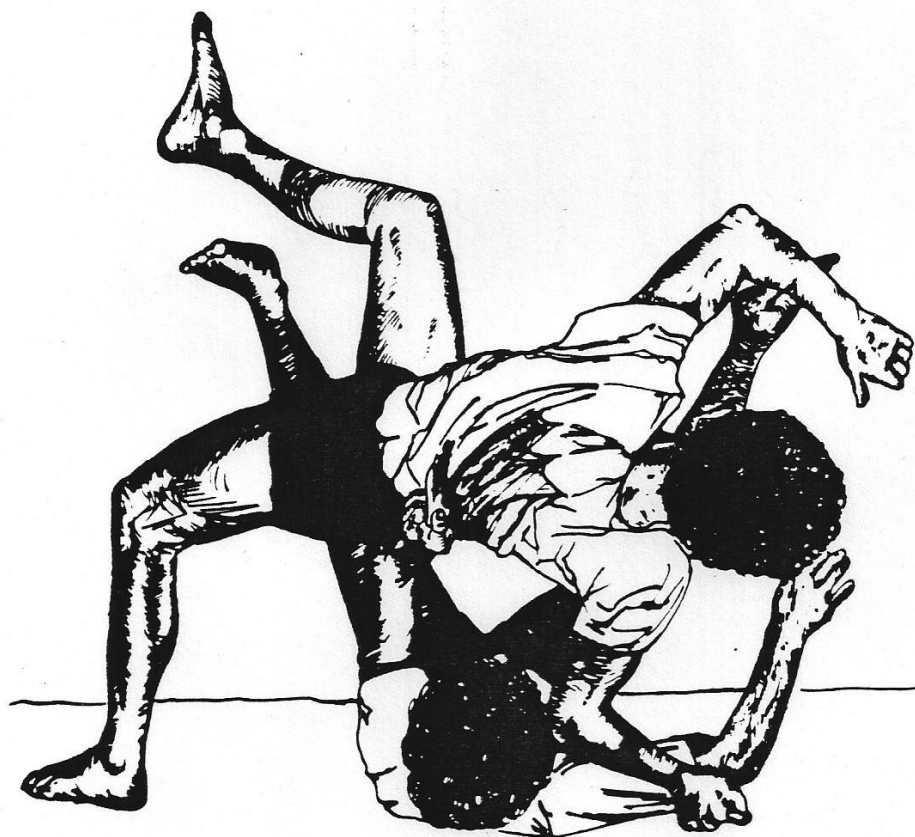


BRO NEVEZ

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



KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

FEBRUARY 85

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BRO NEVEZ - NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
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Please see the back cover for details on subscription, ICDBL
membership, and newsletter advertising.

FROM THE EDITOR . . . Lois Kuter

1985 Membership Renewals and Diwan Contributions

Included with this newsletter is a membership form for those of you who have not yet renewed membership (or subscription) for 1985. I hope that you are planning on doing so and that forgetfulness has been your only excuse. As you will see from the reports in this newsletter issue the Breton language continues to need all the support it can get.

Do not forget to check off the contribution box for the Diwan schools. So far, through big and little contributions on the part of 50 members who have checked off this box on their renewal forms we have collected \$450 for Diwan. This is not a bad start....but it is only a start. What about the rest of you who have not yet renewed membership? Can you help us send a second check to Diwan of at least the same size? Diwan has been bailed out of closing down its schools by government support to cover major debts, but the struggle for survival continues. The greatest support you can give is hard cold cash (or a check). Pennies from American will contribute to the grass roots support for these Breton language schools in Brittany.

As you will see from the long report included in this newsletter issue, the Breton language continues to struggle and cultural organizations in Brittany continue to fight for support. From the letters I receive from Bretons I know that the growth of the ICDBL and interest shown by Americans in Brittany and the fate of the Breton language has been a source of encouragement for Bretons. Your continued support is important and the growth of the U.S. ICDBL through new members will show that American support for Breton is not just a passing fancy.

We are aiming for at least 200 members in 1985, so spread the word about the ICDBL and urge interested people you meet to join us. For 1985 I have prepared new introductory brochures, a flyer presenting Bro Nevez and a flyer on our publication series. If you would like copies of these to give away (at meetings of Celtic organizations, for example, or to acquaintances) please let me know and I will mail you a packet.

Advertising in Bro Nevez

Beginning with this newsletter issue we had hoped to include paid advertising and classified ads. However, notices went out late to a handful of potential advertisers and thus we will begin this with the May issue. We hope that the additional income from advertising will allow us to upgrade the quality of the newsletter's appearance. A decision to advertise with us will not only help advertisers become better known to ICDBL readers, but will also help us shift from mimeographing to photocopying--a production change which will complement our growth from a newsletter of several pages to a growing magazine. Please see the back page for information on advertising rates.

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE

Lois Kuter

Because the ICDBL is an organization to support Bretons in their efforts to keep the Breton language alive and healthy, we have tried to include regular reports in our newsletter of the state of Breton. Readers are referred to Newsletter 11 (May 1984) for a report on Breton in the schools and media, and to Newsletter 12 (August 1984) for a report on the Destrades Proposition, a bill in support of regional languages and cultures of France (now abandoned).

In this newsletter issue we focus particularly on the state of Breton in university studies and the continuing fight for a Breton CAPES--an important step in the creation of teaching posts for Breton teachers. Despite fine words of support for regional languages and cultures of France on the part of the French government, it is at the university level in particular that resources remain blocked.

Several reports from Brittany that I have received in the past few weeks have been translated and are included to give you a first-hand idea of the situation in Brittany. The original texts and other newspaper reports I have received (in French) are available to anyone who wants more details.

Also in this language focus are a brief report on an Association of Breton Mayors and Local Officials in support of Breton and some short notes on continuing action in Brittany to make Breton a publicly recognized and used language.

University Study of Breton - the Continuing Problem of the CAPES

The following article which I have translated from the weekly newspaper La Bretagne à Paris (28 December 1984) gives a good idea of the frustration felt by university students who attempt to study Breton. The Catch-22 nature of university studies themselves and the difficulty of finding employment as a Breton teacher make the decision to pursue advanced studies in Breton (at either the Université de Haute-Bretagne in Rennes, or the Université de Bretagne Occidentale in Brest) a truly heroic effort. A superhuman commitment is necessary to study Breton. We salute those who have this commitment to persist in efforts to strengthen university studies in Breton--studies critical to training researchers and teachers who will contribute to the future of Breton.

The Reform of Studies at the Université de Haute-Bretagne:
and the Breton Language?

The situation of the Breton language at the Université de Haute-Bretagne - Rennes 2 is more than worrisome. There are fewer students enrolled in the Celtic Studies Department

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this year: 85 compared to 343 in 1981-82, 254 in 1982-83, and 116 in 1983-84. It is true that the university is not solely responsible for this state of affairs: numerous militants of the Breton Movement enrolled in the Licence the first two years and this phenomenon has stopped; also for the Maitrise.

But other statistics are still more worrisome: 123 entering students this year as opposed to 293 last year. Such a drop isn't by accident. Studies have been reformed this year at the U.H.B. First the DEUG (Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Générales) has been modified. This means that these two years are organized in four semesters. The first semester (at the beginning of the academic year in January) is an orientation semester. The student chooses two subjects, one the "principal orientation" and the other an "optional orientation." After six months, the student's level is evaluated and he must choose one of the two subjects. This format is based on the DEUGs already in existence. But, there is still no DEUG for Breton, even though there is a Licence. Thus, you can't choose Breton as your principal orientation. Students this year could choose Breton as an optional orientation "under exceptional circumstances" (that is, not being sure that this would be possible next year). But, Breton candidates are informed: "You know, you can do Breton, but in any event there is no DEUG." Only 34 students in the first year were not discouraged by these tactics.

Students who expect to prepare a DEUG of LEA (Langues Etrangères appliquées - Applied Foreign Languages) are required to have the Bac in English, German, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese or Russian. One "forgets" that you have the possibility of having a Bac in Breton (as a second or third language option).

It has been a question for many students of having two hours of French per week. In place of French they could choose to begin study of Italian, Portuguese, Russian and sometimes Greek or Latin. One also forgot Breton, as well as other "small" languages (such as Serbo-Croatian or Czech). On protest by students, Breton was allowed...one month after the beginning of enrollments, after the university information notices had already been printed and distributed!

What will be the place of Breton in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th semesters? No one knows. Decisions concerning the functioning of the university and the life of students next January (1985) have not yet been made (December 28). The vote will not be delayed it appears. During these three semesters the cursus of students will be composed of "specific classes," partly optional and partly obligatory, in addition to "fundamental classes" of a "common trunk" and a "base language."

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The definition of the content of these latter classes is not clear. And, one does not know how and under what conditions Breton will be admitted.

For those students not included in the reform (those of the 2nd and 3rd years, etc.) a problem is also faced - in many departments, the number of "Unités de Valeur" (U.V.'s, or credits) have been diminished. Thus, while there has been in the framework of a Licence two free U.V.s (in the subjects which interests one), there are no more, or only one. The Celtic Studies Department loses there an important part of its force. Many students were happy to have several U.V.s of Breton, Welsh, Irish, or Breton and Celtic Civilization; they can no longer get these.

The situation is thus very serious. But you don't have to wait long for reactions. The professors of U.H.B. have circulated a petition to defend "small" departments and most notably the Celtic Department. More than 50 professors have already signed. Students have also printed a petition. They ask that the situation of Breton in the university be improved and bring up again their request that a DEUG and a CAPES for Breton be created. They have organized an information stand and display in the main lobby of the U.H.B. as well as a rock music fest noz.

They call on all who are in agreement with their demands to support them. You can help in giving your time or a monetary contribution, in circulating a petition for the CAPES destined for the President of the Republic, and in asking your Municipal Council to pass a resolution in favor of the CAPES for Breton to be sent to the Minister of National Education.

Unvaniezh Studierien Vreizh/Union des Etudiants Bretons
Kevrenn Geltiek/Section de Celtique
Skol Vreur Breizh-Uhel/Université de Haute-Bretagne
6 bali Gaston-Berger
35000 Roazhon/Rennes

A Letter from Per Denez to French President Mitterrand

Introduction:

Along with students acting to improve university programs for Breton are professors. The following letter to President Mitterrand from Per Denez (translated by Reun ar C'halan) nicely summarizes his feelings about the government's lack of action to give Breton the necessary resources to survive in the schools. This letter accompanied 500 pages of petitions for the CAPES for Breton. Among them were many that readers of this newsletter helped to circulate here in the United States. Rest assured that your efforts were not wasted.

Per Denez has recently been granted an honorary Degree (Doctor in *Litteris honoris causa*) by the University of Wales for his contributions to Breton culture and to the establishment of cultural links between Brittany and Wales. Per Denez has long been active for the Breton language not only as a university professor in the Celtic Studies Department at the Université de Haute-Bretagne, but as a poet and novelist in Breton, an author of linguistic studies of the Breton of Douarnenez where he lives, and as an active member of several major Breton cultural organizations. He has also been an active participant for many years in Inter-Celtic conferences and university exchanges, and he well deserves the honorary degree of the University of Wales for his work to establish links between these two Celtic nations. As the letter which follows shows, Per Denez is an eloquent defender of the Breton language.

Rennes, January 19, 1985

Monsieur François Mitterrand
Président de la République
Palais de l'Elysée
PARIS

Mr. President,

A private citizen's letter doubtless has little chance of reaching you. My obligations toward the young people who have been placed in my trust and who trust me--in my capacity as a Professor of Breton in this University and as Chair of the Celtic Department--as well as my commitment to the struggle for Breton culture--in my capacity as President of the Federative Breton Council (*Kuzul ar Brezhoneg*)--lead me, no matter what the consequences, to address myself directly to you.

You know, and we know, what cultural situation you have inherited--I mean insofar as the "other" cultures, and especially the Breton culture, is concerned. Centuries of contempt, of suppression, of persecution, through which succeeding governments pursued the same process of relentless absorption, have brought us to the brink of extinction. Your arrival to power was for us, with the change it brought, a mark of hope. This hope, it must be said, immediately was subjected to its first shock, when on July 2, 1981, your Minister of Education, after our University had presented its annual request for a Licence in Breton, gave us an answer in keeping with a tradition which we had thought to belong to a bygone era, a curt "NO". Your personal intervention--thank God--changed the course of things, and the Licence in Breton and Celtic was granted to us.

For this, Mr. President, I want once more to say "Thank you". For the first time, even though we lacked (and still lack) the DEUG*, students were able to get a normal degree in

* DEUG: a university degree intermediate between the "bachot" and the "licence" (Translator's note).

their own language, and then, thanks to the M.A. and D.E.A. and the third cycle, to devote themselves to the type of research which until then had been left up to private initiative and to individual good will.* This degree has enabled young people who had felt pushed to the wayside to resume their studies and to find a reason for hope and for renewed enterprise. This first year of the Licence, Mr. President, brought together, in the "Breton and Celtic programs", 343 students--to place this figure in context I will mention that there were, the same year, 18 students in the program for the Licence in Classical Languages and Literatures, 136 in the program for the Licence in Modern Literature, and 246 in the program for the Licence in English.

The Jacobin forces, alas, soon regained the upper hand. We waited in vain for the bill presented by the Socialist Party and its allies, referred to in Brittany as the Le Pensec bill, introduced with considerable publicity in May 1981, a few days before the elections, to become law. Our representatives asked us to have faith and to be patient: was not the "Giordan Report" a hopeful sign? A new bill is, at last, up for study. I can say that, through my friends the representatives Jean Peuziat and Dollo, I have, at each step of the drafting of the bill, kept the responsible committees of the Socialist Party informed about the position of the Breton cultural movement and about our teaching needs. A text which, from the perspective of the Breton movement was certainly imperfect but still acceptable, was finally drafted; I have been assured that this text was submitted to you by M. Destrade and that it received your approval. The final step, I was told by our representatives, was to entrust the text to the experts of the Ministry of National Education for legal and administrative rephrasing. Alas! the bill which came out of this remodeling process (May 1984, no 2157) can only remind me of the popular ballad (Barzaz Breiz, ed. 1867, p. 31) in which the newborn child has been replaced in his cradle by a monstrous imp. The disappointment was crushing--in proportion to our betrayed trust. We are now told, moreover, that the bill will not come up for debate and that Mr. Chevènement**, whom I have heard in Rennes jeering the teaching of Breton, will proceed by ministerial orders and decrees: we cannot have any trust in a process which excludes debate, consultation, and dialogue, and the only thing we can expect from it is a sham.

* The intermediate stages leading from the Licence to the doctorate in the French university system (Translator's note).

** Mr. Chevènement is the current Minister of National Education (Translator's note).

There is one point--a fundamental one, Mr. President--upon which I must insist. It is this point which motivates my letter, and about which I must most urgently appeal to you. It concerns the recruiting of young people for teaching Breton through the democratic process of competitive examinations--CAPES and Agrégation.* The Le Pensec bill mentioned it, the text drafted by the Socialist Party included it. All of this was crossed out by your Minister under the combined pressure of vested interests and of the Jacobin refusal to grant Breton the only measure which would ensure that it would be taught, at the secondary school level, in a regular and effective manner.

This deliberate will to bar the young people who have received the Licence in Breton from access, through competitive examinations, to teaching positions is deeply amoral and shocking. There are, at the secondary school level, in the Académies** of Rennes, Nantes, and the Paris Region, the equivalent of thirty teaching positions in Breton; these positions are filled in the most precarious way, on an annual basis only, by teachers of English, History, Math ... etc., who already hold a teaching position and who are appointed by the Recteur*** upon the advice of a commission which is characterized by the fact that it includes no specialists in Breton. The holders of these teaching positions in Breton are then replaced by teaching assistants whose discipline is that of the teachers whom they replace. Students who hold the Licence in Breton, and who do not yet have a position and a job, on the other hand, find themselves ineligible for these thirty teaching positions for which they are neither recruited nor selected, not even with the lowly title of teaching assistant. While there are CAPES and Agrégation competitive examinations in Hebrew, Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, etc.... and I am very pleased there are--which provide a few annual positions--and I am very glad for the happy candidates****--there is, for Breton, a restricted domain into which the young cannot gain entry. I appeal to your high authority, Mr. President, so that you may bring this injustice to an end; so that the students in the lycées and the highschools may have, in Breton teachers who enjoy the status and the legitimacy to which they are entitled, so that our culture may have its chance.

Translator's Notes:

- * University degrees which guarantee a teaching position in the French government school system.
- ** Académies: the French state educational system is divided into 17 académies, or districts.
- *** Each académie is administered by a recteur.
- **** In 1983, CAPES: Arabic 13; Russian 4; Italian 18; Chinese 1; Portuguese 14; Hebrew 1.
Agrégation: Spanish 8; Italian 8; Russian 1; Arabic 3; Polish, Portuguese, Hebrew 0.

For many months, petitions bearing hundreds of signatures have been addressed to you for this purpose: I personally forwarded a thousand of them. Today, Mr. President, I take the liberty of sending 500 new sheets of petitions in favor of the CAPES in Breton. These sheets bear 8793 names. Among these signatures, 190 come from Belgium, 309 from Wales, 334 from England, 73 from Scotland, 65 from Ireland, 30 from Japan, 51 from the RFA, 616 from the USA*, others from Austria, Argentina, Denmark, the Netherlands, Catalonia, Madagascar, Morocco, Srilanka, Sweden and Switzerland. We were able to count, among the signatories 2049 students, 2065 professors and teachers, 872 civil servants, clerks and secretaries, 405 executives and engineers, 332 professional people and doctors, 292 workers, 281 artists, 254 tradesmen and craftsmen, 94 retired people, 92 unemployed, 75 farmers, 49 housewives, 24 fishermen, 12 priests, and six conscientious objectors. The petition was signed by such varied Breton personalities as Senator Georges Lombard, representative Jean Peuziat, President Claude Champaud, and Mr. Michel Mazéas, Mayor of Douarnenez. It was signed by a group of inmates in a Paris prison, by entire school classes in Saint-Malo and Lorient, by a whole City Council, by sorting teams of mail clerks in the Paris region, by high school personnel in Pont-l'Abbé, by private school teachers in Plabennec, by teachers in a lycée near Paris, etc. Motions have been voted in favor of the CAPES in Breton by the Regional Council of Brittany, by the Economic and Social Committee of Brittany, by the Cultural Council of Brittany, by the Convention for a Europe of Regions in Copenhagen, by the SGEN-CFDT union of Brittany, by numerous other groups and associations. Town councils have voted motions in favor of the CAPES in Breton, such as those of Baud, Berhet, Douarnenez, Gestel, Guéméné-sur-Scorff, Guidel, Kervignac, Landeda, Lanester, Lannion, Lanvenegen, Le Faouet, Lignol, Locmiquelic, Loctudy, Lorient, Plerin, Plevin, Plestin-les-Grèves, Pleubian, Ploermel, Plemeur, Plouarzel, Ploudaniel, Port-Louis, St-Brieuc, St-Hernin, St-Malo de Guersac, St-Nazaire, St-Thégonnec, Tregunc, Vannes. The latest is that of Rennes, whose mayor is Mr. Hervé, Minister of Health.

Mr. President, the refusal to create the CAPES in Breton, notice of which has been served to us up to this day, cannot have, even in times of austerity, any budgetary explanation or excuse. It is a by-product of the Jacobin principle which has already been the cause of so much suffering. Upon the occasion of your forthcoming journey to Brittany, grant us justice: the right for our young students to have access to work, the right for our young school children to have their language and their culture taught under normal conditions.

Editor's note:* In fact, 996 signatures were collected in the U.S. and have been transmitted to President Mitterrand.

Your decision will give us back both confidence and hope.

Mr. President, please accept my sincere thanks.

Respectfully yours,

Per Denez
Chairman, Department of Celtic
Université Rennes 2 Haute-Bretagne

Enclosures: 500 sheets of petitions.

President Mitterrand's Visit to Brittany . . . no cause for hope
or confidence

A quick visit to Brittany in February by French President Mitterrand has not reassured Bretons that the government's position will change from one of lack of support to real action in favor of giving Bretons the resources necessary for the future of their language. The situation is described clearly in the following statements by: the Comité des Enseignants-Etudiants pour le CAPES de Breton (Committee of Teachers-Students for the Breton CAPES, Université de Haute-Bretagne), from Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg (Union of Breton Teachers, Vannes) and a group of major language and cultural organizations meeting to discuss Mitterrand's visit and proposition for a combined Modern Literature/Breton CAPES.

1. from: Le Comité Enseignants-Etudiants pour le CAPES de Breton
(translation: L. Kuter)

A communication from the Minister of National Education (6 February 1985) informs us that the CAPES of Breton and Modern Literature will not be the CAPES of Literature paired with a sixteenth option in Breton.* If the Minister tells us what this famous hybrid CAPES will not be, he takes care to not tell us what it will be. How can this Breton-Modern Literature CAPES be accepted by those with a Licence in Breton, of whom only 2% are specializing equally in Modern Literature? An argument put forward by the Minister against the Breton CAPES is that the number of jobs in the market would be too small. In the case of this double CAPES, the only of its kind, it would be infinitely more restricted. Can one believe for a minute that this double CAPES has been thought up to promote the teaching of Breton? Or, does it have as its goal the facilitation of efforts to move Breton out?

Translator's Note:

- * 15 language options exist in combination with the current Modern Literature CAPES: German, English, Spanish (which also have their own separate CAPES), Italian, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Portuguese, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Polish, Dutch, Czech and Rumanian.

Because, in all that, one thing is clear: once more the Breton CAPES has been refused...a CAPES just for Breton. Like the English CAPES is for English, the Spanish CAPES for Spanish. The three-year trial period imposed by Mr. Savary* is ending; it's at the end of this period that a decision must be made on the Breton CAPES. The decision is now made: it is NO. We were promised an opening, we got a closing. How long will the students who have gotten the Breton Licence have to wait? How many years will they have to wait for their right to work to be recognized? How long will Breton teachers have to wait for a status of their own? How long will students have to wait for certified teachers who can ensure continuing classes?

Comité Enseignats-Etudiants
pour le CAPES de Breton

* the past Minister of National Education replaced in 1984 by Mr. Chevènement.

2. from: Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Vrezhoneg (Union of Breton Teachers) (address: "An Douarenn", 21 straed an Tier-Barn, 56000 Gwened/Vannes) Translated by L. Kuter.

After the lightning visit of Mr. Mitterrand to Rennes, the Union of Breton Teachers is globally alarmed, because, if he came with a rose in his hand, his passage has left an acrid perfume, the after-taste of being cheated.

Certainly Mr. Mitterrand recognized that the Socialist government has not done enough in favor of the teaching of Breton and that the decentralization of Radio-France is a failure in terms of Breton language and culture, but one expected to learn of some concrete and positive decisions that could come from these admissions.

As to the question of the CAPES, one expected from the President of the Republic a step forward. He made a step to the side in introducing only a Breton option in the CAPES of Modern French Literature.

The double question of the serious training of teachers and the followup in the teaching of Breton at the secondary level, which would be made possible by the creation of fixed posts and certified teachers--tied to the creation of a CAPES--remains intact.

The Union of Breton Teachers continues its fight for the following minimum program, of which no point has been advanced, unfortunately, by Mr. Mitterrand's trip:

- creation of a DEUG, a CAPES and an Agrégation for Breton, to permit a real teaching of Breton through the creation of teaching positions;

- the equalization of Breton with other languages in all examinations;
- juridicial-financial regularization of the Diwan schools;
- adoption of Breton as the official language of France in Brittany, equal to French (in administration, courts, telephone and postal services (PTT), road signs, etc.)
- annual doubling of radio and television broadcasts in Breton, leading to a station entirely in Breton for each, equivalent to those elsewhere, in Wales, for example.
- administrative reattachment of the Loire-Atlantique to the rest of Brittany.*

It is not in avoiding the true problems that the French government can hope to attain the support of Brittany, but in responding to expectations and deep aspirations of the Breton people.

Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien
Vrezhoneg

* Historically, Brittany is made up of the area now comprised of five French administrative departments: Finistère, Cotes-du-Nord, Morbihan, Ille-et-Vilaine, and Loire-Atlantique. However, the official "Region of Brittany" defined by the French government for all administrative purposes does not include Loire-Atlantique, thus denying its Breton heritage and identity.

3. A Statement from a Grouping of Breton Language and Cultural Organizations (translation by L. Kuter)

The Breton cultural associations listed below, meeting in Carhaix, February 9, 1985, took a position on the Breton-Modern Literature CAPES announced by the President of the Republic and the Ministry of National Education.

They estimate that a bicephalous CAPES is not satisfactory. What would be its recruitment, since one knows that a minute minority of Breton students are specialized in Modern Literature? For what teaching posts would these teachers be candidates--French, Breton, or mixed posts? What guarantee would the teachers have for the duration of their positions, and in the context of these positions, a scheduling of Breton classes?

Such a CAPES can assure neither access to a job for Breton students, nor a quality training for teachers. What does the creation of a mixed CAPES signify, whether Breton is associated with Modern Letters or any other subject? Will Breton hold the same relation to French, English or Math...as Polish does to Russian, to which it is arbitrarily paired in the context of a mixed CAPES?

The administration argues a lower demand in refusing posts for certified teachers of Breton, while the teaching of Breton has not yet had a true place given to it, while instead of promoting the teaching of languages and cultures of France, one strives to discourage it. The present existence of 24 services to teach Breton is the best proof that there already is a demand, even in present unfavorable conditions.

A mixed Breton-Modern Literature CAPES means keeping Breton in the ghetto of traditional literary humanities. A mixed CAPES signifies in all cases the refusal to recognize the Breton language as a language in its own right, and a refusal to promote its teaching.

The Le Pensec law proposition, and then the first working out of the Dollo-Destrades law proposition "promotion of the languages and cultures of France", signed by the Breton Socialist Deputies, mentioned the CAPES and the Agrégation for Breton. We know now that this proposition will not be debated by the Assembly and that the decisions will not be taken by the Minister. Without preliminary planning, this grants a pseudo-CAPES for Breton which can assure neither the promotion nor the teaching of Breton, and which guarantees neither the continuation of studies for students nor access to jobs for (university) students. For these reasons, the creation of a Breton CAPES is necessary.

Ar Brezhoneg er Ger
Ar Falz
Bretagne Gallèse
Comité pour l'Unité Administrative
de Bretagne
Diwan
Kuzul ar Brezhoneg
Skol an Emsav
Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Vrezhoneg
Unvaniezh Studierien Vreizh

For those interested in details concerning how a CAPES works, and exactly why it is needed to insure the future of Breton in the schools, I have received (unfortunately too late for translation and inclusion in this report) a detailed letter to the Senators and Deputies of Brittany from Per Denez which explains the importance of the CAPES and the specific problems of the "Mitterrand CAPES". Because the French educational system is quite different from our own, it is sometimes difficult to fully grasp the significance of things like the CAPES; This letter goes a long way in clarifying some issues.

A Letter from Lenora A. Timm, President of the U.S. ICDBL to French President Francois Mitterrand

With the approval of the U.S. ICDBL Board of Directors, the following letter has been sent by the U.S. Branch President, Lenora Timm, to President Mitterrand to express our support for the creation of a Breton CAPES and for the Diwan schools.

Monsieur le Président,

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the United States Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (ICDBL), an organization founded in 1981 to lend support to people in Brittany who choose to speak their traditional language, Breton, and who want to ensure that their children and grandchildren are not denied access to the rich cultural heritage that includes, as a prominent trait, the Breton language.

Our Committee has been favorably impressed by the many statements made in the past few years by you and other French officials indicating that you respect and value Breton traditions as well as those of numerous other cultures which contribute to the richness of the French country as a whole. Yet, we have been dismayed to see that positive actions have not usually followed on the heels of such encouraging words. In truth, we do not understand why there has been such an obvious resistance to measures which could give Bretons some of the most basic tools and resources for the survival of the Breton language.

Recent newspaper articles have focused national--and, I daresay, international--attention on the reform of the curriculum at the Université de Haute Bretagne-Rennes 2, and the depressing situation of Breton studies. Why should surprise be registered at decreasing enrollments in Breton classes when everything possible has been done to make advanced study of the language a well-nigh Herculean task; and worse, one with uncertain rewards? We have been amazed and chagrined by the continued resistance to the creations of a DEUG and a CAPES for the Breton language, when such degrees exist for a variety of other non-indigenous languages. One is led ineluctably to the conclusion that the government desires to block these degrees precisely in order to prevent effective teacher training in Breton and to hobble advanced scholarship in the language.

During the spring and summer of 1984 we circulated a petition (also circulated in Brittany and Europe) calling upon you to create the DEUG and CAPES for Breton. One thousand signatures were collected here in the United States from people of all backgrounds in more than 20 different states. Along with more than 100 university professors and over 70 secondary

school teachers, there were also artists, lawyers, musicians, doctors, factory workers, writers, business executives, farmers, clergymen and priests, truck drivers, homemakers, students--in short, people of every socio-economic description who showed their support for Breton. The diversity of the signers of the petition (which parallels the diversity found within the U.S. Branch of the ICDBL) reflects the profound importance felt by people from all walks of life of the right to learn the language of one's traditional culture. We hope that our voices, along with many thousands of voices crescendoing in Brittany and elsewhere in the world, will be heard and responded to affirmatively. The creation of a DEUG and a CAPES for Breton are small actions that should follow naturally from the many words of support given by the French government for the regional languages and cultures of France.

I must also register my disappointment--on behalf of the Committee--with the continued lack of government support given the Diwan schools in Brittany. By contrast, the continued support of these schools by a large number of Bretons--even in hard economic times--indicates that Diwan meets a need not filled in any other way. Members of our Committee who have spent time in Brittany and have visited Diwan schools have seen with their own eyes and heard with their own ears the high quality and the effectiveness of this education for young Bretons, and education which gives them a strong training in both Breton and French. We constantly wonder why the government is not doing more to ensure the financial stability necessary to permit the Diwan school system to grow and better to serve the public of Brittany.

While educational and media support for Breton has improved since the 19th century, we find it difficult to understand why government actions of recent years have been, in general, token in nature. There is a good deal of talk about promoting "regional cultures," but the government fails to do anything really effective to allow Breton and other regional languages of France to prevent their attrition and ultimate demise. Where is the "historical reparation" you spoke of? Is this just so much more political rhetoric? Is it a game? If so, it is one with morbid consequences for France's regional minorities. Outside observers cannot help but to wonder if cultural and linguistic genocide--through an unstated policy of "laissez-mourir"--is not, in fact, your government's hidden agenda.

Yours cordially,

Lenora A. Timm
President, U.S. Branch ICDBL
Linguistics Committee
University of California at Davis
Davis, California
U.S.A. 95616

An Association of Breton Mayors and Elected Officials for the Breton Language

It has not been easy to find positive things to report about the future of the Breton language, but one very positive development in recent years has been the growth of support for Breton on the part of local government officials in Brittany--Breton speakers themselves--who have decided that the time has come to take matters into their own hands and work for the public use of the Breton language in city government affairs.

An association of mayors and other local elected officials was formed in July 1984 and recently met to reaffirm their commitment to the defense of Breton. Actions proposed and put into practice include the promotion of bilingual signs for roads and buildings in their jurisdictions, the development of the use of Breton in mayors' offices in dealing with Breton speakers and on written forms and documents, the use of Breton in public ceremonies (such as weddings), the promotion of Breton language and culture in local festivals and in local schools, the promotion of inter-Celtic exchanges through the twinning of cities and through cultural exchanges, and the use of Breton in administrative meetings.

The initial statement by this association on its reason for forming is worth quoting (translated from a newspaper report in Ouest France, July 4, 1984, p. 13).

There are still about 550,000 native Breton speakers, but each year in the cantons of Lower Brittany 15,000 people who use Breton as an everyday language die, while only some 2,500 new Breton speakers are taught by the schools, clubs and associations. The simple division of 550,000 by 15,000 shows us the seriousness of the situation. It is clear that in some 45 years Breton risks becoming truly a "dead language"--an object of a thesis or class--if there is not a decisive reversal of position on the part of Breton officials.

Conscious of their responsibility as well as their solidarity with young people who make an effort to learn Breton, with teachers, parents of students, and the Breton movement, the Breton-speaking local officials of various "pays of Brittany", of various opinions and feelings, have decided to regroup, ignoring the usual cleavages, in order to fight at the base for the protection and promotion of the Breton language and culture. This fight involves concrete actions: Breton or bilingual signs, encouragement of Breton classes in the schools, and practice of Breton in local and municipal life, including the possibility of marriages in Breton, etc.

The Breton language will not hold out unless officials, and most notably Breton-speaking elected officials, truly believe in the importance of their cultural roots and wish sincerely to bear witness to this.

The above statement was written in both Breton and French and signed by the following, who continue to be active in this important association, and who have been joined by others:

General Councillor P.Y. Trémel, of Cavan
Mayors: Le Peru, of Confort-Berhet; Ropars, of Loudeac;
Guillou, of Ploerdut; Cabon, of Guimaec; Omnès, of Plomelin;
and Rémond, of St-Hernin
Assistant Mayor M. Baudry, of Le Pouliguen,
Municipal Councillors: Le Hénaff, of Pluvigner; Duval, of
Rennes; Jossic, of Orvault; and Poquet, of Guerande.

Breton as a Public Language - Some Continuing Problems

The following brief notes show that the public place of Breton continues to be contested.

In November 1984, Jil Killeveré (who won some notoriety several years ago as the first student to pass all his Bac examinations written in the Breton language) appeared in court to contest the fact that his application for Conscientious Objector status (there is a draft in France) was not accepted because he filled it out in Breton. The court decided against him - "the language of proceedings before French tribunals is the French language."

The newspaper article of December 7, 1984 (La Bretagne à Paris) reporting on this also indicated that the Ministry of Defense has not had the same trouble with Breton. In the interest of efficiency they have had documents they receive in Breton translated by a public translation service. Such translation services exist; why not use them?

Members of the organization Stourm ar Brezhoneg continue to push for public acceptance of Breton. Founded in 1983, their actions have included simple things such as filling out checks in Breton. But this is not so simple in a country where the post office does not accept such checks, arguing that French is the only language of the P.T.T. However, the postal service has printed bilingual documents for the convenience of German, English, and Arabic speakers. More spectacular actions of Stourm ar Brezhoneg have included the blackening of road signs--150 of them in early December 1984 on the roads between Nantes and Rennes, Lorient and Rennes and St-Brieuc and Rennes. This was the fourth "black night" for Stourm ar Brezhoneg, and they have made it clear that they intend to continue their actions as long as necessary to get bilingual road signs in Brittany.

This is not a new request. Skol an Emsav is another organization in Brittany which has long pushed for road signs in Breton and for a greater public place for Breton. Their more "polite" requests have gone no where. Neatly printed Breton versions of road signs placed beside or below the official French versions are inevitably gone within 24 hours, despite the fact that they are not traffic safety

hazards and that they do not confuse tourists - who in fact would welcome bilingual signs and who are often disappointed to find that Breton is totally hidden from view in Brittany! Bilingual roads signs...a very simple request which would not mean a huge expense. Why is there such resistance to the Bretonnization of Breton towns and cities? Many Bretons would like to know, and a growing number are ready to continue illegal as well as legal activity to press for a bilingualism which has not been granted after years of polite requests and rational arguments.

Do not be surprised to hear about more Bretons in jail for their insistence on using the Breton language in public.

Patience with the French government's nice words and lack of action is running out. A sure sign that Bretons are extremely frustrated is the reemergence of the F.L.B./A.R.B. (Front de Libération de Bretagne/Armée Revolutionnaire Bretagne), an underground, very loosely organized, grouping of individuals who have lost patience and who believe that the only way to get the attention of French officials is in spectacular bombings of symbols of French rule of Brittany...tax offices, nuclear power companies, army installations, administrative and police buildings, etc. The continued problems of the Breton language and culture are not among the least in provoking a reemergence of the F.L.B./A.R.B. Bombings have not been directed at human life (in contrast to other areas of France where people are equally frustrated by the covert suppression of their culture--e.g., the Basques and Corsicans), but have included explicit cultural targets--radio and television stations and transmitters, for example. F.L.B. statements about such attacks often cite the suppression of the Breton language among other reasons for their actions. Given the pitiful results that have come from years of peaceful and lawful actions on the part of Breton language and cultural movements, it is not at all surprising that patience is wearing thin, and that people have concluded that harder action is necessary for the survival of Brittany. And it is not surprising that openly separatist groups like Emgann (Breton for "battle" or "combat") and POBL (Parti pour l'Organisation d'une Bretagne Libre) are growing in support (although this support is still only a very small part of the total Breton population--openly, in any case). Given the lack of advance in simple actions on the part of the French state to support the rich and diverse cultural heritages within its borders, it is not surprising that Bretons are wondering if they wouldn't be better off without France. Peaceful, legal tactics remain the most commonly used to work to improve the situation of the Breton language. Less peaceful, illegal acts of civil disobedience have also found a place in Brittany.

It is up to Bretons to choose to defend their own language and culture, and it is up to them to choose the particular actions necessary for survival. It is up to us to become informed about the situation in Brittany in order to understand the political, economic and social issues inextricably linked to the Breton language and culture.

The following bibliography gives you a start.

A Few Suggestions for Reading

The following are useful introductions to the history of the promotion of the Breton language and literature and to political, social and economic issues related to their future.

Reun ar C'halan

- 1980 Poets and politics: the revival of nationalism in Breton poetry since World War II. World Literature Today 54 (2) (Spring): 218-222. (good introduction to the link between language, literature and politics).
- 1983 The Breton struggle for national survival. Keltica 2 (Spring): 21-30. (The best introduction available--in English, French, or Breton--to basic social and political issues affecting the Breton language and culture; good overview of the history of the Breton Movement).

Yann Brekilien

- 1976 Le Breton, langue celtique. Quimper: Nature et Bretagne, 132 pages. (general overview of language and issues in its survival).

Yann Brekilien (editor)

- 1982 La Bretagne. Paris: Les Editions d'Organisation. (collection of excellent chapters by various Breton authors on all aspects of Breton history, politics, economy and culture).

Essays on the Breton language include:

- Léon Fleuriot. Les langues de Bretagne, pp. 245-280.
Madeleine Levesque. Etude sociolinguistique. pp. 286-324.
Yann Bouessel du Bourg and Yann Brekilien. La littérature bretonne. pp. 325-404.

Per Denez

- 1971 Modern Breton literature. Lecture 5 in Literature in Celtic Countries; Taliesen Congress Lectures. J. F. Caerwyn Williams (editor). Cardiff: University of Wales Press, pp. 113-136. (good introduction to Breton literature)

Marcel Guieysse

- 1936 La langue bretonne - Ce qu'elle fut, ce qu'elle est, ce qui se fait pour elle et contre elle. Quimper: Nouvelles Editions Bretonnes. (a classic - view of the situation in 1936).

Jorj Gwegen

- 1975 La langue bretonne face à ses oppresseurs. Quimper: Nature et Bretagne. 312 pages. (very good overview of problems and activities to defend Breton; includes also chapters on the other Celtic languages).

Ropars Hémon

- 1947 La langue bretonne et ses combats. La Baule: Editions de Bretagne. (another classic work by one of the most important figures in the history of Breton literature and activism).

Gwennole Le Menn

- 1975 Le Breton et son enseignement. Langue Française 25 (Feb.): 71-83. (good overview of the history of Breton and of its position in the schools; in a special issue of Langue Française devoted to the teaching of "regional languages").

Fanch Morvannou

- 1980 Le Breton, la jeunesse d'une vieille langue. Brest: Presses Populaires de Bretagne. (succinct presentation of current issues and history of Breton language problems).

Yann-Ber Piriou

- 1971 Défense de cracher par terre et de parler breton - poèmes de combat (1950-1970). Paris: P. J. Oswald. (Good history of Breton language literature in an introduction of 30 pages to this classic collection of Breton poetry).

Lenora A. Timm

- 1980 Bilingualism, diglossia and language shift in Brittany. International Journal of the Sociology of Language 25: 29-41.
- 1982 Language treatment in Brittany. Language Planning Newsletter (East-West Culture Learning Center, Honolulu, Hawaii) 8(3)(August): 1-6.
- 1983 The shifting linguistic frontier in Brittany. In F. B. Agard, G. Kelley, A. Makkai and V. B. Makkai (editors). Essays in Honor of Charles F. Hockett. Leiden: E. J. Brill, pp. 443-457.
- (specific and more general studies of the situation of Breton from a sociolinguistic and linguistic viewpoint).

John Van Erde

- 1979 Facets of the Breton problem. Language Problems and Language Planning 3(1):1-8. (not the best, but one of the few things available in English for those who cannot read French).

The above represent only a few of the available materials written by Bretons. Numerous articles appear regularly in Breton magazines and newsletters.

See also the following ICDBL publications:

- Fact Finding Report of the U.S. Branch of the ICDBL. Lois Kuter, Lenora Timm, Laurie O'Keefe Fadave, Anne Habermehl. Jan. 1983.
- A Guide to Language and Cultural Organizations in Brittany. Lois Kuter, (a good practical guide to active groups and publications)
- A Chronology of Breton History (Relating especially to the Breton Language. L. Kuter.

KORN AR BREZHONEG

KLEMMGAN BREIZH

Niverenn diwezhañ ar gelaouenn Al Liamm a ro kemenn e teuo er-maez a-benn-emberr Klemmgan Breizh, an eil dastumadenn eus va barzhonegoù. En oberenn-mañ em eus lakaet keñver-ouzh-keñver istor an oberour hag istor e bobl. Mab-den en deus da gentañ ur bugaleaj diantek ha dibreder. A-c'houde e teu brokadennoù arvarus an oad-krenn, skiant-prenet an oad-gour, gwander ar gozhni ha poanioù ar marv a-barzh deiz splann an dasorc'h. Evel-se e oa evit ar Gelted. O mojennoù kozh a liv un daolenn edenel eus o ganedigezh hag eus o oad kentañ. Heuliet e oa an amzer-gent gant an ermaezhiadegoù bras, pa oa diasezet beli ar Gelted war Europa a-bezh. A-c'houde e teuas ar c'hantvedoù du. Ar pobloù keltiek a oa rediet da blegañ, an eil war lerc'h eben. A-benn ar fin e teu an dud hag ar pobloù gwasket da sevel a-enep ar waskerien. Spurmantañ a reont evel un huñvre skeudenn varzhus an azginivelezh. "Amzer voe ma oa an doueed tost deomp" (I,1); "Rak gouenn ar Gelted a zo diwar an doueed" (LIII,13): al linenn gentañ hag al linenn diwezhañ a ziskouez al liamm etre derou-amzer ar Gelted ha fiziañs ar Vreizhiz en o dazont. Setu da-heul ar barzhoneg kentañ hag an hini diwezhañ eus an dastumadenn, kement ha reiñ deoc'h un tañvaig eus al levr.

I

Amzer voe ma oa an doueed tost deomp
Bleuñv an huñvre a oa en hon daouarn
Mouezh an douar a save davedomp
Ar rozenn a vleunie dindan hon treid
Ken flour e oa ar geot ha blev ur plac'h
Ar frouezh ne oant ket boas da zerc'hel penn
An heol a droenne e red an dour
Hag hon daoulagad a c'hoarzhe outañ
Ar mor a skede a-rez an dremmwel
Bep sterenn a ginnige hec'h anv
Gwenan ar skiant a roe o mel
Ha kanañ a raemp kanennoù d'an noz
An noz ken flour ha huanadoù voulouz

LIII

Tremen a ra an deizioù, hinon ha tenval
Tremen a ra an deizioù, sammet gant daeroù
Tremen a ra an deizioù, karget gant bleunioù
An nevez-amzer a zistro war-lerc'h ar goañv
A-benn ar fin e vo dibrenn dor an neved
A-benn emberr e teuio ar bloaz da vleuniañ
Skeud ponner an amzer a gouezho diwarnomp
Ar c'herioù a ginnigo deomp o alc'hwezioù
Emañ ar ster o tigeriñ he roudourioù
Emañ ar ster o ruilhal he failhour aour
Dir ar c'hleze a lugern war ar seizhenn ruz
Ha setu an ene o tistreiñ e buhez
Rak gouenn ar Gelted a zo diwar an doueed.

Reun ar C'halan

(The latest issue of Al Liamm announces the publication of my next collection under the title Klemmgan Breizh, which I freely translate as The Ermine's Plaint, the ermine being the heraldic emblem of Brittany. Each text is an attempt to recreate, in poetic form, a significant episode in the history of the Breton people. The opening and concluding sections are given here.)

* * * * *

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"I've noticed that the Breton articles in your newsletter vary extremely in level of difficulty. I'm trying to learn Breton myself, and suppose many other members are. So why not two articles in Breton in each newsletter? One simple passage, for beginners, plus an article of general interest, for those already proficient?"

Walter Stock

EDITOR'S RESPONSE:

As is the case for all columns in Bro Nevez, we count on readers to contribute articles. All too often column editors find that they have to do their own writing issue after issue. It is a lot of work. Just getting one article out in Breton is a task when there are no contributions sent by readers . . . and we do have readers capable of contributing beginner's level or advanced materials. So, how about sending in something? Your contributions would be very much appreciated by the many readers who are working on their own to learn a little Breton.

Would anyone out there like to contribute to a series of "mini-lessons" for beginners? This is an idea that was suggested a long time ago. But, someone has to take a little time to do it. The Breton column editor can't do everything!

And the plea goes out for all the other columns as well. How about some book and record reviews...or just a quick note (two sentences!) on a book or record - old or new. We need some more input from readers. This is not "my" newsletter, or the newsletter of the column editors. It is your newsletter.

Lois Kuter

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BOOK REVIEWS

Lesley Blanch. Pierre Loti: The Legendary Romantic. New York: Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1983. 336 pp. \$15.95.

Pierre Loti (Julien Viaud). Pêcheur d'Islande. Edited by James F. Mason. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 1930. x, 277 pp., including notes and vocabulary. (First published 1886).

_____. Mon frère Yves. Paris: Calmann-Lévy, 1971. Livre de Poche 3233. 314 pp. (First published 1883).

_____. Le Roman d'un enfant. Edited by Arthur Fisher Whitem. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1915. (First published 1890).

Review by Amy Varin

I didn't expect much of Pêcheur d'Islande when I first read it in tenth-grade French class. The little book had the same faded blue cover stamped with a silver fleur-de-lis as the previous year's mangled synopsis of Les Misérables, the same small format and solid worn binding and exercises in the back as the little red book about idiotic René who let his pet lizard loose in the salon that had introduced the eighth grade to French literature. And this one was about codfishing. In Iceland.

The story we disentangled from the Subjects for Composition and the listes de vocabulaire was extremely simple. Sylvestre Moan, a seventeen-year-old Breton fisherman, wants to see his cousin Gaud married to his best friend, Yann Goas, before he is drafted into the Navy; but Yann claims that he is promised to the sea. Sylvestre is killed in Indochina; his grandmother breaks down. Yann marries Gaud six days before the fishing fleet sets out, and never returns. "One August night, out there, off the dark Iceland coast...he had celebrated his wedding with the sea."

We made fun of the sentimentalism and the symbolism, but we knew this was real. We stopped pretending that it wasn't when Sylvestre died in 1886, in what we had just recognized as Vietnam.

Yet it was not the chapter about Sylvestre's only battle that I remembered for years, but the one just after it, in which Sylvestre's grandmother goes to the Commissioner's office to learn that he is dead. A tactless clerk tells her that:

"He is deceased."
...And, seeing that she did not understand this fine word, he said it in Breton: "Marw eo!"

In the past few weeks, I had begun to understand that French was a real language and not an exercise invented to torment school children. Better than any native French speaker, I knew how, to Yvonne Moan, it must have seemed to have no possible connection with reality, how the truth could not be true until it was named in those two words of a language I had never seen written or heard spoken before.

Anyone in Brittany who reads Pierre Loti now probably condemns him as a patronizing outsider, a French naval officer, by definition an imperialist, whose sentimental caricature of Brittany is all the more damaging because it's so very well done. (Henry James admired Pêcheur d'Islande.)

The truth is more complicated. Loti was certainly sentimental; and in Mon frère Yves, the story of an alcoholic sailor, he is insufferably patronizing. Yet he was anything but a cultural imperialist; and if he romanticized Brittany it was not because underdeveloped provinces are fair game for romanticizing, but because he romanticized his entire life.

As a child in Rochefort, near La Rochelle, Julien Viaud told himself stories of his heroic Protestant ancestors and dreamed of becoming a missionary to see the world. Years later, he would call the autobiographical account of his childhood Le Roman d'un enfant.

At seventeen he joined the French Navy and spent three years on a training ship based in Brest. He began to see Brittany as in a few years he would see Turkey and as he had already seen Rochefort: at the same time the most exotic of foreign countries and home.

In Tahiti he lived with a native woman who gave him the name of Loti. In Turkey, perhaps his favorite country (though he wouldn't have wanted to choose), he spoke Turkish, wore Turkish costume, and, if his first novel, Aziyadé, is based on fact, had an affair with a woman confined to a harem. He had a mistress in every port not just because he enjoyed acting the classic sailor, but as a way of belonging to the port for as long as he was there. On board ship, he had a romantic friendship with a Breton sailor who became the model for the hero of Mon frère Yves. In Brittany, he proposed to a fisherman's daughter, probably the model for Gaud in Pêcheur d'Islande, shortly after meeting her. (She refused him.)

Pêcheur d'Islande and Mon frère Yves are set in a misty Brittany surrounded by endless oceans, where few men see the summer. Apart from a few drunken old haridans in Brest, the women are chaste and sober. Compared to the sophisticated officer Loti, the men are childlike. Though naturally as good as their wives and sisters, they can, like poor Yves, drink too much.

Described this way, Loti's Brittany sounds like a dreadful caricature, no more real than the quaint land of souvenir postcards and Theodore Botrel's lyrics. (The introduction of my school edition of Pêcheur d'Islande quotes "La Paimpolaise"). It isn't. On the postcards, the chaste maidens dance with gallant young men; the comic drunkards belong on another postcard altogether. If the two scenes came together, both would fall apart. Loti is able to show Yves' innocent wife waiting on the docks with women who only want their husbands' ship to come in so they can grab their pay and go to a bar, to make us believe in a good and naive man with one terrible weakness, who cannot bring himself to stop drinking until he hurts his infant son. Loti's Brittany is a simplified image of the real place, but a simplified image based on truth.

Most of us reading this newspaper are non-Bretons, like Loti. In writing about him, I have had to face that I too have an outsider's vision of Brittany, a vision that can only be partly true. What right do any of us have to come in and sympathize?

Lesley Blanch's Pierre Loti: The Legendary Romantic never addresses the question because it isn't that kind of book; yet, obliquely, it suggests an answer. The subtitle gives fair warning; this is a book for intelligent people to read in bed with a box of chocolates, saying little about the political background of Loti's naval career and a great deal about his sex life. Blanch delights in the contradictions of Loti's personality: the great novelist who never read, the manly naval officer who occasionally wore makeup. In one thing, though, there are no contradictions. Loti offered every country he visited a deep and enthusiastic love. There are worse foundations for the right to write about anything.

BOOK REVIEWS - continued

Charles de Lint. Moonheart. New York: Ace Fantasy, 1984. 484 pp.
\$2.95.

Reviewed by Amy Varin

Charles de Lint says that:

"This book was written under the influence of Alan Stivell, Andreas Vollenweider, Neville Marriner, Ann (sic) Triskell, Edgar Froese, Klaus Schultz, Radio Silence, Robin Williamson, Silly Wizard, the Pireys, and Kate Bush -- to name the most prominent."

Briefly, it's about an Ottawa antique dealer's initiation into a Celtic/Native American otherworld, involving an ex-biker, a house with its own personality, and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. It's far too long, the disparate elements aren't as well-blended as they should be, and sentences like "It was stress that was messing him up right now, he realized" get on my nerves; but within all these faults is a good book that a good editor could let out.

Ar Gouren - la lutte bretonne des origines à nos jours. Fédération de Gouren de la F.A.L.S.A.B. and Skol Uhel ar Vro/Institut Culturel Breton (B.P. 66A, 35031 Rennes Cedex, France), 1984. 32 pages, 25 francs.

Reviewed by Lois Kuter

M'hen tou da c'houren gant lealded
Hep trubarderez na taol fall ebet
Evit ma enor ha hini ma bro.
En testoni da ma gwiriegez
Hag evit heul kiz vad ma zud koz
Kinnig a ran da ma c'henvreur ma dorn ha ma jod.

I swear to wrestle loyally
without treachery nor brutality
For my honor and that of my country.
In testimony of my truthfulness
And in accordance with my people's custom
I give my partner my hand and my cheek.

Thus opens every tournament of wrestling in Brittany--an ancient and unique Celtic sport which has gained thousands of young practitioners. Called gouren in the Breton language, this Celtic style of wrestling has been practiced in Ireland, Scotland, Cornwall and Brittany in ancient times and is found again today to varying degrees.

But gouren bears little resemblance to the sport Americans may know where two men grapple on the ground. Breton wrestling is a standing combat where two adversaries aim to throw the other down. The two wrestlers grip each other's shirts (specially made) in various holds and use legs against the other's legs to throw them off balance. A lamm, or throw in which one's adversary lands squarely on his two shoulder blades is sought. In earlier days a match would continue until this was done, each new attempt beginning with a handshake. Today matches are timed and a point system determines winners.

Wrestling is probably one of the most ancient Breton sports and was practiced by all social classes in cities and countryside alike. Documents from the 16th century indicate that Bretons were reknowned for their wrestling skills. In the 19th century this sport started to decline, but held strong in the countryside of western Brittany (particularly in the communes of Scaer and Guiscriff). Today the Celtic style of wrestling has become very popular, with several thousand practitioners and learners throughout Brittany.

The repopularization of Breton wrestling can be credited in particular to the work of one man, Doctor Cottonnec of Quimperlé (1876-1935) who worked with others in the post-World War I period to renew this sport in a more standardized form. The InterCeltic tournament in Quimperlé in 1928, which attracted some 6,000 spectators, marks the beginning of a new era for Breton wrestling. The organization called F.A.L.S.A.B. (Fédération des amis des luttes et sports athlétiques bretons) which was to form in 1929 set down rules to modernize gouren--including time limits for matches and the establishment of weight categories. Progress in the popularization of this sport continued in the inter-war years, but did not really take off until the 1950's--a period which also saw the beginning of a renaissance of Breton traditional song and dance.

As is the case with most Celtic endeavors, the revival of wrestling has had its share of factionalism. Today problems of unifying all those who practice gouren are nearly solved, and Breton wrestlers have been establishing interesting contacts with other Celtic countries--Cornwall where wrestling has also remained strong, and Ireland and Scotland where it is more recently revived.

If you page through local newspapers in Brittany, you will see the enthusiasm with which young Bretons have taken up this ancient sport in the numerous reports of local teams, training classes, and tournaments held winter and summer throughout Brittany.

Like any sport, gouren cannot fully come alive on a written page, but the best place to start to understand the spirit of this sport without actually seeing it is the publication put out by the Fédération de Gouren de la F.A.L.S.A.B. and Skol Uhel ar Vro.

BOOK REVIEWS - Gouren - 3

An introductory text is heavily supplemented by photos of the past and present. For those who truly want the details on wrestling events in Brittany as well as articles of historic interest, a very interesting quarterly magazine is available (for 50 francs subscription, plus some extra for overseas postage):

Gouren - Informations
c/o Paul le Joncour
Fédération de Gouren - F.A.L.S.A.B.
30 avenue de la Gare
29100 Douarnenez
Brittany, France

Among the most recent publications on gouren, the following can also be recommended:

M. Jaouen. "Celtic wrestling," Keltica 1(1)(Winter 1979-80), pp. 29-31. (The only thing I have seen in English).

Fédération de Gouren - F.A.L.S.A.B. Les prises de base de la lutte bretonne, 1982. (Basic text for learners).

Erwan le Bris du Rest. La lutte bretonne, Musée de Bretagne (20 quai Emile Zola, 35100 Rennes, Brittany, France), January 1978; 1st printing December 1976. 61 pages. (catalog to accompany a museum exhibit; includes interesting documents and photos).

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RECENT BRETON PUBLICATIONS

Reun ar C'halan

René Le Gléau. Dictionnaire classique breton-français (Brest: Al Liamm, 1984). Vol. II (C-Deb). 100 francs.

The second volume of this monumental work, which will remain the indispensable complement to Roparz Hémon's Geriadur istorel.

Roparz Hémon. An tri boulomig kalon aour (Brest: Al Liamm, 1984). 44 francs.

This is a reprint of Roparz Hémon's charming novel written primarily for children, but which grown ups will enjoy as much as The Nutcracker's suite or Ravel's L'enfant et les sortilèges. It tells the story of three toys, Harlikin the clown, Pabor the hussar, and Jovin the Black, who ran away from their nasty master, the boy Adrian.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS - continued - 2

Rita Williams. Geriadur brezhoneg-kembraek (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1984). 40 francs.

This Breton-Welsh dictionary has also been published in Wales in order to enable speakers of Welsh and speakers of Breton to communicate without using English as an intermediary.

Iwan Kadoret. Geriadur bihan brezhonek-gallek (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1984). 30 francs.

This elementary Breton-French dictionary contains about 3,000 entries. It should fulfill the needs of elementary and high school students who wish to read current Breton publications.

Jacques Gohier. Dictionnaire des écrivains d'aujourd'hui en Bretagne (Les Sables d'Olonne - Rennes: Le Cercle d'Or - Institut Culturel de Bretagne/Skol Uhel ar Vro, 1984).

Ronan Huon, who is the publisher of the Breton journal *Al Liamm* and the head of its publishing house, has collaborated in this undertaking. Jacques Gohier provided the entries for French language writers, and Ronan Huon has done a marvelous job for authors writing in Breton. Only living authors are listed, but in the absence of a full length history of Breton literature Ronan Huon's contributions to this work are just about the only way of finding out who is doing what today in Breton literature.

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SOME ADDITIONAL READING AND LISTENING FOR MARITIME BRITTANY

Lois Kuter

The following are some books and recordings to be added to the brief listing in Newsletter 13 (November 1984).

Books: Per Denez. Geriadur Brezhoneg Douarnenez (Dictionnaire du Breton parlé à Douarnenez) Vol. 3: Part 4 - Ar Sevel-bagoù (construction des navires); Part 5 - Lien, gwernioù, hernaj, ha fardaj (voilure, mats, accastillage). Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1984.

Gwendal Denez. Pêcheurs de Douarnenez. Tud ha Bro 5, 1982. (originally published in Breton by Hor Yezh no. 127-128-129, gwengolo 1979). (Oral history collection)

Ar Vag: Vol. 1 - Voiles au travail en Bretagne Atlantique. B. Cadouret, D. Divard, J. Guillet, H. Kerisit. Part 1: Les sardiniers; Part 2: Les Thoniers.

Vol. 2: Part 1: Les langoustiers; Part 2: Les caboteurs.
Editions de l'Estran.

READING ON MARITIME BRITTANY - continued

Records: Besides the record of Cabestan and the very well documented series of records by Le Chasse-Marée reviewed in Bro Nevez 13, those interested in maritime music may find the following recordings enjoyable.

Les Gabiers d'Artimon (Union chorale lorientaise).
Chansons de Marins. Arfolk SB 404, 1984.

Djiboudjeb. Chants de Marins. Vol. 1 and 2: Arfolk
SB 359 (1978) and SB 395; and more since...

Mikael Yaouank. Chants de Marins. Vol. 1 and 2: Arfolk
SB 329B and SB 379 (1979); and more since...

There is no lack of books or recordings on maritime Brittany. The references here and in the last newsletter represent only an introduction.

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FINDING BRETON BOOKS AND RECORDS

L. Kuter

I have recently received word of a book/record/arts store in Brittany which will interest any potential travelers, or those who might want to do some mail-order shopping.

More a "project" than a "store" the enterprise called Kornog (yes, the same name as the musicians) is headed by Jorj-Laorans Jouin in Morlaix. This store stocks both Breton and other Celtic books, records and crafts, and serves as an information center concerning events in the Celtic countries. Mr. Jouin now hopes to expand his shop to meet a growing market for Breton materials. In order to finance an expansion a "subscription" has been opened for patrons to invest. In return for a donation, subscribers receive discounts on purchases and a catalog (for those ordering by mail).

Subscriptions start at 200 francs which gives the subscriber 10% off on up to 3,000 francs worth of purchases during one year. For 500 francs, the 10% discount applies to up to 6,000 francs worth of purchases...and so on.

I would be happy to send subscription forms to anyone interested in supporting the growth of this Breton enterprise, or contact Kornog directly:

Kornog
c/o Jorj-Laorans Jouin
22, rue du Mur
29210 Morlaix
Brittany, France

FINDING BRETON BOOKS AND RECORDS - continued

Readers may also be interested in a store in Quimper, which, like Kornog in Morlaix, serves as an information center:

Ar Bed Keltiek
c/o Gweltaz ar Fur
2 straed ar roue Gradlon
29000 Kemper (Quimper)
Brittany, France

Finding Breton books and records in Brittany is not always as simple as it should be. While some records are found in supermarket bins, most books--especially those in the Breton language--are more difficult to find. There are a good half-dozen or so small shops in Brittany that are worth looking up. If you plan to travel in Brittany and would like some addresses, let me know and I'll share the ones I know.

Another Source in the U.S. for Breton Records:

I have just learned of a new source for Breton records (and wonderful records, books and musical instruments from all parts of the world): The House of Musical Traditions in the Washington D.C. area. They are interested in expanding their Breton record and sheet music stock, so if you have ideas for them do not hesitate to send them your suggestions. They have a mail order catalog available for \$2.00, refundable with your first order.

House of Musical Traditions
7040 Carroll Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Contact for Breton materials: Bill Jenkins
Telephone: (301) 270-9090

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QUIMPER FAIENCE

Readers may be interested to learn of a short but interesting newsletter produced twice yearly by the Connecticut representatives of Quimper Faience. If you are a collector of this lovely crockery, or would like to purchase some, you are invited to subscribe to the Quimper Faience Newsletter (\$2/year) at the following address:

Millicent S. Mali, Editor
Quimper Faience
141 Water Street
Stonington, CT 06378

Telephone: (202) 535-1712

BRETON STUDIES IN THE U.S.

Breton to be taught at the University of California, Santa Cruz,
Summer Language Institute '85

Listed in a string of nine language to be offered this summer by the University of California, Santa Cruz, Summer Language Institute is Breton (the others are Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Russian and Spanish). Gweltaz Hamel, an ICDBL member who has taught Breton as a non-credit class at UCSC will be teaching this summer intensive class, June 24 to August 23, 1985.

There is no better way to introduce the class than by including here the text of a letter from Gweltaz Hamel addressed to potential students:

Dear friend:

. . . Breton is a language spoken by approximately half a million people in the Western part of Brittany, France. No census of the language has ever been taken. The language is mostly spoken by rural folks and sailors. A fairly abundant and excellent literature exists, especially since the XIXth century. Successive French administrations have viewed Breton culture and language with less than sympathy, often with downright hostility. The modern period is characterized by the dynamism of Breton culture and politics, and especially by the interest shown by young people for their language.

The course we are offering is of interest to Bretons, and to Americans of Breton or Celtic ancestry. But students of linguistics, Celtic languages and literature might also be interested. Breton is very closely related to Cornish and Welsh, less closely to Irish/Gaelic.

The objectives of the session (Breton 1-2-3, i.e., a full year of study in nine weeks) are to master all the basic structures of Breton, and to learn approximately 1,000 words. The basic skills to be obtained are: listening and reading comprehension, speaking, and writing at a modest level. A further objective is the acquisition of a knowledge of Breton history, geography and culture.

The methods used will be the so-called direct method. Fortunately, an excellent modern book is presently available in English: Per Denez, Brezhoneg buan hag aes. The dictionary will be: R. Delaporte, Elementary Breton-English Dictionary. Both books are published by Cork University Press and have been ordered. The stress will be on oral drills, for which there will be lab books, tapes, various exercises, with the help of a Teaching Assistant (native). I will make a reader adapted to the needs of the class. I have a fairly extensive personal library with periodicals, short stories, poetry, songs, slides, records, that could be used in the teaching.

BRETON STUDIES IN THE U.S. - continued

The Breton taught is standard Breton, albeit with the Tregor style of pronunciation. The Teaching Assistant will be available for 1-2 hours of oral drills and written exercises, at the beginning of every afternoon. Students and faculty, take their lunch together and carry on conversations in the language at all possible times.

If you are interested in our Breton class, please contact the Summer Session Office at U.C.S.C.* Should you have any questions relating to the language itself, method, books, and the like, do not hesitate to contact me personally.

Sincerely yours,

Gweltaz Hamel
Lecturer in French
Cowell College
University of California,
Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
(408) 427-0290 or 429-2609
(messages)

* Summer Language Institute
Classroom Unit, Room 107
University of California, Santa Cruz
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
(408) 429-2524

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CELTIC NEWS COLUMN

If this newsletter does not reach you too late, readers in the northeastern part of the U.S. might be interested in some March events sponsored by the Institute of Celtic Studies East. The opening weekend of March 1-3 includes a crafts fair, a concert by Rare Air (ex-Na Cabarfeidh), who do an excellent job with Breton music in their own creative way, a gymanfa ganu and a Gaelic mass. Other events scheduled for March include a harp concert by Sylvia Woods, art exhibits, and lectures. For information contact:

Institute of Celtic Studies East
4 Greenlay Street
Nashua, NH 03063

The ICDBL will have an information booth during the weekend of March 1-3 and Lois Kuter will be there. Thanks to Richard Laliberte for making our presence possible.

NEWS OF NON-CELTIC LANGUAGES

While teaching a summer session at the University of Nevada Reno, I eagerly took advantage of a unique opportunity to find out about Basque language, history and culture. The home of the Basque or Euskera language is located within the political boundaries of Spain and France. Five provinces are in Spain and two in France, but the expression Zazpiak bat, meaning "seven are one" reflects the unity of the Basque nation or Euskadi.

Basques migrated to the western United States, often practicing their traditional occupation of sheep herding. In Reno, Nevada, one finds several Basque restaurants and a Basque club, which sponsors a very enjoyable one-day Basque festival in August. At this event, one may become acquainted with Basque people, food and souvenirs, and observe traditional Basque sports and cultural competitions including the irrintzi contest, something I can only describe as a Basque yodeling contest!

The University of Nevada Reno offers the only Basque Studies Program in the United States. This program, housed on the second floor of the Gatchell Library on the campus, has recently been designated a "center of excellence" in a university-wide review by outside consultants. Students can complete an undergraduate minor in Basque Studies. New this fall is a tutorial PhD program in which advanced students combine study in Reno with time spent in the Basque country. Scholars from America and Europe make use of the program's collection of books and other artifacts; a current ongoing project is the preparation of an English-Basque dictionary to be published by the University of Nevada Press. I was given an excellent and informative tour of the program's headquarters by Linda White--a non-Basque whose graduate work in Spanish and French led to a fascination with things Basque.

With the permission of the Basque Studies Program, I am reprinting excerpts from an article from the program's May 1983 newsletter.

Roslyn Raney

The Basque Studies Program 1967-1982

Background

The Basque Studies Program (BSP) was conceived in 1961 when the University of Nevada System decided to create an independent research division to be known as the Desert Research Institute. It was decided that the focus of the institute should be placed upon arid lands and regional western U.S. studies (including Basque studies), because the Basques were present throughout the region and their close identification with the sheep industry made them a key human factor in any attempt to evaluate the ecology of the

BASQUES STUDIES PROGRAM - continued - 2

Great Basin and adjacent areas. The fact that the Basque also were one of Europe's most fascinating peoples was viewed as another potential for research. In short, Basque studies offered an unusual and unique area of opportunity, particularly since no other American university was engaged in them.

In 1972, in light of the fact that the Program had developed many non-research activities such as instruction, maintenance and development of a library collection, a summer school in Europe and a books series, the BSP was transferred from the Desert Research Institute to the University of Nevada Reno campus.

Research Projects

Since its inception the BSP has conducted many research projects. In 1967 the Desert Research Institute hired William A. Douglass to coordinate the Basque Studies Program. Douglass had previously conducted social anthropological research in two Basque villages (Echalar, Navarra and Murelaga, Vizcaya). The following year Professor Jon Bilbao joined the staff. Bilbao has continued his bibliographic works and has published ten of the eleven volumes of his massive Eusko-Bibliographia, the major reference work in Basque studies today. Professor Bilbao currently directs the Institute of Basque Bibliography and Institute of the Basque Diaspora in Vitoria (Alava). Both were outgrowths of the BSP activities and the respective staffs continue to collaborate closely.

In 1968 William A. Douglass and Jon Bilbao initiated research on the historical movement of Basques into the New World--the American West, Mexico, Columbia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil and Venezuela. Investigation of Basque settlement in the New World and the contributions of Basque-Americans is one of the primary missions of the BSP. Between 1979 and 1981 the Program sponsored archival research in California, Nevada and Idaho with grant supported from the U.S.-Spanish Joint Committee for Educational and Cultural Affairs. In 1979 Douglass published Beltran, Basque Sheepman of the American West, a biography of a Basque sheep rancher in eastern Nevada, and he has continued his research into the nature of Old World Basque rural society, in addition to field work among the Basque sugarcane cutters of Australia.

William H. Jacobsen, Jr. has initiated research on several aspects of the language, and particularly tonality as a clue to reconstruction of proto-Basque. Both Eloy Placer and Juan Magunagolcoechea published findings on several aspects of Basque literature, and particularly the work of the famed novelist Pio Baroja. Robert Laxalt has continued his well-known literary approach to an understanding of Basque society and culture.

In 1973 Richard W. Etulain, an historian at Idaho State University, joined the BSP for one year as a post-doctoral fellow supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He has subsequently published articles on the nature of Basque-American society and the image of the Basques in the literature of the American West,

BASQUE STUDIES PROGRAM - continued - 3

and with Douglass edited an annotated bibliography of Basque-American studies.

In 1976 Robert Herman began a project on Basque-American musicology, supported by the Nevada Council on the Arts and the Gannett Foundation. Richard Lane, formerly a professor of Anthropology at the University of Idaho, joined our staff as an adjunct professor, and has prepared a photo book on life in the Basque shepherd camps.

In 1978 Gordak Aulestia began preparation of a major Basque-English dictionary. The Basque to English volume (containing approximately 60,000 entries) is now completed. Preparation of the English to Basque volume continues.

The Library

From the outset it was our belief that no serious effort could be launched without first establishing an adequate library. Most major American universities possess 20 or 30 items dealing with the Basques. In 1967 the Basque Studies Program acquired the personal library of Philippe Veyrin (about 750 items). This became the foundation of our collection. It contained many rare and out-of-print works. In 1973 we acquired the private library of another Basque scholar, Ramon Goni. Since Goni's collection included primarily Spanish Basque materials it was a nice complement to Veyrin's predominantly French Basque holdings. At the same time the university provided a generous book budget (currently \$10,000 annually) which allowed us to acquire most of the contemporary publications as they appeared, and purchase rare books whenever they became available. Many agencies and private individuals in Europe, Latin America and the United States have donated items as well. Finally, we have an ongoing microfilm project designed to fill in the gaps.

Today our holdings number over 15,000 titles and 400 serials, and comprise one of the best Basque collections in the world. The collection also includes many rare books, unpublished documents, and several thousand photographs.

Basque Publications

From the outset it was clear that one of the greatest needs was to provide comprehensive English language works dealing with Basques. It was therefore decided to create a Basque Book Series within the University of Nevada Press. The series is edited by William A. Douglass. Publications have included:

- . Rodney Gallop. A Book of the Basques.
- . Robert Laxalt. In a Hundred Graves: A Basque Portrait.
- . Stanley G. Payne. Basque Nationalism.

BASQUE STUDIES PROGRAM - continued - 4

- . William A. Douglass and Jon Bilbao. Amerikanuak: Basques in the New World.
- . Gustav Henningsen. The Witches' Advocate.
- . Robert P. Clark. The Basques: The Franco Years and Beyond.
- . Beltran Paris and William A. Douglass. Beltran: Basque Sheepmen of the American West.
- . Rachel Bard. Navarra, the Durable Kingdom.

The Basque book Series has enjoyed phenomenal success. The average press run for a university press book is 1,000-2,000 copies. The smallest run for any title in our series has been 3,000 copies.

Four other publishing projects are worthy of mention. In 1972 the program sponsored a linguistics seminar in Europe. The resulting student and faculty papers were published by the Basque language institute Seminario de Filologia Vasca "Julio de Urquijo" of San Sebastian. In August of 1974 a Basque-American studies workshop was held in Reno. As a result of that gathering Douglass, Etulain and Jabobsen edited a total of nineteen essays that appeared in a volume in the Social Sciences Publications series of the Desert Research Institute. The volume is entitled Anglo-American Contributions to Basque Studies: Essays in Honor of Jon Bilbao. As a result of archival research conducted under the auspices of the BSP the Instituto de la Diaspora Vasca of Vitoria has published three works regarding Basques in the United States. Co-authored by Iban Bilbao and Chantal Eguiluz, they are entitled Vascos llegados en el puerto de Nueva York, 1897-1902, Vascos en el censo de poblacion del oeste americano 1900, and Censo de poblacion de California 1900. Finally the BSP has instituted an Occasional Papers Series.

Newsletters

The Basque Studies Program publishes its Newsletter twice annually. It has a readership of approximately 8,000 subscribers throughout this country and abroad. While the Newsletter is primarily designed to inform the public of BSP activities, it also contains articles of intrinsic educational and literary value. The BSP also publishes the specialized newsletter of the Anglo-American Basque Studies Society which is distributed to over one hundred subscribers.

Courses and Summer Programs

The Basque Studies Program provides courses on an intermittent basis in three departments of the University of Nevada Reno: Basque linguistics, literature and language in the Department of Foreign Languages; Old World Basque culture in the Department of Anthropology; and Basque History in the History Department. In light of considerable interest in our courses outside the State of Nevada, in 1969

we resolved to offer a Basque Studies Summer Session abroad in Europe. Between 15 and 35 students are attracted. Most are from somewhere in the American West; about one-half are of Basque descent. We plan to continue this program on a once-every-three-year basis.

In 1974 the BSP sponsored a Basque language summer course in Reno that was taught by Jon Onatibia who was brought from the Basque Country for the purpose.

The program has co-sponsored (with Boise State University) a year-abroad program for American students held at the San Sebastian campus of the University of the Basque Country. Ten other American universities are currently contemplating joining our consortium, and it is our intention to make it a regular, on-going program.

Public Service

Staff members of the Basque Studies Program are constantly asked to lecture to service clubs, schools, church groups, etc., both within and outside of the State of Nevada. The current N.A.B.O.-sponsored slide shows are an example of the way in which we try to service the public demand for information regarding the Basques.

Funding

To finance this diverse range of activities the BSP has received support from many sources. Initial funding was provided by the Desert Research Institute with monies that originated with the Fleischmann Foundation. The first year approximately \$10,000 were raised from private donors. In succeeding years we have been fortunate to receive additional private donations. To date, private donations have approximated a quarter of a million dollars.

At the same time the basic funding of the BSP rests heavily upon State of Nevada appropriated monies. Since the 1972 transfer of many BSP activities to the Reno campus, the Program is a part of the regular university budget.

A particularly critical source of funding over the years has been federal, state, and private foundation grants. Since its inception the BSP has also benefited from literally thousands of hours of donated time.

In conclusion, we would like to emphasize that we do not regard the BSP as a strictly University of Nevada undertaking. While the program is housed in Reno, its activities are regional, national, and even international in scope. We hope that you will regard the Basque Studies Program as your program and feel free to call upon our staff in any fashion. If you happen to be in the Reno area, we would welcome a visit.

* * * * *

AR GEGIN

Nathalie Novik

These recipes are particularly adapted to the time of Lent, when fish is the main course and pancakes or crepes constitute a most delectable dessert for Mardi-Gras.

Crab au Gratin "Saint-Malo"

1 large crab
White sauce
grated Swiss Cheese
melted butter

Cook the crab. Remove the flesh from the claws, the legs and the shell, and dice it. Clean and brush the shell under hot Water. Mix the creamy parts of the crab with the white sauce and add the grated cheese. Work until creamy. Put one layer of this sauce in the shell. Add the flesh. Cover with the rest of the sauce, and sprinkle with grated cheese. Pour melted butter on top. Brown in a mild oven until golden.

Breton "Crepes"

1 lb. flour
6 eggs (room temperature)
2 tablespoons of oil
1 glass of rhum
milk and water
butter
sugar

For a richer mix, use more milk than water. Dilute the flour with milk and water, adding them carefully to avoid lumps, until the mixture is fluid. Add one teaspoon of butter, the oil, the rhum and one tablespoon of sugar. Mix thoroughly. The batter should be thinner than for American pancakes, but still have a little body. To be on the safe side, though, it is better to have it perhaps a little heavy, and add water later on if it does not spread evenly on the pan.

Heat a medium frying pan (non-stick bottom or metal pans are preferable), and grease it very lightly with butter. Scoop the batter in a laddle and pour it on the pan, turning the pan at the same time to spread it evenly. The pancake has to be very thin, so the further it spreads, the better. When it turns slightly golden, turn it over with a spatula, or flip it over if you are brave. Cook the other side until golden.

If you are not serving them immediately, you can stack them in a mild oven under a moist cloth. Serve with strawberry preserves or honey, or flambé with rhum.

International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language

THE U.S. BRANCH OF THE ICDBL

The U.S. Branch of the ICDBL is a non-profit educational organization, exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions to the U.S. ICDBL, including membership dues and subscription to Bro Nevez are tax deductible.

OFFICERS: Lenora A. Timm, President
Lois Kuter, Secretary-Treasurer
General Editor, Bro Nevez

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Christine Renee C. Forster
Reun ar C'halan
James W. Kerr
Dennis King
Alastair B. Kyle
Nathalie Novik

With the primary aim of promoting education in and about the Breton language, the U.S. ICDBL has initiated the following activities: a bibliography project, the development of a series of "working papers" and informational publication, work to make Breton books and journals better known and more accessible in the U.S., and participation in festivals and conferences. The U.S. ICDBL serves as a clearinghouse for information relating specifically to the Breton language and culture and more generally to Breton society and history.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the U.S. ICDBL receive the newsletter for the year of their membership. Two membership categories exist:

Voting Members have the right to cast one vote for their membership on all issues brought to vote. Groups of several individuals may hold a membership in common.
Dues: \$10 per year.

Non-Voting Members have no voting rights, but are welcome and encouraged to be active in all ICDBL activities. This category is primarily for those who would like to show support, but do not want decision-making responsibilities.
Dues: \$9 per year.

Those wishing to joining the U.S. ICDBL are invited to contact the Branch Secretary:

Lois Kuter
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Persons living outside the U.S. are urged to join ICDBL branches existant in their location. A list is available upon request.

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. ICDBL - BRO NEVEZ

Published quarterly (February, May, August, and November) this 30-40 page newsletter is designed to inform readers in the U.S. and elsewhere about the Breton language and culture, and the work of Bretons to support them. The aim of the newsletter is to be both a source of and a guide to information about the Breton language and culture.

SUBSCRIPTION

Includes 4 numbers yearly. Subscription rates are \$8.00 for the U.S. and Canada; \$12 overseas (surface mail); \$15 overseas (airmail). Note: Subscription is included in membership dues.

Back issues of the newsletter are available for \$2 per number (\$4 per double issue; 50¢ for Newsletter Number 1).

ADVERTISING IN BRO NEVEZ

Advertising in Bro Nevez not only makes you better known to our 300 to 350 readers, but helps us to finance an upgrade in duplication processes.

Rates: 1/2 page = \$30 for 1st insertion.
1/4 page = \$20 for 1st insertion.
1/8 page = \$10 for 1st insertion.

Note that rates go down with repetition of ads. Write for details.

ICDBL members receive a 20% discount on prices; newsletter subscribers receive a 10% discount.

Classified Ads:

2 lines (1/2 page column) \$1.00; 50¢ for each repeat.
3 lines - \$2.00 first time; \$1.00 each repeat.
4 lines - \$3.00 first time; \$2.00 each repeat.
more lines - see advertising rates above.

Deadlines: January 20th for Bebruary issue.
April 20th for May issue.
July 20th for August issue.
October 20th for November issue.

All advertising must be camera-ready copy; classified ads should be typed if possible. A check or money order (made out to "Lois Kuter/ICDBL") must accompany the advertisement or classified ad.

For information on advertsing, subscriptions, back issues, etc., contact:

Lois Kuter
General Editor - Bro Nevez
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

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