand every time you put it out,” she explained, “and one man kissed mine four times!” (We should all have it so bad!)

Singing Songs

The delegates felt at home enough at the party to sing songs in French native to their countries. Some are sung here, Mrs. Davis explained, but most were new.

Though she never found out why, Mrs. Davis was amazed at the curiosity of the delegates about “du pain de la Louisiane.” This delectable French bread they seemed to enjoy more than our famed crawfish.

American slang was the topic of a number of conversations. The visitors found it fascinating and wanted to include these words in their English vocabulary. “Swinger” was a particular favorite among the delegates who wanted to be in the know.

Great Enthusiasm

Local people turned out in great numbers. “It’s the most enthusiastic reception I’ve ever seen,” Mrs. Davis remarked. Everyone mixed well and all talked together.

An interesting group of people at the reception were members of Le Club du Petit Paris de l’Amerique — St. Martinville women who greeted guests. Dressed in costumes of the Louis XIV — Marie Antoinette era, they depicted women of the French nobility who came to Louisiana during the French Revolution.

All in all, it sounds as if that was one party few people, especially Mrs. Davis, will soon forget.