

This is Feb. 1989

# BRO NEVEZ

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

**D.E.U.G.  
BREZHONEG !**

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

NOVEMBER 88

NUMBER 29

# BRO NEVEZ

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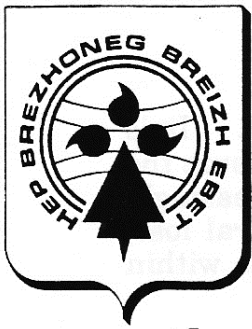
# EDITORIAL

Lois Kuter

This issue of Bro Nevez "features" work in Brittany to get a university diploma called the DEUG for the Breton language. Right now in Brittany language and cultural organizations (including Dastum, Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg, l'Association des Parents d'Elèves pour l'Enseignement du Breton [APEEB], Ar Falz, Stourm ar Brezhoneg) are mounting an aggressive campaign to win from the French government this vital missing link in Breton language education. As the following pages will explain, the DEUG is critical to the development of educational programs for Brittany.

The U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language is pleased to be able to lend some support to the hard work of Bretons with a letter written to the French Ministry of Education. We hope that some international support for the DEUG will help in making this diploma a reality--finally!





KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H  
AR BREZHONEG

## International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language

6 March, 1989

M. Lionel Jospin  
Ministre de l'Éducation Nationale  
110, rue de Grenelle  
75357 Paris  
France

Dear Minister Jospin:

The U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language wishes to express its strong endorsement of the current movement by citizens in Brittany for the creation of a D.E.U.G. in the Breton language. It is not easy to understand why the Ministry of Education will not--in spite of repeated requests and petitions--grant this certificate program to the Bretons, when the equivalent program is available for such other languages within France as Catalan and Corsican. The refusal to do so looks altogether too much to the outside world like deliberate discrimination against the Breton people.

For much of this decade the ICDBL has been supporting the right of Bretons to take positive measures to ensure the survival of the Breton language--Diwan and the C.A.P.E.S. are two salient examples of such measures. Yet at nearly every step toward achieving their goals, the Bretons have met with silence, intransigence, or hostility on the part of public authorities in Paris, who have the power to deny their requests, and who, more frequently than not, do just that.

You and those in your office know as well as anyone that the C.A.P.E.S. is basically ineffectual without the D.E.U.G.--that approving the former in the absence of the latter is but a hypocritical pretense that a concession to Breton demands for educational equity has been made. The Bretons have historically been denied any access to their traditional language in the French school system, and, even worse, have been taunted and persecuted for merely expressing themselves in it at school or on other public premises. Efforts to frighten or shame Bretons out of speaking their language have been, over the past century or two, all too successful. As a result of these and other factors, the number of native Breton speakers remaining today is not large, and dwindles each year as the oldest



generation of speakers--those strongest in the language--dies off. It is natural, and now imperative, that Bretons take positive action to ensure the perpetuation of their ancestral language. This will become increasingly problematic as the base of native speakers shrinks through natural loss, and that is one critical reason why it is necessary to promote Breton within the educational system.

Through my many contacts over the years with Bretons from many walks of life, I know that there is a feeling of despair, and cynicism, vis-a-vis the "Parisian politicians"--i.e., the feeling that they will take whatever they can get and give back nothing, a feeling unfortunately backed up by many of the government's actions, or non-actions, toward them.

The request for a comprehensive program to train young people to become language specialists in Breton is utterly reasonable and defensible. It is clear that many Bretons desire to learn more about their traditional language (witness the popularity of Diwan and the many summer and correspondence courses that are offered in Breton), so it is not a question of there being no "audience" for Breton courses that might be offered in the schools in the future. Breton is, in addition (and obviously), a language that holds much interest to people from many parts of the world. It would be shameful to let this venerable language wither away; strong efforts on the part of the national government can be a powerful factor in bolstering its resistance and its prestige. We therefore urge you to act in a positive fashion regarding the D.E.U.G. in Breton. This would cost the government very little, would reap much good will among the Breton people, and would endow the Breton language with a brighter future.

Respectfully,

Lenora A. Timm, Ph.D.  
President  
ICDBL, U.S. Branch

cc: M. Michel Rocard  
Premier Ministre

## DEUG Brezhoneg

The following letter was received by Per Denez, a professor in the Celtic Studies Department at the Université Rennes 2 Haute Bretagne. Long active in the campaign to improve education for Breton, Per Denez calls for help in convincing French policy-makers that the DEUG for Breton must be established.

Rennes, Brittany, 15 February 1989

It is certainly sad, in this year celebrating "the Rights of Man" to have to call on friends of Liberty and Justice so that the state--which calls itself our country--will deign to recognize for its citizens the joy of and absolutely elementary right: that of receiving and giving and education in one's own language.

To grasp the severity of the problem, remember that teaching is totally centralized by the French government: thus, it alone can authorize universities to grant official "State" diplomas, and this authorization understandably determines university teaching.

Today, the Universités de lettres (Colleges of Arts and Sciences) of the Rennes Academy have the right to grant a "Licence" for Breton (3rd year diploma), a Masters of Breton (4th year diploma--but only since 1981), a D.E.A. (5th and 6th year diploma, and a Doctorat. They also have the right to assume responsibility to prepare students for these diplomas. But they don't have the right to grant the diploma which ends the 1st and 2nd years of university study: the DEUG (Diplôme d'Etudes Universitaires Générales), nor to prepare students for such a diploma in their first two years.

For five years, the university at which I teach, has requested authorization to give this diploma which is indispensable to train Breton teachers, to prepare students for the "Licence", and to train students for audiovisual and publishing jobs or for work with non-profit corporations. I underline the fact that the State has put forward no authorizations, no teaching posts, and no new means to put the DEUG for Breton into effect.

The responses from the Minister have always been negative, despite measures taken by our parliamentary representatives, despite appeals by our institutions and organizations. But, it is a matter of live and death for our language--this is why we demand this DEUG, and this is also the reason why the Minister refuses it.

In several weeks, Ministerial authorities must respond again to the request formulated by my university. It is critical that the response finally be "yes". Can you help by writing a personal or collective letter to the Prime Minister, M. Michel Rocard, asking him to please authorize the creation of a DEUG for Breton? A model for such a letter is attached. I would appreciate a photocopy of your letter to follow up on this matter.

With all my thanks,

Per Denez  
Departement de Celtique  
Université Rennes 2 Haute Bretagne  
6 avenue Gaston-Berger  
35043 Rennes Cédex

(Translated by Lois Kuter)

à Monsieur Michel ROCARD  
Premier Ministre  
Hôtel Matignon  
57, rue de Varenne  
75007 - PARIS -

Monsieur le Premier Ministre,

Très sensible à l'avenir de la Langue et de la Culture bretonnes, je vous demande de bien vouloir autoriser, en réponse aux appels des enseignants, étudiants, associations et institutions de Bretagne, la création d'un DEUG de Breton afin de compléter le cursus universitaire dans cette langue.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Premier Ministre, l'expression de mes remerciements.



# The DEUG for Breton: Necessary and Urgent

Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg  
(translated by Lois Kuter)

In 1982 the National Education allowed the opening of bilingual French/Breton classes in preschools and primary schools. Six years later there are sixteen classes of this type in Brittany (none in Loire-Atlantique) despite the fact that the Ministry of Education has never put in place a specific program of basic training for teachers called to work in these classes.

Those who now have these teaching posts have acquired training on their own initiative and at their own cost. But, this "militant stock" is exhausted today, and the National Education finds this another pretext for refusing to open more classes and for avoiding its 1982 promises. Having promoted a system which will lack teachers, the National Education uses this as an argument against parents' requests for more classes.

For three years Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg (Union of Breton Teachers) has not ceased in its efforts to call to the attention of successive Ministers and elected officials the educational gap created by the absence of the first two year cycle for Breton at the university level--a cycle integrated into the initial training of student teachers and professors of Breton by the DEUG (Diplome d'Etudes Universitaires Generales).

The Breton "licence" granted in 1981 is in danger of becoming an empty block, without the possibility of resting on the strong base of a first cycle--the only guarantee of strength and continuity for a university curriculum. In the end, the very existence of university Celtic departments, the legitimacy and existence of bilingual classes, and the credibility of the Breton CAPES (only one passed in 1988 and one in 1989) are in jeopardy.

Not any more specialized that the already existant DEUGs for English, Catalan, or Corsican, a DEUG for Breton is necessary and urgent. It is the keystone of the whole structure for teaching Breton in the schools. The attitude of the government and our elected officials on this point allow us to judge their intentions for the future of our language.





## PRESENTATION OF MOTIVES - NOVEMBER 1988

For more than three years Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg has asked official for the creation of a DEUG for Breton. This diploma is necessary:

- for the complete training of Breton language professors for whom all the other qualifying exams (except the "agrégation") exist
- for the training of Breton teachers [primary and secondary level] for whom nothing has been planned at either the universities or teacher training schools [écoles normales]

Since the return of the Socialists to power in May 1988, Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg has contacted in vain Mr. Lionel Jospin (May 15, June 19, and September 26, 1988), Michel Rocard (June 19, 1988), and François Mitterrand (July 21, 1988). The latter referred us to the Minister of National Education and on October 21, 1988, Mr. Jospin's cabinet chief let us know:

In the structure of procedures for qualification to issue national diplomas for the 1988-89 university year, no provision was made to create new mentions or sections of the DEUG, with the exception of the Pacific university which has just been newly created.\*

As highest priority, available budgetary means have in effect been reserved to pursue the policy of strengthening the first cycles, with the objective of achieving better incorporation of students into existing departments. Absolute priority to this matter is the only way to fight against selection through drop-outs which has been observed in the first cycle.

It is important to note in this reply:

1. There is no opposition in principle to the DEUG presented in the letter, in contrast to earlier Ministers, Mssrs. Chevènement and Monory. And, in fact, there is nothing on this level in opposition to the creation of a DEUG for Breton, conceived by the University of Rennes 2 on the model of the DEUGs for Corsican and Catalan which have existed for several years.
2. The objection, here, is on the budgetary level. But, the creation of a DEUG for Breton would not cost the State anything. In fact, the professors necessary to guarantee the training of students are already in place in existing Breton and Celtic departments.

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\* Editor's Note: The Pacific university referred to is in New Caledonia where French colonial rule has been very hotly contested in recent years.



In addition, one can note that the Minister announced a significant increase in the National Education budget this year and a very strong increase in 1989. The Minister's opposition is thus due to the fact that he considers this training marginal: it is not for him "an absolute priority". We have exactly the opposite view for the following reasons:

- The training of Breton professors is given less value than that of other language professors for whom a specific DEUG exists. In contrast, to become a professor of Breton, one must pass the DEUG in English, Spanish, French, or anything else; any DEUG will do. This can't be serious.
- The National Education does not train the Breton teachers which it needs. Since the Chevènement reform, no initial instruction is guaranteed in the Ecoles Normales. The workshops offered through continuing education are rare and very short; but how could one extend a training which was never assured from the start?
- For several years teaching posts have been empty, due to a lack of competently trained teachers, but candidates for this training are not lacking. Parents' requests for classes collide with the inertia of the National Education. The progress of bilingual classes is very slow and their development is blocked because of the lack of teachers. The future of Breton studies is itself menaced.

Thus, there is urgency to create a DEUG for Breton and to guarantee the training of Breton professors equal to other languages. This would guarantee the training of teachers requested by students' parents and it is a way to fight against the drop-outs in the first cycle of the universities.

At the request of the Association des Parents d'Elèves pour l'Enseignement du Breton (APEEB), the administrative tribunal of Rennes recognized in a judgement made January 29, 1987 (dossier no. 85-2004) that "it is the administration's responsibility to organize the pursuit of this teaching". The tribunal even noted that already "the administration has failed in its obligation to guarantee the continuity of the public service of teaching" and "that it had thus committed a failing likely to involve the State's responsibility". Will the powers escape even longer from their obligation?

The creation of a DEUG for Breton is the only real means to guarantee the training of Breton language teachers necessary for the correct operation of public services.

It's the duty of the State.

It's urgent.

It should be a priority of the National Education.

Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg  
(translated by Lois Kuter)

Along with efforts to bring the attention of the press to the DEUG for Breton, the campaign by the organization Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg has included contacts with regional concilors and deputies of Brittany. As of early January six deputies had shown support for the DEUG and had taken action to contact the Minister of National Education: from Finistère, Ambroise Guellec and Jean-Yves Cozan; from Côtes-du-Nord, Didier Chouat, Charles Josselin and Pierre-Yvon Trémel; and from Loire-Atlantique, Jean-Marie Ayrault.

Several large demonstrations have been held to rally public support--one in Vannes, November 26, 1988, and another in St. Brieuc, February 4th. This second demonstration was organized in collaboration with a confederation of 19 cultural groups representing some 20,000 members.

With elections March 12th and 19th, Unvaniezh ar Gelennerien Brezhoneg has also called on Breton voters to withhold votes for candidates of the presidential party should government refusal for the Breton DEUG persist.



## The ICDBL Elsewhere

The U.S. ICDBL has not been the only international support offered for the Breton DEUG. The following is a letter written by the General Secretary of the ICDBL in Brussels: Monique Blaise.

KUZUL ETREVROADEL  
EVIT KENDALC'H  
AR BREZHONEG



COMITE INTERNACIONAL  
PARA LA SALVAGUARDIA DE  
LA LENGUA BRETONA

COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE  
PER LA DIFESA DELLA  
LINGUA BRETONE

COMITE INTERNATIONAL  
POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DE LA  
LANGUE BRETONNE

INTERNATIONAAL COMITE  
TER BESCHERMING VAN DE  
BRETONSE TAAL

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE  
BRETON LANGUAGE

INTERNATIONALER AUSSCHUSS  
FÜR DIE ERHALTUNG DER  
BRETONISCHEN SPRACHE

Brussels, 15th November 1988

C.I.S.L.B.  
Monique Blaise  
7, avenue des Tritons  
B-1170 Bruxelles

Monsieur Lionel Jospin  
Ministre d'État  
Ministre de l'Éducation nationale  
110, rue de Grenelle  
F-75357 Paris

Your Excellency,

The International committee for the defence of the Breton language (*Kuzul Etrevroadel evit Kendalc'h ar Brezhoneg*) was established at the end of 1975 following the appeal for international assistance by parents Associations, pupils and teachers having to contend with centuries old opposition to the teaching of Breton. Since that time the ICDBL has consistently alerted international public opinion to the cultural genocide which in the name of linguistic uniformity in France aims at snuffing out the last Celtic language in continental Europe.

As first Secretary of the Socialist Party and signatory of Draft Law n° 2157 of 17 May 1984 for the promotion of the languages and cultures of France, you yourself referred to the « tradition of cultural repression » which minority languages and cultures suffer in France. Attracting the signatures of 282 Socialist and Radical left Movement deputies this bill would normally have permitted Parliament to legislate had not the then Prime Minister, Mr Fabius, opposed its inclusion on the agenda of the Assemblée Nationale. In order to disguise this play to exclude the matter from democratic debate, Mr Fabius got up the « National Council for Regional Languages and Cultures ».

Showing what little regard it has for the said Council, the government of which you are a member has not deigned to convene it as if disowning the creature of its Socialist predecessor.

This exclusion from the democratic legislative process coupled with a complete disregard for the consultative body created by the government itself, suggest a determination to allow to fester a state of affairs which President Mitterrand personally has denounced. It might well be asked whether France can continue, without tarnishing its international image, to be « the last country in Europe to refuse to grant to its constituent parts those elementary cultural rights which are enshrined in the international agreements that she has signed ».

Other disquieting signs have recently appeared concerning the government's will to honour France's international commitments on the right to linguistic difference. The French government's ambiguous understanding with Greece and Turkey – whose repressive attitude to their ethnic minorities is well known – to bring restrictive clauses into the text of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages augurs ill for its willingness to pursue the objectives of the Charter. France's attachment to human right, which the government intends to reiterate during the bicentennial celebrations of the French Revolution, will then appear to be mere lip service.

Let us not here enlarge upon the fate that has been reserved for the Breton language ; suffice it to say that obstacles are placed in its way and it is starved of resources both in teaching and in its access to the media and use in public life. Breton cultural leaders and elected representatives regularly draw the attention of the central authorities to this discrimination against a language which is still used by half a million speakers.

Even when France enjoyed favourable economic conditions, the argument was used that there was a shortage of financial resources. This same argument can now only be considered as the outward expression of the unavowed will quietly to eliminate all the minority languages of France. Especially as one hour of Breton at school or on television costs no more than one hour of French...

In this context, which we of course would hope to see improve, your praiseworthy 1984 initiative with its implied lasting personal commitment and the high office that you hold as Minister of Education confer upon you a particularly heavy responsibility which we trust you will not shirk. Your co-signatories of the 1984 draft legislation have a similar moral obligation ; their presence in government affords them the opportunity to remedy a situation that they too condemned by their words and signatures.

We trust, Your Excellency, that you by your action will narrow that gap between word and deed which leads so many of your fellow citizens to neglect the exercise of their democratic rights and duties.

Yours faithfully,

Monique Blaise,  
General Secretary.

*M. Blaise*

**Bretagne**

QUEST-FRANCE. 8/9.10.1988

Langues régionales et minoritaires

## La reconnaissance européenne

L'assemblée plénière du conseil de l'Europe, qui regroupe 21 pays (1), vient d'avaliser une charte européenne des langues régionales et minoritaires. Ce texte important doit encore franchir plusieurs barrières avant d'avoir force de loi. Et la France est parmi les pays les plus réticents.

Cela faisait trois ans qu'un projet de Convention, concernant les langues régionales et minoritaires, était en gestation au sein du Conseil de l'Europe. La charte, adoptée à Strasbourg, vise la sauvegarde des langues « faisant partie du patrimoine européen, parlées traditionnellement sur un territoire, par des ressortissants de l'Etat et constituant un groupe minoritaire ».

La définition, assez claire, exclut les langues comme l'arabe, apporté en Europe par les migrants. Ce sera à chaque Etat de recenser les langues qui chez lui correspondent à cette définition. En France, en tout cas, il y en a

au moins huit : le breton bien sûr, mais aussi l'alsacien, le corse, l'occitan, le provençal, le basque, le catalan et le flamand.

### Des garanties dans tous les domaines

« Il est faux de dire que le texte, adopté par l'Assemblée, a été vidé de son sens » assure M. Locatelli, un des principaux artisans de la Convention. L'Assemblée y a à peine touché et la conférence des pouvoirs locaux qui l'a préparé et voté il y a trois mois n'a fait que « l'assouplir

sur des points sensibles mais pas centraux ».

En 64 articles, la convention en tous cas prévoit des garanties dans tous les domaines – enseignement, services publics, administratifs et judiciaires, équipements culturels, vie économique et sociale, relations transfrontalières – et demande aux Etats de s'engager à respecter au moins les deux tiers des dispositions énumérées.

### Un point fort : l'enseignement

Dans l'enseignement, elles sont particulièrement exte-

gentes et supposent que les parents qui le souhaitent puissent faire élever leurs enfants en breton ou en alsacien par exemple jusqu'à la sixième. Dans le secondaire les élèves pourraient aussi continuer le breton au même titre que l'anglais. Idem dans les universités.

La France est avec la Turquie et la Grèce, le pays qui soulèvera le plus de difficultés quand la Convention viendra sur la table du Conseil des Ministres en décembre, prévient M. Locatelli. Si elle est adoptée à la majorité absolue, elle devra encore être ouverte à la signature des Etats puis ratifiée.

Les écoles publiques en langues régionales, ce n'est pas encore pour demain.

Catherine GOYBET.

(1) Vingt-deux pays depuis jeudi, avec l'admission de la République de Saint-Marin, minuscule Etat enclavé en Italie, au sud-ouest de Rimini.



N° 2157

# ASSEMBLÉE NATIONALE

CONSTITUTION DU 4 OCTOBRE 1958

SEPTIÈME LÉGISLATURE

SECONDE SESSION ORDINAIRE DE 1983-1984

Enregistré à la Présidence de l'Assemblée nationale le 17 mai 1984.  
Annexé au procès-verbal de la séance du 24 mai 1984.

## PROPOSITION DE LOI

sur la promotion des langues et cultures de France.

(Renvoyée à la commission des Affaires culturelles, familiales et sociales, à défaut de constitution d'une commission spéciale dans les délais prévus par les articles 30 et 31 du Règlement.)

PRÉSENTÉE

PAR MM. JEAN-PIERRE DESTRADE, LIONEL JOSPIN, YVES DOLLO, LOUIS LE PENSEC, JEAN-JACK QUEYRANNE, JEAN-MARIE ALAIZE, JACQUES BADET, GÉRARD BAPT, BERNARD BARDIN, CLAUDE BARTOLONE, PHILIPPE BASSINET, JEAN-CLAUDE BATEUX, JEAN-MICHEL BAYLET, JEAN BEAUFORT, GUY BECHE, FIRMIN BEDOUSSAC, ROLAND BERNARD, WILFRID BERTILE, LOUIS BESSON, ALAIN BILLON, PAUL BLADT, SERGE BLISKO, JEAN-CLAUDE BOIS, AUGUSTIN BONREPAUX, ANDRÉ BOREL, JEAN-MICHEL BOUCHERON (Ille-et-Vilaine), PIERRE BOURGUIGNON, MAURICE BRIAND, JEAN-CLAUDE CASSAING, ROBERT DE CAUMONT, Mme COLETTE CHAIGNEAU, MM. ROBERT CHAPUIS, GILLES CHARPENTIER, MICHEL CHARZAT, ALAIN CHENARD, DANIEL CHEVALLIER, DIDIER CHOUAT, GÉRARD COLLOMB, JEAN-HUGUES COLONNA, LUCIEN COUQUEBERG, PAUL DHAILLE, RAYMOND DOUYERE, JEAN-LOUIS DUMONT, DOMINIQUE DUPILET, JEAN DUPRAT, Mme LYDIE DUPUY, MM. GUY DURBEC, JEAN-PAUL DURIEUX, JOB DURUPT, MANUEL ESCUTIA, CLAUDE EVIN, JACQUES FLOCH, JEAN-PIERRE FOURRÉ, JEAN-PIERRE GABARROU, RENÉ GAILLARD, JEAN GALLEY, PIERRE GARMENDIA, MARCEL GARROUSTE, GÉRARD GOUZES, LÉO GREZARD, ROLAND HUGUET, Mme MARIE JACQ, MM. PIERRE JAGORET, CHARLES JOSSELYN, ALAIN JOURNET, GEORGES LABAZÉE, JEAN LACOMBE, JEAN-PIERRE LAMBERTIN, ROGER LASSALE, CHRISTIAN LAURISSERQUES, GEORGES LE BAILL, JEAN-PIERRE LE COADIC, Mme MARIE-FRANCE LECUIR, MM. JEAN-YVES LE DRIAN, BERNARD LEFRANC, JEAN LE GARS, ANDRÉ LEJEUNE, FRANÇOIS LONCLE, ANDRÉ LOTTE, BERNARD MADRELLE, JACQUES MAHEAS, GUY MALANDAIN, MARTIN MALVY, PHILIPPE MARCHAND, FRANÇOIS MASSOT, JOSEPH MENGA, CLAUDE MICHEL, JEAN-PIERRE MICHEL, MARCEL MOCCEUR, BERNARD MONTERGNOLE, PAUL MOREAU, FRANÇOIS MORTELETTE, JEAN NATIEZ, Mme MARIE-THÉRÈSE PATRAT, MM. JEAN PEUZIAT, CHRISTIAN PIERRET, JEAN-PAUL PLANCHOU, BERNARD POIGNANT, JEAN-CLAUDE PORTHEAULT, Mme ELIANE PROVOST, MM. JEAN PROVEUX, JEAN RIGAL, ALAIN RODET, RENÉ ROUQUET, JEAN ROUSSEAU, MICHEL SAINTE-MARIE, GEORGES SARRE, BERNARD SCHREINER, MICHEL SERGENT, Mme ODILE SICARD, MM. JEAN-PIERRE SUEUR, DOMINIQUE TADDEI, EUGÈNE TEISSEIRE, JEAN-MICHEL TESTU, CLÉMENT THEAUDIN, LUC TINSEAU, GUY VADEPIED, BRUNO VENNIN, MARC VERDON, BERNARD VILLETTE, ALAIN VIVIEN, MARCEL WACHEUX, J. GIOVANELLI, J. GOURMELON, et les membres du groupe socialiste (1) et apparentés (2),

Députés.

Langues et cultures régionales. — Administration. — Audiovisuel. — Conseil national des langues et cultures de France. — Enseignement. — Patrimoine.

## EXPOSE DES MOTIFS

MESDAMES, MESSIEURS,

« Le temps est venu d'un statut des langues et cultures de France qui leur reconnaisse une existence réelle. Le temps est venu de leur ouvrir grandes les portes de l'école, de la radio et de la télévision permettant leur diffusion, de leur accorder toute la place qu'elles méritent dans la vie publique. »

En proclamant ainsi « le droit à la différence », en souhaitant que la France cesse d'être « le dernier pays d'Europe à refuser à ses composantes les droits culturels élémentaires, reconnus dans les conventions internationales qu'elle a elle-même signées », François Mitterrand, dans son discours de Lorient du 14 mars 1981, rompait avec une tradition centraliste qui, pendant des siècles, avait appauvri la culture de notre pays en interdisant et en humiliant des langues et des cultures riches d'un patrimoine de portée universelle et douées d'une puissance créatrice vivante. Il se situait dans le prolongement de la pensée démocratique la plus incontestable. Déjà, en 1911, Jean Jaurès avait attiré l'attention sur le profit que tireraient les jeunes Occitans, les jeunes Basques, les jeunes Bretons, d'une connaissance approfondie, inculquée par l'école, de la langue de leur région. Les réflexions de Jaurès étaient reprises par son ami, l'instituteur quercinois, Antonin Perbosc, qui réclamait l'entrée des langues de France dans l'enseignement. Sensiblement au même moment, en Bretagne, des hommes de progrès comme les députés républicains Louis Hémon et Paul Guieysse et le philosophe socialiste Emile Masson défendaient « les droits sacrés d'un peuple à parler sa langue » et demandaient qu'il soit mis fin à la guerre contre la langue bretonne.

(1) Ce groupe est composé de : MM. Adevah-Péru, Alaize, Anciant, Aumont, Badet, Bailland, Bailly, Gérard Bapt, Barville, Bardin, Bartolone, Bassinet, Bateux, Battini, Bayou, Beaufils, Beaufort, Bèche, Beca, Bédoussac, Roland Beix, André Bellon, Belorgey, Beltrame, Benoit, Benetier, Michel Bérégovoy, Jean Bernard, Pierre Bernard, Roland Bernard, Michel Besson, Bernie, Louis Besson, Billardon, Alain Billon, Paul Bladt, Blisko, Jean-Marie Bockel, Bois, Bonnemaison, Bonrepaux, Borel, Boucheron (Charente), Boucheron (Ille-et-Vilaine), Bourget, Bourguignon, Braine, Brand, Alain Brune, André Brunet, Cabé, Mme Cachoux, MM. Cambolive, Carlelet, Carraud, Cassaing, Cathala, de Caumont, Chanfreuil, Chaput, Charpentier, Charzat, Chaudard, Chauveau, Chénard, Chevallier, Didier Chouat, Collin, Georges Colin, Gérard Collob, Culonna, Mme Comenget, MM. Couqueberg, Danno, Dassonville, Delange, Deloux, Deloux, Delehedde, Delisle, Demers, Derouier, Dechaux-Besume, Desfranges, Dessein, Destrade, Dhaillet, Dollo, Douyère, Jean-Louis Dumont, Dupilet, Mme Dupuy, MM. Durbec, Jean-Paul Durieux, Duroure, Durupt, Escutia, Esmonin, Estier, Evvin, Fougères, Mme Fievey, MM. Fievey, Jacques Floch, Florian, Forgas, Formi, Fourie, Mme Frachon, MM. Frêche, Gabarrou, Gaillard, Jean Gallet, Garmendia, Garrouste, Mme Gaspard, MM. Garmont, Goultin, Giovannelli, Gourmelon, Christian Gouz, Hubert Gouz, Gérard Gouz, Gérard Guyard, Haemebroock, Hauteceur, Kléber Haye, Houtier, Huguet, Hugues des Étages, Ibáñez, Inace, Mme Marie Jacq, MM. Jagoret, Jaiton, Joit, Joseph, Jospin, Josse, Journet, Joze, Kuchida, Labazée, Laborde, Jean Lacombe, Pierre Lagorce, Lagnel, Lambert, Lambertin, Louis Larent, Lassale, André Laurent, Launier, Lavedrine, Le Bail, Le Coadic, Mme Lecuir, MM. Le Drian, Le Foll, Lefranc, Le Gars, André Lejeune, Leonetti, Le Pensec, Londe, Louis, Bernard Madrelle, Maheas, Malandain, Malvy, Marchand, Roger Mas, Marius Masse, Marc Masson, Massot, Mellic, Menga, Mermas, Metax, Mezinger, Claude Michel, Henri Michel, Jean-Pierre Michel, Gilbert Mitterrand, Moutour, Montergnole, Mme Christiane Mora, MM. Paul Morvan, Monette, Moulinet, Neizet, Mme Véronique Neizet, Paulette Nevous, MM. Norebert, Ochler, Olmet, Ortel, Mme Ouellet, Patrat, MM. François Patrat, Pencaut, Pernier, Pesce, Pouziat, Philibert, Pierret, Pignat, Pinard, Pierre, Planchou, Poignant, Popere, Portheault, Pourchou, Prat, Pierre Prouvoit, Jean Proveux, Mme Eliane Provost, MM. Queyranne, Ravassard, Raymond, Renault, Alain Richard, Robin, Rodet, Roger-Macnart, René Rouquet, Roger Rouquette, Rousseau, Sainte-Marie, Sarmarco, Santa Cruz, Santrot, Sapin, Georges Sarre, Schreiner, Sénés, Sergent, Mmes Sicard, Soum, Suilet, MM. Michel Suchod, Suer, Tabanou, Taddéi, Tavernier, Teissere, Terni, Théaudin, Tinsseau, Tondou, Mme Tourain, MM. Vacant, Guy Vadepiéd, Valroff, Vennin, Verdon, Joseph Vidal, Villette, Alain Vivien, Vuillot, Wacheux, Wilquin, Worms.

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PARA LA SALVAGUARDIA DE  
LA LENGUA BRETONA

COMITATO INTERNAZIONALE  
PER LA DIFESA DELLA  
LINGUA BRETONE

COMITE INTERNATIONAL  
POUR LA SAUVEGARDE DE LA  
LANGUE BRETONNE

INTERNATIONAAL COMITE  
TER BESCHERMING VAN DE  
BRETONSE TAAL

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE  
FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE  
BRETON LANGUAGE

INTERNATIONALER AUSSCHUSS  
FÜR DIE ERHALTUNG DER  
BRETONISCHEN SPRACHE

15.12.1988

"A NETWORK OF BRITTANY'S FRIENDS WORKING FOR THE SAME CAUSE"

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# Breton in the Schools

## EARLY BILINGUALISM IN THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM: A REALITY IN BRITTANY

Association des Parents d'Elèves pour l'Enseignement du Breton (APEEB)  
September 21, 1988

"Europe progresses through bilingualism." With the approach of 1992 a consensus is being formed concerning the necessary adaptation of the educational system to the multilingual reality of the European community. Today France also seems to measure the lag in this area compared to other countries. But, one can't train an individual or population in a balanced bilingualism in just one school year.

For ten years parents of students in Brittany grouped within the APEEB have underlined the multiple pedagogical, psychological and cultural benefits of early bilingualism. For ten years these parents have worked to put a quality education into place in the public schools of the National Education.

We are well beyond the testing stage today as the figures for the school year attest:

- 6,000 children introduced to Breton in preschools and primary schools
- 3,000 secondary school students following Breton language classes, some taking it in the 6th level as their second language.
- 260 children in preschools and primary schools are in bilingual classes where the goal is a progressive teaching of all subjects by a competent bilingual teacher.

<u>community</u>	<u>level</u>	<u>no. of students</u>
Cayan (Côtes-du-Nord)	preschool	11
Lannion (Côtes-du-Nord)	preschool & primary CP-CM2	80
Landerneau (Finistère)	preschool & primary CP	14
Pontivy (Morbihan)	preschool & primary CP-CE2	25
Lanester (Morbihan)	primary CP-CE1	16
Rostrenen (Côtes-du-Nord)	preschool & primary CP-CE1	23
Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine)	primary CP-CM2	56
Saint-Rivoal (Finistère)	preschool & primary CP-CM2	30

In comparison with the 1987-88 year, the only change has been the additional opening of classes in Lanester and Landerneau. But other requests for classes have not been satisfied in Auray (Morbihan), Redon (Ille-et-Vilaine) and Tregastel (Côtes-du-Nord).

In defiance of the law, the Academic Inspector has refused to open bilingual classes to two year olds in the Côtes-du-Nord.

Additionally, the Rector of the Academy's promises to assure continuity in bilingual teaching after the first level of bilingual classes have not been put into effect. Lacking competent teachers, history and geography cannot be taught in Breton as well as French; students promoted from the first level benefit only in Breton language classes and a civics class taught in Breton (in Rennes).

The demands of parents have thus not been totally satisfied. The reality of bilingualism remains limited in public schools of the National Education system. And it would be easy for the French state to seek inspiration for the development of bilingual educational systems in the successes of other European regions such as Wales, Catalonia or Friesland. Approximately 40 million inhabitants of the European Community speak a language other than the official language of their state on a daily basis. Will the French National Education continue for a long time to wear the dunce's cap in the European Community?

\* \* \* \* \*

## DIWAN

Lois Kuter

Diwan continues to grow--which is nothing short of a miracle given the obstacles it continues to face. The biggest obstacle for Diwan has always been financing the schools. The struggle to keep ahead of debts continues, and schools must count on generosity of individuals and communities which give them shelter. But, just finding a space to open classes is difficult as the following newspaper article documents for the school in Bannalec. While town councils have played a big role in helping Diwan schools, finances available are limited and schools which serve a wide geographic area seem to be caught in a no-man's land of funding--with little or no help available from the French State.

QUIMPERLÉ: DIWAN SCHOOLS--BANNALEC CALLS FOR SOLIDARITY  
(Quest France, February 6, 1989; translated by Lois Kuter)

The Diwan schools are not the concern of just the community in which they are found. They concern a large geographic zone and their cultural interest is evident. This is the message that Yvon Le Bris, Mayor of Bannalec, tried to transmit Saturday to his fellow mayors at a meeting of the association "Initiatives for the Future of Southeast Finistère." He received the support of Paulette Lecroc, Mayor of Trégunc and vice-president of the association, who also has a Diwan school in her town.

Mr. Le Bris explained: "The Diwan school of Bannalec has enormous operating worries. The number of students requires the opening of a second class. Unfortunately a space for this has not followed." Bannalec has invested a great deal in education in these last years: 14 million francs in work on the secondary and preschools. "The community cannot take on the creation of a Diwan class in another location all by itself."



During previous discussions, the "Initiatives for Southeast Finistère" association has "underlined the importance of the Breton culture both for tourism and for the attraction of businesses. Investors are very sensitive to a strong regional identity." The General Council and Mayor of Bannalec thus ask their colleagues for a "general consideration of this sensitive case."

Yvon Le Bris is not turning just to mayors; he has equally addressed the General Council to which he wrote January 25th: "The elected officials of the Department have shown on several occasions and in a significant fashion their commitment to the teaching of Breton. To save that which still can be saved (which is what Diwan is trying to do) is very important for our cultural patrimony. But it is important that efforts are not compromised by a lack of funds."

"The installation of a Diwan school poses serious problems--particularly in small or medium sized towns. Bannalec does not have sufficient building space. To build a two-room school building with a cafeteria and playground is beyond our means. The General Council must help towns which are in our situation."

The Mayor underlined the fact that of the children taught at the Diwan school in Bannalec, only two live in Bannalec. "Recruitment is spread in ten communities." Thus, without doubt, the responsibility for the school should not just be a matter for one town. This point of view is shared by Paulette Lecroc and will be shared also, no doubt, by Marcel Raoul, Mayor of Clohars-Carnoët, where a Diwan school is to open next school year.

\* \* \* \*

To follow up, here is another short article:

#### DIWAN

(Ouest France, February 11, 1989; translated by Lois Kuter)

At the beginning of the week, Yvon Le Bris, Mayor of Bannalec, called on other towns to participate in the financing of the Diwan school found in his town (Ouest France of Monday). Guy Flégéo, citizen of Bannalec and an ardent defender of Breton identity, asks if it wouldn't be simpler for Mr. Le Bris to call on Mr. Le Pensec: "At the beginning of 1981 the Deputy Louis Le Pensec sponsored a law project concerned with teaching the Breton language [see p. 12]." It is true that at that time he was still in the opposition party of the government. Since then, he has entered the government and seems to have curiously lost his memory on propositions of other times. They remain, nevertheless, totally relevant today. But, maybe since he is with DOM-TOM he has other national minorities to whip up. [reference to his appointment in a government post concerned with French interests in the Pacific]

# THE ROAD SIGN CAMPAIGN

Lois Kuter

Here and there in Brittany, new road signs in the Breton language have gone up-- now and then. Congratulations to the city councils and local government officials who have committed a few francs to give Breton an honored spot on the roads of Brittany. Anyone who has studied the progress of the Breton language can see that decades of polite letters and petitions have done little, however, to advance the public visibility of Breton. A tourist will still be disappointed if he or she expects to see some signs of a Breton-speaking Brittany publicly displayed.

In 1984 the group Stourm ar Brezhoneg began its fight to get thousands of road signs in Breton all over Brittany (intensifying a campaign by the group Skol an Emsav). Their methods may seem drastic to some, but the tarring of monolingual signs has kept the issue of official status for Breton highly visible. Those who have tarred signs have not been secretive about their work, and have paid a price in court fines. For the tarring of 21 monolingual French signs in 1987 Serge Goglin and Gwenola Blanchard were sentenced to four months (suspended) of prison, a 5,000 franc fine each, 1,500 francs in court costs each, and 53,000 francs for damages to be shared (equalling approximately \$500 per road sign). The case has come to the attention of Breton supporters since Serge Goglin risked losing his job as a postal worker in Rennes. While the postal services originally proposed a six-month suspension, the outcome of Mr. Goglin's recent meeting with the "Conseil de Discipline des postes" was an eight-day suspension.

The unusually heavy penalties now being recommended for the "vandalism" of road signs has not discouraged Stourm ar Brezhoneg in the least from pursuing its work to make the Breton language an officially recognized (and used) language in Brittany. And the case of Serge Goglin has once again brought some to doubt the sincerity of France's commitment to human rights. The following newspaper articles from Ouest France (February 18 and 21, 1989) describe SAB's sit-in at the cultural services of the French Embassy in Brussels, Belgium. While the half-hour occupation of a hallway did not interfere with the activities of the embassy, the action was effective in bringing attention to the French government's policies of linguistic oppression.

## Stourm ar brezhoneg

Stourm ar brezhoneg (le combat pour la langue bretonne) est né en 1984 d'une scission avec Skol an Emsav, une association culturelle du mouvement breton. S.A.V., qui recrute essentiellement ses militants dans les Côtes-du-Nord et le Finistère, est très proche du petit parti nationaliste Emgann (mouvement de libération nationale du peuple breton pour le socialisme autogestionnaire). Stourm ar

brezhoneg affirme « utiliser la langue bretonne et les pinceaux (pour barbouiller les panneaux routiers) et non d'autres instruments ». « Nous ne sommes pas une organisation clandestine.

Nous souhaitons que la langue bretonne devienne langue officielle », disent ses militants. S.A.B. est surtout connu pour ses actions en faveur de panneaux indicateurs routiers bilingues.

OUEST-FRANCE 18.2.1989

## Stourm ar Brezhoneg

### Bons baisers de Bruxelles

Occupés en fin de matinée vendredi par quatorze militants de Stourm ar Brezhoneg, les services culturels de l'ambassade de France à Bruxelles ont été évacués sur l'intervention de la gendarmerie belge. Un des jeunes Bretons a réussi à s'éclipser en douceur. Les treize autres ont été gardés à vue jusqu'au samedi matin. Après une nuit passée dans des conditions précaires (sans lits de repos dans une cellule pas très propre), ils ont subi un fichage anthropométrique et ils ont été conduits au palais de justice.

Refusant de s'exprimer en français, les militants de Stourm ont demandé en anglais et en allemand un interprète parlant breton. Cette attitude, constante dès leur arrestation, a eu pour seule conséquence leur mise en li-

berté sans la moindre inculpation, dans la matinée de samedi. Pendant leur garde à vue, un quinzisième militant a fait le tour des agences de presse et des grands quotidiens bruxellois. Initiative payante, estime Stourm ar Brezhoneg, puisqu'elle s'est traduite par de nombreux articles sur le non-respect par la France des accords européens en matière de langues minoritaires : un sujet très, très sensible en Belgique.

« L'ambassade de France n'a pas déposé plainte, conclut un des participants. Elle ne souhaitait pas voir la justice belge évoquer publiquement le statut réel de la langue bretonne en France. Maintenant, nous comptons bien renouveler ce genre d'opérations spectaculaires et non-violentes... »

OUEST-FRANCE . 21.2.1989



## Contre « l'oppression linguistique » Des militants bretons s'invitent à l'ambassade de France à Bruxelles

Une quinzaine de militants de l'organisation de défense de la langue bretonne Stourm ar Brezhoneg ont pacifiquement occupé une demi-heure, vendredi en fin de matinée, les services culturels de l'ambassade de France à Bruxelles. Les gendarmes belges les ont délogés sans heurts.

Par cette première action spectaculaire hors frontières, les militants de S.A.B. - connus surtout jusque-là pour barbouiller les panneaux routiers en Bretagne - entendaient protester une fois encore contre « la situation actuelle de la langue bretonne » à qui « l'Etat français refuse un statut de langue officielle en Bretagne ».

Dans un communiqué distribué au début de cette brève occupation, ils ont réclamé l'abrogation des lois et décrets sur l'usage obligatoire du français, l'amnistie totale pour les militants de la langue bretonne, la création d'un diplôme d'études universitaires générales (D.E.U.G., qui sanctionne le premier cycle universitaire) du breton et l'enseignement du breton dans chaque école des cinq départements bretons (y compris la Loire-Atlantique, département rattaché aux Pays de Loire).

C'est la première fois, soulignaient-ils, que des défenseurs de la langue bretonne en viennent à occuper « une ambassade de l'Etat qui, selon eux, exerce une oppression linguistique ».

Un porte-parole de l'ambassade de France a souligné que les manifestants n'avaient occupé que le service culturel, situé dans une annexe à l'arrière de la légation, sans bloquer l'entrée principale de l'ambassade. Ils n'ont été reçus par aucun diplomate. Aucune violence ni dégradation n'ont été constatées, si ce n'est quelques slogans en breton peints sur les murs.

Finalement, au bout d'une demi-heure d'occupation, la gendarmerie belge, appelée à la rescousse, a évacué sans heurts les manifestants vers 12 h 15, certains menottes aux poignets. Les militants de S.A.B., qui scandaient à leur sortie des slogans en breton, ont été conduits au poste pour vérification d'identité.

OUEST-FRANCE 18.2.1989

Individuals who would like more information on the activities of Stourm ar Brezhoneg are welcome to contact me. I have received newspaper clippings and a number of other documents from this organization which detail court cases and policies. Some of this information (legal proceedings on the use of Breton in the courts) has been translated into English for the ICDBL. My thanks to Laurie Zaring for this difficult work. For the cost of photocopying and mailing, I would be happy to send specific information to individuals who may want more detailed reports than those we are able to provide in Bro Nevez. Lois Kuter

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WHAT YOU CAN DO...

While it is unlikely that any Bro Nevez readers in the U.S. are going to travel to Brittany with a bucket of tar to join Stourm ar Brezhoneg, as individuals who may be likely to travel in Brittany as tourists, we can write to tourist agencies in Brittany to show our interest in seeing more public visibility for Breton. On the following page are some addresses for major tourist branches. Write a letter inquiring as to the state of Breton language use in public and expressing your interest in finding a Breton-speaking Brittany publically recognized! While one gives up hope that the French government will work to make Breton more public because it is interested in linguistic rights, perhaps government agencies will someday be convinced of the commercial value to giving Breton some space... As potential visitors, we can express our shock and outrage that this rich part of Brittany's heritage is kept hidden from us.

# An Troioù-Lavar hag Ijin ar Yezh

Reun ar C'halan

An troioù-lavar a ziskouez meur a dra, a gav din, diwar-benn spered an dud a ra ganto, diwar-benn ijin ur yezh. Gwelet e vez diouzhtu e vez lakaet muioc'h a bouez gant ar Vreizhiz war doare-diavaez an dud hag an traoù eget war an diabarzh, ha gwelloc'h e kavont gerioù fetis eget menozioù difetis. Ar skouerioù da-heul a zo bet tennet peurvuiañ diouzh levrioù Jules Gros, **Le Trésor du breton parlé** (2e partie, Saint-Brieuc: Les Presses bretonnes, 1979; 3e partie, Lannion: Editions Barr-Heol, 1974).

E Landreger e vez lavaret: "Hennezh a zo ul luduenn" kentoc'h eget "Hennezh ne blij ket dezhañ mont da labourat". An den-se a gav gwelloc'h chom en e di, e-tal an oaled, tost d'al ludu tomm, eget mond da labourat er-maez dindan ar glav. "Naig? Setu aze ur genou dibrenn!" a dalvez kement ha "N'eo ket hounnezh evit tevel war a pezh a lavarer dezhi". Genou ar vaouez a zo heñvel ouzh un nor dibotailhet. "Un den kamm e vizïed" ez eus ul laer anezhañ: e vizïed a zo deut da vezañ kamm o tapout krog e danvez ar re all. "Yann a zo un hej-e-revr": Yann a zo leun a orbidoù, ober a ra ardoù, fistoulat a ra evel ur c'hi bihan en dro d'e vestr. "Bremañ ez eo deut lart evel ur vlonegenn": gwechall, pa veze lazhet ar pemoc'h, e veze miret al lart-teuz e c'hwezhigell al loen, er vlonegenn. Un den lart evel ur vlonegenn a zo lart-toud. Pa ne vez ket druz ar peuriñ

er ger e lavarer: "Ret e vo ober bouzelloù moan". Ar bouzelloù a vo moan peogwir ne vo ket boued da lakaat e-barzh. Pa vez fonnus ar boued, er c'hontrol, e c'haller goulenn: "Petra! n'eo ket reut awalc'h da vegel c'hoazh?" peogwir e teu kroc'hen ar begel da vezañ tenn pa vez leun ar c'hof. "Fañch a zo arru moan e revr pa oa kroget an archer en e golier": Fañch a oa bet ken spontet ne vije ket aet ur reunenn-hoc'h etre e feskennoù pa oa bet harzet gant ar polis.

E troioù-lavar seurt-se e vez lavaret amploc'h eget justoc'h. Pa zeu ur bugel da glebiañ e vragoù e vez lavaret dezhañ: "Sell aze ur mare!" Evit gwir, n'eo ket gant al lanv ez eo bet glebiet dezhañ lostenn e roched. Ha pa lavaran: "An ostiz en deus diskennet din ur bannac'h gwin ne oa ket ur veskennad anezhañ" pe "Evet hon eus barazadoù gwin", e fell din displegañ va menoz diwar-benn largentez pe bizhoni an ostiz. Kavet e vez troioù-lavar ken fentus er c'hrennlavarioù: "Ur sac'h goullo ne chom ket pell en e sav", a dalvez kement ha "Ret e vo deoc'h debriñ evit kaout nerzh da chom en ho sav". Al loened o deus lostoù hir a zo aes da dapout krog enno. Abalamour da se e vez lavaret: "An arc'hant a zo berr o lost" peogwir n'eus ket a grog warno. Bez' ez eus ivez troioù-lavar evel: "E bloavezh an erc'h du", a dalvez kement ha "Morse", o vezañ ma vez atav gwenn-kann an erc'h.

(In most languages, current idioms illustrate the way in which people look at the world. In the case of Breton speakers, idioms show a clear emphasis on the external appearance rather than on the inner essence, on concrete representation rather than on abstract concepts.)



## ON REVIEW

ARTUS (c/o Herve Glot, B.P. 26, 56200 La Gacilly, Brittany)

Reviewed by Anne Underwood

1989 marks an anniversary of importance to lovers of Brittany, for it was ten years ago that Hervé and Claudine Glot founded the magazine Artus. The publication was a reaction against the negative drumbeat of complaints from the couple's nationalist friends, who always seemed to be lamenting the Breton fate. "We wanted to show that positive things were happening, too," says Claudine.

The pair set out to publicize the poets, sculptors, photographers and other creative talents who breathed life into Breton culture. Soon a group of artists and scholars coalesced around them--people like painter Bernard Louedin (in the tradition of Yves Tanguy), Celtic scholar Christian Guyonvarc'h of the University of Rennes (co-author with his wife of *Les Druides*) and Michel Le Bris (founder of the French newspaper *Libération*).

Before long the magazine branched out to cover not only other Celts, but also nations whose paths somehow crossed theirs. For example, a recent article in Artus is entitled "Scandinavian + Celtic = Icelandic." Another piece draws parallels between ancient Greek initiation rites and those of the Celts.

Artus takes its title from the Latin name for King Arthur, whose legend touches so many locations, both in Brittany and elsewhere. It was partly the fantastic nature of the legends and partly their widespread popularity that attracted the Glots to this title. "If Arthur were just a historical king like Louis XIV, he wouldn't interest me at all," says Hervé.

It is to the credit of Hervé and Claudine that their magazine mixes scholarly work with more imaginative literary compositions, poetry and photography. The result is a thoroughly professional product whose slick layouts and graphics belie the homespun nature of the operation. One would never imagine that it was put together upstairs on a personal computer after a full day of work.

Hervé is a dentist, while Claudine is employed by the Syndicat Mixte of east-central Brittany, an organization that promotes the financial and commercial activities of the region. Taking advantage of her position, she persuaded the Syndicat to undertake the establishment of an Arthurian center, to be known as the Centre de l'imaginaire arthurien. "If this center were just for the sake of culture, the Syndicat wouldn't be interested," she says. "But we persuaded them that an Arthurian center would draw many tourists and be a viable commercial activity. As it is now, so many tourists come to the forest of Brocéliande looking for places connected with the Arthurian legends. There are many such locations--such as the Fountain of Barenton, where Merlin met Vivian--but nothing is organized. The tourists go away disappointed."

Plans for the Arthurian center include exhibitions, conferences, a video and even a cassette tape that will offer a guided tour to Brocéliande. If all goes as planned, the center will open in three years, possibly in Trehorenteuc or the Château de Comper, both on the outskirts of the forest, which is now known officially as Paimpont.

In addition to the magazine, Claudine and Hervé have branched out into publishing books. One of these deals with Brocéliande. Another book that is now in the works will be devoted to Ireland, featuring chapters on history and archeology mixed with literary contributions and splendid color photographs.

Those wishing to subscribe to Artus should write to: Hervé Glot, B.P. 26, 56200 La Gacilly, Brittany, France. The four issues will come out over a period of two years, since Artus now publishes two books a year in place of two magazines. Subscribers, of course, also have the option of buying the books, although these are more expensive. The price of the books is variable.

#### PROSPER PROUX, 1811-1873

As a sample of the articles to be found in Artus, I am including the following piece. It is an excerpt, freely translated, from a review of the book Un Poète et chansonnier de langue bretonne, Prosper Proux, 1811-1873 by Yves Le Berre, Jean Le Du and Fañch Morvannou. (Centre de Recherche bretonne et celtique, Faculté des Lettres et sciences sociales, Université de Brest, 1985). The review was written by Christian Guyonvarc'h, who teaches Celtic studies at the University of Rennes.

"Brittany is poetry," we read from time to time. Chateaubriand and other Breton poets who wrote in the French language prove that statement. But as for poetry in Breton?

When one wearies of the heavy religious poetry of Middle Breton, one must turn to the Barzaz Breiz. But other than the great La Villemarqué--who in his own time was more famous in Paris than in the thatched huts of Brittany--how many great poets do we have in the Breton language?

In Brittany, as elsewhere, there are two sorts of poets: those who are and those who think they are. The first are rooted in their territory and their milieu. The others merely make rhymes following the recipes in any dictionary.

The first great merit of this work on Prosper Proux is to demonstrate that Breton poetry is not that of Shakespeare or Victor Hugo. When our poetry is true, it is in dialect and necessarily limited: its authors are not academicians or members of the Institute. They are not known to the public at large and make no pretensions to literary glory. But they are (or were) gifted in appreciating their compatriots.

We find Prosper Proux very pleasant to read on the one hand, and on the other hand, completely a man of the 19th century. For diversion and to amuse his friends, he composed rhymes in Breton, as well as fables that, like those of La Fontaine, found imitators. It isn't great poetry, but it isn't mediocre either. Proux was perceptive and he knew his limits, intellectual and political, even if he refused to recognize social constraints: a liberal and moderate republican, he treated the clergy and public morals with a gentle irreverence. He is perfectly at ease in his songs and doesn't aspire to rise higher. He repeats the jokes of the college or the stronger ones of the barracks. The contrast with La Villemarqué is so total that one cannot begin to study it. What is new in Proux is precisely that he uses Breton as it is spoken--non-academic, very free, with a well-stocked scatological repertoire, taking things for what they are and not trying to psychoanalyze.



What interests us in the remarkable work of Yves Le Berre, Jean Le Du and Fanch Morvannou is certainly not to escape once more to a romanticized Brittany, watching the rain fall. It is to discover in full light a rural, living Brittany outside the church. Apart from the time reserved for mass, sermons, catechism and confession, Brittany sings, it dances and laughs, sometimes with little restraint. It also works--and hard--but it isn't sad. Proux vigorously sings the cuckold, the simpleton, the skirt chaser (who is as common in Lower Brittany as elsewhere), the railroad, the soldier's farewell, and the church bells. And all of this is so vivid, so natural and so lively that one willingly lets oneself be carried away with good humor and healthy gaiety.

The Breton language that Proux speaks and writes is that of himself, his friends and relatives. He conveys relatively simple ideas and concepts. He describes in concrete terms things that French translates into abstractions.

One notes also that all Proux's correspondence is in French, even when it is addressed to people speaking Breton as well as he does. This confirms the bilingualism and the symbiosis of Breton and French in Lower Brittany. Proux is not a unilingual fanatic complaining about the decline of his language, but an honest young man, speaking French and Breton. This aspect of the book is fundamental and makes it a first-rate document of reference. We must emphasize: like Breton religious literature, the secular literature of the 19th century is materially and culturally dependent on French literature, a fact which Proux couldn't avoid. He didn't even try.

In conclusion, we cite Yves Le Berre: "Prosper Proux is still little known. We have tried to shed some light on his personality, his life and the genesis of his work--for its own sake and for the information it conveys about a period in the cultural life of the people of Lower Brittany, a people who have been deeply mythified in the populism of the regionalist movement, then worshipped in the dogmatism of the nationalists."

All lovers of authentic poetry will be eager to read this book.

# MUSIC

Lois Kuter

Unfortunately my budget allows for only rare purchases of Breton recordings. But, information on new recordings can be gleaned from Breton periodicals. For the following review notes I have used: Ar Men 17 and 18 (October and December 1988) and Musique Bretonne 88 (December 1988 and January 1989).

Douarnenez 88 - Le disque de la fête. Le Chasse-Marée SCM012. 1988. 90 francs (Le Chasse-Marée, Abri du Marin, B.P. 159, 29171 Douarnenez Cedex).

Although the sub-title "record of the festival" indicates an lp format, this festival souvenir is in fact available only on cassette. But this is a minor detail. The cassette captures musical performances during one of Brittany's major festivals--an international gathering of sailing ships hosted by Le Chasse-Marée in Douarnenez. Recorded live in concert, at cafes or on the docks, the cassette highlights some of the 30 groups (including some 600 musicians) who participated in the festival. Included are: Cabestan, Djiboudjep, Trouzerion, Paule Chamard, Lucien Gourong, and Jean Megly (Brittany); Stan Hugill, the Keelers, Stormalong John (Great Britain); Calicante (Italy); Manigance (Quebec); Liereliet and Het Fluitekruiddt Delirium (Netherlands); and Douarnenez Band and Killera (Ireland).

Euroskol 88/Breizh-Europa. double album produced by Diwan Euroskol, Radio-Bretagne-Ouest and Skol Uhel ar Vro. BE 881/2 (distribution Adipho).

The cause of the Diwan Breton language schools has attracted the support of personalities from all walks of life and from different countries. The April 1988 Festival of bilingualism organized by Diwan included the support of some of the best known Breton musicians: Tri Yann, Gilles Servat, Glenmor, Bleizi Ruz, Sonerion Du, Andrea ar Gouil, and Yann Fanch Kemener--to name a few. From traditional "gwerziou" to rock, the Breton language was honored by diverse styles of music at this festival. The flavor of this celebration is captured in the double album.

Dan ar Braz. Septembre bleu. Hello 10037 JDIO. (lp, cassette, or compact disc).

Dan ar Braz should need little introduction. He is a master of the guitar and a passionate singer who has established himself as an internationally known solo performer--despite being identified all too often in terms of past participation in Alan Stivell's band or Fairport Convention. Dan ar Braz has toured in the U.S. several times (although I have suspected that his manager here has not worked too hard to let this be widely known!) Hopefully he will be back. The guitar--electric and acoustic--is featured in Dan's newest album of compositions related to his love of the sea.

Mariannig Larc'hantec and Myrdhin. Harpes celtiques, mille ans d'histoire. Conservatoire régional de musique de Ploemeur. Vol. 1: Racines pour demain.

Harp enthusiasts will be interested in this new recording which includes a long presentation of the history of the Celtic harp by harpist and professor of organology, France Vernillat. Performances from various centuries--14th through 20th--are provided by two very competent Breton harpers: Mariannig Larc'hantec and Myrdhin.

Yann Dour. Musique pour la dance bretonne, accordéon diatonique. Editions Caruhel (Guillac, 56800 Ploërmel). Transcriptions (75 pp) 80 francs; cassette 60 francs.

Anyone who plays diatonic accordeon who has yearned for some way to learn Breton tunes will surely find this collection of dances valuable. Yann Dour has taught in Brittany for years and is skilled in guiding learners through Breton music. He has already published two other volumes: Méthode complète d'accordéon diatonique. This collection has the added attraction for North American accordionists of having commentaries translated into English.

Kan 2: Kan ar Bobl Duod 88. Radio Kreiz Breizh (Saint-Nicodème, 22160 Callac) 80 francs.

This 90-minute cassette produced by the radio station of central Brittany Radio Kreiz Breizh features highlights of the 1988 Kan ar Bobl contest held in Duault. These annual contests attract local "stars" and include traditional masterpieces as well as more contemporary compositions.

Kanerion Pleuigner. Cantiques vannetais. 33 rpm.

As noted in Armel Morgant's review of this recording (Ar Men 18, October 1988), there have been few records produced which capture the power of the religious song tradition in Brittany. All too often the heavy arrangements by professional singers or choirs lack the spirit of this song style which remains very much a part of a living tradition in Brittany. The eleven cantiques (religious songs) on this recording come very much from the hearts of the singers--twelve men of Pluvigner, in Vannetais Brittany. Unfortunately there is no information in the Ar Men review for ordering this record--produced by the Kanerion Pleuigner themselves. Hopefully it will be available through distributors and record stores in Brittany which stock a variety of labels (see newsletter 28 for some suggestions), or it can be ordered directly from the producers.

Gilbert Bourdin, Eric Marchand and Christian Dautel. Chants à répondre de Haute-Bretagne. Le Chasse-Marée. SCMO11 (lp or cassette) 71 francs.

One of the most vivid memories I have of my 1978-79 year in Brittany is the fest noz culminating the annual Bogue d'Or song contest in Redon. The big attraction for the evening was a hot new "group" (electric/traditional) who had a great deal of trouble getting people dancing that evening. In the midst of their performance the crowd started calling for the traditional singers of the area who never failed to keep a dance moving. As the band blasted away at one end of the large dusty hall, the singers took to the stage at the opposite end--and the dancing really began. The band had lost its audience to the magic of good unaccompanied traditional singing. Among the singers was Gilbert Bourdin who is featured on this new recording. Eric Marchand and Christian Dautel have for a long time proven their musical powers at the Bogue d'Or festival, and all three have a voice worthy of a long drive through the treacherous late-night fogs of Brittany to hear. This recording by three of the best young singers of Brittany is a very welcome addition to the trio's first cassette they produced with Dastum in 1986.

Jean Baron and Christian Anneix. Danses de Bretagne. Keltia Musique RS 193. 1988. (lp, cassette or compact disc)

For over a decade, Jean Baron and Christian Anneix have been familiar figures in the growing circle of young "sonneurs de couple" (paired players of the bombarde and biniou koz), and they have become known as well through participation in the groups La Godinette and Gwenva. Today they make their living from their music (performing and teaching) and have contest championships as well as records to testify to their musical talents. New recordings from this duo are always welcome. This one includes a selection of dances: en dro, gavottes, laridés, fisel, dans Leon and rond de Saint-Vincent.



# Ar Gegin

Lois Kuter and Marie Louise Villamizar

Just when I was beginning to despair of ever seeing a Breton cooking column reappear, I received a recipe in the mail from Marie Louise Villamizar (Gretna, Louisiana). This is for a classic dessert of Brittany: the "far".

## FARZ BREIZ

4-1/4 cups of milk  
2-1/2 cups all purpose flour  
3/4 cup sugar  
4 eggs  
a little salt

Bring the milk to a boil. Mix well flour, sugar, eggs and salt. Add the boiling milk slowly, stirring continuously. Pour mixture in an earthen ware plate or any oven proof plate and put it in a very hot oven (425°). Let it cook for 15 minutes, then lower temperature to 400°. Let it cook for about 45 minutes more. It is cooked when sides curl. For best results warm the plate before pouring the mixture in. You can also, for a change, put some dried prunes on the bottom of the plate before pouring the mixture in.

Recipes from other cooks would be very welcome--or just articles about Breton food. How about a few tips for those of us who have tried to duplicate wonderful things we tasted in Brittany with less than wonderful results. (I have to admit that the only way I have succeeded in capturing flavors from Brittany is through the purchase of a bottle of Muscadet wine or a tin of Breton cookies.)

There are obstacles for the chef in the U.S.--if you are working from a cookbook from Brittany, calculating U.S. cups, teaspoons and pounds from grams and kilograms takes special metric measuring equipment or good skills with a calculator. Finding comparable ingredients can also be a problem. The butter in Brittany comes from a very different cow. Has anyone in the U.S. located the wonderful coarse salt from the "marais salants" of Brittany on this side of the Atlantic? What do you do to find substitutes for "farine de froment" or "blé noir"? I have given up even dreaming of finding anything that resembles the fresh seafood of Brittany in the U.S., but perhaps readers nearer the coasts have had better fortune.

Although my cooking talents have not been up to the challenge of capturing some of the flavors of Brittany, there must be some experienced chefs out there who have the skills and creativity necessary to create a little of Brittany here in the U.S. How about sharing some recipes or ideas.

Or, how about some restaurant reviews? Bretons who emigrate to the U.S. often find work in the restaurant business. Maybe some readers have found a few and could contribute a short review. Research on Breton restaurants in the U.S. would be very welcome.



## Catalogs

To follow up the article on Dastum that appeared in the last issue of Bro Nevez, it seemed appropriate to include in this issue the 1989 Catalog from Dastum. As I indicated in the last issue of Bro Nevez, we hope to include catalogs in our pages from book publishers or other cultural producers to help readers in the U.S. and Canada locate and order materials from Brittany. Dastum's current catalog follows on the next two pages.

## Some Corrections

I thank Mikael Madeg for the following corrections to Bro Nevez 28 (November 1988):

- page 3: How to find Breton records:

Kornog (in Morlaix) is now closed, I am sorry to hear. Worth noting is a second "Ar Bed Keltiek" store in Brest at the following address: Centre Culturel de Brest, Boulevard Clemenceau, 29200 Brest.

- page 9: Cassettes of storytellers:

Komz 3 - C'hwec'h kontadenn eus Arvor bro Vigouden is in fact available (see the Dastum catalog). Mikael Madeg produced this cassette of stories told by the late Marsel Divanac'h.

A Komz 4 is also now out, produced by Loeiz Bevan. This is a collection of tales told by François Louis (also now deceased) called Ewan-Pier ar C'horrr - Kontadenn a Vro Pourlet. Also available through Dastum

## Information please...

Dear Breton Readers,

I would like some information concerning the village of Locmaria, also known as Berian. My grandfather was born there 100 years ago. He was brought to America as a child. There is also a place called Point Primel, north of Morlaix. If there are any stories concerning this place, I am interested. I may also have family in that area. If you have any information, please contact me. Thank you.

Mary Primel  
4970 Oak Grove Drive  
Cumming, Georgia 30130 U.S.A.

Dastum  
B. P. 164  
22604 Loudéac

## Bon de commande Catalogue 1989

### 1. Editions Dastum

	Prix unitaire	Quantité	Montant
<b>1. Cahiers Dastum</b>			
Dastum n° 4 : Pays de Loudéac (cassette-livret) .....	70,00	.....	.....
Dastum n° 5 : Pays Fanch (cahier-disque) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Dastum n° 6 : Le « Bas-Pays » (cahier-disque) .....	90,00	.....	.....
Dastum n° 7 : Pays de Noal-Pondi (cahier-disque ou cassette) .....	80,00	.....	.....
(cassette seule) .....	50,00	.....	.....
Dastum n° 8 : Pays d'Oust et Vilaine (livre-disque) .....	150,00	.....	.....

### 2. Disques

Sonneurs de clarinette en Bretagne (double-album) .....	130,00	.....	.....
Sonneurs de veuze (disque) .....	110,00	.....	.....
Mari Harnay (disque) .....	80,00	.....	.....
Gwerz, volume 1 (disque) .....	70,00	.....	.....
(cassette) .....	70,00	.....	.....
L'Écho des Luths : Musiques de Haute-Bretagne (disque) .....	70,00	.....	.....
(cassette) .....	70,00	.....	.....
Aux sources du Barzaz Breiz : (double-album à paraître le 31 mars 1989) .....	160,00	.....	.....

### 3. Cassettes et cassettes-livrets

#### 3.1 Etudes et recueils sur la musique

Boest an diaoul (livre-cassette) .....	120,00	.....	.....
150 Aïrs à danser du Pays vannetais (livret et cassette) .....	70,00	.....	.....

#### 3.2 Documents de collectage

Éléonore Le Provost : Mélodies du pays de Baud (cassette-livret) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Sonnennoù ar c'hornad (cassette-livret) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Chants du pays d'En-Bas : « La bande noire » (cassette-livret) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Rondes du pays de Loudéac (cassette) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Fest-Deiz, Fest-Noz an despunerien (cassette) .....	50,00	.....	.....
Musique bretonne 2 : Pays Dardoup (cassette) .....	50,00	.....	.....

#### 3.3 Interprétation

Yann-Fanch Kemener : « Dibedibedanchou » (cassette-livret) .....	80,00	.....	.....
Le Gouren dans la tradition populaire (cassette-livret à paraître fin-février 1989) ..	80,00	.....	.....
Kanerien ha Sonerien Bro Dreger (cassette) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Bourdin, Marchand, Dautel : « Chants à danser de Hte-Bretagne » (cassette) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Michel Ourhemannov : Violon (cassette) .....	60,00	.....	.....

#### 3.4 Contes

Komz 1 : Doareoù an Ankou (cassette-livret) .....	50,00	.....	.....
Komz 2 : Margodig an dour yen (cassette-livret) .....	60,00	.....	.....
Komz 3 : 6 Kontadenn eus Arvor bro Vigouden (cassette-livret) .....	70,00	.....	.....
Komz 4 : Ewan-Pier ar c'horr (cassette-livret) .....	70,00	.....	.....

### 4. Livres

P. Mairieu : Histoire de la chanson populaire bretonne .....	40,00	.....	.....
G. Le Menn : Histoire du théâtre populaire breton .....	45,00	.....	.....
G. Le Menn : La Femme au sein d'or .....	80,00	.....	.....
J.-M. de Penguern : Dastumad Penwern .....	125,00	.....	.....
H. Dréan : Autour de la Roche-Bernard .....	90,00	.....	.....
Chants et récits recueillis autour de la Roche-Bernard .....	35,00	.....	.....
J. Jaffré : Yann ar Baluch'henn .....	70,00	.....	.....
S. Moëlo et J.-P. Le Bihan : Kergohann hag ar Vellad .....	60,00	.....	.....
Chants sur la mer et les marins .....	30,00	.....	.....

### 5. Musique bretonne

Unité (n° 58 à 79 : préciser le/les n° désirés) .....	10,00	.....	.....
Unité (n° 80 à 89) .....	15,00	.....	.....
Abonnement (un an / 10 numéros) .....	120,00	.....	.....
Collection complète (83 numéros encore disponibles sur 90 parus) .....	350,00	.....	.....
Anciens numéros (voir <i>Musique bretonne</i> n° 88, p. 4 pour détails)			

### 6. Documents iconographiques

#### 6.1 Cartes postales

Jeux bretons (série de 8 cartes) .....	20,00	.....	.....
(unité) .....	4,00	.....	.....
Anciens sonneurs de Bretagne (collection complète : 32 cartes) .....	90,00	.....	.....
(série 1, générale : 9 cartes) .....	30,00	.....	.....
(série 2, biniou-bombarde : 16 cartes) .....	50,00	.....	.....
(série 3, représentations anciennes : 7 cartes) .....	25,00	.....	.....
(unité) .....	4,00	.....	.....

#### 6.2 Posters

Gouel dek vloaz Dastum .....	20,00	.....	.....
Fest-noz (gravure O. Perrin) .....	15,00	.....	.....
Concours de sonneurs de Brest, 1895 .....	15,00	.....	.....
Musique bretonne, avant/après .....	10,00	.....	.....
Fest-deiz, fête des sonneurs de treujenn gaol .....	10,00	.....	.....
Fest-noz, Callac .....	10,00	.....	.....
Agrandissement d'anciennes cartes postales (série de 4) .....	20,00	.....	.....

Sous-total .....

## II. Autres éditions distribuées par Dastum

Report page 1

### 1. Livres des éditions de l'Institut Culturel de Bretagne

Bretagne, clés en main .....	70,00	.....	.....
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## CELTS

I would like to thank Eric Bowen of Bellingham, Washington (state) for a January 1989 issue of Y Monitor Cymraeg/Welsh Language Monitor. In just two pages, this new monthly report presents a great deal of information about the Welsh language and events in Wales: government funding, education, arts and the media, demonstrations and protests, and political action. Although the editors seem hesitant to put a date on events and actions cited in the Monitor, this is an excellent source of information on the state of the Welsh language to be recommended to anyone interested in the future of the Celtic languages. The editors welcome questions about the Monitor or the Welsh language:

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A request is made to subscribers for whatever contribution one can make, to be sent to:

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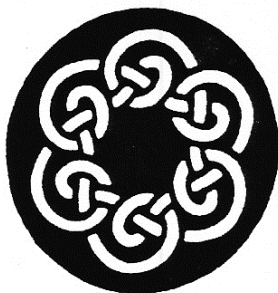
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### ***Bagpipes for sale***

Jim Kerr, U.S. ICDBL member, has offered us the proceeds from the sale of his Henderson bagpipes. This set of Scottish Highland pipes has been with Jim for many years; while Jim is retiring from piping, the instrument has many years of music ahead of it. We hope to find a piper in search of a good set of pipes, or a person who has always dreamed of learning the pipes. We are asking \$750 for the bagpipes. Call or write to Lois Kuter for more details:

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