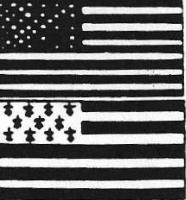


# BRO NEVEZ



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

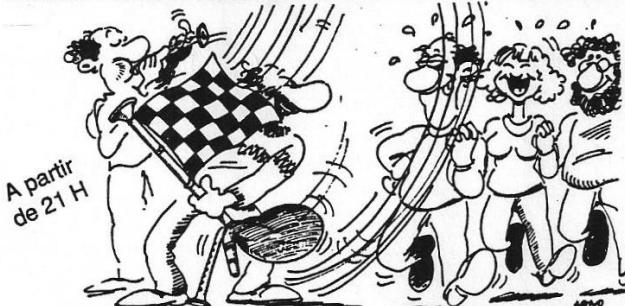


## POULLAOUEN

Le Stancou (Hangar U.L.M. Club)

## NOZVEZ AR GAVOTENN

D'AR SADORN 1<sup>an</sup> A VIZ MAE



SAMEDI 1<sup>er</sup> MAI 1993

Sonerien/Sonneurs

SOHIER-MINIOU • LE MEUR-TOUTOUS • CREPILLON-BIGOT • LE CORRE-SIMON • LE BOULANGER-NOLLENT-MOLARD • LE BIHAN-MOLARD • COLIN-LECOZ-JACOB

Kanerien/Chanteurs

Frères MORVAN • BASTARD Tad ha mab • LALLOUR-BIZIEN • CREIS-BIZOUARN • J.-M. LE SCRAIGNE-L. LOZACH • LECLERC-TALLEC • J. HOURMAND-B. LE GUERN •

M.L. PAULE-Phine et M.P. LOZACH • LE ROUX-JOUIN

Dreujeunn gaol : JOUVE • LELAY • KEMENER • CREPILLON • MARCHAND

Org. "DAÑS TRO"

Accordéon : LE CORRE Tad ha mab • E. LENCOT

hag all.

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

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The U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (U.S. ICDBL) was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on October 20, 1981.

**Bro Nevez** ("new country" in the Breton language) is the newsletter of the U.S. ICDBL. It is published quarterly: February, May, August and November. Contributions, letters to the Editor, and ideas are welcome from all readers and will be printed at the discretion of the Editors. Suggested deadlines for receipt of contributions for Bro Nevez are: January 20, April 20, July 20, and October 20.

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The U.S. ICDBL provides Bro Nevez on a complimentary basis to a number of language and cultural organizations in Brittany; in some instances we are also very happy to establish an exchange of publications.

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# European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages

The failure of the French government to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages continues to embarrass people of France who believe that French need not be the only language of their culturally rich and diverse heritage. The Parisian branch of the "Comité pour la défense de nos langues" (Committee for the Defence of our Languages) has been among many others working to put pressure on the French government to ratify the Charter. The following information provided by this organization nicely summarizes this issue and France's position (my translation).

Lois Kuter

## COMMITTEES FOR THE EUROPEAN CHARTER AND THE RESPECT OF LINGUISTIC RIGHTS

Alsatian, Basque, Breton, Catalan, Corsican, Creole, Flemish, Francique, Franco-Provençal, Occitan, Romani, and Yiddish

In June 1992 the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe created a Charter of Regional or Minority Languages in the form of a convention open for signature on October 2, 1992.

The primary objective of the Charter, which was the result of an initiative on the part of the Permanent Conference of Local and Regional Officials of Europe, is cultural in nature--to protect and preserve the regional and minority languages as essential elements of the European cultural patrimony. Thus, the Charter represents a new concrete step in the politics of the European Council in favor of inter-culturalism in Europe.

By last February 9th, twelve of the twenty-seven member states of the European Council had signed this Charter.

## FRANCE'S POSITION

The position of French authorities has gone through some evolution:

- First, opposition to the creation of a convention which was "too restricting," favoring instead the formulation of a "recommendation."
- Having made it known to the parliament through Mssrs. Beregovoy and Dumas that it would neither sign nor ratify this convention, France reviewed its position. Mme Elisabeth Guigou, Minister of European Affairs, indicated that France would take "time for reflection."
- In a letter addressed to the General Secretary of the Free European Alliance, the head of the Cabinet of the Prime Minister clarified on last December 28th:

France would like to take time for reflection before eventually signing. In fact, such an action poses two types of problems:

- judicial problems
- problems linked to the financial consequences of measures to be taken.
- Since the beginning of January, Mr. Jack Lang, Minister of Education and Culture, who presents himself as a "militant for 30 years for regional languages and cultures" willingly expressed his views on this subject. In his presentation of measures destined to "fight for the preservation of the languages and cultures of France" he noted "the contradiction" in action taken in the National Education system in favor of regional languages while France remains one of the rare countries of the CEE to not want to sign the European Charter.

European Charter - continued

- More recently, on January 20th, during a press conference to inaugurate the Expolangue convention, her responded to a journalist's question as follows:

I am in favor of France's adhesion to or its signature of this Charter. And the President of the Republic also. First of all, the President of the Republic, and me secondarily. Simply, there are several practical points, because he must sign and he must honor his signature.

And, to bring up once again the problem of using these language in the administration of the justice system.

POSITION OF THE FRENCH PRESIDENT

On March 14, 1981, during a speech in Lorient when he was candidate for the President of the Republic, François Mitterrand declared:

The time has come for a statute for the language and cultures of the peoples of France which would recognize a real existence for them. The time has come to open wide the doors of the school, of radio and television permitting their diffusion, and to accord them the full place they merit in public life.

He thus proclaimed the "right to be different" in asking that France cease to be:

The last country in Europe to refuse to its members the elementary rights recognized in the international conventions it has itself signed.

These beautiful promises could be made concrete with the signature--without reservation--by France of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

THE COMMITTEES FOR LINGUISTIC RIGHTS

With the reticence of France to give this signature, committees for linguistic rights have been created everywhere that a language spoken by a people has no right of existence.

Through repeated action they intend to keep up pressure on the government until a signature (without reservation) is obtained, and ratification by the French Parliament is given to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The Committee for Paris and its surrounding area:

Comité pour la défense de nos langues  
9 rue Christian Dewet  
75012 Paris  
FRANCE

\* \* \* \* \*

On the following pages are newspaper articles which reflect the strong support in Brittany for France's signature of the European Charter.

In February a colloquium called "Languages of France, Languages of Europe" was organized by the European Bureau of Lesser Used Languages.

It involved 200 political leaders and heads of cultural and language associations who met in Paris to discuss the European Charter and the need to promote regional and minority languages.

Le Télégramme February 24, 1993

## « Langues de France langues d'Europe » : 200 personnes au Sénat

Mercredi, s'est tenu au Sénat, à Paris, un colloque « Langues de France, langues d'Europe ». 200 personnes, élus, représentants des associations culturelles de langues régionales ont participé à cette journée organisée par le Bureau européen des langues moins répandues.

L'essentiel de la matinée a été consacré à la Charte européenne des langues régionales ou minoritaires.

Après des exposés sur la situation des langues bretonne, catalane, corse... une table ronde réunissait des représentants des diverses formations politiques. Tous les responsables présents affirmèrent la nécessité de promouvoir les langues régionales devant un auditoire quelque peu sceptique, fatigué de promesses.

Yves Dollo, député de Saint-Brieuc et auteur d'une proposition de loi, soulignait un para-

dexe : « Alors qu'il y a consensus sur cette question de langues régionales, aucune des 42 propositions n'a jamais été soumise au Parlement » et déclarait « le droit légal à l'existence d'une langue ne suffit pas, il faut le droit à la reproduction avec des moyens pour l'enseignement, la recherche... ».

Si, durant toute la journée de mercredi, la rumeur de la signature imminente de la convention des langues régionales ou minoritaires a fait le tour du Sénat, les délégués du bureau européen décidaient, lors de la réunion qui suivait le colloque, de continuer les actions prévues pour les semaines à venir et de se battre pour la seconde étape de la charte : la ratification rapide par le Parlement.

Le bureau européen participera à la manifestation du 6 mars à Quimper.

On March 6th a rally in Quimper in favor of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages brought an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 demonstrators to this city, including a number of Breton political leaders (especially from Finistère), labor leaders, and people from all parts of Brittany.

Ouest France March 8, 1993  
Charte européenne des langues régionales

## 1 500 manifestants à Quimper

Mille cinq cents à deux mille manifestants se sont retrouvés samedi à Quimper pour réclamer la signature de la Charte européenne des langues régionales.

Au son des binious et des bombardes, les manifestants ont répondu à l'invitation du comité breton pour la Charte européenne. Cette Charte, adoptée en novembre dernier à Strasbourg par le Conseil de l'Europe et signée par douze des vingt-six états qui le composent aujourd'hui, prévoit l'introduction des langues régionales non seulement à l'école, comme c'est déjà le cas, mais aussi dans les tribunaux et les actes administratifs. Les élus les plus connus ne

participaient pas au cortège qui a sillonné les rues pendant deux heures. En revanche des élus municipaux des communes du Finistère, notamment autour de Quimper, avaient rejoint les manifestants ainsi que Jean-Yves Cozic, vice-président du conseil général du Finistère.

« Le breton langue nationale et pas sous-langue d'une province » réclamait une pancarte. D'autres s'en prenaient au gouvernement socialiste et au président de la République : « Mitterrand, c'est l'heure de signer. » Pour les organisateurs « le gouvernement sera obligé un jour ou l'autre de signer cette charte. »

La signature de la Charte a reçu le soutien de nombreux conseils municipaux et associations et du conseil régional de Bretagne.



Ouest France March 6-7, 1993

Après l'école, le breton dans les tribunaux et les mairies ?

## La Charte européenne relance les manifs

**Les organisations militent en faveur de la langue bretonne ne lâchent pas ce qui est devenu leur principale revendication : la signature de la charte européenne en faveur des langues régionales. Elles appellent à une manifestation cet après-midi à Quimper.**

L'adoption, le 5 novembre dernier à Strasbourg, par le Conseil de l'Europe, (et non la Communauté européenne), de cette Charte destinée « à éviter la disparition des langues devenues minoritaires, à maintenir et à développer les traditions et la richesse culturelles de l'Europe » a redonné un nouvel élan à ceux qui, en France, veulent faire inscrire dans la loi la reconnaissance des langues régionales.

◆ Que reconnaît cette Charte ? Le droit de pratiquer une langue régionale dans la vie privée et publique constitue un droit imprescriptible conformément au pacte des droits civils et politiques des Nations-Unies et à l'esprit de la Convention des Droits de l'Homme du Conseil de l'Europe.

◆ Quelles langues sont concernées ? Toutes celles qui sont pratiquées sur un territoire de l'un des états composant le Conseil de l'Europe. Sont donc exclues les langues des migrants (arabe, italien, polonais, portugais, espagnol...) en France. En revanche l'alsacien, le basque, le corse, le breton, le catalan, le flamand, le provençal et l'occitan sont concernés. Comme une cinquantaine de langues régionales en Europe, plus ou moins parlées par cinquante millions d'habitants.

◆ A quoi engage la charte ? Les états qui la signent s'enga-



Le breton a reconquis droit de cité à l'école et dans l'édition. Faut-il le faire entrer dans les tribunaux et les actes administratifs ?

gent à appliquer l'usage des langues régionales à l'école, dans les tribunaux, les actes administratifs, la vie économique et sociale. Comment ? C'est à eux de choisir entre plusieurs options.

Enseignement. Les états peuvent se contenter d'assurer un

enseignement minimum de la langue régionale à chaque degré de la scolarité ou prévoir pour tous les élèves ou seulement ceux qui en font la demande ou prévoir qu'une bonne partie des matières soit enseignée en breton par exemple.

Devant les tribunaux, cela peut aller de la simple acceptation des pièces de procédure rédigées dans la langue régionale au droit d'expression du prévenu et même à avoir l'ensemble de la procédure menée, à la demande de l'une des parties, en breton par exemple.

A relever aussi : une télé et une radio régionales en breton, l'information du consommateur et les règlements de sécurité rédigés dans la langue régionale, la mise à disposition, dans le service public, de fonctionnaires comprenant ou parlant breton, droit de cité pour le breton dans les assemblées régionales, avec plus ou moins de nuances.

◆ Comble de pays l'ont signée ? Pour l'instant douze sur les 26 membres du Conseil de l'Europe. Allemagne, Autriche, Chypre, Danemark, Espagne, Finlande, Hongrie, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malte, Norvège, Pays-Bas. Quatre pays, dont la France, le Royaume-Uni et la Turquie s'étaient abstenu au moment de l'adoption du texte. Un avait voté contre : la Grèce. Aucun n'a encore atteint le stade de la ratification qui implique un vote du Parlement dans les pays concernés.

## Le gouvernement divisé

Le gouvernement français est divisé. Le ministre des affaires européennes, Élisabeth Guigou, a demandé un délai de réflexion. Principal obstacle à une ratification : le nouvel alinéa de l'article 1 de la Constitution, adopté à l'initiative de l'opposition, précisant que le français est la langue de la République.

Le Premier ministre estime en outre juridiquement inadapté le

texte de la Charte : on ne peut, en France, rédiger des actes officiels dans une autre langue que le français qui a détrôné le latin depuis l'ordonnance royale de Villiers-Cotterets en 1539.

Le Quai d'Orsay est contre la Charte et lui aurait préféré une recommandation moins contraignante. Jack Lang, qui a envoyé, au début de l'année, une brassée de fleurs aux langues et cultures

de France, est pour. Comme Louis Le Pensec et Kofi Yamgnane, deux des ministres bretons, qui sont pour avec quelque réserve. Louis Le Pensec a rencontré hier à Quimper trois des douze personnes observant un jeûne.

Enfin une centaine de députés et sénateurs se sont exprimés pour la signature.

## En Bretagne, ça changerait quoi ?

En Bretagne, conseil régional, conseil économique et social, conseil général du Finistère, les conseils municipaux de Nantes, Rennes, Quimper, Saint-Malo, Lorient, Saint-Brieuc, Pontivy, Rostrenen, ainsi qu'une centaine d'élus à titre individuel ont répondu aux sollicitations du comité breton pour la Charte européenne et de nombreuses associations bretonnes.

Cela fait suite aux 30 000 signatures de soutien aux initiatives de parlementaires bre-

tons en faveur d'un statut officiel de la langue.

En matière d'enseignement et de culture, la Charte ne changera sans doute pas grand chose à la situation actuelle du breton. Celle-ci a beaucoup évolué en quinze ans. Quinze mille jeunes bretons peuvent aujourd'hui avoir accès à une initiation ou un enseignement du breton ou du gallo. Une filière complète est en place, de la maternelle au Capes, ainsi que des écoles bilingues. 1 % des enfants scolarisés apprennent réellement le breton.

Télé, radio, livres, théâtre font aujourd'hui une place au breton.

En revanche, la Charte européenne introduirait le droit à l'usage du breton dans les actes de la vie administrative et judiciaire, ce qui pose à la fois des problèmes juridiques et pratiques.

Adoptée au Parlement, elle offrirait aux écoles bilingues Diwan un autre moyen de reconnaissance que ceux de l'intégration ou de la loi Debré. C'est sans doute l'un des aspects qui motivera les ma-

nifestants d'aujourd'hui. Tout comme, à quinze jours des législatives, le recours à un dernier moyen de pression pour arracher à la gauche, et notamment au président de la République, un engagement en faveur de la reconnaissance institutionnelle du breton attendu depuis 1981. La dette de l'Histoire compte souvent plus que la réalité d'une langue de plus en plus aidée mais de moins en moins parlée.

Didier EUGÈNE.

Nothing underlines the seriousness of an issue so effectively as the decision to go on a hunger strike. While in Brittany hunger strikers have not gone to their deaths, the decision to jeopardize one's health in even a short-term hunger strike is not a decision made lightly.

During the period of February 22 and leading up to the March 6th demonstration nine individuals, including several Breton teachers, went on a hunger strike to demonstrate their strong feelings about France non-ratification of the European Charter. One striker was in the town of Pontivy, three in Saint-Nazaire and five in Quimper.

## Emglev evit ar BREZHONEG OUI à la Charte Européenne



**D'ar Sadorn 6 a viz Meurzh**  
da 3e30 d'abardaez  
e traon an Fruji  
**Manifestadeg vras e KEMPER**

**MANIFESTATION**  
15h30 • samedi 6 mars • Place de la Résistance • QUIMPER

Ouest France March 1, 1993

Manifestation pour la charte européenne le 6 mars

## Deux grévistes de la faim en plus

Jean-Dominique Robin et Pierig An Danteg, membres de l'Union des enseignants en breton, se sont joints, hier dimanche, aux trois jeûneurs, en grève de la faim depuis lundi dernier, à Quimper.

En tout neuf grévistes de la faim bretons observent un jeûne jusqu'à la manifestation pour la ratification de la charte européenne, samedi 6, à Quimper. Un jeûneur à Pontivy, trois autres à Saint-Nazaire et cinq à Quimper. Un choix non violent pour inciter le gouvernement français à signer la convention européenne en faveur des langues minoritaires. Pour le breton ce serait une première. Jusqu'à présent, il n'a jamais été officiellement pris en compte par les gouvernements.

Le mouvement de jeûne a démarré à Quimper, à la librairie « Ar Bed Keltieg », lundi 22 février. Quatre jeûneurs ont cessé de s'alimenter. Trois d'entre eux continuent la grève de la faim jusqu'à samedi. Deux enseignants en breton, Jean-Dominique Robin et Pierig An Danteg, les ont rejoints, hier matin. Le jeûne continue dans les locaux de la SPREV, 15, rue de Brest, tél : 98 64 34 28. Les grévistes de la faim reçoivent le soutien de nombreux élus politiques, municipalités, syndicats, associations et partis politiques. Une pétition circule, les signatures sont envoyées à Paris. Certaines pétitions arrivent même de l'étranger pour demander la ratification de la charte par la France. La manifestation aura lieu samedi, à 15 h 30, au pied du Fryg.



Tangi Louarn, à gauche, présente les deux nouveaux jeûneurs pour la ratification de la charte européenne, Pierig An Danteg, au centre et Jean-Dominique Robin, à droite.

## A Deliberative Council for Regional Language Education for Breton Schools

While France's reticence to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages reflects well the spirit in which it has supported languages like Breton, there is some cause for optimism at a more local level of political action.

In past newsletters we have reported on the strong support of local Breton politicians for Breton--especially in the Department of Finistère. Although popular pressure and militancy have been critical in getting things done, one can now find bilingual road signs, and hopefully these will become taken for granted as the natural order--like the presence of the Breton flag which only several decades ago was viewed as a radical sign of fanatical separatism. Attitudes have changed for the better in Brittany.

It is now time for action, and there are signs that some practical measures may be taken to support Breton speakers. The article which follows indicates that the Education Department (Rectorat de Rennes) for the "region" of Brittany (which excludes the department of Loire-Atlantique in its definition by the French government) is interested in improving Breton language programs in the schools.

The Rectorat d'Académie in Rennes which determines policy for the public school system has put together a deliberative council which includes a broad and impressive selection of scholars and language teachers, including the famous author Per Jakez Helias, Per Denez (President of the Cultural Council of Brittany), Francis Favereau (a teacher who recently completed a very well received dictionary for Breton), and Donatien Laurent (a scholar of Breton language song and popular literature who completed a pioneering study of the Barzaz Breiz). These join a number of university professors from Brest and Rennes, political representatives from the Regional and Departmental Councils, and a number of leaders in cultural and language organizations in Brittany.

Three objectives have been outlined for action:

- to make information about options for taking classes in both Breton and Gallo better known to parents and students.
- to make classes more accessible and to assure a continuous option to study these languages from preschool through the university (instead of the patchwork of offerings many students now must follow).
- to train more teachers. This will be aided by making the IUFM (Institut Universitaire de Formations de Maîtres) of Saint-Brieuc a center for teacher training and for the development of pedagogical materials.

While accomplishing these objectives is easier said than done, the cooperation of a number of educational experts with the Rectorat of Rennes--which has the power to implement changes--is an encouraging step.

Ouest France January 27, 1993

Un conseil consultatif pour les langues régionales

## Breton et gallo : on manque de profs

**Le breton - et le gallo - ont leur petit parlement : un conseil consultatif mis en place hier à Rennes par le recteur d'académie Herbert Maisl. Avec un membre marquant : l'auteur du Cheval d'Orgueil, Pierre-Jakez Hélias. Et une urgence au programme : former des enseignants**

Le breton avait droit de cité dans les couloirs du rectorat d'académie, hier à Rennes. Venu du Finistère, des Côtes-d'Armor et du Morbihan, les représentants d'une dizaine d'associations de promotion de la langue et de la culture bretones entouraient Pierre-Jakez Hélias, Per Denez, le président du conseil culturel de Bretagne, Francis Favereau, auteur d'un récent dictionnaire breton-français et français-breton déjà épousé, ou Donati Laurent, le chercheur bretois qui a réhabilité le Barzaz Breiz.

Tous sont appelés — aux côtés des inspecteurs d'académie, des représentants des conseils généraux et du conseil régional, des deux universités enseignant le breton, Brest et Rennes 2, et des responsables diocésains de l'enseignement catholique — à faire vivre une instance de concertation pour lancer et suivre la réalisation d'un plan d'enseignement du breton, voulu par le ministre de l'Éducation nationale et de la Culture, Jack Lang. Comme dans les autres académies concernées par une langue régionale.

### Une filière scolaire bilingue

Souhaitée aussi bien au recteur que du côté des élus bretonnantes, cette instance, a souligné Herbert Maisl, aura trois objectifs : améliorer l'information sur l'offre d'enseignement des langues régionales, « au-delà des chapelles et des clivages, pour donner un vrai statut aux deux langues régionales. » Un groupe va se mettre tout de suite au travail. Deuxième objectif : mieux ajuster l'offre et la demande d'en-



Pierre Jakez Hélias auprès du recteur Herbert Maisl : le Cheval d'Orgueil poursuit son œuvre de réhabilitation de la langue bretonne.

seignement. Et en assurer le suivi pédagogique.

De ces objectifs, c'est de loin le second qui pose le plus de problèmes. Dispersion sur les quatre départements de l'académie de Rennes, les classes de breton ne correspondent pas toujours à la demande des familles. Parce que les critères de l'Éducation nationale et les impératifs de bonne gestion ne permettent pas de mettre un enseignant pour quelques élèves. Dès lors, comment assurer à un élève qui a commencé le breton en début de primaire, qu'il pourra continuer jusqu'à la fin du cycle et trouver ensuite une classe de collège ? C'est l'objectif de la directive du ministre au recteur : trouver des solutions, en y associant les collectivités locales, les familles et les enseignants.

« Il nous faudra constituer des réseaux de classes » estime le recteur.

### Formation à l'IUFM de Saint-Brieuc

Autre problème du côté des enseignants : la création d'une filière complète d'études universitaires de breton, achevée par la création du DEUG, il y a quatre ans, n'a pas donné jusqu'ici le potentiel d'enseignants nouveaux attendus. Et souvent ils choisissent d'enseigner dans les écoles Diwan. Dès la rentrée prochaine des postes leur seront réservés à l'entrée de l'IUFM, avec une épreuve d'admissibilité en breton. L'IUFM de Saint-Brieuc pourra devenir le lieu de formation de tous les enseignants de breton, y compris pour les écoles Diwan, appelées à choisir un statut : soit l'intégration, soit le contrat d'association type loi Débré. Avec le Centre départemental de documentation pédagogique, l'IUFM de Saint-Brieuc pour-

rait devenir l'outil de réalisation des manuels pédagogiques. Si le conseil régional accepte de participer au financement de cette activité.

### Dernière chance

« L'école deviendra le dernier lieu où les jeunes pourront encore s'imprégner de breton, note Pierre Jakez Hélias, car il y a de moins en moins de familles ou villages où on le parle. » Le prof de latin-grec qui a donné ses lettres de noblesse au breton, en le propulsant dans la littérature, en lançant les feuilletons dans la presse et les émissions de télé en breton, veut encore défendre « cette belle langue, témoin d'une culture du peuple qui était aussi brillante que celle des intellectuels. »

Didier EUGÈNE.

**Les classes bilingues en Bretagne.** Dans le public : 546 enfants dans le primaire, 85 en collèges, répartis dans treize établissements. Dans l'enseignement privé catholique : 78 dans six écoles primaires du Finistère et du Morbihan. Chez Diwan : 848 élèves (y compris ceux de Loire-Atlantique) dans 61 classes primaires et maternelles, 88 au collège du Relecq-Kerhuon (Finistère).

**Six ouvertures de classes bilingues** en primaire ou maternelle prévues en septembre : Sarzeau (Morbihan), Plomeur, Douarnenez (Finistère), Pabu, St Roch de Lannion. Création d'un poste d'instituteur remplaçant à Rostrenen.

**Langue bretonne dans le secondaire :** 2 673 élèves dans le public, 730 dans le privé.

**Plus de 10 000** élèves suivent en primaire ou secondaire un enseignement d'initiation ou de sensibilisation à la langue et à la culture bretonnes.

**A l'université :** 220 étudiants à Rennes 2 (50 licences l'an dernier). 25 à Brest. A l'IUFM de Saint-Brieuc : un seul professeur des écoles en formation. Cinq autres préparent l'admission. Enfin quatre postes sont offerts au CAPES de breton.

**Les associations membres du conseil consultatif :** APEEB, Union des enseignants de breton, Elus bretonnantes, Diwan, Ar Falz-Skol Vreizh, Emgleo-Breiz, An Here, Association pour l'enseignement du gallo, Skolig al Louarn, Ar vro Bagan.

## DIWAN

On March 15th Diwan signed a new accord with the National Education department of France. This adds support for an additional 16½ teaching positions--60 of 65 pre-school and primary school posts and, for the first time, all eight teachers at the middle school level in the Collège Roparz Hemon. The state's total support of Diwan climbs to 8,870,000 francs (approximately \$1,775,000) of a total budget of 19,160,000 francs (approximately \$3,832,000). An additional 3,000,000 francs (\$600,000) for salaries must be covered by Diwan--including an additional 40 teachers for the 1993-94 school year.\*

The actual status of Diwan remains to be negotiated in terms of its integration into the public school system or a contract as a private school (*statut privé avec contrat d'association*). Neither option is ideal. Diwan awaits a decision from the Department of National Education on the role teacher training colleges (IUFM--Instituts Universitaires de Fromation des Maîtres) will have in training new Diwan teachers. The role of these institutions in determining the number of teachers trained and their pedagogy will impact not only Diwan but also the bilingual programs in public and private Catholic schools.

With a 15-20% growth in Diwan's school population each year, teacher training and finances both remain critical issues in Diwan's growth. Nevertheless work continues to expand especially at the upper levels with plans for a second middle school (located probably in the Guingamp area) and for a high school (located in the city of Brest).

\* Most of the information for this report was drawn from an article by J.C. Segaud in *Le Journal des Bretons/Breizh e Pariz*, 43, April 1993. I was somewhat confused by figures found in different newspaper articles from February reporting on negotiations in progress. In all, for the 1993-94 year, the number of Diwan teachers for preschool and primary school is about 100 with an additional 8 at the middle school level. It appears that the state will be covering salaries for approximately two-thirds of all the teachers.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Breton Classes on the Radio

A newspaper article (reprinted on the next page) reports on the inauguration of a series of classes for Breton to be aired on Radio France Bretagne Ouest (RBO) which reaches--unfortunately--only the western half of Brittany.

Starting January 25th, two-minute lessons would be aired (repeated) three times a day at 8:55 a.m., 12:55 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. The weeks worth of lessons would be reaired on Saturday from 1:30 to 2:00 p.m.

The radio series is prepared by the association Multilangues with the help of five teachers under the direction of Lukian Kergoat, director of the Celtic Section at the University of Rennes. Short stories on themes of everyday modern life will be recorded and given appropriate background sounds in the studios of RBO.

The collection of written texts with grammatical notes to accompany the series is available from RBO for 120 francs.

Ouest France January 27, 1993

### Des cours de breton sur RBO

Des séquences de deux minutes trois fois par jour pour s'initier au breton. A partir du 25 janvier, Radio France Bretagne Ouest proposera une méthode originale préparée par l'association Multilang et animée par le responsable de la section celtique à l'université de Rennes 2 Lukian Kergoat.

Le Télégramme January 27, 1993

### A l'école du breton sur les ondes



Hervé Debois, directeur de RBO, Jean-Yves Cozan, vice-président du conseil général et Yan Guillamot, président de multilangues, ont signé hier la convention.

Jean-Yves Cozan, vice président du conseil général, Hervé Debois directeur de RBO et Yan Guillamot président de l'association Multilangues ont signé hier à Quimper une convention de partenariat afin de permettre la diffusion sur les ondes de RBO d'une méthode moderne d'apprentissage du breton.

Le conseil général, a souligné Jean-Yves Cozan, investit déjà beaucoup dans le développement de la langue et de la culture bretonnes en aidant financièrement les écoles Diwan, les classes bilingues du public et du privé. Au retour d'un voyage de l'inter-groupe langues et culture régionale de l'assemblée départementale au Pays Basque, et prenant exemple sur ce qui se faisait là-bas, un projet d'apprentissage de la langue bretonne accessible à tous est né.

L'association Multilangues avec l'aide d'un collectif de cinq enseignants et collaborateurs dirigé par Lukian Kergoat directeur de la section celtique à l'Université de Rennes a mis au point une

méthode qui fait appel aux ondes et à l'écrit.

200 petites histoires ont été écrites sur des thèmes modernes comme le voyage. Racontées sous forme de dialogues, elles ont été enregistrées pour des passages de deux minutes à l'antenne après mixage et accompagnements sonores, bruitages liés aux thèmes qui mettront l'auditeur en situation, et qui seront réalisés par les techniciens de RBO.

A partir de lundi à 8h55, 12h55 et 17h55 RBO assurera la diffusion de ces enregistrements. Chaque séquence étant donc diffusée trois fois dans la journée et une compilation des séquences de la semaine repassera à l'antenne le samedi de 13h30 à 14h.

L'auditeur même débutant, grâce à ces modules sonores, devrait progresser rapidement.

Il aura de plus à sa disposition, en s'adressant à RBO, la possibilité d'avoir accès aux textes imprimés et accompagnés des explications grammaticales.

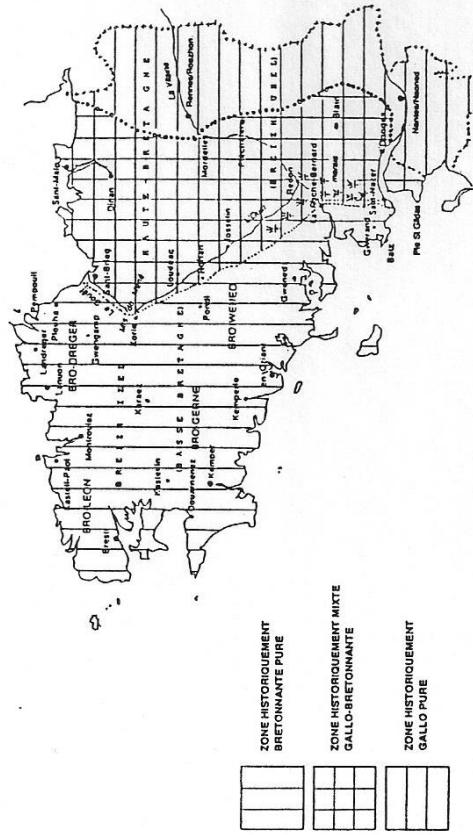
Ce recueil des 400 séquences coûtera 120 F.

The "brief introduction" on the Breton language which is found on this and the following page was prepared by Diwan-Paris, Entente Culturelle Bretonne, and Ti ar Brezhoneg.

# BREZHONEG

## The Breton Language

### Geographical Area



10

correspondence courses, "crash" courses and a few hours' teaching in secondary schools enable an ever increasing number of pupils to take Breton as a 2nd or 3rd optional language at the Baccalaureat (school-leaving exam.). The number of pupils wanting to study Breton has been estimated at 50,000 and demand outruns supply.

### Taking up the challenge: DIWAN.

This wave of enthusiasm has led to the creation of DIWAN ('growth'), nursery schools originally financed by parents and supporters where the children were totally "immersed" in the Breton tongue. Next, bilingual primary schools were founded, followed by the first Breton-speaking secondary school in Brest opened in 1983. After 16 years existence the DIWAN schools have become state-recognised and are practically entirely financed out of public funds. In response to popular demand and injunctions from European jurisdiction, the French National Education authority has finally agreed to make an exception to their strict monolingual principle and created bilingual kindergartens and primary schools, then bilingual secondary schools. Similarly the private Catholic schools have recently launched a bilingual scheme for their schools with financial aid from the Finistère department. But the total amount of pupils attending bilingual education, next to 1,700 in 1982, is still far from counterbalancing the rate of loss of native speakers.

The fight in favour of a language spoken for thousands of years is not limited to schools only. Several publishing firms have brought out magazines and books in Breton - 20 % of the literature edited in Brittany - and the productions of several theatrical companies, film producers and many singers are in "brezhoneg". The T.V. channel FR3, radio stations R.B.F.O., Radio-Armoricaine and several local broadcasting stations allot time to bilingual programmes. Town and county councils have set up bilingual road signs in town and country.

It is rather worth noting that 620 communes (rather similar to English parishes) including 281 out of 283 in the Finistère département have voted a text supporting the petition of the General Councils of Côte d'Armor, Finistère and Morbihan départements and the regional Council for Brittany, for Parliament to consider the problem of "Pour une Loi sur les Langues", 40bis rue de la République, 29200 BREST).

An economic aspect: while as from 1925 French law agrees, in accordance with article 4 of the Geneva annex to the International banking Convention, to making out cheques in Breton, only the bank "Crédit Mutuel de Bretagne" prints bilingual cheque books - a service which draws and retains the customers.

### Origins and Development of Breton.

Breton was first introduced into Armorica in the 4th century by immigrants from the Isle of Britain (the British Isles of today). These were long thought to have been fugitives but they were participants in a planned immigration according to the works of the late Professor L. Fleuriot who based his view on texts and place-names. (Les Origines de la Bretagne, Payot 1980). In support of this theory we note that the boundaries of the pure Breton speaking area follow the course of the Gouët, then the Oust and then run along the marshes lying along the lower Vilaine and reaching to the Loire - boundaries which would appear fore-planned. In the 'mixed' area little is known about the development or the motivations of Breton, and later of Gallo. Recommended reading: J.Y. Le Moing "Les noms des lieux bretons en Haute-Bretagne" (Coop-Breizh 1990).

### The Celtic Languages

Armorican Breton is an Indo-European language belonging to the brittonic branch of the Celtic languages together with Welsh, the national language of Wales, taught there since 1890, and Cornish, the old tongue of British Cornwall recently studied and spoken again by some Cornishmen. Welsh and Breton bear close resemblance as to the syntax and vocabulary but mutual understanding is hard without having studied the other tongue. Cornish, on the other hand is very similar to Breton, especially to the Breton dialect spoken in Tregor. Gaelic - the other branch of Celtic Languages - includes Irish, Scottish and Manx Gaelic. But Breton and Welsh (600,000 speakers) remain the most spoken Celtic languages.

### Users: Social Milieus and Recent Evolution

For long, Breton speakers were the members of rural families (farming folk and craftsmen) or fishing communities. In the towns Breton was spoken by many people moving in from the country, including their children, as well as by persons of note having to do with the country people, or having respect for the rights of all: priests, politicians, doctors, lawyers, shopkeepers, etc. If there has been a serious decline in the number of children with Breton as a mother-tongue (due to compulsory monolingual school-attendance, radio, T.V., rural exodus), this long-term threat to the language has given rise to a salutary awareness in widely different milieus. As a result there is now a good market for numerous dictionaries, readers, grammars and textbooks. At the same time evening classes,



## The Breton Language

Breton is a truly remarkable language especially on account of its syntactical suppleness (mobility of elements in a sentence), the possibilities offered by its conjugation and a system combining prepositions and pronouns. Breton is known to have been a written language as early as 74 B.C. - the Leyden manuscript of that date gives a recipe for the treatment of inflammation of a horse's hoof. It was used concurrently with Latin as a literary and scientific language and has also been found in many a gloss to charters and cartularies. But the first long poem to have survived destruction dates only from the 15th century. This prophetic poem entitled "An dialog etre Arzur, roe d'an Bretonned ha Guyngall" shows, by its internal rhymes, that the Celic technique of versification was still in use; the tradition had not changed since emigration from the British Isles, nor had production ceased.

**Modern literary Breton** has gained impetus from 19th and 20th century writers and linguists. In its written form its expression is unlimited. Like all living languages today it has a normal capacity for coining new words and borrowing from international economic, technological or scientific vocabulary, more or less 'bretonizing' such terms.

## Breton and the International Linguists.

In 1499 Arnold von Harff, the renowned German traveller drew up - as he had already done in Palestine and Abyssinia - a glossary of words in current use - this time at Guérande of the Vannes dialect. Later, numerous linguists made a study of Celtic languages, particularly at the Welesman John Davies with the help of the Catholicon, the 1464 Breton-Latin-French dictionary (which was incidentally among the first French dictionaries), pointed out the family link between Breton and Welsh. In 1786 another Valselman, William Jones, addressing the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, testified to the affinities between Sanscrit, (Avestian) Zend, Greek, Latin, Celtic and Germanic, his theory being confirmed in 1826 by Adolphe Pictet of Geneva. From 1786 to 1789 Empress Catherine II of Russia had a comparative vocabulary published in St. Petersbourg by P.S. Pallas. This was a vocabulary of 200 European and Asian languages, Breton being 14th in the list. The Breton translations were by two assistant delegates: Le Goazete from Quimper and Le Bucquir Dumesnir from Lannion. In 1853 Kaspar Zauss published in Bamberg, his famous Grammatica Celtica in Latin, which laid down the basis of Celtic philology. After him came Whitley-Stokes, Gaidoz, Rhys, Thurneysen, Kuno Meyer, Ascoli, D'Arbois de Jubainville, Padersen, Merven Mordiern... And we note particularly the Norwegian Sommerfelt for his book on Breton as spoken at St Pol de Léon, the Scot Kenneth Jackson for his Historical Phonology of Breton and the German Elmar Ternes, for his structural grammar of Breton as spoken in île de Groix.

Furthermore top-grade reviews have devoted articles to Celtic languages: in French "La Revue Celtique" which later became "Les Etudes Celtiques" and "La Bretagne Linguistique"; in English and Welsh "The Bulletin of the Board of Celtic Studies"; and in German, the famous "Zeitschrift für Keltische Philologie". Another review of international level is the Breton magazine "Ogam Celtaicum" which, amongst other remarkable studies, has published a dictionary of Old Celtic.

In the U.S.A., "Bro Nevez", the newsletter of the U.S. branch of the International Defense of the Breton Language, has published, in English, for the 33,000 residents who claim they know Breton (according to the last census) and for linguists, a most authoritative article on the present situation of Breton and the struggle for its promotion. (Editor: Loïs Kuter, 169 Greenwood Ave. B4 Jerkintown PA 19046, U.S.A.).

Lastly, for several years now has been appearing "Studia Celtaica Japonica" published by "The Celtic Society of Japan".

## Breton men of Science and their language.

Naturally, the Bretons themselves, be they grammarians, lexicographers, writers, professors or linguists are included in this research-work. We may consult "La Langue bretonne" (N.E.B., 1936) by Yann Brekilen; "Le Breton

Langue Celtique" (N.B. 1976) by H. Abalain; "Le Destin des langues Celtiques" (Opherys 1989). And we may mention the following who have devoted their time and sometimes their lifetime to the study of Breton: Grégoire de Rosieren, J.F. Le Gonidec, Colonel Troude, H. de la Villarmarqué E. Enault, Abbé Guillevic and Abbé Le Goff, F. Valié, Roparz Hamon, Loïz Hariou, Pierre Tepons and in the present days, Professor Per Deniz and Professor L. Fleuriot, whom we have already mentioned, as well as the linguists F. Fauchan, Jules Gros, C. Guyonvarc'h, R. Le Gleau, Fañch Monvannou, A.J. Raude, Jules Gros, Francis Favereau author of the *latast*, and until now most comprehensive contemporary Breton-French and French-Breton dictionary, etc.

## Literature

Breton literature, whether popular or literary, is abundant for such a circumscribed tongue and includes original works of all kinds. But this diversity is not evident in the works translated from Breton into English, since nothing would appear to exist between the "Barzaz Breiz" (popular songs, many of them very old) collected by H. de la Villemarqué in the mid 18th century, and immediately translated into English (as well as into many other European languages) and another universal success "Marh al Lorch" of Per Jakez Helias, "Le Cheval d'Orgueil" (translated into French as "Le Cheval d'Orgueil"). But a novel in Breton is announced for 1992 "Glas evel Daoulagad" (literally: Blue like the eyes...) by the Breton Per Deniz to be translated by professor Ian Presz of London University.

The number of didactic works in existence, however, is significant of the interest of English-speaking intelligentsia for the Breton language and the following are in the bookshops: by Ian Presz: "A Grammar of Modern Breton" (D. Gruyter 1987); a teaching method by professor Per Deniz "Brazhoneg Buanhag Aes" (Quick and easy Breton) 3rd Edition, Cork University Press, 1991, translated by the Breton Remon Delaporte; by B. Jouin, a trilingual vocabulary Breton-French-English edited by the newspaper Ouest-France 1985; two English-Breton Dictionaries, one by R. Delaporte (already mentioned), Cork University Press, 1979; the other by Remon Ar Porzh, "Geriadur Brezhoneg-Saozeg", "Breton-English Dictionary" in 3 vols, edited by "Moulaaduriou Hor Yezh", F 29260 Lesnaven, two volumes published and the third printing.

Sociological eye-witness accounts of Breton-speaking communities from the 18th century onwards are often found in the writings of English travellers abroad but, in view of the language handicap, their reports on the linguistic situation is of lesser value.

Of course translations from Breton into Welsh or French are far more numerous.

Amongst works which have been translated into French let us mention: "Barzaz Breiz", "Ar an deluin" (Kneeling) by J.P. Calloc'h, Plays by Tangy Malmanche, "Itron Varia garnez" (N.D. Bigouden) by Youenn Drezen. Amongst those accompanied by translations there are the works in Breton by Brizeux, a bilingual poet as well as the compilations, whether 19th century ("Les Derniers bretons" by E. Souvestre and "Les Veillées Bretones" by Luelz, recently re-edited by the Bibliothèque Céritique, Ed. Picollec), or contemporary "Le Brasier des Ancêtres" by J.P. Fouquer and L. Ar Flôch (Collection 10/18 1977), "Anthologie de la Chanson en Bretagne" by P. Durand (Oswald 1976) and by A.G. Hamon "Chants de toutes les Breizheng" (edited by Picollec 1981).

Works in Breton only are listed in the catalogues of Al Liamm, Hor Yezh, Ar Falz, Brud Nevez and all of them in the Coop Diffusion Breizh at Spezec which lists all those obtainable in bookshops. First of all, the best-sellers in Breton: "Buhez ar Zen" and "Bunaz ar Pevar Mab Emon", memoirs of Abezoen on the 1914-1918 war and those of Jari Piel on the times of the Chouans, "Dremm an Ankou", memoirs of Brizeux on the 1914-1918 war and those of Jari Piel on the Russian Revolution ("Ya zammig Buhez"), Jakez Riou for "Geofenn ar Warchez", Alan An Diuzer (Envorennou sur Prisonad - the 1939-1945 war in Nantes), Per Jakez Helias for "Math al Lorzh", Roparz Hemon (Nenn Jani), Yann Gerven for "Brestiz o Vesken" a detective novel, and also Yen ar Gov Anjela Duval... And among many more still we pay homage to those who have published, at their own expense, works in their own tongue or in their mother's tongue, tales, compilations, memoirs, Hanvec's monograph, Istor Hanvec, by Hervé Le Menn, founder of the Entente Culturelle Bretonne and reviver of the Breton "commeuse".

Dinan-Paris, Entente Culturelle Bretonne & Ti ar Brezhoneg-Pariz (15 rue des Tourrelles, 75020 PARIS, FRANCE)  
15-1-1993. Traduction B. Tessier-Mc Murtry

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Reun an Hir. By Road, Rail and Waves: Brittany's Transport System Throughout the Centuries.** Translated from Breton by D. G. Bayard; original title: **Dre Hent Pe Hent.** Mouladuriou Hor Yezh, 1992. 240 pages. footnotes, maps, illustrations, photos, tables, appendices.

Reviewed by James W. Kerr

This estimable book on the transport available then and now in Brittany from the oldest times on has much to offer anyone interested in how people and goods move. One disappointment must be noted: the balance promised in the title is not to be found, for the author's lifetime of railroading influences content and emphasis.

If you are a railroad buff, this one is for you, for there are whole chapters devoted to rail lore--one mainly on the international evolution of rail breadth (gauge). The relevance of this somewhat esoteric material to Brittany is beclouded by persistent complaint about what "they" (France) did to "us". Surely nobody questions the fact that in medieval times the lords of France grasped at any means to keep Bretons down.

The author's point that the layout of our earliest rail networks and their subsequent evolution reflect conscious choices made in Paris to keep control in Paris and to stifle Breton development or competitiveness seems a bit labored from our present vantage point. Yet, the choices were indeed made in Paris, and Breton development was indeed inhibited if not prevented; how much was malice and how much simple business expediency seems moot now.

The first two dozen pages give a fascinating look at early culture, up to the Révolution. Naturally, one starts with the justly famous Roman road net, and its map shows linkages not all that different from today's motoring guide. A major difference is in bridges--the Romans went in big for aqueducts, but roads went around. Troubles later between Breton dukes and parliaments were reflected in lack of progress in road building, though the otherwise deplorable Siquillon seems to have done well in that respect. But when "they" took over, Brittany suffered, and the routing of the railroads doomed the peninsula to second-class status.

Railroads take over the book on page 23, running through page 216. That leaves pages 217-233 for air and water and a bit more on roads. But the appendices are really useful--place names in Breton and French, bibliography, etc. The many photos are rather dated, but maps are plentiful. The translation (into British English) is adequate, but overall the book would have profited from a skilled editor /copy reader who had a transportation bent.

Worth a read.

## NEW RECORDINGS FROM BRITTANY

Reviews by Lois Kuter

Roland Becker. **Musiques traditionnelles --En Bretagne Morbihannaise.** (Bombarde - biniou - bag pipe - tambour - orgue). Arfolk CD 423, 1993. CD 1 hour 25 min. (Distribution: Diffusion Breizh, Kerangwenn, 29540 Spezet)

From his previous albums, Fallaën (1982) and Gav'rinis (1992), I knew that Roland Becker was a creative composer, accomplished saxophone and reed player, and one of the best bombarde players Brittany has seen. And from his work with the Kevrenn Alre I knew he had an exceptional grasp of ensemble performance--helping to keep that bagad at the top in competition for many years.

But, this new CD is a stunning display of Roland Becker's depth and skills in the traditional piping and bombarde styles of Brittany. And it is a very pleasant surprise that Roland Becker is also an exacting scholar of the music, dance and literary traditions of Brittany. He warns us at the beginning of the 24 pages of notes accompanying the CD that they can in no way substitute for a more complete and in-depth study of the traditional music of the Vannetais Pays, but these certainly rank among the best jacket notes I have seen in a long time--and readers of *Bro Névez* should know by now that I have a fanatical interest in the quality of notes which accompany recordings.

These notes, which appear to be jointly authored by Roland Becker and Laure Le Gurun, include a huge amount of information beginning with a clear definition of just what "Basse-Bretagne" and the "Pays Vannetais" are in terms of cultural and linguistic definition. The notes are also careful to give CD listeners some guidelines for interpreting the sounds they will hear--as interpretations of musical practices in the traditional society of the Vannetais Pays, focused on the bombarde.

Information about the bombarde is especially well developed in the notes with its history from antiquity to present day use in Brittany. The focus on the bombarde and related instruments is concentrated on the Middle Ages (V to XV centuries), the Renaissance (XVI century) and then the XVII through XIX centuries. The final section to this introductory essay describes the bombarde characteristic of Brittany and more specifically of the Vannetais area. Without overwhelming the reader with technical detail, this history clarifies terminology and gives a wealth of historical information and descriptive detail that instrument players and makers can truly enjoy (and others will find interesting). I can think of a few brave souls in the U.S. learning the bombarde who will find these notes extremely welcome in adding to their understanding of this instrument.

The bulk of the notes is made up of the descriptions for each of the 19 selections on the hour and twenty-five minutes of the CD. Like the introduction to the bombarde each of these essays is extremely rich in information about the history of Breton song, dance and instrumental traditions, including a wealth of biographical information about those who collected songs and tunes and about the musicians. One will find a great deal of "ethnographic" information as well--about the performance of music in the Vannetais country, festivals and holiday customs, marriage customs, and dancing. For musicians and those interested in a

more technical approach, there is a great deal of information on the various tunings of pipes and bombardes. And there is more history on piping in Brittany--especially the biniou and its use with bombardes and drums. Also very welcome are historical notes and clarifications on dance names, underlining well the complexity of traditional dance variations in the Breton tradition.

The notes are extremely dense but remarkably clear. I found them fascinating. Names and dates are everywhere (and very welcome) and some 35 books, manuscripts and articles are fully cited in footnotes at the end of the booklet. Over a dozen illustrations and photos are also well identified. The wealth of information included in so few pages is remarkable. For example, I was recently asked by someone when the first Scottish style bagpipes began to be used in Brittany. I had a vague and not too certain answer to give, and was delighted to find in these CD notes the precise answer to this question--detailing the first five instruments and their arrival and use in Brittany between 1895 and 1928 and briefly tracing their growth in use since the 1930s in pair with the biniou and as part of the bagad.

The notes fill in a lot of gaps in my knowledge which in all modesty is fairly good after nearly twenty years reading anything I could find about Breton music. They will be a delight to those who are truly hungry for more information about Breton music and dance. While the bombarde is a focus, Becker and Le Gurun cover a vast range of topics, and do it very well. As the authors warn, this is not a comprehensive or in-depth study, but it has a rare and wonderful depth that justly testifies to the richness of Brittany's musical and cultural history.

I would buy and recommend this CD for the notes alone, but the music is fully up to the high quality of the notes. From his other work I already knew that Roland Becker was a master of the bombarde. It was the piping traditions of Brittany--the paired biniou and bombarde as well as the newer bagads--which originally hooked me on Brittany and which continue to feed an addiction to its music. This CD offers no disappointments to someone who has listened to and truly likes traditional styles of Breton music. It is a prized addition to my collection of recordings.

There is a great deal of variety in Becker's arrangements and mix of bombardes with binious, bagpipes (Scottish style), drum and organ to demonstrate wonderfully the fact that Breton piping traditions have included a rich mix of instrumental combinations--and not just the biniou in pair with the bombarde. The CD selections are primarily duos and trios with biniou-bombarde predominant, but also including bagpipe-bombarde, bombarde-organ, and biniou-bombarde-drum (identified as a Second Empire drum). In one cut there is a quintet of bombardes with biniou and drum.

Novices to Breton music and to piping may not realize that bombardes and bagpipes are not standard. These instruments come in a variety of keys (i.e., tuned in different scales). On this CD Roland Becker uses bombardes in an untempered F, B flat and C. Four accomplished musicians--all natives of the Morbihan area--join Becker: Maurice Pommereuil (from Auray) with the drum, Philippe Quillay (from Carnac) on biniou (in three tunings: F, B flat and C), Hubert Raud (from Brec'h) on bagpipe (in the keys of B flat and C) and Herve Rivière (from Cléguer) on organ.

Besides a rich variety of instrumental combinations and varied tunings, the CD includes a variety of melodies and rhythms with a fairly equal mix of slower songs, cantiques and marches, with dance tunes (en dro, kas abarh, bal, gavotte, laridé, hanter dro).

The fine performance of the music is enhanced by the wealth of information in the notes which gives it a context, human faces, and a place in the evolution of traditional music in the Vannetais tradition of Morbihan. Brittany produces an exceptional number of fine recordings with good notes and masterful performances each year--this CD ranks among the best.

Kanerion Pleuigner--Choeur d'hommes de Pluvigner. **Chants traditionnels bretons Bro Gwened.** Arfolk CD 424, 1993. (Distribution: Diffusion Breizh, Kerangwenn, 29540 Spezet).

The small town of Pluvigner (Pleuigner in the Breton which is spoken there) is situated to the north of Auray in the department of Morbihan. This is Bro Gwened, the Vannetais Pays featured in Roland Becker's recording reviewed above. It is an area with a strong tradition of piping, but it is an area reckoned for its singers. This CD demonstrates why.

One cannot get much simpler in style than this group of 15 men who sing traditional ballads and dances in unison with no instrumental accompaniment. As one finds in many areas of Brittany, traditional song of this region is performed in a response style with a leader and a chorus repeating each phrase or part of the leader's verses. Unfortunately the CD does not identify the various leaders for the songs on the recording--each is excellent, as is the solid response of the chorus of fourteen others. Perhaps it is modesty or the idea that there are no "stars" to be distinguished which determined the absence of this notation. The photo gracing the back of the accompanying booklet could have a few less dark shadows to obscure the faces, but gives an idea of this unpretentious group of men. Most appear to be in their 30s or 40s with one youngster and a few more senior members with whiter, or less, hair. The names (last names with first initial) are listed below the picture but do not refer to particular individuals shown.

The CD notes provide the full Breton text with a French translation for each song, but give no background about the singers, or the songs. However, the scene is set very nicely for the listener in an opening story called "The meeting with the 'great'" which describes a gathering of singers after a long day of work in the fields at harvest time. The workers linger at the table and timidly one or another of them begins a song to which all present respond in chorus. As the story describes, there is no applause at the end, but the singers are honored with the rapt attention of those present and their hearty response in the singing. The youngsters who sit at the table begin to take up the tradition from the "big" or "great" ones. One can easily imagine this scene in listening to the voices on this CD. And, while casual tourists are highly unlikely to ever witness it, people in Brittany--men and women--do still gather to sing for pleasure. That is what this recording is about.

I particularly enjoyed the first seven selections--magnetic, slow ballads with incredibly beautiful melodies. The song texts spoke of the trials and tribulations of arranged marriages, or recounted a tragic murder. Particularly stunning was "Komans e ra en iliz glubein" about the murder of a young bride, discovered by her only brother, a priest. The remaining nine selections of the CD, a little over half of the 60 or so minutes of the CD, are lively dances--suites of shorter and lighter texts for the laridé and songs for hanter dro. These were also on the theme of lost and found love, the death of a young heroine, or the misbehavior of young ladies on their night out.

The songs on the CD are performed by men who quite obviously enjoy the pleasure of singing together. There is no audience--all are participants, and we are lucky to be invited to a corner of the room to listen. With the texts provided, there is certainly nothing to stop those with a good ear for the Vannetais dialect of Breton to join right in on the chorus.

Kanerion Pleuigner is not a group likely to hit the road on an international tour, but they do have a second recording, a self-produced lp record called **Cantiques vannetais**, released in 1988. This is distributed by Keltia Musique with the number KN 688.



Glaz. Glaz. Escalibur CD 848, 1993. (Distribution: Diffusion Breizh, Kerangwenn, 29540 Spezet).

Reviewed by Lois Kuter

It was with some trepidation that I viewed the category "Celtic world music" attached to the press releases accompanying the CD by the group Glaz. Oh no, not another trendy pop recording with no audible roots anywhere in the world. When public radio stations here picked up on what was called "world music" I thought this would finally mean access to the incredible diversity of music traditions from all over the world we so rarely get the chance to hear. Instead, I was disappointed to hear a standard pop which all started to sound alike in short time, no matter whether the musicians hailed from Africa, Jamaica or New Guinea. It wasn't a music liberated from American domination, but it was a music that to me had little heart and soul to it ... a vague expression of universal themes that were arranged to suit a mass audience. What has been promoted as "world music" has been a disappointment to me, so I hoped that what was being promoted as "Celtic world music" would be a little more interesting.

I still prefer the power of an a capella *gwerz*, but the music of the group Glaz is certainly not disappointing and they are skilled representatives of a relatively new style of music in which Bretons express their world. In many of the cuts on their new CD the musical sound of Glaz seems to have only a subtle influence from the unique melodies and rhythms of the Breton tradition, but there is a Celtic swing and moments where the Breton roots are quite audible. In their melodies and rhythms, the music of Glaz is immediately accessible to anyone in the world who enjoys a pop/rock sound--it is a "world music" in that sense. The addition of "Celtic" to "world music" is more than justified in the inspiration of themes and texts, and in the fact that the group makes no effort to present themselves as anything but Breton--pulling from an ancient mythology which is a unique part of their culture as well as from contemporary life with its joys and sorrows which are not at all unique to life in Brittany.

Seven of the songs on the CD are compositions by the bass player, Yann Honoré, delivered by the lovely and versatile voice of Nathalie Brignonen, or sometimes by keyboard player Jean-Claude Normant whose voice can also be heard. Four texts are in Breton, four are in English and two are a mix of both. Two of the twelve selections on the CD are purely instrumental. In both written form and in the sung delivery, the English texts are excellent. I cannot judge the Breton so easily, but it sounds natural, and I assume the same skill was invested in the composition of those texts as is found in the English texts.

Two texts on the CD are pulled from the Breton tradition. "An heni a garan" is a classic tale of love lost to emigration to a far-away country to find work. "Marzhin" ("Merlin") is a text from the famous 19th century song collection by La Villemarqué called *Barzaz Breiz*. Both sound brand new.

Yves Ribis, the guitarist for Glaz, is credited for many of the arrangements on the CD. Rounding out the group with percussion is Jean-Christophe Boccou, and Ronan le Bars adds an acoustic element with uillean pipes, low whistle, Highland bagpipes and tin whistle. The instrumental backup for the songs is a nice mix of acoustic

with a good electric zing to keep things moving along. The lovely clear (and sometimes sultry) voice of Nathalie Brignonen caught the attention of most of the journalists in the newspaper reviews which accompanied the CD, but I also liked the voice of Jean-Claude Normant very much. The instrumental accompaniment was accomplished and interesting. Although my puny speakers and low-cost CD player limit the full sound quality available, the technical quality of the recording (by "Studio Bleu" in Guiclan) was excellent.

The jacket notes (which are always a critical factor in my good, or bad, review of a new recording) are in this case excellent. In addition they are artistically exceptional with artwork depicting mythological creatures and anthropomorphic forests by Pascal Moguérou on all of the 16 pages of the CD booklet. Each musician of Glaz is depicted in a fanciful manner as a fairy-like creature seated on or among giant mushrooms with instruments alive with singing faces. In true Celtic tradition, the artwork blends nature with human forms in the forests with curiously human roots and trunks, as well as in a number of sea, land and airborne creatures. The notes include the full texts for all the songs--always a welcome addition.

Glaz is the Breton word for blue, or green, or even gray--reflective of the changing colors of the sea and sky in Brittany. And certainly the group Glaz has a color to its music that captures the word "glaz" very nicely.

#### SOME RERELEASES OF NOTE

The following three recordings have all recently been reissued by Ar Men (with other organizations) on CD and cassette--with some additional selections. All three can be ordered from Ar Men (Abri du Marin, B.P. 159, 29171 Douarnenez Cedex, France) or other Breton distributors for 120 francs (CD) or 90 francs (cassette)--not including postage.

**Sonneurs de vielle en Bretagne.** Anthologie des chants et musiques de Bretagne, Vol. 2. Ar Men. 1993. CD or cassette. 72 minutes.

Ten years after its first appearance as a double 1p record set in 1983 this collection featuring the vielle à roue (or hurdy-gurdy) has come out on CD and cassette. The recording focuses on older masters of this instrument traditionally practiced in the Côtes d'Armor in the region around the city of Saint-Brieuc: Victor Gautier, Joseph Quintin, Jean Gauçon, Louis Mourin, François Lefeuvre, Adrien Cardin, Louis Gouret and Bernard Gauçon. But included also are some younger performers who take the traditions a step further. Recordings include traditional marches and dances (passpied, rond, avant-deux, guëdeñne and polka) from this area of Brittany as well as songs related to the Easter Passion. The 1993 edition has been enriched with newer recordings from dances, informal evening parties and concerts. I assume the extremely rich documentation which accompanied the original recording has been retained--pages explaining how the vielle à roue works--a complex stringed instrument much better thought of as a fiddle than the organ-grinder's "hurdy-gurdy". As well as a history of this instrument's tradition in Brittany, the notes also included a large number of photographs and biographical information about the musicians to help bring them and their music to life.

Rereleases -- continued

**Sonneurs de clarinet en Bretagne/Sonerien Treujenn Gaol.** Coproduced by Ar Men, Dastum and Paotred an Dreujenn-Gaol. Anthologie des chants et musiques de Bretagne, Vol. 3 CD or cassette. 72 minutes.

This is the reedition of a double album produced in 1986 which brought the rich heritage of the clarinet in central western Brittany to much wider attention. The work of the organization Paotred an Dreujenn-Gaol is evident not only in this wonderfully documented recording, but also in the annual festival they put together each year which brings clarinet players from all over the world (see a description of this year's event in this issue).

This rerelease shows off very well the unique way Bretons use the clarinet for their own music and this instrument remains a favorite in the Fanch and Fisel regions of central western Brittany as well as a bit further to the east in Mené. The recording includes recordings made between 1959 and 1993 of 24 different musicians who play 42 melodies, marches and dances: gavottes, dañs dro plin, dañs Treger, passpieds, ronds du Mené. Some recordings made more recently at festou noz have been added to the 1986 recording which includes the masters of this instrument. (See **Bro Nevez** 20, August 1986, for the original review of the album).

**Sonneurs de Veuze en Bretagne et en Marais Breton Vendéen.** Coproduced by Ar Men and Dastum. Anthologie des chants et musiques de Bretagne. Vol. 4. CD and cassette. 67 minutes.

Equally welcome in this series of reeditions is an album devoted to the veuze, a bagpipe of the Loire River area of southeastern Brittany and the northern part of the Vendée. Literally brought back from the verge of extinction, this bagpipe has now reentered the Breton tradition thanks in large part to pipers who make up the organization Sonneurs de Veuze. Members of this group are also responsible for the excellent documentation which accompanies this recording--a fascinating story of the revival of the veuze as well as background about the music.

Nine new pieces have been added to the reedition which includes a number of younger musicians who have become well known for their use of this instrument in groups which play in concert and at dances: the groups Echo, Ellébore, Trio de Veuze, and individual pipers and musicians/singers Roland Brou, Thierry Bertrand, Thierry Moreau, Patrick Bardoul and John Wright ... among others. (See **Bro Nevez** 27, May/August 1988, for a review of the original release).

# FESTIVALS IN BRITTANY

The following information was gleaned from the latest issue of **Musique Bretonne**, a bimonthly publication produced by Dastum. This magazine includes articles with lots of photos about Breton music, dance and oral traditions, story texts, music transcriptions and song texts, as well as book and record reviews and pages to list musical events in Brittany (and elsewhere). While the focus is on traditional Breton music, this magazine is an excellent source of information on what is happening in Brittany. Subscription is 130 francs per year (allow extra for mailing to U.S.). Address: Musique Bretonne, c/o Dastum, 16 rue de Penhoët, 35065 Rennes, France.

It is impossible to give much advance notice of events in **Bro Nevez** since we come out only on a quarterly basis, but the following will certainly give you a good idea of the wealth of activity in Brittany. Many of the festivals listed are annual events which take place at approximately the same time each year. While July and August have traditionally been the big festival months in Brittany, the spring and fall are full of smaller but equally interesting events ... and the winter months are certainly not lacking in musical activity. Please note that the following is by no means a complete guide to events in Brittany during April and May, but it will give you an idea of just how rich the Breton music scene is.

Lois Kuter

## Festivals and Contests

Contests are usually set within a larger context of musical activity so they are listed here with other festivals.

- |             |   |
|-------------|---|
| April 3-4   | <b>Pipriac Festival:</b> To honor the awarding of the Herve Le Menn Prize to Albert Poulain, traditional singers and story tellers gather in his home town of Pipriac for informal musical gatherings in cafes as well as a dinner where singers take turns to perform throughout the course of the meal.   |
| April 11    | <b>16th Spring Festival of Châteauneuf (Printemps de Châteauneuf):</b> Dancing (fest deiz and fest noz) with a dozen pairs of traditional pipers and singers, and concerts of traditional and less traditional musicians including Bagad Kemperle, Michel Gentils-Orion, Gerard Delahaye, J.-M. Veillon/Y. Riou, Cocktail Swing, Pat O'May et les Trolls.   |
| April 18    | <b>Championship contest for 2nd Category Bagads.</b> in Rostrenen.  |
| April 23-25 | <b>10 Year Anniversary Celebration for Radio Kreiz-Breizh</b> in Sant-Nigouden. 10 year anniversary celebration for local radio station including dancing and concerts. Musicians and groups include: Marcel Guillou, Jef Philippe, Jakeza Le Lay, Annie Ebrel, Diarmuid Johnson, Pierre Nohaic, Philippe/Thomas, Creis/Bizouarn, Boulanger/Nolent, Frères Morvan, Landre/Coateval, Germaine and Valentine, Y-F. Kemener, Christian Duro, Crepillon/Bigot, Gildas Moal, Gilles Le Bigot, Jean Coadou, Ar Re Yaouank, Bernez Tanguy, Yvon Etienne & Gégé, Daniel Philippe, Jean-Pol Huellou, Patrick Ewen, Dremmwell, Denez Prigent, Per-Vari Kerloc'h, Pat O'May, Serge Louarn, Alain Michel. |

- April 25     **"3-4-5" Meetings of Pluzunet:** Contests for trios, quartets and quintets of all compositions who interpret traditional Breton music..
- April 26-30     **14th International Festival of Film and Television of the Celtic Countries in Lorient** (rotates to different Celtic country each year): International cinema competition, conferences, film showings and workshops centered around audio-visual work in the Celtic countries.
- Throughout April     **Kan ar Bobl:** April is the month where eliminatory contests take place in different towns of Brittany for this contest of traditional and new song, and instrumental arrangements. This has been the event where hot new groups try out center stage.
- May 1     **"Dastum 56" Festival** in Languidic: Festival for people who have worked with Dastum in the areas of Vannes, Auray, Baud, Pourlet and Lorient-Hennebont. Workshops on area's lesser-known dances, storytelling (J. Le Paboul, D. Carre) and song (J. Le Meut, E. Le Provost, L. Capitaine, E. Le Saoz, A. Lucas, N. Le Buhe, S. Le Hunsec) and fest noz with song, biniou-bombarde, diatonic accordion...
- May 1-2     **Night of the Gavotte in Poullaouen**, 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.: dancing the gavotte to singers and pipers of the Poullaouen area. (see the description which follows)
- May 2     **Monterfil Festival:** Music and dance contests, with music by Cercle Celtique de Rennes, Gallo Breton Groupe, Cercle and Bagad of Cesson, and Cercle de Montfort.
- May 7-8     **Arwen Festival** in Klergereg: Concerts and dancing, contests for the dance laridé gavotte. Musicians and groups include: Cocktail Diatonique, Storvan, Strobinell, Le Meur/Toutous, Trouzerion, Laurent Jouin, Bourdin/Dautel, Chanteurs des Pays de Vilaine, Dastumerion ar C'hreizteiz, Kikonepayoun, Denez Prigent, Sonerion Du, Carré Manchot, Skolvan, Bothua/Le Buhé, Urvoy/Malrieu, Frères Morvan, Hervieux/Beauchamp, Frères Quéré, Hetet/Le Goff, Koun, ar Re Yaouank, Moal/Chaplain, Kanerien Pleuinier, and Altan (from Ireland)
- May 7-9     **8th Froger-Ferron Prize Competition for Diatonic Accordion** in Parce (Fougères): Music and dance of Upper Brittany including Quimbert/Lessin/Boulet Trio, Eugénie Duval and Frofro, Gwen Fol, Huitellour Noz, La Giberli, Tire Baise, Chaberjack, Inzhe, and other singers and story tellers.
- May 9     **Festival of the Cross of Mi-Lieu** (Centre Culturel Plestin-les-Grèves): includes fest deiz (dance) (with Malrieu/Urvoy, R. Poitevin, Robin/Suignard/Lintanf, Y. Troadeg) and traditional Breton games.
- May 14-16     **Fiddle Festival ("La corde et le crin")** in Guivinec: Concerts and dancing including musicians and musical groups: Stephane Grapelli Trio, Patrick and Jacky Molard, Vidal-Marthes Duo, Bardoul Trio, Paddy and Charlie O'Neill, Michel Esbelin, Patrick Sicard Trio, l'Ecrin, music school of Pont-l'Abbé, Vrod-Champeral-Durif Trio, Archetype.

- May 19-23 **5th International Gathering of Folk Clarinet Players** in Glomel and Berrien: Concerts, dancing, parades and contests for traditional clarinet styles of Brittany and elsewhere in the world; includes performances of newer styles and compositions as well.
- May 21-23 **Festival for the Opening of the Port Museum of Douarnenez**: Concerts (Didier Squiban, Manu Lannhuel) and informal performances of maritime song, as well as demonstrations of crafts and the launching of reconstructed boats and ships.
- May 29-30 **Gouel ar Brezhoneg** (Festival for the Breton Language) in Speied and Carhaix: Festival for Breton language arts including conferences, information and book stands, concerts and contests for traditional song and new compositions in the Breton language.

Other Events: Concerts, Feasts ...

- April 3 Music and dance performance by the **Kevrenn Alre**, in Auray.
- April 4 "**Grafting, new cider and gastronomy**", Ecomuseum of Rennes. Contest for farm cider (a fermented brew), demonstrations of tree grafting and cider-making, music included.
- April 17 **Annual General Assembly of Dastum**, Loudeac. Annual business meeting open to all active with Dastum.
- April 17 **Piobaireachd Concert**, Piobaireachd Association of Brittany, in Commana. Including John D. Burgess, Roderick MacLeod, William MacCallum and Breton, Hervé Le Floc'h.
- April 18 Feast for pipers, singers, tall-tale tellers ... organized by Jean Baron, Ploemeur. Music during the meal and a fest-deiz to follow using all the musicians present to keep the dancing going.
- May 16 **Butter-making day**, Ecomuseum of Rennes. Demonstrations on butter-making craft.

Fest noz and Fest deiz (just a few of those taking place...)

Dances (noz = night; deiz = daytime)

- April 3 Fest noz in Merdrignac. Includes music of BF 15, Pennou Skoulm, Mangeous d'paille ...
- April 3 Fest noz in Bréal ss/Montfort. Includes music by La Bouèze, Éoline, Gyeblez-Vassalao...
- April 3 Fest noz in Saint-Just. Includes music by Vents d'Oust, Kamm-Digamm, Arzoustaff, Chanteurs du pays de Vilaine...

- April 3                   Fest noz in Pederneig. Includes music by Moal/Chaplain, Lehart/Feon, Morvan/Peron, Troadeg, Roger Poitevin, Gwiader/Keleneg, Kastell/Gorju, Suignard/Robin/Lintanf...
- April 17                  Fest noz in Concoret. Includes music by Yann Dour, LeBlanc/Ermel, Bono/Molac, Gueblez/Vassalo..
- May 19                  Fest noz in Moreac, to benefit the Diwan School of Baud.

Workshops to learn music and dance

- April 3                  **Bagpipe workshop**, Centre Breton d'Art Populaire, in Brest. Taught by Patrick Molard.
- April 4                  **Kan ha diskan singing class** (taught by E. Tanguy) and **Diatonic accordion class** (taught by Alain Pennec) Centre Breton d'Art Populaire, in Brest.
- April 10 & 18            **Workshops for the Dans Fisel**, Centre Culturel de Guingamp. Beginner's classes. Advanced classes on 18th.
- April 17                  **Bagpipe workshop** (taught by Patrick Molard) and Flute workshop (taught by Jean-Michel Veillon) Centre Breton d'Art Populaire, in Brest.
- April 18                  **Workshop on dances from the Chateaubriant region** (taught by P. Bardoul) Centre Breton d'Art Populaire, in Brest.
- April 26 to May 1      **Spring Workshops at Ti Kendalc'h**, Saint-Vincent-sur-Oust. Classes for beginner's diatonic accordion (Patrick Bardoul); continued diatonic accordion (Yann Dour); fiddle (Jean-Yves Bardoul); clarinet (Yves Le Blanc); Celtic harp (Anne Marie Jan); social (ballroom?) dancing (Isabelle Rajalu).
- April 29, 30 and May 1   **5th Annual Music/Dance Workshop at La Chapelle-Neuve** (5ème stage de Mod All). Classes on traditional song (Erik Marchand, Marcel Guillou); guitar (Gilles Le Bigot, Soig Siberil); biniou koz/bombarde (Youenn Le Bihan, Pierre Crepillon); fiddle (Fanch Landreau, Christian Le Maître); clarinet (Michel Aumont); diatonic accordion (Yann-Fanch Perroches); flute (Jean-Michel Veillon, Herve Guillou); bodhran (David Hopi Hopkins).
- May 16                  **Traditional Song workshop** (taught by Erik Marchand) Centre Breton d'Art Populaire, in Brest.
- May 22-23               **Breton Music Workshop**, in Meriadec. Classes for bombarde (Christophe Caron); dance (Yves Le Blanc); diatonic accordion (Yann Dour, Patrick Bardoul); fiddle (Jean-Yves Bardoul).

## A Night of Gavotte in Poullaouen

On the cover of this issue of Bro Nevez is reproduced a poster advertising a festival called "Nozvezh ar gavotenn." Like many of the most enjoyable festivals of Brittany, this one is relatively small, organized by a community-based group, and focused on the traditions of that community ... in this case, the dance gavotte. And, this is a festival for people of the community of Poullaouen, as well as for others who enjoy dancing the gavotte. Musicians for the "12 hours of gavotte" include some of the best traditional singers from the area around Poullaouen (kan ha diskan style), and song will be the predominant medium for dancing. But music will be provided also by a number of well known "sonerien" (players of the biniou koz or biniou braz paired with bombarde), and a number of clarient (treujenn gaol) and accordion players.

The following "press release" is from the organization Dans Tro who organizes this annual event as well as other activities. (my translation).

Since its creation in 1989, the Association Dans Tro has stimulated, been responsible for, or participated in the organization of nearly twenty events--from the projection of films to a concert by the Trio Erik Marchand, as well as help in clearing walking paths through the countryside.

But its principle activity is without question the famous "Nozvezh ar Gavotenn". The "12 hours of gavottes" in 1989, 1990, 1991 and 1992 had as their goal to gather singers, pipers and dancers who shared a single aim: to dance the gavotte.

Despite the success of these past years' events, one fears that these "12 hours" might become little by little just a simple fest deiz/fest noz. That is why this 1993 edition will be a more literal translation of "Nozvezh ar gavotenn" and will become a true night of gavotte. In line with the most ancient traditions, it will take place in a farm shed in the center of the village of Poullaouen.

Thus on the night of May 1, 1993, starting at 9 p.m. dancers and musicians will gather at Stancou in the 400 square meter shed of the ULM Club which has been put at the disposition of Dans Tro.

Pipers, singers, accordion and clarinet players will take turns throughout the night, and the festival will end in the early hours of the morning with a traditional onion soup offered to all who have "held on" until then.



# 5th International Gathering of Clarient Players

The following press release gives a good idea of the flavor of this major international festival now in its 5th year in Brittany (my translation).

The clarinet has an important place in the instrumental music traditions of Central Brittany. Its domain is the southern part of the Côtes d'Armor and the Monts d'Arrée of Finistère. Sixty traditional clarinet players participate in the organization Paotred an Dreujenn Gaol to keep this tradition alive, pass it on, and make it a tradition of creativity.

Since 1989 Paotred an Dreujenn Gaol has organized the International Gathering of Folk Clarinet Players: presenting popular traditions from India to Brittany, from Bulgaria to Martinique. For the 5th Gathering, Breton clarinet players have invited their counterparts from 20 or so regions of France and the world--most of them unknown in the musical world, but representative of traditions which are well rooted, surprising, and very lively.

The 1993 edition presents some new discoveries: musicians will come from Sweden, the Andes of South America, Italy, Greece, the Vendée region of France, and Brittany. And jazz will also be well represented.

The clarient will thus serve to give a taste for the discovery of other musics to the local population of Glomel and Berrien where the festival is based.

## 5<sup>eme</sup> RENCONTRE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CLARINETTE POPULAIRE EN CENTRE BRETAGNE

**GLOMEL 22                    BERRIEN 29**

### MERCREDI 19 MAI                    BERRIEN

21 h	CONCERT SUEDE <i>Kjell Westling - Anders Rosén - Roland Keijser clarinettes - violon - saxophone soprano</i>
22 h 30	FEST-NOZ DE LA MONTAGNE

### JEUDI 20 MAI                    BERRIEN

15 h	GRANDE PARADE DU FESTIVAL <i>EPIRE - VENDEE - BRETAGNE - EQUATEUR ...</i>
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### VENDREDI 21 MAI                    GLOMEL

21 h (*)	TROVESI - TESI - VAILLANT                    ITALIE <i>clarinettes - accordéon - mandoline</i>
22 h 30	JAZZ - TRIO SCLAVIS <i>Louis Sclavis - Jacques Di Donato - Armand Angster - clarinettes</i>

### SAMEDI 22 MAI                    GLOMEL

11 h	Randonnée musicale
14 h	Atelier musical
21 h (*)	CONCERT EPIROTE                    GRECE <i>clarinette - chant - laouto - violon - defi</i>
22 h 30	KLIK HA FARZ - CREATION pour clarinettes de M. Aumont
23 h	FEST - NOZ , BAL, MUSIQUE EQUATORIENNE

### DIMANCHE 23 MAI                    GLOMEL

10 h 30	Concours de treujenn-gaol
11 h 30	Défilé
12 h	Apéritif musical - REPAS FEST-DEIZ, SCENE OUVERTE, ANIMATIONS, BOEUF... avec les musiciens du festival <i>Equateur, Bretagne, Italie, Vendée, Epire, Suède</i>

DURANT LE FESTIVAL Animations, Stands, Expositions, Vidéos...  
(\*) Restauration chaude le soir avant les concerts

**5<sup>VED</sup> GOUEL ETREVROADEL AN DREUJENN-GAOL**



## Breton Magazines Recently Received

As editor for **Bro Nevez** I receive a number of Breton newsletters and magazines in exchange for our publication, and I subscribe to others on my own. This helps me pass along information to you as well as to those who write to the U.S. ICDBL for information.

Over the years I have found that for me one of the most useful features of Breton magazines has been a column where other recent publications are summarized--especially magazines which cannot be found in the U.S. So, for this issue of **Bro Nevez** I am providing a synthesis of some of the more recent issues of magazines I have received from Brittany. If you are interested in hearing more, please let me know. The list which follows is alphabetical.

**Ar Falz** is the quarterly magazine of the organization of the same name which was founded in 1933 by Yann Sohier. Much of the content of each issue is of a pedagogical nature--in Breton and French--for use by public school teachers who are teaching the Breton language or about the culture of Brittany. Often a great deal of space is devoted to the activities of Ar Falz: language classes, conferences, meetings. Each 50-80 page issue also includes a wealth of short notes on cultural activities in Brittany. Sometimes an entire issue is devoted to a single topic, and this was the case for the 1st issue of 1993 (no. 80) which focuses on Ernest Renan, famous throughout Europe in the later half of the 19th century for his philosophical works and studies of religion.

**Ar Men** is published bi-monthly and is one of the most beautiful publications I have ever seen in terms of its visual quality and the excellence of its scholarly content. The cost for subscription is very high (about \$100 a year for surface mail) but you get what you pay for in each 80-page issue. Articles are well written and researched and include spectacular photography, good maps, art reproductions and illustrations. Six longer articles made up the bulk of the April 1993 issue (no. 50): shell fishing and the ecology of the Bay of Saint-Brieuc; turn of the century architecture in Rennes; pre-World War I cinema and the Parisian view of Brittany; the construction of farm hedges in Brittany; and a portrait of the artist and sculptor René Quillivic (1879-1969). Shorter features included part of an ongoing series on Breton family names and the regular publication of letters to the editor, festival and record reviews, book reviews, and notes on museum and art exhibits.

**Bremañ** is a monthly 20-page magazine in Breton which serves as an excellent source of information on current events in Brittany (and the world). No. 140, May 1993, includes articles and notes on Diwan's recent negotiations with the French government, a cultural festival for children in the Catholic schools, European events, current events in North Korea, Bosnia and Peru, the environmental protection of a site in Morbihan, and an interview with J. Fretel, President of A.C.O.R., an "chain" of movie theaters. As usual, the issue also includes a wealth of short notes.

**Bretagne des Livres** is a 15-20 page newsletter published by Skol Uhel ar Vro (the Cultural Institute of Brittany) which focuses on publishing in Brittany--in both Breton and French. Short articles focus on a particular subject area, a specific publisher, author, or event such as a convention or book fair. The April 1993 issue includes articles on maritime literature, an interview with Christian Bobin, and notes on a festival on writers who focus on foreign travels. Of particular interest to those with a bibliographical interest is a regular listing (by publisher) of newly published works. Short notes on publishers, literary prizes, poetry contests, exhibits, etc. are also valuable in giving a good idea of the level of literary activity in Brittany.

**Gouren Infos/Actualités** is an 8-10 page newsletter for those who practice Breton wrestling (an ancient Celtic style) and for those, like me, who take an interest in this unique sport as a spectator. This newsletter gives results of tournaments, announcements of upcoming events, and interesting notes on the history of Celtic wrestling. The March 1993 issue includes a page on the origin of the Breton word for wrestling, "gouren" and discusses some Breton place names related to it.

**L'Avenir de la Bretagne** is a 15-20 page monthly magazine produced by the political group P.O.B.L. (Parti pour l'Organisation d'Une Bretagne Libre). Unapologetically militant in tone, the editorial nature of many of the articles will be lost on those not up on current politics in France or sympathetic to the Breton Movement for more political autonomy. Those able to evaluate the rhetoric will find this magazine very useful for its coverage of economic issues as well as regular notes on Breton history and cultural activities. Articles in the May 1993 issue (no. 375) focus on reforming France's Chamber of Deputies, the problem of unemployment in Brittany, Brittany's Gaulic heritage, the ports of Nantes and Saint-Nazaire, and Breton "ethnicity".

**Le Journal des Bretons/BreizhePariz** is a monthly 20-25 page publication from the Breton emigrant community in Paris. This has grown to be a very interesting source of information on Breton cultural activity as well as the activites of the Paris Breton community. The May 1993 issue focuses on Brittany's maritime heritage with an interview of Louis de Catuelan who is working for the creation of a national foundation for the maritime and river heritage of France. This issue (no. 44) also includes an article on Brittany's historic relations to Poland, the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, and shorter notes on new publications, literary events and prizes, Breton history, museum exhibits, sports, and the usual calendar of events.

**Musique Bretonne** is the bi-monthly magazine of the archives/research center called Dastum. While focused on traditional styles of Breton music, the 25 pages of this magazine include a wealth of details on musical events in Brittany, new books and recordings, festivals, etc. At least half of its pages are devoted to short, well researched articles and interviews about traditional music and Breton oral traditions, their history (including fascinating photographs), and performers. The March/April 1993 issue (no. 122) includes articles on the 10th anniversary festival for Radio Kreiz-Breizh, a profile of singer and story teller Albert Poulain, part of an ongoing series of articles on the history of harps and lyres, part of a series on the depiction of musical instruments on postage stamps (in this case the accordion), and a transcription of a Breton language tale, besides all the usual information on upcoming concerts, dances, workshops and conferences. I have found this magazine critical in keeping informed of musical events in Brittany.

\* \* \* \* \*

## A LAST MINUTE ALERT!!

### Breton Music at the Mystic Seaport Maritime Music Festival

The 14th Annual Sea Music Festival of the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut, will be held June 11, 12 and 13. This year three exceptional performers of Breton music will be present for concerts and workshops. **Michel Colleu**, of Douarnenez, has been active with the organization Le Chasse-Marée. He plays a number of instruments, sings, and brings to the festival a great deal of scholarship. Although not Breton, singer Catherine Perrier and singer and fiddler John Wright are masters of traditional maritime song from Brittany as well as other regions of France. They are both well worth a trip to the festival.

For more information: Call (203) 572-0711 (weekdays) and ask for School Services  
Mystic Seaport Museum, Exit 90 off I-95, Mystic, CT 06355

# A Resource for European Languages: Mercator Information Networks

Mercator is a group of four computerized information and documentation networks established and coordinated by the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages with support from the Commission of the European Communities. Four pilot centers have been set up to work on different themes.

## 1) Mercator - Education

c/o Fryske Akademy  
Deelestrjitte 8  
8911 DX Ljouwert/Leeuwarden  
The Netherlands

The focus of this pilot center is the collection, storage, research, and publication of information on educational practices and policies for sixteen language communities in Europe. Topics include bilingual education, publications, specialized organizations, conferences, workshops, teacher training, language classes, research, etc.

## 2) Mercator - Law and Legislation

c/o CIEMEN  
c. Pau Claris 106 1r.1a.  
08009 Barcelona  
Catalonia, Spain

This center focuses on laws and legislation concerning linguistic rights. The group has the difficult task of interpreting different countries' laws. The data base includes text summaries, dates and places of application for legislation, and other bibliographic information. This center publishes a newsletter providing updates on new legislation and participates in conferences and workshops in Europe.

## 3) Mercator - Media

Elin Haf Gruffydd Jones  
A.A.G.L.I  
Prifysgol Cymru (University of Wales)  
Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 3AS  
Cymru/Wales

This center researches and surveys radio, television, film, newspaper, magazine and book publishing, archives and libraries, electronic data storage and networks concerned with minority languages. The first volume of a media guide has been published and includes 9 of 35 minority languages in Europe: Breton, Catalan, Welsh, Basque, Frisian, Irish, Scottish Gaelic, Cornish and Slovene in northern Italy. This lists media by address and provides descriptions. 225 pages.

## 4) Mercator - General Studies

Henri Giordan  
Research Director at CNRS  
President of Mercator-France  
40 rue des Aulnes  
92330 Sceaux  
France

Mercator - continued

This center documents an overview of research on minorities to support an interdisciplinary approach to their study. They aim to produce a bibliographical data bank of publications of an analytical nature...

The pilot centers work autonomously, but include teams with expertise in various language communities. Such a coordinated effort aids minority language speakers in finding resources quickly and helps them to work together more effectively and creatively to solve common problems. The data bases should also make it much easier for anyone in or outside of Europe who is interested in the many languages still spoken there to find information quickly.

For those interested in more information about Mercator, I would be happy to photocopy a special insert about the project published as part of **Contact Bulletin** (Volume 9, no. 3, Spring 1992/93), or you can contact the central coordinating office directly:

Mercator  
European Bureau  
Sint-Jooststraat/rue St. Josse 49-51  
B-1030 Brussels  
Belgium

\* \* \* \* \*

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR - KUTER JOINS THE COMPUTER AGE

Several U.S. ICDBL members have indicated they are preparing a contribution for **Bro Nevez**. Now that May is at an end and this issue has been completed, please aim for the August issue. If materials could be sent to me by mid-July, that would be excellent. I would be delighted to hear from new contributors.

Since our more humble beginnings in 1981 when the newsletter was run on stencils, we have come quite a distance. Although I have used computers in my work (my paid job), I have held out for many years before joining the computer age in my home. But, the time has finally come and most of the next issue will be produced with the aid of my new (used) computer. That means that contributions can be submitted on 5½ inch floppy disc. I am still very new at this, so check with me before sending anything and I will give you a better idea of format. For those more comfortable with pen and paper or typewriter, I would be delighted to have your contributions as well.

In the first 45 issues of **Bro Nevez** (over 1,400 pages) we have reviewed 315 books from Brittany, in some cases describing them in shorter notes. We have also presented 45 Breton magazines and 20 publishing houses. For those interested in Breton music we have reviewed 55 recordings with an additional 63 recordings described in shorter notes. Over the years it all adds up!

## OTHER CELTS: Welsh Classes for North Americans

Cwrs Cymraeg, July 25-August 1, 1993, in Ottawa, Canada

Since 1977 the organization Cymdeithas Madog has held a summer workshop for Welsh language learners. This year's course will be held in Canada's capital city, Ottawa.

Instructors come from Wales as well as from North America for beginners' as well as more advanced levels, and students "play" in Welsh with instruction in music and dance as well as informal use of the language. This is an effective and fun way to plunge into intensive study of Welsh.

Fees: \$520 (U.S. \$435) for adults for tuition, room and board.

\$460 (U.S. \$385) for students and children

\$400 for commuting adults (in Canada)

For information and to reserve a place (\$120/U.S. \$100) contact:

Paul W. Birt  
410 Chemin Boucher  
Aylmer, Quebec  
CANADA J9H 5C9

Telephone: (819) 682-2993

Note: Paul Birt has informed me that he is teaching Breton along with Welsh and Irish in the Modern Languages Department of Ottawa University. I hope to have more information on the Breton classes for a future issue of Bro Nevez.

## KENDALC'H KELTIEK ETREVROADEL CONGRÈS CELTIQUE INTERNATIONAL



INVERNESS (BRO-SKOS, ÉCOSSE)

26-31 a viz Gouere (*juillet*) 1993

Danvez ar C'hendalc'h: Yaouankiz ar Broioù Keltiek  
Thème du Congrès: Être jeune dans les Pays Celtes aujourd'hui

- Prezegennou, Baleadennoù, Abadennou-noz
- Strolladoù-labour: dañs, kan, c'hoariva, aero-bik, kentelioù gouzeleg.
- Conférences, Excursions, Concerts
- Ateliers: danse, chant, théâtre, aérobic, cours de gaélique.

Titouroù/Renseignements: Chomhdhail Cheilteach, 45 Crown Drive, Inverness IV23 QH, Scotland  
pe/ou Kendalc'h Keltiek, 5 straed Berlioz 29600 Plourin-Montroulez

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