

BRO NEVEZ

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE
NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. BRANCH



A relay run to support the
Diwan Breton language
Schools is back for 2010.

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

No. 112

Nov. 2009

Lois Kuter, Editor
169 Greenwood Ave., B-4
Jenkintown, PA 19046 U.S.A.

(215) 886-6361
Lkuter@fast.net

U.S. ICDBL website: www.icdbl.org

Also available via: www.breizh.net/icdbl.htm

The **U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (U.S. ICDBL)** was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on October 20, 1981. **Bro Nevez** ("new country" in the Breton language) is the newsletter produced by the U.S. ICDBL. It is published quarterly: February, May, August and November. Contributions, letters to the Editor, and ideas are welcome from all readers and will be printed at the discretion of the Editor.

The U.S. ICDBL provides Bro Nevez on a complimentary basis to a number of language and cultural organizations in Brittany to show our support for their work. Your Membership/Subscription allows us

to do this. Membership (which includes subscription) for one year is \$20. Checks should be in U.S. dollars, made payable to "U.S. ICDBL" and mailed to Lois Kuter at the address above.

Ideas expressed within this newsletter are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent ICDBL philosophy or policy.

For information about the Canadian ICDBL contact: Jeffrey D. O'Neill, PO Box 14611, 50 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M8L-5R3, CANADA (e-mail: jdkoneil@hotmail.com). Telephone: (416) 264-0475.



On the Cover . . .

... it is the logo for the 2010 Redadeg – a relay run to support the Diwan Breton immersion schools as well as a number of other actions in support of the Breton language. Read about this in this issue of Bro Nevez and consider stepping up to support the Diwan schools as they work hard to meet their budget.

This issue of Bro Nevez includes lots of information (and numbers) on the state of the Breton language in the schools of Brittany for this 2009-2010 school year – not only in the Diwan schools but also in the publish and Catholic school bilingual programs.

There is continued growth ... but it is slow ... and the school system of France does not appear to try very hard to meet the desires and demands of parents, students, and people of Brittany.

Also in this issue of Bro Nevez ...

You will learn about the Miz Du – Black Month of Brittany – in a first hand account by the U.S. ICDBL President David Brûlé. You will get an introduction from Natalie Novik to Breton verbs in her continuing series of short language lessons. You will learn about some interesting projects and activities supporting the Breton language and get a quick introduction to a number of publishing houses for the Breton language. You will meet five new members of Brittany's Order of the Ermine. You will read reviews of some new books and music recordings from Brittany. And Jean-Pierre Le Mat will tell you about "wild men" in the Celtic tradition in his ongoing series "Deep Inside a Breton Skull."

Lois Kuter



LIZER EUS AR C'HOAT: DARK NOVEMBER Uzel, Aodoù An Arvor----

Travel Thoughts from David Brûlé, U.S. ICDBL President

The train that brought us to the center of Brittany streaked across the countryside after leaving Paris, heading West. Autumn fields fresh plowed already had spikes of green new growth piercing the furrows, the winter grass starting a new cycle. The sky low and grey, bare trees line the hedgerows and are hung with mistletoe, which grows wild in these parts. The ancient Druids collected the perfect spheres of holy mistletoe in early winter, it representing the roundness of the sun, and staying green even as the darkness of the season grows deeper. We traveled in comfort as the super-fast train--the TGV--rocketed along at close to 200mph. The train from Paris to St. Brieuc follows the same route that Jack Kerouac describes in *Sartori in Paris*. He was on a mission from Lowell to Brittany to trace his Breton routes. In the 50s, his trip took 7 hours, our modern trip took only 3.

Our destination was the little family farm way out into the country. St Brieuc station was the end of the line for us, the rest of the trip was by car, a miniscule Peugeot. The SNCF has an interesting *train + voiture* formula, so we took advantage of the deal, a car being indispensable for getting around out here.

It's not for nothing that November in the Breton is called "ar miz Du" the Dark Month. The first of November coincides with Samhain, the beginning of the Celtic winter. December, as you must know, is "ar miz Kerzu"--the Really Dark Month! Out here, in the farthest Western reaches of Europe, where the continent ends, the Dark Month begins with the Days of the Dead: La Toussaint. All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day is the time for remembering departed family members. The skies are traditionally dark with swirling clouds driven across the landscape by the damp northwest wind--the Gwalarne--blowing in from the north Atlantic and the Irish Sea. This western tip of Europe, is a place of legend and myth where according to the lore of the earliest peoples, the wandering souls of the dead drifted westward across the continent toward this region where the sun sets. Megalithic tombs nearby dating back to 5000BC dot our landscape, *menhirs* rise up from fields and edges of woods, placed here by a vanished people that even pre-date the Celts. Brittany is a place where the realm of the Dead and the Living are separated only by a thin border, where marshes and springs are the passageways between the worlds.

November the First is the time when Bretons, and

indeed most of France, return to the home village and churchyard cemetery to honor the ancestors. This homecoming is not unlike our migrations at Thanksgiving bringing those who live far away back to the family's roots. Central to the ritual is the family tomb in the churchyard. We arrived this year to help in the washing of the tombs a few days before November 1. The cemetery was full of other families, armed with mops, buckets and rags to scrub down the granite slabs, resembling small *dolmen*(!), and the headstones. The family plots had to be ready to receive the flowers coming in for the feast day.

So into the churchyard we went on the blustery morning of November 1, arms laden with a riot of colorful flowers to brighten the tombs of the Breton branch of the family. For tombs there are here in the cemetery, not really graves. No grass grows here, but neat rows of granite and marble slabs lie flat on the earth, much like the burial stones of the ancient peoples here before Christianity. These tombs are already crowded with chrysanthemums--the brilliant fall flower that has the task of brightening these dark stones - yellows to represent the sun dominate, but also pale to forceful blues, subdued autumnal russets, others white and rose, but it's the sunny yellow lions' heads that throw their sun burst of color in defiance of dark November and the finality of this place. Families like ours thread along the neat gravel paths among the tombs, children learning and re-learning the names of their forebears, of family lore, the exploits and chagrins of each. Names of old neighbors and old heroes of the wars are read again and again, their memories evoked once more. A visit later in the day near dusk, the sun far in the west on the edge of the horizon sends its last rays to flare up the colors of the flowers on each and every grave--not a one has been overlooked or forgotten, from that of the early pastor from the 1800s to that of the humble gravedigger himself, finally entombed after putting so many others down with the crumbling bones of their ancestors. Dark thoughts maybe, but part of the circular movement of seasons, the wheel of life that turns and figures in so many vestiges of this place: in the megalithic circle of stones, the legends and poems, with roots going back thousands of years.

Our familial chores done, we end the day sitting around the fireplace, roasting chestnuts gathered down the lane, growing wild for the taking, untouched by the blight that wiped out our New England trees. An evening of roasted chestnuts, homemade cider fermented in its bottles, amber and bubbly like fine champagne, with stories of the old folks who inhabited this house, their tales of hard times that we hope will come no more.

11 November 1918. The next benchmark of the month is that of the Armistice of 1918. Whether or not the canons really fell silent on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is a matter for historians and legend. The grandfather of this farmhouse left his fields and family when the bell (*le tocsin*) tolled on that fateful early harvest day in August of 1914. He left his wooden sabots behind, was issued ill-fitting leather boots in their place, a gun placed in his hands and was shipped off to the slaughter of a war of attrition that lasted 4 years and took 10 million lives. (The bells in the village regulated the day in the countryside: the matines, the angelus 3 times a day, vespers on Sunday, the tocsin for emergencies, the glas, for death.)

Almost miraculously, grandfather Honore, survived the four years of war whereas others in the Breton peasant army died by the tens of thousands. He survived Verdun, where 600,000 on both sides fell. He was to be cannon fodder like the other Bretons, many of whom didn't speak French, but knew how to follow orders and protect their homeland. And after the Armistice of 1918, he came home to the farm, having managed to stay alive and keep the troops of Kaiser Bill away from the village.

These parts were not so lucky in the Second World War when the Nazi blitzkrieg drove deep into Brittany and brought a new Reign of Terror, an Occupation that lasted four years. In the sinister house near the village square, the screams of the tortured dying still echo in the minds of those here, villagers who died for resisting the invader. Bodies were hung in the trees on the square as a warning to the townspeople. Hostages were taken to the killing field near the forest nearby to be mutilated and executed. Here by day, sons and husbands hid in the fields and woods from the German patrols, by night they came from the darkness to ambush, to attack the invaders, to blow

up trains and tracks. Innocent hostages were taken by the invader for revenge, they paid with their agony, while the Underground resisted the overwhelming force by night. When D Day came, Patton's march through this region drew out the population that had resisted and endured. Every household still has a story of the Liberation, and the gratitude for the arrival of the Americans. Every village square has its Monument to the Dead, a million and a half lost in the Great War of 1914-1918, close to that lost in the Second World War, a little over 20 years later. These are the thoughts that come to mind when the calendar and the cycle of the year bring November back around to Brittany.

But of course, there is a way to lighten the spirit, and brighten the dark month. One way Bretons reaffirm their resistance to dark thoughts and the waning year is the Dance. They dance to drive away the dark, dance to show that they have endured in spite of all. Arms linked, dancers close side by side in long lines of thirty or more celebrants, the ancient intricate steps stamp down hard on the earth, the endless linking of the call and response of the musicians propel the dancers to another world, the line snakes around the farm courtyard, the village square or the assembly hall. The piercing medieval sound of the *bombarde*, and the *binou*, drive the dance. All over Brittany this month, people are dancing, linking arms, in step with the An Dro, as the line snakes around the room amid shouts and whoops, rhythmic stamping. We're still here! They seem to shout. After millenia of untold adversity, invasion, war and destruction, we still go on, we're still here! The steps stamp out an irresistible rhythm. Like the circle of megalithic standing stones on the hill -top outside the village, the people have endured. And that is how, in these parts, we bring back the sun, we bring back the light to brighten the Dark Month of November.

The Breton Language and the 2009-2010 School Year

Lois Kuter

The "Observatoire" of Ofis ar Brezhoneg has issued a 56-page report detailing the presence of the Breton language in the schools of Brittany at the start of this school year as well as for the 2008-09 school year. (www.ofis-bzh.org). This report is loaded with statistics and maps to show where growth is occurring in the Diwan immersion schools as well as the public and Catholic bilingual programs – and the good news is that the presence of the Breton language in schools has grown every year for the past 32 years since the creation of the first Diwan school. The bad news is that this is a very slow growth and just 6% of the schools of Brittany offer Breton bilingual or immersion programs. This is in contrast to Alsatian or Basque in schools where a different structure for educational planning means that 54% of schools in the Basque country of France are bilingual. In Alsace, which has roughly half the population of Brittany, 1,800 new students were in bilingual programs this year in comparison with 748 new ones for Brittany. There is clearly room for improvement of the educational system in Brittany to meet the demands of parents and hopes of the general public where surveys show a growing favor for bilingual programs – from 77.5% expressing

favor in 1991, the percentage in a 2007 survey grew to 87%. While over 13,000 children are now in immersive or bilingual programs in Brittany, this is far from the goal of 20,000 set for 2010 by the Region of Brittany.

The news for 2009 is positive with a larger increase in growth compared to the past three years. Here are some numbers for this new school year.

13,035 students are enrolled in immersion and bilingual school programs in Brittany with an additional 42 in the Diwan school in Paris.

3,209 students are in Diwan schools (including Paris) – figures below do not include Paris
5,424 in public school bilingual programs
4,444 in Catholic (private) school bilingual programs

This is an increase of 748 students from 2008.

The strongest growth is at the pre-school level with 335 new children,
Primary schools saw an increase of 234; middle schools gained 157 and high schools gained 22 students.

This represents a 6.1% increase in students.

7 new preschools were opened this year (and one closed) versus 3 in 2008 and 8 in 2007.

2 for Diwan – in Riantec (Morbihan Department) and Savenay (Loire-Atlantique)
2 in public schools in Ploëzel (Côtes d'Armor) and Bannalec (Finistère)
3 in Catholic schools in Sainte-Marie (Redon in Ile-et-Vilaine), Plonéour-Lanvern (Finistère) and Noyal-Pontivy (Morbihan), but Plouvien (Finistère) closed this year.

For the first time a new site was opened in all five departments of Brittany.

1 new middle school opened in the Catholic school of Languidic (Morbihan)

389 schools (versus 377 in 2008) now offer immersion or bilingual programs in 131 communes (versus 126 in 2008). This represents 8.8% of the communes of Brittany.

175 pre-schools
166 primary schools
39 middle schools
8 high schools

The distribution of students in immersive/bilingual programs by Department shows that schools are more abundant in the western areas of Brittany where Breton has traditionally been spoken.

Finistère - 44% of students / Morbihan - 29% / Côtes d'Armor - 16.1% / Ile-et-Vilaine - 7.4% and Loire-Atlantique 3.5%

Broken down by Department and age level the numbers of students in each department are as follows:

	Pre-school	Primary	Middle	High School
Finistère	2,300	2,318	801	316
Morbihan	1,671	1,684	310	17
Côtes d'Armor	854	897	306	44
Ile-et-Vilaine	444	399	90	26
Loire-Atlantique	197	209	42	
Totals	5,466	5,507	1,659	403

Broken down by Department and type of school program

	Diwan	Public	Catholic	All	increase	% increase
Finistère	1,780	2,386	1,569	5,735	+ 375	7%
Morbihan	475	1,152	2,155	3,782	+ 134	3.67%
Côtes d'Armor	558	1,146	397	2,101	+ 106	5.31%
Ille-et-Vilaine	120	543	296	959	+ 99	11.51%
Loire-Atlantique	234	197	27	458	+ 34	8.02%
All	3,167	5,424	4,444	13,035		
Growth from 2008					+ 748	
% Growth						6.09%

The following distribution is broken down by type of school program to show the number of school sites for each

	Pre-school	Primary	Middle	High School	Total
Diwan	39	37	6	1	83
Public	74	69	16	6	165
Catholic	62	60	17	1	140
All	175	166	39	8	388

This distribution is by the type of school and the number of students at each age level.

	Pre- school	Primary	Middle	High School	Total	New students	% increase Form 2008
Diwan	1,048	1,163	719	237	3,167	137	4.52%
Public	2,524	2,307	457	135	5,424	408	8.13%
Catholic	1,894	2,037	482	31	4,444	203	4.79%
Total	5,466	5,507	1,659	403			
New	+ 335	+ 234	+ 157	+ 22		+ 748	
% increase	6.53%	4.44%	10.45%	5.77%			6.09%



Ar Redadeg 2010 – a run for the Breton Language

www.ar-redadeg.org

Ar Redadeg is a relay run to cover 1,200 kilometers through all five of Brittany's departments to raise money for Diwan Breton immersion schools and a selection of

other projects for the Breton language. It will start in Rennes on the morning of May 10 and end in Pontivy the evening of May 15 – six days and five nights non-stop. It is open to anyone to participate for any length

of the run, and this is indeed an intergenerational event. Along the way the towns in which this race will pass will host mini-festivals to highlight projects and support for the Breton language. Of course there will be plenty of music and dancing.

The first Ar Redadeg was done in 2008 and was based on the Basque Korrika begun over 25 years ago (see Bro Nevez 106, May 2008). Fund-raising is done with the purchase of kilometers by individuals, organizations, and businesses, as well as through the sale of T-shirts (there is no entry fee to run).

While the Diwan schools who initiated Ar Redadeg in 2008 will receive half of the funds raised, a number of other new projects for the Breton language, selected

by a panel from proposals received, will also receive a share of the funding. These projects are as follows:

- © A web radio project initiated by Radio Kerne, Arvorig FM, Radio Kreiz Breizh and Radio Bro Gwened to put Breton language radio programming on the internet.
- © A project to produce audio-books for adults by the publisher Al Liamm.
- © Workshops in the Breton language to be given by Gouen Côtes d'Armor for children and youth to learn gouren, Brittany's unique tradition of wrestling.
- © A project by Ti ar C'hoadoù to put together a traveling "suitcase" in Breton on the theme of nature that can go to different activity centers for children.
- © The production of a Breton language theater piece for teens on Breton history by Strollad Ar Vro Bagan.
- © The organization of fun workshops by Studi ha dudi to bring together teens who are learning Breton and want to improve their use.

A form is enclosed with this newsletter for those who need an English language version to sign up to support the run. (Otherwise use the forms available on the Ar Redadeg website). Please consider signing up for support!!! 100 euros purchases 1 kilometer (this is the equivalent of approximately \$150)

While fuzzy in its reproduction below, this map gives an idea of the proposed route for Ar Redadeg 2010. For a clearer view and more information about the run (In Breton or French) go to the website: www.ar-redadeg.org



DIWAN Schools - Year-Round Fundraising

The Diwan Breton language immersion schools have been steadily growing during their 32 years of existence, and today there are 3,209 students in 40 schools, six middle schools and a high school. But every year has its financial challenges to meet budgets for staffing and facilities. Tuition-free to anyone who wants to enroll, Diwan operates as a public school system, but has not succeeded in getting this status officially recognized by the French Education system. Some relief is offered though a "contrat d'association" with the State but this covers only some expenses. Before any new school gets any funding in this contract it must exist for a full five years. That means seven new schools created since 2006 (in Louannec, Plounévez-Moëdec, Châteaulin, La Mèzière, Saint-Renan, Savenay and Riantelec) as well as the middle school for Loire-Atlantique get no State support. Even with a large number of schools under contract with the State, there are many expenses that are simply not covered.

The future growth of Diwan counts on fund-raising and there is never enough despite the best efforts of parents and teachers to find creative ways to meet budgets.

U.S. ICDBL Members and Bro Nevez subscribers are reminded that you can help the Diwan schools in sending a contribution. Make out a check (in U.S. dollars) to the "U.S. ICDBL" and note on the check that it is for Diwan and send it to:

Lois Kuter
U.S. ICDBL Secretary-Treasurer
169 Greenwood Ave., Apt. B4
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Contributions (in Euros) can certainly be sent directly to Diwan as well:

Diwan Breizh
Z.A. Sant-Ernel
B.P. 147
29411 Landerne Cedex
France

Message in a Bottle from Skol Diwan Banaleg

As Secretary for the U.S. ICDBL, I receive inquiries of all kinds – many of which are very difficult to answer. This Fall I received an e-mail from Lee and Jennifer DeRosa-Holder concerning a message in a bottle they found walking on the beach. It was from:

*Children Diwan
Skol Diwan
29 Straed Sant Lukas
29380 Banaleg
Breizh
France*

Banaleg (Bannalec) is found to the east of Quimper between Rospordon and Quimperlé (it is not on the seacoast). In his e-mail to me Lee Holder did not tell me where he lived or where he found the bottle. Were he and his wife vacationing in Brittany and found it on a beach there? Did the bottle drift north to the British Isles?

In a subsequent e-mail it was revealed that Lee and his wife found the bottle at about 7:30 on April 20th, 2008, while walking on the beach at Whale Bay East, Southampton, Bermuda. The bottle was buried among piles of documents in their home so it took a while to rediscover it and try to find an e-mail to respond to the senders. The e-mail I found for the Banaleg Diwan School did not work, but Lee Holder would be sending an old-fashioned letter to the "Children Diwan" whose bottle traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to the Island of Bermuda. For those with a poor sense of geography, Bermuda is an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom located to the north of the Caribbean Islands out in the Atlantic Ocean to the east of the state of North Carolina. It is well situated to be the first land found by a bottle thrown into the ocean off the coast of Brittany.

Breton Language Wikipedia

www.br.wikipedia.org

As reported on the Agence Bretagne Presse and Ofis are Brezhoneg websites, the Breton language version of the free on-line Wikipedia encyclopedia now has some 30,000 articles. This puts Breton 51st among the 250 languages with a Wikipedia presence, and first among the Celtic languages.

The English language version of Wikipedia was created in January 2001 by an American, and Bretons jumped on the opportunity to create a Breton language web encyclopedia in June 2004. Those writing entries on all topics – nature, history, economy, science, arts, etc. – are all volunteers. They may be high school students (like those in the Wikipedia Club at the Diwan high school) who want to practice writing skills, or they may be university professors, teachers or anyone else with Breton writing skills and scholarship in a number of fields. Since anyone can add to a topic or correct information, the information can only improve in accuracy and quality over time.



Stumdi

Stumdi is an organization to provide training in the Breton language – especially through intensive long term sessions where learners master the language for use in everyday communication and in jobs where bilingualism is needed – teaching, media, social services, etc.

With 21 years of experience and 12 employees, Stumdi engages some 200 students each year. In 2010 they will offer a six-month (January to July) training session for Breton in Guingamp, Landerneau (where they are based) and Ploemeur. A three-month advanced training will be offered in Landerneau and Ploemeur from April to July.

This fall a new initiative for intensive training in Gallo was added. Stumdi worked with three Gallo organizations (Association des enseignants au gallo, Bertaën galeizz, Chubri) and Dihun, the Catholic school bilingual program. This course is designed for adults who want to gain a knowledge allowing everyday conversation and use on the job. Seven students were enrolled in the fall session and a second three-month course in Gallo will be offered from April to July.

Stumdi also offers shorter training classes in Breton, specifically focused on a profession such as work in the media, or early childhood education. Or these can be focused on a specific topic such as the week-long classes on the Gwened dialect and culture, the island of Ouessant, or the history of Landerneau (offered during the Kann al Loar festival). In all cases classroom work is combined with actual practice as students engage in activities and the exploration of a location.

Stumdi also offers classes addressed to those who have never mastered Breton but have it in their family environment. This is aimed at giving people the ability to speak Breton for everyday conversation. And there are classes for those who have grown up speaking Breton but have never had the opportunity to learn to read or write it.

For more information visit the website:
www.stumdi.com

Finding Breton Classes for Adults

There are many organizations offering Breton classes for adults – through intensive longer training programs, in week-long sessions, or through evening gatherings. DAO (Deskiñ d'an Oadourien) can help you track down classes and find contact information to get the best match – in terms of location or style of training. From their website www.dao-bzh.org you can download an extensive guide to adult Breton classes and resources.



KENTEL 15 / LESSON 15

By Natalie Novik

GERIADURIG / VOCABULARY

A few common verbs

Skrivañ	to write (think of “scriptures”)
Deski	to learn (perhaps thinking of desks will help)
Lennañ	to read (beware not to mix it with “deski”)
Labourat	to work (think of “labor”)
Gwelout	to see
Kavout	to find

(depending on the spelling being used, you may also find the forms “labourad”, “gweloud” and “kavoud”, where the final “d” is actually pronounced “t”).

YEZADUR / GRAMMAR

Let's start dipping a toe into Breton verbs. It is possibly the most difficult part of Breton grammar, and perhaps a good way to memorize the verbal forms is to learn songs, where the proper tenses and persons are automatically used. After a while, you will instinctively know which form applies when you speak.

Remember, we will be using S for singular and P for plural, and 1, 2, 3 for the persons (including “tu” which is thou in English, and masculine and feminine 3rd persons).

As explained previously, the form of the verb depends on what you intend to emphasis in the sentence.

For instance, the verb “skrivañ” (to write) at the present tense with the particule “a”

S1	Me a skriv
S2	Te a skriv
S3m	Eñ a skriv
S3f	Hi a skriv
P1	Ni a skriv
P2	C'hwi a skriv
P3	Int a skriv

In this form, you are exactly saying **I** am the one writing.

But if you wish to say that **writing** is what I am doing (rather than sleeping or reading), you will use the form we have seen previously:

S1	Skriva a ran
S2	Skriva a rez
S3m	Skriva a ra
S3f	Skriva a ra
P1	Skriva a reom
P2	Skriva a rit
P3	Skriva a reont

Ran, rez etc. is the declension of the verb “ober” to do, which is an irregular verb.



Publishing in the Breton Language



Information for this report is drawn from an article by Fanny Chauffin published on the Agence Bretagne Presse website October 29, 2009.

The 20th annual Festival du Livre (Gouel al Levrioù) was held in Carhaix this October, gathering some 80 book and magazine publishers and over 120 authors. At a special forum during the weekend, Breton language publishers got together to discuss the state of their profession.

Of some 30 publishers, just five (those present for the discussion) produce 90% of publications printed each year in Breton. 10% of all books published in Brittany are in Breton. TES (Ti Embann ar Skolioù) produces one in five Breton language books and these are destined for schools. Second is Keit Vimp Beo which publishes some 15 books per year as well as three magazines – two for children, and the weekly paper called Ya!. Emglev Breiz is the third largest editor with

one out of every ten Breton books to come out each year. A fourth of the books in Breton are edited by Kuzul ar Brezhoneg which is an umbrella group for over a dozen smaller publishers (see article below). Skol Vreizh publishes a variety of works in Breton (and French) including dictionaries, theater, poetry and novels,

The discussion underlined the challenges facing Breton language publication – the reliance on volunteers and lack of employment, as well as lack of promotion of new publications in Breton. While the number of Breton readers is growing, the number of new publications has remained steady from year to year.



**Kuzul ar Brezhoneg
Breton Language Council**
www.brezhoneg.org

Kuzul ar Brezhoneg is a federation of independently operated organizations whose goal is to preserve and disseminate the Breton language.

Since 1952 this organization has assisted its members in various professional needs in the publication of Breton language books and publications. Since 1982 Kuzul ar Brezhoneg has also offered a translation service for Breton novels, short stories, songs, poems, or other texts (for a fee). The website for this organization is available in Breton, French, or English, and presents the work of its member organizations.

Kuzul ar Brezhoneg
14 straed Louzaouenn-an-Hañv
22300 Lannuon
kab@brezhoneg.org

The following provides a brief introduction and contact information for each of these as listed on the website.

Al Lanv

President: Patrig an Habask
50 hent Kerdronioù Vihan
29000 Kemper
Al-lanv@wanadoo.fr

Al Lanv published both a quarterly magazine (on politics, culture, and contemporary literature) as well as a variety of books in the Breton language.

Al Liamm

President: Tudual Huon
7 Bel Air
29460 Dirinon
Tudual.huon@wanadoo.fr

www.alliamm.com

Al Liamm has produced a widely read literary magazine since 1945 which is currently published every two months. It also publishes books and some 120 titles are available for poetry, theater, comic strips, short stories, novels, biographies, and various other studies.

An Alarc'h

President: Maoris Joubin
12 straed Louzaouenn-an-Hañv
22300 Lannuon
analarch@brezhoneg.org

An Alarc'h is a publisher created in 2003 for novels, short stories, poetry and other works.

Ar Gripi

President: Stefan Carpentier
5 plasenn ar C'hastell anndi 3
22320 Korle
gripi@free.fr
www.gripi.free.fr

Ar Gripi (the griffin) promotes fantasy and science fiction literature through a magazine, books, and games.

Bannoù-Heol

President: Arno Elegoed
140 straed Pont-'n-Abad
29000 Kemper
contact@b-heol.com
www.b-heol.com

Bannoù-Heol (sunbeams) was created in January 1999 for youth and children's publications – translations of popular comic books as well as a variety of books.

Barn ha Skrid

President: Gwendal Denez
25 bis bd. de la Liberté
35000 Rennes
info@brezhoneg.org

The collections Barn and Skrid are run by Gwendal Denez and Alan Botrel to offer less known and unusual works newly created or translated.

Breizh Llydaw

President: Gwenno Piette
Contact in Brittany: Jacqueline Gibson
2 Garden an Eskob
22220 Landreger
Llydawes1@yahoo.com
www.kembre-breizh.org.uk

This association fosters links between Brittany and Wales with a magazine in Welsh and Breton.

Hor Yezh

President: Herve ar Bihan
96 rue Sergent Maginot

35000 Roazhon (Rennes)

horyezh@brezhoneg.org

www.horyezh.microopen.org

Created in 1954, Hor Yezh publishes a quarterly magazine about Breton linguistics and language research. It also publishes studies in linguistics, philology and dialectology with some 95 titles available.

KEAV

President: Gwenael Huon

22 hent Moulouen

29000 Kemper

keav@wanadoo.fr

www.keav.org

Kamp Etrekeltiek ar Vrezhonegerien is a summer "camp" where those with some knowledge of Breton can perfect their speaking abilities through hands-on activities – songs, sports, discussions, plays, walks, etc.

International Celtic Congress

President: Yann Guillaumet

11 straed ar Forn Raz

29000 Kemper

Kervegenn@wanadoo.fr

www.bretagnenet.com/celtcong

Since 1949 this week-long congress has taken place in one of the Celtic countries to promote the culture and languages of Brittany, Wales, Cornwall, Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

Mouladurioù Hor Yezh

President: Stefan Carpentier

22 hent Moulouen

29000 Kemper

Anna.ar.beg@wanadoo.fr

This publishing house was created in 1980 and has over 100 titles available for poetry, songs, news, novels, memoirs, biographies, translations, language learning, etc.

Xavier de Langlais Prize

14 straed Louzaouenn-an-Hañv

22300 Lannuon

info@brezhoneg.org

This literary prize was created by the widow of the writer and artist Xavier de Langlais (1906-1975) for the best literary work on Breton each year.

Sav-Heol

President: Mark Kerrain

32 bali ar Voudenn

35650 Reuz

Mark.kerrain@free.fr

This publisher specializes in easy to read texts and teaching aids for beginner learners of Breton.

Skol

6 straed Lapticque

22000 Sant Brieg

skol@bzh5.com

This publisher has reproduced rare and old texts with translations into modern Breton and French and extensive notations.

Skol Ober

President: Gerar Cornillet

14 straed Louzaouenn-an-Hañv

22300 Lannuon

skolober@brezhoneg.org

www.skolober.com

Created in 1932 by Marc'harid Gourlaouen (1902-1987) this correspondence school offers five levels of learning for Breton as well as an introduction to Welsh through Breton. With very low registration fees, learners of all ages can learn Breton at home.

T.I.R.

Travaux d'Investigation et de Recherche

President: Herve ar Bihan

Département de Breton

Université Rennes-2

Place du Recteur le Moal

CS 24307

35043 Rennes Cedex

Publisher of research studies of Breton, Irish and Celtic studies.

Unvaniezh Bro Dreger

President: Fañch Kerrain

14 straed Louzaouenn-an-Hañv

22300 Lannuon

info@brezhoneg.org

This organization collects documents and books on Brittany, in Breton and other languages. Their library is available for research by appointment.



Taol Kurun Festival and Haiku Contest

For the tenth year in a row, the festival called Taol Kurun will host a contest for Haiku poetry in French, Breton and Gallo. These short poems in three verses express an emotion rather than follow a strict rhyme. Contestants for different age groups can submit up to three poems in each language category. Each year a different theme has been proposed – cats, water, thunder, roosters, laughter, and last year the hand. For 2010 it is the foot that is proposed.

You can find more information, sample poems from previous years, and the rules to submit your haiku on the Taol Kurun website: <http://taolkurun.free.fr>. You can submit your contest haiku at taol.kurun@freesbee.fr

While a large number of festivals in Brittany are held during the summer months, Taol Kurun is held in January in the town of Quimperlé. This year's dates are January 12 to 24, 2010. The festival includes a wealth of activities, music, and dance.

Some November and December Breton Festivals ... just to mention a few!!!

Festival Yaouank, November 2 to 22 in Rennes

www.myspace.com/yaouankgouel

This features a series of events and performers – the best of Brittany - in a variety of styles. This year's festival includes Breton language films and events for children as well as the "largest fest-noz" of Brittany.

Les Veillées Contées de Bretagne, throughout

November, throughout Brittany

www.institutcultureldebretagne.org

The Cultural Institute of Brittany (Skol Uhel ar Vro) has organized a series of storytelling events throughout Brittany throughout the month of November. Central in a very lively oral tradition of Brittany, storytelling brings generations together.

Breizh a Gan, December 6 in Tréguier

www.kendalc'h.com

Annual choral festival featuring choirs who perform in the Breton language.

Cornemuses, December 19 in Quimper

www.bas29.com

A day for the Scottish style bagpipes which have become in the past 50+ years a very Breton musical instrument. Organized by Bodadeg ar Sonerion this festival includes the performance of some 80 soloists.

Bombarde en Fête, November 21-22, in Ergué-Gabéric

www.bas29.com

A festival with performances for bombardes (the very loud "oboe" of Brittany) in all sorts of musical combinations.

6e Festival du livre en Bretagne de Guérande,

November 20-22 in Guérande

www.festivaldulivreenbretagne.com

A book fair where you can meet authors and purchase books, with lots of other activities as well. This year Nordic literature is also featured. Mona Ozouf (read

below) is the guest of honor and received the Collier de l'Hermine at the festival.

Five new Members for Brittany's Order of the Ermine

Lois Kuter

Each year the Cultural Institute of Brittany (Skol Uhel ar Vro) inducts four (and sometimes five) individuals into this honorary order reinstituted in 1972 to recognize Bretons (and others) who have offered exceptional service to Brittany. This offers us the chance to present the work of these individuals in Breton.

The current Order of the Ermine was inspired by the order that was created in 1381 by Jean IV, one of the oldest honorary orders of Europe which was unique in including common people and women. Today's members of the Order of the Ermine are given a "medallion" designed by Pierre Toulhoat which is very much like that of the middle ages, decorated with "ermine" and including the motto "D'am buhe" - "For my life" – a reminder that those in the Order of the Ermine have the responsibility of life-long service to Brittany.

The biographies below in the Breton language and the photos are those published by Skol Uhel ar Vro (Cultural Institute of Brittany) in Sterenn No. 27 and on their website: www.culture-bretagne.org. The versions in English are my translations from those in French. My apologies for any mistranslation of information.

Jean-Christophe Cassard



Ganet eo bet Jean-Christophe Cassard er Roc'hell e 1951, E dad a zo a orin eus Naoned hag e vamm eus bro Dreger vihan. E Naoned ez a d'ar skol eus ar c'hentañ derez betek ar c'hlasoù prientiñ ar skolioù meur. Goude e studioù e Skol Normal Uhel Saint-Cloud ez eo

skolveurieketaet war an istor. Kelenner lise da gentañ, ez eo bremañ kelenner war istor ar Grennamzer e Skol-veur Breizh Kornôg ha staliet eo adarre war aod bro Dreger, douar e hendadoù e-lec'h ma chom abaoe ugent vloaz.

O paouez kenren gant Alain Croix ar pezh-mell *Geriadur istor Breizh (Dictionnaire d'histoire de Bretagne)* embannet gant an ti-embann Skol Vreizh e dibenn 2008 emañ. Ul labour a bouez a zo e bal reiñ endro d'ar Vretoned danvez o istor evel m'eo

anavezet gant an arbenigourien a-vremañ. Ur *Geriadur* klokaet gant un dastumad skeudennoù eus an dibab a drugarez da virourien mirdi Kastell an Duked e Naoned, gant ul levr-lennadurezh puilh ha kartennoù disebbann betek-hen.

Kelenner-enklasker er KEBK (Kreizenn Enklask Breizhek ha Keltiek -Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique) Skol-veur Brest, Jean-Christophe Cassard en deus gouestlet an darn vuiañ eus e embannadurioù d'ar Vretoned er Grennamzer. Lod a denn da istor ar c'hantvedoù kentañ : *Les Bretons de Nominoë*, *Les Bretons et la mer, des origines au XIIIe siècle* pe *Les Vikings en Bretagne* ; ur studiaden war vuhez sant Erwan : *Saint Yves de Tréguier, un saint du XIIIe siècle*, klokaet, asambles gant Georges Provost, gant embannadur aktaoù kendalc'h Landreger bet dalc'het da vare deiz-ha-bloaz seizhvet kanved e varv e 1303. A-benn ar fin e levr *La guerre de Succession de Bretagne* a ro ur sell nevez war an darvoudoù reuzus o doa roet an tu da familh Moñforzh da ren war dugelezh Vreizh.

Ur preder doubl a zo bet a-viskoazh o ren war e labour : bezañ resis en implij ar mammennoù orin hag ober ul labour istorour aes da lenn ha da gomprenn evit an niver brasañ a dud, peurgetket el levrioù a bep seurt savet a-stroll hag embannet e ti Skol Vreizh. Ur c'hant pennad imbours'h bennak savet gantañ a zo bet embannet e korf kelaouennoù skiant evit ur c'hevredig tud desket war an istor, niverus e Breizh, met ar pennadoù-se a ya d'ober sichenn ret-holl da gement imbours'h skiantel.

E-kichen ar mor, ar c'hedennoù, n'end eus ket disonjet studiañ implijoù kozh ar brezhoneg da nebeutañ pa vez damveneged ar yezh en dielloù dre ma vank an testennoù e brezhoneg eus an amzerioù koshañ.

Jean-Christophe Cassard was born in La Rochelle in 1951 of a father from Nantes and a mother native to the Trégor region of Finistère. He completed primary and secondary school and attended preparatory classes in Nantes. As a graduate of the École Normale Supérieure of Saint-Cloud with a degree in history he was a high school teacher for a period, and is currently a professor of medieval history at the Université de Bretagne Occidentale. He has found again the maritime roots of his mother's family as a resident of the Trégor for the past twenty years.

With Alain Croix, he recently co-directed the completion of the monumental *Dictionnaire d'histoire de Bretagne* published by Skol Vreizh at the end of 2008 – a work which aims to give back to Bretons their full history, at least as much as current knowledge can provide. This is a *Dictionnaire* that is

supported by superb visual resources for which the authors are indebted to the conservators of the Château des ducs in Nantes. It also includes an extensive bibliography and previously unpublished maps.

A teacher-researcher with CRBC (Centre de Recherche Bretonne et Celtique) at the Université de Brest, Jean-Christophe Cassard has devoted much of his writing to Bretons of the Middle Ages. Some works focus on the earlier centuries: *Les Bretons de Nominoë*, *Les Bretons et la mer, des origines au XIIIe siècle* or *Les Vikings en Bretagne*. A biography, *Saint Yves de Tréguier, un saint du XIIIe siècle*, was followed by the proceedings of a colloquium (with Georges Provost) held in Tréguier on the occasion of the seventh hundred anniversary of Saint Yves death in 1303. And in *La guerre de Succession de Bretagne*, the tragic events which brought the dukes and the House of Montfort to power are reviewed.

He has always been concerned with both the need for accuracy in using primary sources and the need to express things clearly so that history is accessible to the widest possible reading public – achieved in particular in various collective works published by Skol Vreizh and books distributed by them. Some 100 research articles published in scholarly journals are naturally directed more to amateur historians, of which many are found in Brittany, but these are a crucial foundation for all scientific research.

Not neglected are references to the sea, folk beliefs, and ancient use of the Breton language when these are referenced in some side allusion in sources researched, since texts on these are rare from this period.



Tugdual Kalvez

Daoust m'eo ganet d'an 22 a viz Kerzu 1937 e Plañvour Morbihan, Tugdual Kalvez a zo a orin eus ar vro Glazig, eus an Erge-Armel tal kichen Kemper. Dimezet ha tad daou bugel eo ha laouen da gaout tri bugel vihan, brezhonegerien an holl anezho. Stallet eo hiziviken e

Sant-Nolf e kichen Gwened. Kelenner war ar brederouriezh, ar bredkelenneriezh hag ar brezhoneg e meur a skol eus ar vro eo bet : skolioù normal Gwened, liseoù Colbert en Oriant ha Benjamin Franklin en Alre.

E penn-orin meur a gevredigezh emañ a-dreuz e stourm evit ar yezh hag ar sevenadur : An Namnediz gant Henri Landreau, (strollad sonerezh folk, 1960) ;

Skol Gouren Naoned (1963) ; Kelc'h Sevenadurel Gwened (1972) bet kadoriad anezhañ e-pad ugent vloaz ; Rann skolaerien ha kelenerien lik ar Morbihan (Ar Falz) gant Albert Boché (1975) ; diazezer ha kadoriad Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg (1981) e-pad dek vloaz. Kadoriad Glad Senolf, strollad studi ha talvoudekaat glad Sant-Nolf, abaoe 1996.

Sot gant an arz, a den ouziek-mañ a zo dedennet ivez gant meur a zachenn sevenadurel-all : al lennegezh dre an embann dastumadoù barzhoniezh, danevelloù, testennoù pe c'hoazh troidigezhioù levrioù evit ar vugale ; ar sonerezh gant enrolladur meur a bladenn gant ar strollad An Namnediz ; an anvioù-lec'h, ar c'hoariva... Loreet eo bet meur eus e labour gant prizioù lennegel: Priz Per Roy (lennegezh e brezhoneg) 1997, Priz Xavier Langleiz (lennegezh e brezhoneg) 2000 hag ar Priz Imram (lennegezh e brezhoneg) 2002. Ezel eo ivez eus ar gevrenn Yezhoù & yezhoniezh e Skol-Uhel ar Vro.

Born on December 22, 1937, in Ploemeur in the Morbihan, **Tugdual Kalvez** is native to Ergué-Armel near Quimper in the Pays Glazik. Married and the father of two children, he is the happy grandfather of three grandchildren, all Breton-speaking. Today living in Saint-Nolff near Vannes, this retired professor has given courses in philosophy, psycho-pedagogy, and Breton in several establishments of the area: teacher training schools of Vannes, the Colbert high school of Lorient and the Benjamin Franklin high school in Auray.

A militant for the Breton language and culture, he helped create a number of associations and groups: An Namnediz with Henri Landreau (a Breton music group in 1960); Skol Gouren Naoned (Breton wrestling organization in 1963); Kelc'h Sevenadurel Gwened that he presided for twenty years (Vannes Center for Breton Culture in 1972); Section des Instituteurs et Professeurs Laïques Bretons for Ar Falz in the Morbihan with Albert Boché (in 1975); founder and President for ten years of Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg (Union of Breton Teachers in 1981). Today he is the president of Glad Senolf, a group which has studied and promoted the patrimony of Saint-Nolff since 1996.

With a passion for the arts, this scholar is also open to other cultural areas: literature with the publication of numerous works of poetry, short stories, texts in Breton, and also translation of books for children; music through the recording of several albums with the group An Namnediz; place names, theater ... His work was recognized with several literary prizes: the Pierre Roy Prize for literature in the Breton language in 1997, the Xavier de Langlais Prize for literature in the Breton language in 2000, and the Prix Imram for

literature in the Breton language in 2002. Tugdual Kalvez is also an active member of the Language and Linguistics Section of the Cultural Institute of Brittany.

Partial Bibliography: **Poetry / Barzhoniezh** : *De chair et d'âme* (édit. Jean Germain, Bordeaux, 1962) ; *Ciel-de-gris* (B.I.P., Rennes, 1970) ; *Notre terre promise* (Kendalc'h, 1977, bilingual) ; *Blaz ar vuhez* («*La saveur de la vie*», Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1999). Priz Xavier Langleiz 2000 ; *A fendre coeur & Cri de colonisé* (Sevel e vouezh, 2005) ; *War barlenn an amzer* («*Sur les genoux du temps*», Al Liamm, 2007) – **Short stories in Breton / Danevelloù e brezhoneg** (Al Liamm) - **Theater / C'hoariva** : *Beaj ar Venus* (comic work in one act, Skrid, Nn 30, 1982) - **Philosophie / Prederouriezh** : *Geriadur ar brederouriezh* (bilingual French-Breton dictionary on philosophy, 710 pages, to be published) ; *Perlosophie* (philosophy, pedagogy, and humor, to be published); *A-hed ma freder* (philosophical notes; to be published). **Toponymie / Lec'h-anvadurezh** : *Des noms de lieux à l'histoire de St-Nolf* (Glad Senolf, 2003) ; *Les noms de lieux d'Hañveg* (Sevel e vouezh, 2007) - **Texts en Breton / Testennoù e Brezhoneg** : for the oratorio «*Mor-Bihan*», by Patrick Jackson-Röhrer, composed by Christophe Guyard (1994) and for the opera «*Anne de Bretagne*», lyrics by Jean-Michel Fournereau, composed by Pierrick Houdy (2001), etc.



Yann Fañch Kemener

Mouez Yann Fañch Kemener a zo unan eus ar re vrudetañ e Breizh hag ivez unan eus ar re vravañ e Frañs (Hélène Hazera, Libération).

Arbennigour war istor sonerezh pobl Vreizh ha war ar c'han e brezhoneg

peurgetket : kan ha diskan (kan da respont, kan unvouezel pe modal), gwerz hag an holl doareoù-all, Yann-Fañch Kemener a gemer perzh abred-tre en adsav, an dastum hag en treuzkas glad sonerezhel ha yezhel Breizh.

A Orin eus Sant-Trifin, ur gumun war ar maez en Aodoù-an-Arvor, e vev Yann-Fañch Kemener gant e familh en un endro pemdeziek leun a c'han. Lusket a-vihanik gant ar rimadelloù, ar c'hanoù hag ar c'hontadennoù-se e vez dedennet buan gant ar sonerezh hag ar c'han hengounel. Klokaat a ra neuze ec'h anaoudegezh o selaou hag oc'h enrollañ anezho.

Pignat a ra war al leurenn dirak an holl evit ar wech kentañ pa vez pemzek vloaz ha meur a wech e vez dastumet prizioù kentañ Kan ar Bobl en Oriant

gantañ. Arouez adsav Breizh ar bobl e teu da vezañ buan hag unan eus ar « melloù » pennañ etre sonerezh hengounel Breizh hag ar gevredigezh a-vremañ.

A drugarez da skoazell Claudine Mazéas e teu a-benn da voullañ pemp pladenn etre 1977 ha 1982, e ti Arion (*Chants Profonds de Bretagne* ha *Kan Ha Diskan*). Enno e kaver, skeudennet gantañ en un doare dibar, tro-ha-tro gwerzioù ha sonioù (kanoù barzhoniel, lourennek pe flemmus...). Da notenniñ eo ar fed en deus bet an hollad pladennoù-se, Priz Akademiezh Charles Cros e rann ar glad.

Ar strollad Barzaz bet krouet gantañ e 1988 a verk hag awen lañv sonerezhel Breizh ar bloavezhioù 90. Diouzh un tu all e labour gant meur a arzour brudet e-giz Marcel Guilloux, Anne Auffret, ar strollad Skolvan, Kristen Noguès ...

Kemer a ra perzh en oberenn *Herez ar Gelted* bet rennet gant Dan ar Braz. E-pad an avantur-se eo e keij gant Didier Squiban, ur gejadenn a vo pennorin ur c'henlabour dek vloaz ha teir fladenn.

Abaoe ar bloaz 2000 e talc'h d'e labour kaner gant ar soner violoñsell Aldo Ripoché, o chom war roudennoù un hentenn nevez ha dibar : lakaat penn-eus-penn bedoù diheñvel : bed ar sonerezh « pobl » hag hini ar sonerezh « gwizek ». *An Dorn*, o bladenn gentañ, a zo bet roet Priz Meur Akademiezh Charles Cros dezhi, an titl a « Choc du monde de la musique » hag ur bern loreoù-all. Abaoe, o labour pinvidikaet gant enklaskoù ha kenlabourioù a bep seurt en deus enoret :

- barzhed evel Armand Robin, Émile Masson,
- dastumerien, sonaozourien ha sonstummerien (Hersart de La Villemarqué, Charles Koechlin, Adolphe Mahieux) o krouiñ gant ar sonerezh piano Florence Pavie, un arvest hag ur bladenn anvet *Dialogues*.

Doare barok o hentenn a vremañ a zo eztaolet en o div bladenn ziwezhañ bet moulet e 2008. Evit ober *Noël en Bretagne* ha *Tuchant erruo an hañv - Bientôt l'été*, int bet ambrouget gant arbennigourezed meur eus ar sonerezh barok-se, Florence Rouillard ha Ruth Weber.

Ouzhpenn embann albomoù niverus ha kemer perzh e strolladoù a bep seurt e sav pennadoù diwar-benn kanoù pobl Breizh. Embannet en deus e 1996, e ti-embann Skol Vreizh e *Karnedoù hent*, e-lec'h ma vez bodet frouezh e labour dastum gwerzioù dezhañ. Meur a raktres embann a zo war ar stern evit ar bloavezhioù o tont : dastumadoù kontadennoù, kanoù da zañsal ha krennlavarioù.

Sed aze ouzhpenn pemp bloaz a tregont ur red vicher leun a eskemmoù arzel, a labour kalet, a enklaskoù dizehan war danvez yezh bobl Vreizh hag a dalvoudekadur ar binvidigezh-se a dreuz ar bed a zo kurunennet gant kolier an Erminig.

Yann-Fañch Kemener is one of the best known voices of Brittany, and "one of the most beautiful of France" (*Hélène Hazera, Libération*).

An expert and true ethnomusicologist of song in the Breton language - kan ha diskant (response singing, monody and modal) and the gwerz and other genres – Yann-Fañch Kemener participated early on in the renaissance, conservation and transmission of the Breton musical and linguistic patrimony.

From Saint-Tréphine, a rural community of the Côtes d'Armor, Yann-Fañch is of a family where song guided everyday life. Brought up with sayings, songs and stories, he was attracted very quickly to music and traditional singers. His knowledge grew in listening to them and recording them.

He sang in public for the first time at the age of 15 and won the first prize at the Kan ar Bobl contest in Lorient several times. He quickly became a symbol of the renaissance of traditional Brittany, and one of the most important links in the chain of transmission of the Breton musical heritage.

Thanks to the assistance of Claudine Mazéas, in 1977 to 1982 he produced five albums on the Arion label (*Chants Profonds de Bretagne* and *Kan Ha Diskan*) on which he interpreted numerous gwerzioù and sonioù (poetic, lyric and satiric songs) for which he has been one of the greatest vocal illustrators. It is to be noted that this group of recordings was given an award in the patrimony category in 1982 by the Académie Charles Cros.

In 1988 he founded the group Barzaz which marked and breathed life into the Breton musical renaissance of the 1990s. In addition, he worked with a number of well known artists such as Marcel Guilloux, Anne Auffret, the group Skolvan, Kristen Noguès ...

He was part of the Héritage des Celtes adventure instigated by Dan ar Braz. It was during this adventure that he became acquainted with Didier Squiban with whom he would work in a musical career for nearly ten years with three recordings.

Since 2000, he has led the career of a singer with cellist Aldo Ripoché, continuing an innovative and unique path: that of making the "folk" and "classical" musical universes meet. *An Dorn*, their first album,

received the Grand Prize of the Académie Charles Cros, the Choc du Monde award and numerous other recognitions. Since then, their work has been enriched with multiple collaborations and research to give homage to:

- poetry of Armand Robin and Émile Masson
- collectors, composers and arrangers (Hersart de la Villemarqué, Charles Koechlin, Aldophe Mahieux) in creating a performance and CD called *Dialogues* with Florence Pavie.

Their current direction is of a “Baroque spirit” reflected in their two last recordings produced in 2008 - *Noël en Bretagne* and *Tuchant erruo an hañv – Bientôt l’été* – on which they are accompanied by outstanding experts of baroque music Florence Rouillard and Ruth Weber.

Besides the production of numerous recordings and participation in a number of ensembles, he is also the author of several articles on popular Breton song. In 1996 he published *Carnets de route* with Skol Vreizh, a work containing his own collection of gwerzioù. Several other publications are in the works for the years to come: collections of stories, songs for dance, proverbs and sayings.

It has been the over thirty years of a career rich in artistic encounters, hard work, insatiable research work on Breton language traditions, and the promotion of this patrimony around the world, that brings thus this induction into the Order of the Ermine.



Jean-Guy LE FLOCH

Ganet eo bet e 1953 e Karaez e Penn-ar-Bed. Aet eo d'ober e studioù e Skol Kreiz Pariz, ur Vestroniezh war ar Skiantoù a zo bet tapet gantañ e Skol-Veur Stanford (Kalifornia) hag un diplom contour-prizachour a zo gantañ ivez.

Adkemeret en deus an embregerezh Armor-Lux e 1993 gant Michel Gueguen goude bezañ tremenet ouzhpenn 10 vloaz e strollad embregerezhioù Bollore. Kadoriad-Rener Meur Armor Développement, embregerezh-penn ar strollad embregerezhioù eo ; ezel eo ivez eus Kambr Kenwerzh ha Greanterezh Kemper-Kerne hag eus kengor ren Emglev bedel Aozadur ar Broadoù Unanet.

Bet krouet e 1938 e Kemper, Armor-Lux a zo deuet da vezañ ur merk anavezet evit perzhioù e danvezhioù hag e servijoù. Displeget e vez gant e chemet dibar a denn da micherioù al lienn/gwiskamant ha gant e youl

mennet ha diskleriet da zifenn produadurioù eus an dibab graet e Frañs : 640 kenlabourer e tri lec'h produiñ e Kemper hag e Troyes.

Troet war an dazont, Armor-Lux a zo un embregerezh breizhek atebek engouestlet en argerzh an diorroadur padus hag ar c'henwerzh leal. Ouzhpenn-se, ez eo bet kefridiet Armor-Lux gant an SNCF hag ar Post da wiskañ o implijidi. E 2009 Jean-Guy Le Floch a zo bet graet Marc'heg al Lejion a Enor.

« *Dibosupl eo disrannañ istor Armor-Lux eus hini Breizh. E Breizh eo en deus an embregerezh kavet e blas 70 bloaz'zo. Amañ eo ivez e warezomp an implijidi evit difenn ur chemet o tennañ d'al liannoù anavezet gant an holl hiziviken. Sevenadur hag hengoun a zo gwriziennet mat e douar Breizh, dav eo gwareziñ anezho.*

Pep hini d'e live a c'hell ober e lod ha me zo mennet da zifenn an talvoudegezhioù eeun ha gwirion a ra skeudenn ha perzh Breizh (J-G. Le Floch) »

Jean-Guy Le Floch is 55 years old. He was born in 1953 in Carhaix in the Finistère. He earned a degree from the École Centrale de Paris, a Master of Sciences from Stanford University in California, and has a diploma of auditor. After 10 years with the Bolloré company he took on Armor-Lux with Michel Gueguen in 1993. Today he has the role of PDG of Armor Développement, the holding group for the company. He is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Quimper-Cornouaille and is on the directing committee of Pacte Mondial for the United Nations.

Created in 1938 in Quimper, Armor-Lux has become a brand known for the quality of its products and services. It has gained a unique expertise in the realm of textiles and clothing and has proclaimed its readiness to defend quality in French production: 640 workers on three industrial sites in Quimper and Troyes. Open towards the future, Armor-Lux is a Breton enterprise that is responsibly engaged in sustainable development and fair trade. The SNCF [rail system] and post office have entrusted Armor-Lux with their uniforms. In 2009 Jean-Guy Le Floch was named Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.

“The history of Armor-Lux cannot be separated from that of Brittany. It is in Brittany, in Quimper, that the business found its home base for 70 years. It is equally here that we protect our employees to defend an expertise in textile work recognized by all. Brittany is a land of culture and tradition that merits protection. Everyone at all levels can contribute, and I am committed to protecting simple and true values that

give Brittany its strong image and success" (J.-G. Le Floch).



Mona OZOUF

[Breton text not available]

Mona Ozouf is an honorary director of research at CNRS (Centre nationale de recherche scientifique), a graduate of the École Normale Supérieure de Sèvres, with a diploma in

philosophy who has focused her work on history.

She has devoted most of her work to the history of the French Revolution and schools of the Republic. This includes on the first topic *La fête révolutionnaire, 1789-1799* (Gallimard, 1976), *L'homme régénéré* (Gallimard, 1989) and the direction of the *Dictionnaire critique de la Révolution française* (Fayard 1988) with François Furet. On the other topic she has written *L'École, l'Église et la République, 1871-1914* (Armand Colin, collection "Kiosque", 1963) and *L'École et la France* (Gallimard, 1984).

For the past few years the work of Mona Ozouf, who has become an eminent member of the jury for the Fémina prize, has become more oriented to literature with *Les mots des femmes*, an essay on the unique place women have had in French tradition (Fayard 1995); an essay on Henry James and the power of the novel, *La muse démocratique* (Calmann-Lévy, 1998); an essay on 19th century literature between the Ancien Régime and the Revolution, *Les Aveux du roman* (Fayard 2001). With Varennes, la mort de la royauté (Gallimard, collection "Les Journées qui ont fait la France" 2005), Mona Ozouf has confirmed her mastery of the history of the Revolution and her exceptional joy of writing. Her last work which was edited by Gallimard in 2009 is called *Composition Française*.

Additional Notes: Mona Ozouf was born in 1931, the daughter of Yann Sohier and Anne Le Den – both teachers and militants for Breton language and culture. The last work noted above is auto-biographical and its full title is *Composition française - Retour sur une enfance bretonne*. In this work she describes the work of her father Yann Sohier for the Breton language with the organization Ar Falz and speaks against French jacobinism. – Lois Kuter

New Books from Brittany

Reviewed by Lois Kuter

Alain Lozac'h. Avec Fleuriot de Langle et La Pérouse, 1785-1788 – Carnets de bord des aventures d'un marin breton. Yoran Embanner. 2009. ISBN 978-2-914855-55-6. 188 pages.

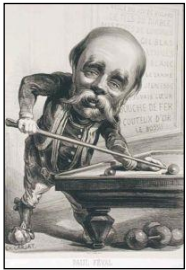
This is a book full of adventure which follows the travels of Naval officer (and academician) Paul-Antoine Fleuriot de Langle (1744-1787) and Jean-Françoise de la Pérouse (1741-1788) through the eyes of sailor Pierre Le Goff who kept journals of the voyages spanning from 1785 to 1788. This book is based on those journals as well as other documents and histories of maritime Brittany and Breton explorers of the 18th century. How closely this account follows the actual journals is unclear and it is only in carefully reading the cover jacket to the book that the reader learns that this is a creative re-telling of the voyages described. It is probably obvious to most people that the style of this account would not be that of an 18th century sailor, but I found myself frustrated by not getting a clearer introduction to the nature of the book – a novel based on maritime history?, a re-writing of the journals with some things added and others deleted to make it an easier read? An introduction to explain the difference between the Lozac'h's "carnets de voyage" and those that in fact exist would have been welcome.

That aside, this book provides a good feel for life of explorers and the many challenges long years at sea presented – from lack of good food and water, to hostile encounters indigenous populations, or encounters with enemy ships. The British and French were engaged in battles during this period when the United States was at war with England for independence. France entered on the side of the Americans in early 1778 and the war ended in 1783 with the Treaty of Paris. Both La Pérouse and Fleuriot de Langle saw their share of naval encounters during that period and certainly England remained a rival as they sought to discover trading routes and alliances during their voyages of 1785 to 1788.

The book is divided into journals, the first covering August to December 1785 and a voyage taking the explorers from Brest around the Cape Horn. Included as well is a great deal of background about Fleuriot de Langle, his family history and career in the Académie de Marine in Brest. There is also an account of his participation in the Battle of Ouessant where a British convoy was trying to prevent French ships from taking arms to the Americans.

The second journal covers the period of January 1786 to April 1797 and travels around Cape Horn to Chili, the Easter Islands, Sandwich Islands, Alaska, California, Macao and the Philippines. The third journal covers travel from April to September 1787 across the Pacific to the Marianas Islands, to Japan and the coast of Kamtchatka. The fourth journal covers September 1787 to the February 1788 with travels from the north Pacific to Samoa and Islands of New Caledonia where Fleuriot de Langle would be killed with other crew members by hostile natives. After the last journal is sent from Australia one learns no more of the fate of Pierre Le Goff and La Pérouse whose two ships would be lost in a storm at sea near the Solomon Islands in 1788.

While a re-telling of the adventures of these Breton explorers, this book is full of accurate details – names, places, dates and events – that bring the history to life.



Paul Féval. *Le Joli Château & Le Loup Blanc*. 2009 429 pages. ISBN 978-2-914855-64-8.

1862 lithographic caricature of Paul Féval by [Étienne Carjat](#).

Paul Henri Corentin Féval was born in Rennes in 1816 and died in Paris in 1887. The two books here are reprinted in their complete form. While perhaps not the best known of Féval's works (*Le Bossu* / *The Hunchback*, 1857, or the series called *Les Habits Noirs* / *The Black Coats*, published between 1863 and 1874), these two are set in Brittany and are nicely paired in this book – and form a trio with *Le Bossu* in their “cape and sword” style.

While born in Brittany, Féval moved to Paris when he was just 21 to try his success as a writer. Using the pen-name Sir Francis Trollope he gained a foothold with a series for popular magazines called *Les Mystères de Londres* in 1844 – modeled after a very popular series by Eugène Sue called *Les Mystères de Paris*. This was the same year Alexander Dumas published the famous *Three Musketeers* and in 1845 he published *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In these stories the little guy fought the big guy, the downtrodden nations fought their conquerors, poor people fought avaricious tax collectors and greedy nobles. Good triumphed over evil, but there were twists and turns along the way to keep the reader engaged and wondering what will happen next.

Le Loup Blanc, the longer and more developed of the two novels, is set in the early 18th century just after the

death of Louis XIV in 1715 and the dissolution of the States of Brittany and increasing imposition of taxes and presence of French administrators in Brittany centered in the city of Rennes. There is Breton resistance in a call to protect rights of Brittany guaranteed under the Treaty of 1532, but this “conspiracy” led by nobles would fail and its most noted leader, Pontcallec, would be beheaded. In *Le Loup Blanc* the lead character, Nicolas Teml de La Tremlays, is an aged nobleman proud of his Breton identity who laments the fact that he is one of the last of the nobility to stand up to France. He and his loyal squire would meet their end in a brave but futile confrontation of the intendant to the French throne Philippe d'Orléans. Meanwhile back at the manor baby Georges Teml is left in the care of cousin Hervé de Vaunoy who attempts to drown him. Georges is saved by Jean Blanc, a strange albino who remains loyal to the family through thick and thin. Georges mysteriously disappears and the young albino forest dweller would grow up to be the masked bandit – leader of the Loups – who would extract vengeance on the French. He and his band would hide out and live in the big woods of Rennes. George would eventually reappear and rediscover his true identity and reclaim his fortune. There are some quirks and mysteries in the plot, but there is never any doubt who are the good guys (the Bretons defending Brittany) and who are the bad guys (the French tax collectors and administrators, and those Bretons who sell out to them). It's a good read.

The second much shorter story, *Le Joli Château*, has a similar cast of characters, but in this case the father – known for lavish hospitality – is cheated of his extensive land holdings by a sly steward. A long lost son returns and with the help of a loyal servant tries to reverse the sad situation, but fails. There is no happy ending here and the story is too short to develop that intrigue and depth of character that makes *Le Loup Blanc* engaging. But it is interesting to read them side-by-side.

Béatrice Balti. *William Wallace – Le Cri de la Liberté*. Yoran Embanner. 2009 ISBN 978-2-914855-54-9. 271 pages.

This history begins with death of Scottish King Alexander II in 1286 and then the death of his four year old daughter which sets off the dilemma of finding a suitable leader for Scotland and the rivalry of Scottish families for positions of power. Edward I (Plantagenet) of England is the arch villain of the book. Crowned in 1272, he is brought in to help select the King of Scotland – a choice based solely on who he thought would be most compliant. Edward's sole purpose for living in this book seems to be to

subjugate Scotland and keep wine flowing from France.

William Wallace ("Braveheart") is depicted as a true hero and the book repeatedly underlines his qualities as a patriot and defender of Scottish independence to the end. We are reminded several times that young Wallace is marked by his uncle's words: "No gift has more value than Liberty. Never accept to live under foreign domination."

Wallace is described as independent in spirit, ever-handsome, even to the death, big-hearted and courageous (as are all his companions). His handsomeness, athletic figure, tall stature, and piercing blue eyes (especially) are brought up throughout the book. He spares women and children (and priests) when ridding Scottish forts of English soldiers in contrast to the English who massacre everyone.

William Wallace becomes an outlaw in his early 20s when he refuses to give up a cherished knife given to him by his father. The English soldiers who have been belittling him and sneering at him and his companions are stabbed. William hits the road and seems to live in the woods most of his life. He knows all of the trails and fishing holes. With time he wins over a following of friends and family ready to defend Scottish independence.

The English are depicted as haughty and cruel, fat and ugly, and treacherous – especially the sheriffs placed in control of Scottish outposts and towns. They always need deceit or overwhelming numbers of soldiers to defeat Wallace. The reader is reminded too many times of the theft of the Stone of Destiny by Edward I in 1296 (returned in 1996).

The book gets better in the second half with fewer reminders of how handsome Wallace is and a little more information about the history of Scotland. But at times the book reads a bit like a romance novel. There are a few tender romances with a barmaid, his wife Marion – his true love – who is "odiously assassinated" by the English sheriff Heselrig, and his final love a young country lass, Mary, who is with him when he is captured in 1305 when his assistant double-crosses him.

Wallace spends several years in France to try to further the cause of Scotland, and this part of the book includes a good presentation of the European political alliances which would doom protection of Scotland by France who chooses to solve problems with England instead.

A lot of attention is given to the brilliant defeat of England by Wallace and his allies at the battle of Stirling which won Scottish clans to his side, and to the defeat at 1297 at the Battle of Falkirk when Scottish nobles started to sway back to English protection. English are always plotting to divide and conquer Scottish nobles who quarrel among themselves, want to protect their wealth, and bow to pressure to save their skin in signing allegiance to England. Wallace is finally captured in 1305 and at the age of 35 is hanged, drawn and quartered by the hateful Edward I. We are reminded that he still has a magnificent athletic figure.

Robert the Bruce an on-and-off ally of Wallace and the English is crowned king of Scotland in 1306 and the battle to retain independence goes on. He defeats the English at the famous Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. An Epilogue gives a good summary of the political fate of Scotland in the following years with the Treaty of Union in 1707 definitively ending independence and the Devolution of 1997 bringing much back.

While this book is fun to read, the clear division of characters as definitely good (Wallace and his following) or bad (English) and the adoring depiction of the courageous William Wallace and his piercing blue eyes and handsome body seem better suited for a Hollywood movie. Some of the Scottish nobles are given slightly more complex personalities – weakly caving in to pressures from England but also fighting with Wallace when the chances look good for victory.

While the author can be applauded for bringing history to life in an engaging way, a bit less Hollywood like type-casting would have been welcome.



DEEP INSIDE A BRETON SKULL

24 - The wild old fool

Jean Pierre Le Mat

Because I am mad about women
I am mad about the hills,
Said that wild old wicked man
Who travels where God wills.
Not to die on the straw at home.
Those hands to close these eyes,

That is all I ask, my dear,
From the old man in the skies.
Daybreak and a candle-end.

The old fool, who travels where God wills, is not a W.B. Yeats poetic invention. In all the Celtic cultures, he is a central character.

In Ireland, his name is Suibhne. He became insane at the battle of Mag Rath, after having thrown the psalm book of Saint Ronan in a lake and killed his godson. His fatal madness turned against himself and against his own humanity. Suibhne lost his human appearance gradually. Feathers sprouted on his body.

The drama of Suibhne is that of distrust. Misery was then his only companion. He denied any relation with other men, suffering cold, loneliness and hunger rather than risking any relation or exchange. His flash of confidence towards Muirgill, a woman pitying his fate, was the cause of his death. More terrible still, his murderer, Mongan, reproached him to have stayed hidden, whereas more confidence would have saved his life.

The Celts are fascinated by these warriors becoming insane. Another one, a Scot named Lailoken, appeared in the ancient book relating the life of Saint Kentigern. Like Suibhne, he refused any exchange with other men. Like Suibhne, he lived in the forest, naked and hirsute, feeding himself with plants. Like Suibhne, madness seized his mind during a battle. He heard a voice coming from the sky, pointing to him as the one responsible for the death of his companions. The voice said that, from now and until his death, he will be in communion with the creatures of the forest.

With madness, Lailoken got an extraordinary gift: vision of the future. This gift is given to wild creatures, whereas it is out of reach for humans in society. Humanity is a break-up with nature, with space, and also with the entirety of time. Civilization links the people with a specific duration. Only those who abdicate or lose their human condition can see beyond the present time.



This Lailoken is close to Merlin. But there are several Merlins. In *Historia Regum Britanniae*, published around 1136 AD, Geoffrey of Monmouth describes Merlin as

a young prophet, speaking comfortably with the king Vortigern, a great socialite.

A few years later, Geoffrey published *Vita Merlini*, the life of Merlin. Here, the character is different, and closer to Suibhne and Lailoken. Merlin is a prince fighting on the side of Peredur against Gwendoleu, king of Scotland.

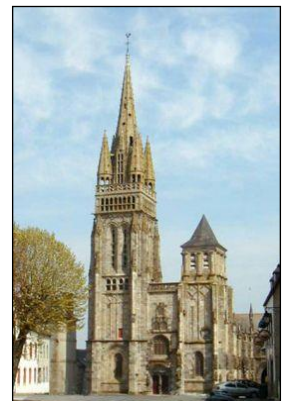
“Merlin started the battle at the side of Peredur, like Rhydderch, king de Cumbrie, both wild warriors. They massacred the enemies with their terrible swords, and three brothers of the prince, who had followed him in all his wars, cutting in the flesh, forced their way deeply in the lines of battle. They advanced so boldly inside the enemy rows that they were soon killed. Seeing that, Merlin, you cried and your sad lament was known by all the army. (...)”

At the end, Britons gathered their forces. They attacked the Scot, wounding them and killing them. They stopped only when the enemy battalions moved back. The lines broke and the Scot escaped. Merlin invited his companions to stop the fight and asked them to bury the brothers in a richly decorated vault. He carried the mourning of the heroes. He cried without rest. He poured dust on his hair, tore his clothing and remained prostrate on the ground. Peredur, the other princes and the war leaders tried to cheer him. But he refused their assistance and their words of comfort. During three days he cried, refusing to eat, his mind full of his mourning. Through his heavy grievances, a strange madness took him. He went away secretly and took refuge in woods. He lived in the forest, happy to lie and to hide under the trees. He looked at the wild beasts which fed in the clearings. He fed himself with roots and grass, fruits of the trees and blackberries of the thickets. He became a wild being, an inhabitant of the forests. ”

What about in Brittany? An old Breton legend, Kontadenn Josebig, tells about a girl who tries to capture Merlin, a wild man living in the woods.

The wild man of the woods has a Christian version here. One of the most beautiful churches of Brittany, near Lesneven, not far from Brest harbor, is the sanctuary of Folgoët, which means the fool of the woods. It is one of the most renowned pilgrimages in Brittany.

The church was built to honor Salaün, a poor fool living in the forest nearby. After his death, a lily sprang up from his grave. On its petals was written "Ave Maria", the words that Salaün uttered unceasingly during his life. Strange enough, Salaün is also the



name of the most powerful king of Brittany, living in the ninth century. This Salaün, who was blinded and then murdered, is honored as a saint and a martyr in several Breton churches.

In Brittany, the wild man can be Merlin, or Salaün. But he also has another name. He is called Guynglaff, Gwenklañ, or Gwenc'hlan. Some say that this name came from "Gwen", which means "white" or "holy" and from "klañv" which means in Breton "sick", "unhealthy", "crazy". Gwenklañ is "the holy crazy man". He is described as such in an old text in Breton language.

This text is named "An dialog etre Arzur Roe d'an Bretounet ha Guynglaff", a dialog between Arthur, king of the Bretons and Gwenc'hlan. It was published at the beginning of the 18th century, as a synthesis of two ancient manuscripts. One of them could be from the middle of the 15th century. On the other, one could see a date written: 1619. Guynglaff is described as the wild man of the woods, able to see the future. King Arthur caught him and asked him, in a rather threatening way, to tell the future.

Dre Gracz Doe ez veve,
N'en devoe ezdre voe en beth
Nemet an delyou glas,
N'en devoe quen goasqet,
An rese en beve
N'endevoe quen boet.
Didan un capel guel ez voe
Nos ha dez en e buhez en beth,
Digant Doe en devoe e gloar en eff,
Ha ne manque quet.
Dre Graçç Doe ez gouuie,
Donediguez flam an amser divin illuminet.
An Roe Arzur en ampoignas da sul,
Pan savas an heaul un mintin mat,
Ha dre cautel ha soutildet
Ez tizas e dorn, hac e quemeret.
Maz goulennas outaff hep si
En hanu Doe; me hoz supply,
D'an Roe Arzur ez liviry
Pebez sinou a coezo glan,
E Breiz quent finuez an bet man
Na pebez feiz, lavar aman:
Pe me az laquay e drouc saouzan (...)

Through the grace of God he lived,
He had, beside [the fact that] he was
in the world,
Nothing but the green leaves.
He didn't have as much of a shelter
As the other ones did who lived.
He didn't have as much food.
He was seen beneath a hood
[or: behind a chapel]

In his life in the world he had glory
From God night and day
And he didn't lack [anything].
Through the grace of God he knew
How to illuminate the bright gift of holy time.
King Arthur grabbed him on Sunday,
When the sun rose one fine morning
And through guile and subtlety
He seized his hand, and took him.
If you asked me without fault
In the name of God, I beg you,
You will tell King Arthur
What holy signs will befall
In Brittany before this world comes to an end.
By my faith, tell (me) here:
Or I will put you into wicked confusion (...)

The answers of Guynglaff are precise concerning the dates and completely obscure concerning the facts.

Another Gwenc'hlan appears in the Barzaz Breiz, a collection of oral poetry published during the 19th century. Hersart de la Villemarqué, the collector, tells that Gwenc'hlan was a bard of the 5th century. He was imprisoned by a foreign prince, and then blinded and murdered. Was he a wild fool ? Nothing is said about that. But the prophecy of Gwenc'hlan, although probably distorted by oral transmission, is one of the strongest poem of the Breton literature.

He wel ann hoc'h 'tont dioc'h ar c'hoad,
Hag hen gwall-gamm, gwallet he droad ;
He vek digor ha leun a wad
Hag he reun louet gant ann oad;
Hag he voc'higou tro war-dro,
Gand ann naon braz o soc'ho.
Me wel ar morvarc'h enep-tont
Ken a gren ann aot gand ar spont.
Hen ken gwenn evel ann erc'h kann;
Enn a benn kerniou arc'hant
An dour dindan han o virvi,
Gand ann tan daran eus he fri;
Morgezeg enn dro d'ehan ker stank
Hag ar geot war lez ar stank.
- Dalc'h mat! Dalc'h mat , morvarc'h !
Darc'h gant he benn ; darc'h mat 'ta, darc'h
(...)

I see the boar coming out of the wood
It is limping badly, its foot is wounded
Its mouth is open and full of blood
And its bristle are grey with years;
It is surrounded by its young boars
And they are grunting with hunger.
I see the sea-horse coming against the boar
And the shore is quaking with fright.
It is as white as pure snow ;
On his front, it bears silver horns.

The water is boiling around
With the fire and thunder from its nostrils;
Sea-horses are surrounding it,
Pressed as grass near the lake.
Stand firm ! Stand firm, sea-horse !
Strike its head ! Strike boldly, strike ! (...)

Like my ancestors, I look for a wild crazy man, a prophet living in the woods. Deep inside my skull, I know that the most useful prophecies are not those which give a description of the future, but those which give a sense to the present.

New Music from Brittany

Reviewed by Lois Kuter

Orion. *Strawberry Town*. Keltia Musique RSCD 295. 2009. 48'33. www.orionceltic.com

With the opening notes of this new CD one recognizes the unique sound of Orion immediately. Based in Belgium, this band created in the late 1980s, has always included a mix of musicians from Belgium and Brittany (with guest artists from France, Ireland, and elsewhere). The repertoire is primarily drawn from Ireland in arrangements of traditional airs and dances or compositions influenced by these. To my ears, Orion has been one of the few groups that really breathes life into the compositions of Turlough O'Carolan – and one of his compositions is found on their CDs.

This is the first CD in some ten years for Orion. The first CD, *1990*, came out in that year and was re-released in 1995. Like the next three, it was released by the Breton label Keltia Musique (RSCD 218). The first CD I would come to know was *Blue Room* in 1993 (Keltia Musique RSCD 207). At that time the group was composed of Raquel Gigot (accordions), Rudy Velghe (fiddles, nyckelharpa, viola), Gwenaël Micault (keyboard) and Soig Siberil (guitars). Guest musicians included a string quartet, Belgian singer Céline 'T Hooft and Claudine Steenaeckers (cellist), and Breton Youenn Le Bihan (bombardes and the softer "piston"), and Irishman Johnny McDonagh (bodhran).

In 1998 *Restless Home* was released (Keltia Musique RSCD 224) and Rachel Gigot and Rudy Velghe were still at the heart, joined by Jamie McMenemy (singer and bouzouki player known perhaps best to Bro Nevez readers for his work with the Breton band Kornog), and Marc Keyaert (piano and keyboards). Guest musicians added a few more Bretons: Nicholas Quemener (guitars, flutes, whistles), Soig Siberil (guitars), and Alain Genty (fretless bass). Among other guests one found Donal Lunny.

From the start Orion has engaged the talents of a number of musicians with strong experience not only in the performance of Celtic music, but also in other European folk traditions as well as jazz and classical music. While some of the musicians on *Strawberry Town*, this newest CD, are relatively young, Orion has engaged a good lineup of musicians active for 25 years or more in Belgium, Brittany, France and Ireland. The short biographies found on the Orion website www.orionceltic.com are impressive.

Raquel Gigot, is of Belgian-Spanish family and she is one of the founding members of the group on diatonic (button) and chromatic (piano) accordion. One hears few women on this instrument and her playing is extraordinary. She is a master of many styles and definitely at the heart of the unique sound of this band. Rudy Velghe is the other original founder of the band and he has been a fiddler since 1978 with a number of Flemish folk groups as well as performing Balkan, bluegrass, Irish and other styles. On this CD he also plays guitar, viola, harmonium and keyboards as well as the nyckelharpa, a Scandinavian bowed fiddle with keys and twelve harmonic strings.

Gwenaël Michault is of Breton origin and belongs to a wide world of music with classical training on clarinet, experience as a professional guitarist, accordionist, pianist and keyboard player and arranger who has worked with a range of widely known pop singers, jazz musicians. He played with Orion for the first half of the 1990s and then rejoined the band in 2005. John Faulkner from Ireland became widely known in worldwide tours with singer Dolores Keane and had played with a number of well known Irish musicians. Erwan Berenguer, the youngest of the band, is a guitar player from Brittany who has played with the bands Spontus, Oubree Alie, Trio Roland Conq, Jolie Vilaine and others, and often plays in pair with accordion player Yann-Fanch Perroches. He joined Orion in 2005.

The invited guests for *Strawberry Town* include some who have had a long relationship with Orion: jazz guitarist Phillip Cahterine, Irish percussionist Johnny McDonagh, keyboardist Marc Keyaert who was with Orion from 1997 to 2005, and guitarist Patrick Désaunay, a pioneer in the French folk revival with the group La Chiffonie and in duo with his brother Serge on accordion. Patrick played with Orion from 2000 to 2005. A number of musicians from Belgium are also engaged in this CD: harp player Gérard Nirsch, Bass Clarinetist Jean-Philippe Poncin, bass fiddler Arne Van Dongen, oboist Piet Van Bockstal, pianist Fabian Fiorini, and the ensemble called Oxalys with violins, viola, cello, flute, clarinet and bass fiddle.

With a solid grounding in the worlds of classical, pop, folk, jazz, and quite a few other styles, the experience brought to this recording by the main members of the band as well as all the guest artists explains the very high quality of performance. This CD has less of an Irish/Breton dominance than *Blue Room* or *Restless Home*, but you get into the swing with some series of jigs “La Bourdaine, Le Belloy, Kernivinan’s” and the set “Four Teeth Hornpipe, Mr. Morceau’s Fancy, Kasper’s Reel” and an O’Carolan piece “The Harper’s Heir” as well as the hornpipe “The Open gate” which leads into an interesting arrangement of an excerpt from Mozart’s Menuetto Allegretto of a string quartet in D with a snazzy cabaret-style accordion. The title song “Strawberry Town” is a Scottish ballad about murder learned from Ewan MacColl and the group also borrows from the Scottish tradition with an arrangement of “mouth music” from the Hebrides. This rhythm might not be best suited to the waulking of cloth to soften it, but certainly keeps to the tradition of stringing short lyrics and responding choruses on a variety of topics. There are also some lovely slower melodies and I particularly liked the lead cut “Ton ar Liestalegoù” (Breton for “Tune of the Polyhedrons”) composed for Breton mathematician, Guy Leberre, who studied polyhedrons and their appearance in art through the ages. And on this CD a place of honor is also given to the Flemish musical tradition of Belgium with “Sint-Jorisdansen/Rondedansen” – a suite of tunes collected by Herbert Boone, described in the liner notes as the “Francis O’Neill and Breandán Breathnach” of Flemish folk music.

The jacket notes to the CD are uniquely in English, giving a brief description of each selection and texts for the two songs. It’s fun to compare the photo of the band with that taken 16 years ago for the *Blue Room* CD. For those wondering what a nickelharp could possibly be, there are two good images of this wonderful musical instrument.

Orion remains elegant in its sound, with impeccable and interesting mixes of instruments and rhythms. The music is tight and polished but sometimes lacks a feeling of improvisation (even if it might be there). There is a swing to the music, but sometimes an unrelenting drive forward where the melody gets a bit lost. A few selections felt just a tiny bit “rushed” – for me, personally. Traditional airs and tunes are arranged in such a way that they sound like brand new compositions, and new compositions (which make up the bulk of this new CD) have a certain rooted feel to them, but the beauty of melodies in the dance tunes especially seemed to take a back seat to the complex instrumental arrangements.

The core members of Orion and the guest artists on this CD have been around the block in the music

world – a few times – and this is certainly evident in the quality of performance on this CD which engages a community of musicians from Brittany, Belgium, Ireland and Europe who have put their considerable musical experience and talent to work.



Note: The review of Gwennyn’s CD, *Mammen/Matrice* in Bro Nevez 111 was by Lois Kuter. This was not noted.



Heard of, but not heard

The following notes are drawn from reviews and short notes in the following Breton magazines: *Ar Men* 172 (Sept.-Oct. 2009) & 173 (Nov.-Dec. 2009) / *Armor* 476 (Sept. 2009), 477 (Oct. 2009), 478 (Nov. 2009) / *Ar Soner* 390 (3rd quarter 2009) / *Musique Bretonne* 216 (Sept.-Oct. 2009)

Airs emblématiques du monde celtique / Celtic Anthems. Coop Breizh CD 1005

This is a collection of songs and tunes representing the Celtic nations with performances by Carlos Núñez, Karnerien Pleuigner, Dan ar Braz, Elaine Morgan, Gilles Servat, Alan Stivell, Daffyd Iwan, Bagad Meilhoù Glas, and others.

An deiz a darzh – chœurs classiques en breton. Kampomp Breizh.

Directed by René Abjean, this CD brings together twelve Breton choral groups who are part of the federation Kamomp Breizh. Here they perform well known compositions by classical composers – Bach, Handel, Schubert, Sibelius and Beethoven. But, the choral work is in the Breton language!

ArMens. À tort et à travers. Aztec Musique – Avel Ouest CM 2246.

This is the fourth CD by the popular rock group ArMens which is based in Lorient.

Awen Magic Land. Openland. Keltia Musique RSCD 291

Songs in Breton and Spanish are performed by Maria Desbordes and Carlos Soto with musicians of the group Awen Magic Land. While “spiritual” in nature these are not lacking spirit and are draw from a world-wide span in musical influences.

Les Bagagouineurs. Discoz. Coop Breizh CD 1019.

This is the third CD by this band which is known for its humor. This CD takes on a strong disco beat in adapting dances of eastern Brittany to the unrelenting beat of electronic “sampling.”

Bretagne. Frémeaux et Associés. FA 5261.

This is an anthology in a series featuring traditional styles of different regions of France. This one includes a 1900 recording of “sonneur” Alain-Pierre Guégen, as well as more recent recordings by Manu Kerjean and the Goadec sisters. While those who are already familiar with traditional performers of Brittany will not find new discoveries here, most samplers of Breton music do not focus on more traditional styles.

Diese 3. Diese 3. Self-produced, DIESE 3001.

This is the first CD from a group from central Brittany which includes Antoine Lahay on electric guitar, Pierre Droual on fiddle, and Etienne Cabaret on bass clarinet. Joining them are Yann-Fañch Kemener and Aldo Ripoché on a fisel dance suite. Included also are suites for the dances ridée and gavotte.

Paul Dirmeikis. Entre Parentheses. L'Éveilleur EVE 004. www.dirmeikis.org

Composer Paul Dirmeikis puts 31 poems by Breton poet René-Guy Cadou (1920-1951) to music in a double CD. Recited by Dirmeikis with various musicians of Brittany (including Kathy Thibault, Jean-Mathias Petri, Jean Zimmerman, Michel Aumont) this is a quite successful homage to the work of Cadou.

Louise Ebrel. Gwerz. Kerig KCD 104.

This is a re-edition of a CD recorded 15 years ago, but the traditional ballads of Brittany do not lose anything with age. Louise Ebrel is the daughter of Eugénie Goadec (of the famous Goadec sisters) and the repertoire here is drawn from the family heritage. These are wonderful Breton language ballads (gwerz) sung as is usual with no instrumental accompaniment.

Girault-Guillard Quartet. La Dame Blanche. Self-produced. GGQ 01.

Pierre Guillard and Sylvain Giraud are well known singers of the Loire-Atlantique region of southeastern Brittany who have collected and performed a traditional repertoire. They are joined here by Erwan Hamon on flute and Fabien Gillé on oud and bass fiddle in a performance of songs from Christianity – dramatic tales of saints (and sinners), the Prodigal Son, the Easter Passion, and other texts carefully researched and chosen for this performance.

Groove Boys. Live! - C'est quoi ton machin? Self-produced GB 2/1

New CD by a rock/fest-noz band which includes bombardes, bagpipes, keyboard, sax, and percussion who artfully arrange traditional songs as well as pop music for a high energy performance. This is recorded live for even more energy. Not the usual dance beat, but well-loved by Breton music fans.

Kazetenn ar Vro-Plin, journal parlé du pays Plin de 1978 à 1981. 2 CDs RXB 0801 (www.radio-kreiz-breizh.org)

This double CD captures recordings of the late 1970s made in a period before the Breton language was given any place on radio and before the internet made the Breton language widely audible. This “talking newspaper” was instigated by René Richard and friends in the area of Lanrivain and the Pays Plinn. Kazetenn ar Vro-Plin was a local “newspaper” of recordings collected and distributed on cassette tape where local economic and social issues were aired, and where singers and storytellers shared their unique arts – all in the Breton language used by native speakers of this area. This experience which lasted just three years served as a model for local radio stations like Radio Kreiz Breiz who follow a similar path to document local life and present the expressive genius in the Breton language.

Kepelledro. Mod Nevez. Lez'Arts Production (29670 Taulé)

This is the second CD by a fest noz band which has been around for ten years. It is full of energy for dancing as it should be.

Yves LeBlanc. Danses bretonnes, Vol. 5. DVD A Wel Drem Production (56240 Plouay)

This is the fifth in a series of DVDs produced by Yves LeBlanc with 28 dances including some less traditional and/or less widely known in Brittany: the circle circassien, polka, dérobée de Moncontour, contredanse écossaise ... Technical sheets on the dances can be printed from the DVD.

Noluen Le Buhé, Annie Ebrel, Marthe Vassallo, André Markowicz. Gwerzioù. Théâtre de Cornouaille CCM 001/1.

This is a recording of a concert given in Quimper at the Théâtre de Cornouaille where three of the greatest women singers of traditional Breton language ballads of a younger generation perform six well known gwerz (ballads) in the Breton language (“Ar Priñs yeuvank,” “Ar Sorserez,” “An Aotrou Liskildri ha Fantik Pikard,” “Ar Breur hag ar c'hoar,” “Ar Jaouis,” and “Renean ar Glas”). André Marcowicz serves as a translator to present the texts in French every two verses – an unusual but successful arrangement in this performance.

Christian Le Govic. Awen. BNC Productions TCD-02

This is the second solo CD by a harp player who combines traditional tunes (from Brittany, Scotland, Ireland and Sweden) and newer compositions. For the past few years he has lived in Ireland as a professional musician. Recorded in the BNC studios

of Pascal Lamour, this recording received high marks from reviewers.

Hervé Lesvenan. *Arcobaleno*. Coop Breizh VOC 1422/1

A composition by pianist Hervé Lesvenan putting all the colors of the rainbow (arcobaleno in Italian) to use in his music. This is performed by Loïc Blejean (uilleann pipes and flutes), Marta Gliozzi (organ), Dominique Molard (percussion from India), and Vincent Guérin (electric bass guitar). That combination of talent and instruments points to an interesting listen.

Mouez Paotred Breizh. *Klemmvanou ar Gelted*. Édition Jade CD 399-293-2.

This CD includes 16 songs from this well known men's choir of Brittany whose repertoire is in the Breton language. Here they interpret some well known songs and cantiques as well as some compositions. The songs are harmonized by René Abjean and Gwenaél Riou.

Jakez Pincet. *Solo Piping Art /Art du Solo de Cornemuse, Vol. 1*. Paker Prod 022.

This double CD includes recordings from 1976 to 1979 by Jakez Pincet – a Breton master of the Scottish Highland bagpipes who studied under Herri Léon and Alain Le Hégarat as well as Bob Brown and Bob Nicol in Scotland. This CD includes music he played to prepare for Scottish solo competitions – especially Piobaireachd. Added are two pieces performed by Bob Nicol during a class he taught. Active since the early 1970s, Pincet has also set a lot of Breton music to this instrument and has toured widely as a teacher. This CD is not technically perfect, but a gem for those truly interested in Scottish Highland bagpipe music and the history of its performance in Brittany.

Plum'FM Radio. *La Radio qui rend plum!* PLUM-FM 09 (56460 Sérent)

The small radio station Plum FM has captured a variety of singers and musicians in a benefit performance to support the operation of the station. Performances are quite varied including songs and stories, with a reggae style or more traditional "Celtic" sound, a song in Gallo and others in French, and an Elvis Presley imitation for "P.L.U.M. on my side."

Alan Simon. *Anne de Bretagne – Le rock opera*. 2 CDs. Distributed by Rue Stendhal

This "rock-opera" on the life of Anne of Brittany was written by Alan Simon with a mix of symphonic sounds, traditional Breton airs, a rock beat and texts in English, Italian and French as well as Breton. Performers include the symphony orchestra of Budapest, Tri-Yann, Didier Squiban and the chorus of

the opera of Gènes. Cécile Corbel takes on the voice and life of Anne of Brittany in a performance that has had strong reviews in the Breton press.

Alan Stivell. *Emerald*. Keltia III K3111. www.alan-stivell.com

On the 40th anniversary of his first 33 rpm LP *Reflets* (1969), Alan Stivell has released his 23rd new album this fall: *Emerald*. This includes a variety of styles – from solo harp and a more traditional sound to rock and an electro-folk beat. In "Tamm ha tamm – Rennes, Nantes et Brest" Stivell speaks his mind on the reunification of Brittany to bring the Loire-Atlantique back. With texts in Breton, French and English, there is the strong inter-Celtic flavor that one expects from Stivell, and on this CD he works with a number of artists for some interesting collaborations – including singers Dom Duff and Solenn LeFeuvre and the Ensemble Choral du Bout du Monde ... to name a few.

Louis-Jacques Suignard & Yann-Guirec Le Barz. *Tcha tchah Douarnenez*.

On this CD you find a duo of singers – in the Breton language – accompanied on guitar. They sing love songs, ballads, and songs of travel. Notes provide translations of the Breton texts and two poems by Angela Duval are included on the CD.

Jean-Luc Thomas and Yvon Riou. *Arri eo ar moment*. Hirustica 200904.

Jean-Luc Thomas on flute performs in duet with Yvon Riou on guitar with arrangements of traditional dances and melodies as well as some compositions. Invited guests for the CD include Ifig Troadeg with two Breton language songs from the Tregor, and Marie-Laure Le Duc, a fiddler whose specialty is East Claire in Ireland.

Olivier Trévidy. *Mise en quarantaine*. Avel-Ouest TREV 005. CD & DVD

This CD and DVD captures the performance of compositions by singer Olivier Trévidy. His songs are politically engaged in their expression of social injustices and rebellion. He is accompanied by Patrick Le Gall on accordion and piano.

39e Festival Interceltique. Keltia Musique CD & DVD KMCD512.

This is a CD and DVD for the 39th year of the Inter Celtic Festival of Lorient (2009) when Galicia was the featured country. Performers on the CD and DVD include Carlos Núñez and Susana Seivane, as well as the Orchestre de Jazz de Bretagne, Goran Bregovic, Karan Casey, Les Ramoneurs de Menhirs, Yann-Fañch Kemener and Aldo Ripoché, to name a few.

CONTENTS	page
On the Cover and in this Issue	2
Lizher eus ar c'hoat: Dark November – Uzel, Aodoù An Arvor – Travel Thoughts from David Brûlé, U.S. ICDBL President	3 - 4
The Breton Language and the 2009-2010 School Year	4 - 6
A Redadeg 2010 – A run for the Breton Language	6 - 7
Diwan Schools – Year-round fundraising	7
Message in a bottle from Skol Diwan Banaleg	7 – 8
Breton language Wikipedia	8
Stumdi	8
Finding Breton classes for adults	9
Kentel 15 / Lesson 15: A few common verbs, from Natalie Novik	9
Publishing in the Breton language	9 – 10
Kuzul ar Brezhoneg / Breton Language Council	10 – 11
Taol Kurun Festival and Haiku contest	11 – 12
Some November and December Breton Festivals ... just to mention a few!	12
Four New Members for Brittany's Order of the Ermine: Jean-Christophe Cassard, Tugdual Kalvez, Yann Fañch Kemener, Jean-Guy Le Floc'h, Mona Ozouf	12 - 17
New Books from Brittany : Alain Lozac'h, <i>Avec Fleuriot de Langle et La Pérouse,</i> <i>1785-1788 – Carnets de borde des aventures d'un marin breton</i> / Paul Féval, <i>Le Joli Château & Le Loup Blanc</i> / Béatrice Balti, <i>William Wallace - Le Cri de la Liberté</i>	17 - 19
Deep Inside a Breton Skull 24 – The wild old fool. By Jean-Pierre Le Mat	19 - 22
New Music from Brittany: Review of Orion, <i>Strawberry Town</i>	22 - 23
Heard of but not heard – Short notes on 26 new CDs from Brittany	23 - 25

