French Literature Revival Is Urged For Louisiana

Parisian writer Auguste Viatte, an authority on Louisiana French literature, has included many good writers, not great ones, but respectable ones such as the brothers Rouquette and Alfred Mercier,” Viatte said yesterday. The French author, who participated in a panel chaired by Chancellor Cecil G. Taylor of LSU in Baton Rouge, said it can be hoped that there will be a renaissance of writing and that the lack of publishers in Louisiana will not deter any aspiring writer inasmuch as funds can be obtained for publishing.

Cultural Group

Viatte suggested that funds for publishing Louisiana French language authors could be obtained from “La Agence de Cooperation Culturelle et Technique,” a cultural group.

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composed of a number of French-speaking countries. Viatte and Dr. Charles O’Neil, professor of history at Loyola University in New Orleans, noted the contributions in early Louisiana French literature by free people of color. “Louisiana literature deserves to be studied especially the literature published by free people of color,” Viatte said. Also in a panel discussing “The Language and Culture in French Louisiana,” were Dr. George Reineke, LSUNO, and Dr. Josea Phillips, USL.

Language, Commerce

Another panel took up language and commerce. Robert J. Alario, of New Orleans, vice president of a firm engaged in overseas trade, stressed the importance of the French language. He recommended that Louisianians study not only their language and French, but a third language too. He said another language in communicating in commerce is a great advantage, especially with French-speaking countries.

Alden Sonnier, of Crowley, executive director of the Rice Council for market development, also emphasized the value of the French language in communicating in international commerce.