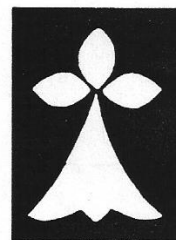
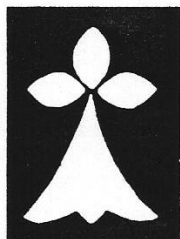
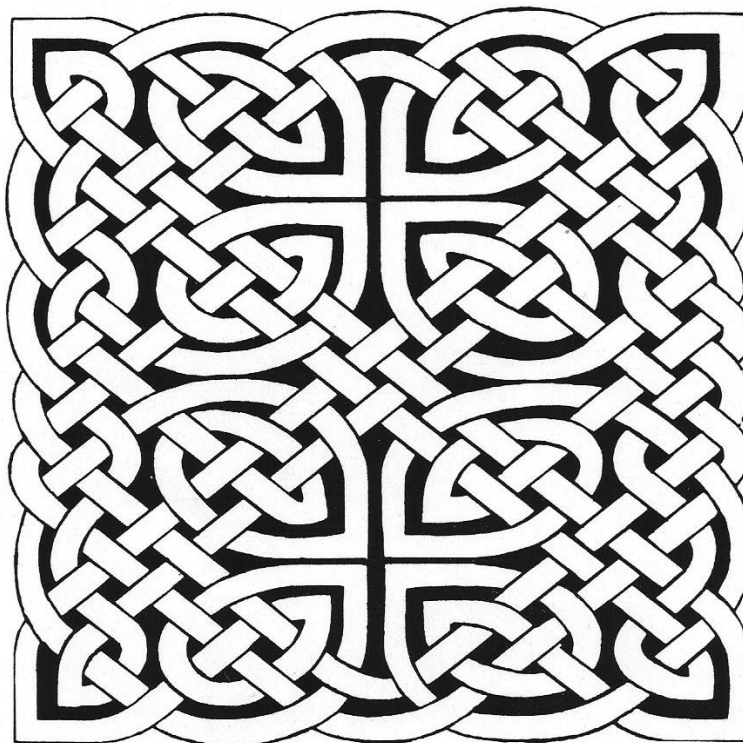




**Kuzul Etrevroadel
Evit Kendalc'h
Ar Brezhoneg**



**International Committee for
the Defense of
the Breton Language**
U.S. Branch



NEWSLETTER NO. 10

FEBRUARY 1984

The Newsletter of the U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language is published quarterly. Contributions and ideas are welcome from all readers, and letters to the editor(s) will be printed upon request. Ideas expressed within this newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily representative of ICDBL policy. Please see the back cover for details on subscription and back issues.

GENERAL EDITOR:

Lois Kuter
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

FRONT COVER:

Herve Thomas

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

It is my pleasure with this newsletter issue to introduce newly elected Officers and members of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language:

President: Lenora A. Timm
Secretary-Treasurer:
Lois Kuter

Board of Directors:

Reun ar C'halan
Christine Renée C. Forster
James W. Kerr
Dennis King
Alastair Kyle
Natalie Novik

For those of our readers who have been with the ICDBL since the initiation of the U.S. Branch in the Fall of 1980, some of these people will already be familiar. (By the way, at least 1/3 of our members have stuck with us since the beginnings.) It is time for re-

BRETON LANGUAGE EDITOR:

René Galand (Reun ar C'halan)
Dept. of French, Box 45
Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02181

EDITOR FOR BRETON LANGUAGE LEARNING MATERIALS:

Lenora A. Timm
Linguistics Committee
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR

Amy Varin
34 Wall Street
Kingston, NY 12401

CELTIC NEWS EDITOR

Anne Habermehl
3925 North Main
Marion, NY 14505

THE BRETON CONNECTION:

(Information Exchange Column)
Jennifer Parks
177 Ridgeland Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030

NEWS OF BRETON, EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND EVENTS

Lois Kuter
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

AR GEGIN (Breton Recipes)

Natalie Novik
P.O. Box 329
Skaneateles, NY 13152

NOTE: We are still looking for someone to edit a column for non-Celtic Languages--minority languages, bilingualism, etc. Please contact the General Editor if you are interested.

introductions since we have many new members to the ICDBL in the past two years, and since we are all dispersed across the United States.

EDITOR'S NOTE (continued)

I have taken the liberty of rewriting descriptions candidates sent in for the ballot which was sent to all ICDBL Voting Members. Those who received the ballot will find some repetition as well as some new comments on my part. I believe the following introductions will give readers a better idea of people who volunteer their time, enthusiasm and diverse talents to the direction of the U.S. ICDBL. You do not see the work of the Board Members and President as blatantly exposed as my work as Secretary-Treasurer and Newsletter Editor, but let me assure you that these people do direct the growth of the U.S. ICDBL.

It is appropriate here to put in a word of thanks to those people who have chosen not to re-volunteer as candidates: John S. Hennessey, and Laurie O'Keefe Fadave who served on the Board, and Robin Brendan Mackey who has served as our first President. Without their work the U.S. ICDBL would not be here today.

We welcome as our new President Lenora A. Timm, who has served in the past on our Board of Directors. New Board members are James W. Kerr, Alec Kyle and Natalie Novik. Returning Board members are Reun ar C'halan, Christine Renée C. Forster and Dennis King. I am delighted to continue work as Secretary-Treasurer.

In both our initial election of officers and a board in 1981 and this past election vote (of March 1), we have had only enough volunteering candidates to fill positions necessary for our operation--thus, our "elections" have been "confirmation" votes rather than hot contests. Despite the fact that it has been difficult to find candidates (and it took almost a year to get this past ballot together), we have come up with a remarkable group of people--four men and four women from the states of California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

As you will see from the descriptions which follow, they bring diverse skills to us. All bring a willingness to contribute a little time and the best of their ability to advance the aims of the ICDBL in its support of the Breton language.

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PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. BRANCH ICDBL

Lenora A. Timm

Linguistics Committee
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

Lenora A. Timm is an Associate Professor of Linguistics and newly appointed Director of the Women's Resource and Research Center at the University of California in Davis. Her interest in Brittany dates back to the late 1960's. Since that time, she has been working on learning to speak and read Breton and on linguistic research of it. Her research has focused on the Kernev (Cornouaillais) dialect of Breton in the Carhaix area. To learn Breton, she has studied it

EDITOR'S NOTE - continued

L. A. Timm (continued)

during summer intensive courses in Brittany and has gained enough fluency to use it regularly during return trips to Brittany. She has gained a strong knowledge not only of the nitty-gritty linguistic details of the Breton language, but also of the situation in Brittany today and the factors which continue to threaten the future of the Breton language. She has also made many good friends in Brittany and has gained the respect of language scholars and militants. Besides continued scholarly work with Breton, she is also interested in the Spanish of the Southwest U.S., the language of children, and women and language.

Her publications dealing with Breton and the ethnolinguistic situation in Brittany include:

- "The Segmental Phonology of Carhaisian Breton", Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie. Vol. 40 (forthcoming).
- "The Shifting Linguistic Frontier in Brittany" in A. Makkai and V.B. Makkai (eds.) Essays in Honor of Charles F. Hockett. Hamburg, NY: The Press at Twin Willows (in press).
- "Bilingualism, Diglossia, and Language Shift in Brittany" International Journal of the Sociology of Language 25 (1980) 25-41.
- "Language Treatment in Brittany", Language Planning Newsletter August 1982.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

Lois Kuter

143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

By now I should need little introduction to most members of the U.S. ICDBL. My introduction to Celtic cultures was relatively late in my 33 years. At the age of 16 I found myself in possession of an exotic-looking musical instrument from Pakistan. It turned out to be a Scottish Highlands bagpipe chanter. I joined a small band in the area (which I never knew existed before that time), read up on bagpipes and Celts, and one thing led to another. I had the great fortune not long after that to meet an uilleann piper, Thomas L. Standeven, Jr., who introduced me to the Irish language as well as to the Irish flute and tin whistle, and eventually the uilleann pipes. He also introduced me to Brittany. My skills in Scottish music and Irish language and music have not greatly advanced over the years, but I continue to work at them all when I can find a spare moment. Although my music making is something I do for my own (and hopefully others') pleasure, my work to learn about the Celtic nations has been more serious. I have been fortunate in being able to incorporate them in college studies and graduate training in cultural anthropology and ethnomusicology.

EDITOR's NOTES - continued

Lois Kuter - continued

I received a PhD in 1981 from the Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, where I specialized in ethnomusicology and West European Studies. My doctoral thesis, entitled "Breton Identity--Musical and Linguistic Expression of Identity in Brittany, France," was based on approximately 1½ years of research in Brittany as well as work here in libraries. While in Brittany (1978-1979) I was asked if I might try to start up a branch of the ICDBL in the U.S. . . . which I did with the help of many people who supported and encouraged the idea. From the initial batch of letters I mailed out in the Fall of 1980 "to test the waters" I have seen the U.S. Branch become an established ongoing venture. Congratulations to all of you who have made our existence possible.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Reun ar C'halan (René Galand)

Department of French, Box 45
Wellesley College
Wellesley, MA 02181

Reun ar C'halan was born in Châteauneuf-du-Faou (Brittany) and emigrated to the U.S. 23 years ago after studies in Literature at the University of Rennes. He completed a PhD at Yale University and has taught in the French Department at Wellesley College since 1951. Settlement in the U.S. has certainly not meant a loss of any Bretonness. A quick glance over the long and continuing list of poetry collections and short stories in the Breton language produced by this author clearly demonstrates his commitment to his native language. In 1979 Reun ar C'halan won the Xavier de Langlais Prize for Breton Literature with his poetry collection Levr ar Blanedenn (published by Al Liamm). He has published frequently in Breton journals (Barr Heol, Pobl Vreizh as well as Al Liamm and Skrid), and is hoping to publish another collection of poetry soon. Readers of this newsletter know of Reun ar C'halan through his regular work on our Breton language column and his contributions of book reviews and notes on current Breton language publications. He also serves as the reviewer for the Breton Section of World Literature Today. Besides being a creative writer himself, Reun is also a scholar of Breton and French literature, publishing on Renan, Baudelaire and Saint-John Perse. Two excellent English-language articles by Reun ar C'halan on Breton literature, history and nationalism are of particular interest to readers of this newsletter:

- "Poets and Politics: The Revival of Nationalism in Breton Poetry Since World War II", World Literature Today, Vol. 54, No. 2, Spring 1980.
- "The Breton Struggle for National Survival", Keltica Vol. 2, Spring 1982.

EDITOR'S NOTE - continued

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Christine Renée C. Forster2 Fernwood Drive
Bolton, CT 06040

Christine Forster is a certified instructor in foreign languages (French/German) and Special Education, also qualified to teach Swedish and Finnish. At present she is a pre-school teacher for the Childrens Community Center and is also teaching Finnish for the University of Connecticut. She has recently moved back to her home state of Connecticut from her second home, Victoria, British Columbia. Chris has studied Comparative Education at the University of Iowa and from 1977 to 1979 she was a Guest Scholar/Researcher in Comparative Education (Bilingual-Bicultural education among the Lapps) at the University of Umea in Sweden. Before that she pursued Scandinavian Studies at the University of Minnesota and taught at the University of Connecticut where she obtained an M.A. in ESL (English as a Second Language) and Bilingual/Bicultural Education in 1975. In her 33 years Chris has lived in nine countries, including France, Germany, England, Austria, and the Scandinavian countries, where she has studied language and minority problems. From these experiences as well as life in the U.S. and Canada she has gained knowledge of 18 languages, six of which she speaks fluently. Most interesting and enjoyable in these studies have been the Lappish, Sioux-Dakota, Chippewa and Eskimo/Inuit languages. Since 1973 Chris has traveled especially to Scandinavia--Sweden, Finland and Norway--giving anthropological/educational lectures and seminars in schools and at conferences about the problems of minorities--focusing on language and cultural problems of the Lapps, Native Americans and Eskimos in particular. In recent years she has become interested in her own cultural heritage which is both Breton and Scottish Gaelic and she plans serious study of these languages in her future. She is also an avid fan of Breton music and brings to the ICDBL an enthusiasm as well as a broad knowledge of language problems facing all peoples of the world.

James W. KerrP.O. Box 4073
Falls Church, VA 22044

As his name might tell you, James W. Kerr has a Scottish family background (with a little Irish and Breton). He was born in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1921 and has worked with the U.S. Government as an executive and in nuclear physics. He has a BS in Chemistry, an MS in Physics and has done some Postgraduate work in Medieval French. He is fluent in French and German and has some Spanish, Korean and Italian as well as a touch of Russian, Breton, Portuguese, Japanese and Old French. He is a registered professional engineer and retired Regular Army officer. It was through his Army experiences that he gained a love for Brittany--with work along side Bretons during three years with the French Army. His Breton leanings also include skills as a semi-professional singer, with some Breton songs in his repertoire. He has also explored Brittany as a reviewer of books for the Explorers Club. He brings to the ICDBL his willingness to actively contribute his time and efforts to serving on our Board of Directors.

EDITOR'S NOTE - continued

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dennis King2 Coyote Pass Road
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Dennis King was born in Concord, California, in 1948 and has a BA and MA from the University of California, Berkeley. Like myself and others in the ICDBL, music played a big part in stimulating his interest in Celtic languages and culture. Throughout his high school years, Dennis played Highland Scottish bagpipes with a local pipe band and slowly learned more about the Gaelic civilization which produced the music he played. He started learning Scots and Irish Gaelic and today is fluent in these languages. He has been a regular contributor to Gairm, Scotland's oldest all-Gaelic literary quarterly, and he has taught Gaelic through the Institute of Celtic Studies in the San Francisco Bay Area and the Experimental College at the University of California, in Davis. Although he is too modest, Dennis' own appraisal of his past role on the Board of the ICDBL is a double of many other statements members have made to me in correspondence concerning their role in this organization:

"As a member of the Board of Directors for the past several years I have gone from almost total ignorance of the Breton language struggle to a position of considerable awareness. This is testimony, I think, to the real success of the Committee in fulfilling its educational goals. I remain, however, primarily a sympathetic observer. . . . What I have been able to bring to the Board, aside from a nebulous feeling of Celtic fraternity, is some information and personal experience regarding the efforts of the Gaelic world to perpetuate itself, and some small measure of moral support and personal effort."

Dennis King brings to the ICDBL what you all have to offer--a willingness to learn more and to contribute your own special talents to the growth of our organization. That is quite a bit.

Alastair KyleEcho Valley Farm
Box 234
Fountainville, PA 18923

As a descendant from Coil Hen and the former reigning family of Strathclyde, Alec Kyle has a keen sense of not only the Celtic past but the need to work for a Celtic future. He is a financial consultant in the Doylestown area of Pennsylvania who has in his background a variety of activities which show that he does not sit back and let life pass him by. He has been active in activities ranging from local government and his church to historic farm preservation and cruelty to animal issues. In the Celtic realm he has been an active member of the Welsh Society of Philadelphia, Cymdeithas Madog and the Celtic League as well as the ICDBL. He brings to us a willingness to get involved and work to make one's own backyard and the world a better place.

EDITOR'S NOTE - continued

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Natalie NovikP.O. Box 329
Skaneateles, NY 13152

Natalie Novik was born in 1951 in France and has an almost "American" mixture in heritage with Breton, Welsh, Russian and Corsican grandparents. I know Natalie personally as someone who knows all the back roads of Brittany and can find a good fest noz instinctively. She shares my passion for Breton music; I do not share her skills in it. More seriously, she has long been directly active in working to keep Breton language and culture alive and well through work with Breton organizations in Paris. For the past 12 years she has worked as an executive secretary for American companies in Paris where she lived before moving to the U.S. last summer. She speaks French, English, Russian, Italian and Breton fluently and has traveled throughout Europe, spending as much time as possible in Brittany. Active with the strong and lively Breton emigrant community of Paris, she has founded a Breton club and organized many Breton classes, dance and music classes and evening cultural programs. She has experience in organizing festou noz and concerts. She brings great enthusiasm and love of Brittany to the U.S. through her job as a distributor for Camac Harps (a Breton company) and in her initiative to work to make Breton music better known and accessible here (through radio work and other projects including eventual organization of festou noz). As stated in our last newsletter she will be teaching beginning level conversational Breton at the Welsh Heritage Week this summer. She brings us many skills and a deep knowledge of Brittany.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An anonymous reader writes:

What happened to the separate "Celtic Literature section of MLA (Modern Language Association) Bibliography? The Breton section was never huge, but it was at least there! This is the standard reference work in the modern languages and to have Breton language (some actually written in Breton) references stuck inside "French Literature--Twentieth Century" does more than even the French government does to make the language disappear. I'm sure the people at MLA are not anti-Breton, but why hasn't the ICDBL, or its members, pointed out to this language organization its unwitting contribution to the decline of the Breton language? I'm particularly bothered by this gap since Breton used to appear separately under "Celtic Literature" where it belonged. Now "Breton" doesn't appear at all, except in the index. The ICDBL should feel bad since so many of its members teach modern languages and probably are members of the MLA. Let's begin our help of Breton language efforts at home.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - continued

Editor's Response . . . yes indeed, where have we been? If you feel that the Breton language should be included once more in the Celtic Literature Section of this very important bibliographical work (found in every university library in the U.S. and a standard reference work for thousands of language teachers), send a quick note or letter to: Professor James J. Blake, Section Head of Celtic Literatures, MLA Bibliography, English Department, Nassau Community College, SUNY, Garden City, NY 11530. Imagine if Irish and Welsh were shuffled into the "English Literature" section. Letters from language teachers and certainly any members of MLA are especially important.

On a different subject, Judy and Michel Roy of Marshfield, Wisconsin, write . . .

. . . We like your newsletter very much. We read it from cover to cover. The variety of the topics is one of its assets. We are looking forward to reading more about music from Brittany, . . . We sent your notice concerning the music group from Brittany, Kornog, to National Public Radio, Madison, WI. We will never know if our request for broadcasting this group was heard, but a recording was made at Bunky's, Madison, and we heard it on Simply Folk (WHRM) and loved every bit of it. Tom Martin-Erickson who presents this show is a native of Marshfield. In reviewing all the newsletter issues we have received, we noticed the artwork is different each time. We appreciate seeing all those designs from Brittany. The last front cover by Hervé Thomas is superb. We like to see an article in Breton, but even with a dictionary cannot make full use of it. We need help to translate it: rudiments of grammar, syntax and vocabulary; common, usual sentences. And more recipes, please.

Editor's response . . . It is always good to get letters from people who enjoy the newsletter and have suggestions for its improvement. We will try to include more on music in the future and we will also try to include Breton contributions suitable for beginner's and those who know no Breton at all. This is not the first request for something like this. We will also try to be regular with recipes, and as you will read later, we are planning a cookbook in response to several independent suggestions by members for such a publication. I might note also that I have received many compliments concerning Hervé Thomas' covers. Looking back over the covers, it is easy to see the vast improvement in the appearance of the front page with his generous contribution of time and talent.

It is good to learn that Breton music is being heard on radio programs. If any readers know of programs in their area who might be interested and receptive to playing Breton music, I would appreciate names and addresses so that we might help

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - continued

them locate recordings or provide some basic background material. There are many good programs on the air and interest in Breton music was certainly evident in the success of Kornog's tour. Unfortunately the unavailability of records in the U.S. limits the chances that Breton music will be heard. Anyone interested in working to compile a list of radio programs (folk and Celtic-oriented) or to help in making more information available to these programs, is invited to contact me.

Record reviews for the newsletter would be a very welcome addition--old or new recordings.

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CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS ON BRETON HISTORY

Just as we focused one of our past newsletters on the topic of Breton emigration (Newsletter 7/8, May/August 1983), we hope to focus future newsletters on specific topics. For August (Newsletter 12) the special focus of the newsletter will be Breton history.

This is a topic of importance for a better understanding of the situation in Brittany today. Because Breton history is part of the history of all the Celtic peoples, it should be of special interest to readers of Welsh, Irish, Cornish, Scottish or Manx heritage as well as those with Breton heritage.

As has been the case with all our newsletters, we count on members and readers for contributions. We do not have a professional staff of writers. If you have anything to contribute--from a short note to an article of several pages--send it to me by July 1. Contributions can deal with ancient or modern history, and book and article reviews are very welcome. Ideas are also welcome to make this issue a success. What do you want to know about Breton history? Send in your questions and we will try to find some answers.

NOTE: The deadline for contributions to Newsletter 11, May 1984, is April 30. Obviously, the earlier you get things to the column editors or to the general editors, the easier our work will be. An ideal deadline is April 15.

THE FEDERATION OF AMERICAN CULTURAL AND LANGUAGE COMMUNITIES

By approval of the Board of Directors, the U.S. ICDBL has supported the following U.S. Language Policy Statement which has been presented to all presidential candidates to urge greater support of bilingual education programs in the U.S.

The policy statement is the outgrowth of work by a wide variety of language organizations--coordinated by the Association of Franco-Americans in Maine, and including Assyrian, Indochinese, Ukranian, Cuban, German, Albanian, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Welsh, Slovak, Croatian, Hispanic and other language and cultural organizations as well as the U.S. ICDBL. To carry this work even further, a non-profit educational organization called the Federation of American Cultural and Language Communities (FACLC) has been formed. The Executive Director and national office are as follows:

Dr. Maria Lombardo
Executive Director, FACLC
The National Italian American Foundation
1019 Nineteenth St., N.W., Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036

While the U.S. ICDBL has been focused on Brittany, we can play a small role in supporting the liberty to speak one's native language in the U.S.

U.S. LANGUAGE POLICY STATEMENT

Preamble

The United States is a nation of nations. We have always prided ourselves on our ability to accomodate and incorporate the contributions of all peoples. Our multicultural and multilingual heritage is a national resource and strength.

As we review our recent past and realize that the United States faces increasing domestic and international pressures, it becomes apparent that our diversity can be instrumental in resolving many of our problems. In our pluralistic society, it is imperative that we understand, accept and appreciate each other. This requires culturally sensitive and meaningful communication in more than one language. Cross-cultural sensitivity and multilingual competency is even more critical in an increasingly interdependent world.

Therefore it is in the best interest of the United States to adopt a public policy which preserves, protects and promotes our vast wealth of languages and cultures.

Platform

A significant problem with regard to the vast wealth of languages and cultures in our country is the serious lack of linguistic census data. The federal census should enumerate

FACLC - Continued

U.S. Language Policy Statement - continued

the population on the basis of each person's linguistic heritage. Federal and state laws requiring English as the only medium of instruction in public schools should be relaxed in favor of local communities' deciding such questions.

Government funding should be allocated:

- for the establishment of community-based elementary and secondary schools in ethnic languages.
- to create and/or support university departments devoted to teaching and research in ethnic languages and cultures.
- for the development and publication of curriculum materials in ethnic languages and for instructional staff development.
- to disseminate information about ethnicity in the United States.

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SPECIAL FEATURE: BRO GWENED AND THE WRITINGS OF LOEIZ HERRIEU

Editor's Introduction:

We are fortunate to have for this issue a contribution from Dr. Edwin H. Jones, Professor Emeritus in Modern Foreign Languages at Mary Washington College. Dr. Jones offers us a very interesting article presenting the poetry of one of Brittany's greatest Breton language writers, Loeiz Herrieu. This article is based on Dr. Jones original research which included correspondence with members of Herrieu's family still living in Brittany (and, I might add, carrying on Herrieu's work in their own manner to keep Breton language and culture alive). It will be obvious in reading Dr. Jones' article that this was a labor of love for him . . . and not a dry academic exercise.

A short note by Reun ar C'halan on the reedition of Loeiz Herrieu's poetry collection serves as an excellent warm-up.

Following Dr. Jones article you will find a contribution from Jay O'Callahan concerning the Gwened dialect of the Breton language as well as some suggestions for further reading. To help readers locate names and places I have provided a few simple maps.

It is certainly a pleasure to be able to include original contributions in this newsletter to honor Bretons who have worked to defend the Breton language. Loeiz Herrieu is important in the history of Breton language literature, and I thank Dr. Jones for sharing his knowledge with us.

Lois Kuter

Loeiz Herrieu. Dasson ur galon (Brest: Brud Nevez, 1983). 143 pages.
20 French francs.

Loeiz Herrieu was one of Brittany's major literary figures between World War I and World War II. When he died, in 1953, he left a literary legacy of some twenty books. Dasson ur galon is his major poetry collection. First published in 1957, it has been reprinted by Brud Nevez. Readers who are not familiar with the Breton dialect spoken in the Vannes area may experience some difficulty in understanding the text, mostly because of the spelling (which corresponds to a somewhat different pronunciation). A Connecticut Yankee trying to understand a phonetic transcription of sentences spoken by somebody from the Deep South would encounter the same kind of problem. Here are two lines of Herrieu's work followed by their transcription in the current accepted KLTG spelling:

Er gasouréz e droh tammeu bara gwénéh;
Ged un neudenn é hra ur chapeled getè.

Ar gasourez a droc'h tammoù bara gwinizh;
Gant un neudenn e ra ur chapeled ganto.

(The bridesmaid cuts pieces of wheat bread;
With a thread she makes a chain of them).

Reun ar C'halan

BRITTANY IN SELECTED POEMS OF LOEIZ HERRIEU'S DASSON UR GALON: THE DEFENSE OF A LANGUAGE

Edwin H. Jones

Translated freely, "dasson ur galon" means the throbbing of a heart quickened perhaps by a deep emotion such as love or anxiety. It is Herrieu's way of expressing his feeling of love for his people as well as his keen desire to help them in any way he can. Thus, as the title indicates, this collection of poems contains the very essence of the author's heart and soul. In a very real sense the work is a summation of Herrieu's personal creed of Christian faith. It will be seen that his primary object was to attempt to instill into the hearts and minds of his fellow Bretons a constant pride in their ancient language and rich heritage, a pride that he himself felt.

Loeiz Herrieu was born January 26, 1879, on a small farm near the seaport town of Lorient. Like most rural dwellers of the time in Lower Brittany, the Herrieu family used the Breton language almost exclusively. French was reserved for visits to Lorient or Hennebont, or another town nearby, and only then when necessity required the use of that language. Thus, even when beginnings school Loeiz was developing pride in the language of his ancestors and resentment against those in authority who persecuted any Breton who dared to use his native language in their presence. This resentment, which was to

LOEIZ HERRIEU - E. H. Jones - continued (2)

remain with him throughout his life, is illustrated by an episode which occurred when the future writer was in the third year of the "école primaire."

The custom then in use in the schools of Morbihan (the southwestern section of Lower Brittany), as has been the situation until fairly recent years, was to punish children who spoke Breton, even inadvertently. The method of punishment was both simple and effective. A wooden shoe (sabot), or perhaps some other object such as a key, a button, or even a cow's tail, attached to a string around the neck of the offender and hanging down his back was an object of derision to his school mates as long as he wore it. However, if he could induce one of his fellow pupils to speak Breton in his hearing or in that of anyone else, then the hated object was transferred to the back of that pupil. At the end of the school day punishment was given in addition to whoever was wearing the "sabot" at the time. Naturally enough, the system created a spirit of espionage and deceit among the pupils, but it also discouraged them from speaking Breton in school.

Loeiz was, of course, caught in the act of committing this terrible "crime". His reaction then was that of the man he was to become. Refusing to involve the other boys, he resolved never to return to school. The incident was not without its salutary effect, however, for it was from this moment that he determined to do all that was humanly possible to make the Breton language respected. He had found his vocation.

That Herrieu read widely is attested by the diversity of quotations that he used as epigraphs at the beginning of many of his poems, ranging among French writers from the fourteenth century to the twentieth, or from Jean Froissart to Anatole Le Braz. Until nearly the end of his life this Breton poet was to devote most of his time to reading, writing, and farming. His literary work covered a wide variety of topics--poetry, short stories, history, and current events the greater portion of which is to be found in the periodical Dihunamb (Let us Awaken). This publication, which was to run for thirty-five years from 1905 to 1940, was not only founded by Herrieu, but was edited by him as well.

Dasson ur Galon is divided into the following three parts: "When the Flowers are in Bloom" ("De Gourz er Bleu"), "When the Fruit is Ripe" ("De Gourz er Freh"), and "When the Leaves are Falling" ("De Goueh en Del"), representing the spring planting season, the summer growing season, and the fall harvest. These divisions also represent, of course, the three phases in the life of man--youth, maturity and old age.

As indicated above, "When the Flowers are in Bloom" is really the poet's time of joy, of youthful exuberance, a time for courtship and marriage. In one of his early poems in Dasson ur Galon, he recalls sitting around the hearth on winter evenings while listening to the

LOEIZ HERRIEU - E. H. Jones - continued (3)

older relatives and friends telling about the little people who long ago lived in the woodlands of Lower Brittany and, for all he knew, might still be living there. These delightful folk tales are not unfamiliar to all who are acquainted with Irish legends. Thus, it is not surprising that Herrieu should also refer from time to time to these small but mischievous denizens of the woods and glens. Often, as he relates, the ancient tales were enlivened by songs or "gwerzou" concerning tragic or pious events of the past. Before the evening ended, the housewife would bring in refreshing drinks for the enjoyment of all.

In a particularly frivolous and happy mood, Loeiz once wrote a little poem entitled "La joie de Vivre" ("Er Leuevene boud beu") which embodies the exuberance he felt at just being alive. He expresses his feeling in the following manner:

* Courir, courir à perdre haleine
 Sans trop savoir où l'on va,
 Savoir seulement que l'on est
 Vivant, vivant, vivant!

Running, running until you are out of breath
 Without knowing exactly where you are going,
 Knowing only that you are
 Living, living, living!

Space does not permit entering into details of Herrieu's life during the twenty-five years between the end of World War I in 1918 and 1943 when World War II was still in progress. However, we should not fail to mention one of the more important poems contained in Dasson ur Galon which was written and completed during those years. This poem celebrates an event which occurred at the beginning of the one hundred years war and which has been a source of pride ever since to Brittany.

This was the defeat of French forces during the siege of Hennebont in 1341 through the planning and cunning of a woman, Jeanne la Flamme. Jeanne of Montfort, Duchess of Brittany, was so named because under cover of darkness she had been responsible for the torching of the tents of the enemy, thus effectively dispersing them and freeing the city. This action made it easy for the British fleet, waiting just outside the harbor, to enter the river Blavet and reinforce Hennebont. It goes without saying that Great Britain was an ally of Brittany at that time. "Jeanne la Flamme" not only represents the courage and determination of one individual in a far distant past when confronted by seemingly insurmountable obstacles, but

* The poet's brother, Mériadec Herrieu, in a letter addressed to the present writer informed him that he had translated into French all of the poems contained in the bi-lingual edition of Dasson ur Galon.

LOEIZ HERRIEU - E. H. Jones - continued (4)

the episode as related by Herrieu also represents his own courage and audacity in defending his Breton-bretonnants (those Bretons speaking only Breton) from the apathy and intolerance of the French government.

The last ten years of Herrieu's life (1943-1953) were increasingly saddened by the fact that as a nationalistic Breton in German occupied France his loyalty, as well as that of other Breton nationalists to the French Liberation Movement was seriously questioned by members of the Résistance. The fact that he was never arrested and put on trial at the end of the war speaks for itself. To the knowledge of the present writer there is no evidence that the poet-farmer was ever more than a man of peace whose one great desire was that Brittany should retain her own language, together with her own customs. In a country at war not only against an enemy from without, but also from within as well, as was the situation in France for approximately five years, it is understandable that suspicions of disloyalty to France should fall on those Bretons who, in the eyes of the Liberationists, advocated separation of the Province from France proper. The Loeiz Herrieu family was only one of many which suffered reprisals in Brittany at this time. In 1943, thinking that his family would be better off without him, Loeiz decided to abandon his home. After spending a few months in Quimperlé and later in Quimper, he finally moved to Auray where he resided until his death.

When Herrieu died on May 22, 1953, he was buried by his family, according to the wishes that he had expressed many years previously. His feelings on the subject were stated in the third part of Dasson ur Galon, "When the Leaves are Falling," in which is contained the beautiful poem entitled, "In the Flowering Season" ("De Gourz Kaer er Bokedeu"). In the last stanzas of this poem, he wrote:

De gourz kaer er bokedeu
Ardro er goubanùel,
Pe vè er benal é bleu,
E Karehen merùel;
Ha diskenn é noz tioél,
Med konfortuz, mem bé,
Pe seblant en héol merùel
En iurall d'er mané...

In that beautiful season of flowers
As twilight approaches (and)
When the heather is in bloom,
(It is then) that I should like to die
And descend into the darkness of my tomb
(At a time) when the sun appears to be setting
Beyond the hills . . .

LOEIZ HERRIEU - E. H. Jones - continued (5)

In the preceding pages we have attempted to see Brittany through the eyes of a man who loved every aspect of his region to the very depth of his soul--its language, its ancient traditions, and its history dating back to the migration from Great Britain in 450 A.D. A fierce pride in his Celtic ancestry fills the pages of Dasson ur Galon, although we have been able to touch on only a few of the poems contained within its covers. Like Jeanne of Montfort, Herrieu fought for the defense of the Breton language with every means at his disposal, and like that heroine, against great odds. Instead of armor, shield, and sword, he had only his pen and an unequivocal conviction that he must try at whatever personal sacrifice to persuade his people that the Breton language was one of Brittany's most precious possessions, and that on its continued existence depended in very large measure the continuation of a peculiarly unique way of life.

That Herrieu's physical health and mental outlook were seriously impaired by the many frustrations which he had suffered in his efforts to defend the Breton language against the indifference and prejudices of his countrymen is suggested by his wife, Loeiza Herrieu, when she wrote in a letter to the present writer some years ago: "E vuhé en des reit d'hé Vro ha d'hé yeh. Nen dé ket kollet é labour, Breiz a viñ." "He gave his life for his country and his language. His work is not lost. Long live Brittany!"

The question now arises as to whether the Breton language will survive in this highly mechanized age. The answer appears to me and to others to be both affirmative and negative. Although the oral language will doubtless disappear as the older generations die out, it is very probable that the literary language will survive as long as there are people willing to devote their time and energy to the task not only of defending their language as an oral means of communication, but of using it as a literary means of expression as well.

Since the preceding pages were written some time ago, we should not close without adding a few words to bring this article more in line with what is happening today. Efforts have been made and are being made by many Breton organizations, with support from the ICDBL, to continue the fight for improvements in the French educational system so that those Bretons who desire a sound education for their children in the Breton language may have it.

Again, internationally speaking, it is good to know that a four man group of Breton musicians has just recently completed a tour of American cities and with great success.. This is particularly important since it marks a first step in sending from Brittany a group such as Kornog to the United States. There will be others, for we understand that Alan Stivell, the great Breton singer, is planning to come to the United States also on a tour. His records and tapes have already been finding their way here for some time (and he has introduced Breton music to many Americans). It seems appropriate, therefore, to add in closing these words of Mme Loeiz Herrieu: "Breiz e viñ".

A NOTE ON BRETON DIALECTS - GWENED

Jay O'Callahan*

Many readers of this newsletter will be familiar with the traditional four-fold division of the Breton dialects that correspond to the four bishoprics of Leon, Treger, Kerne, and Gwened (see maps following).

Looking at Brittany today, we see a mosaic of communities covering the land. All of them have developed their own speech, uniquely eloquent of particular places, of particular communities; so warmly and elegantly bound up with landscape and community that the place itself can almost be said to have become vocal.

The department of Morbihan (minus a small area around Gourin, and a large eastern area where Bretons have developed their own French dialect called Gallo) is where Gwened (Vannetais) remains a spoken language. In turn, an internal division can be made into Bas-Vannetais and Haut-Vannetais--the former in the western part and the latter in the east and south. Cultural divisions are carried over also into music. A form of the gavotte, for example, is danced in Bas-Vannetais areas, whereas An Dro and Laride are dances of most of the Haut-Vannetais. In general, all of the Gwened diocese has a rich tradition of both vocal and instrumental music.

The roots of Gwened culture go deep. Historical records and place name analysis point to a greater proportion of Armorican (i.e., Celts of the continent rather than from emigration from Britain) population in Vannes than in the rest of Lower Brittany. In the pre-Roman era the Veneti were well known as sailors and traders. Recent developments in archeological dating techniques have shown that this area possesses some of the world's earliest megalithic monuments, and figured as an original center of European culture.

A literary standard for the southeastern dialects was established at the beginning of this century, and codified in a grammar and dictionary by A. Guillevic and P. le Goff (1907, with a supplement in 1919 and a reedition in 1924). The main thrust of Breton literary standardization in the 19th century derived from the work of Le Gonidec with roots in northwestern dialects of Breton (Leon especially). Little Gwened literature survives from previous to 1700 (Breton literature as a whole surviving from the late 15th century), the earliest being a manuscript of Christmas hymns, likely to have been composed in the first half of the 17th century.

Much pre-twentieth century Breton literature is religious, reflecting the function of writing in a predominantly oral culture. Literature in Gwened is no exception. An imitation of Virgil's "Georgics" was produced in the early 19th century (Liur al Labourer). More

* Although a bit rusty now, Jay has gained fluency in Breton through several months with a family in the Treger area of Brittany. He has moved back to the U.S. after three years in the west Kerry Gaeltacht of Ireland where he worked with a book/cultural center. He teaches Irish Gaelic (among other things) and is currently working to set up a Celtic book and record distribution business (An Chuansóg, RRI, Box 201, Alstead Center, NH 03602).

GWENED - O'Callahan - continued

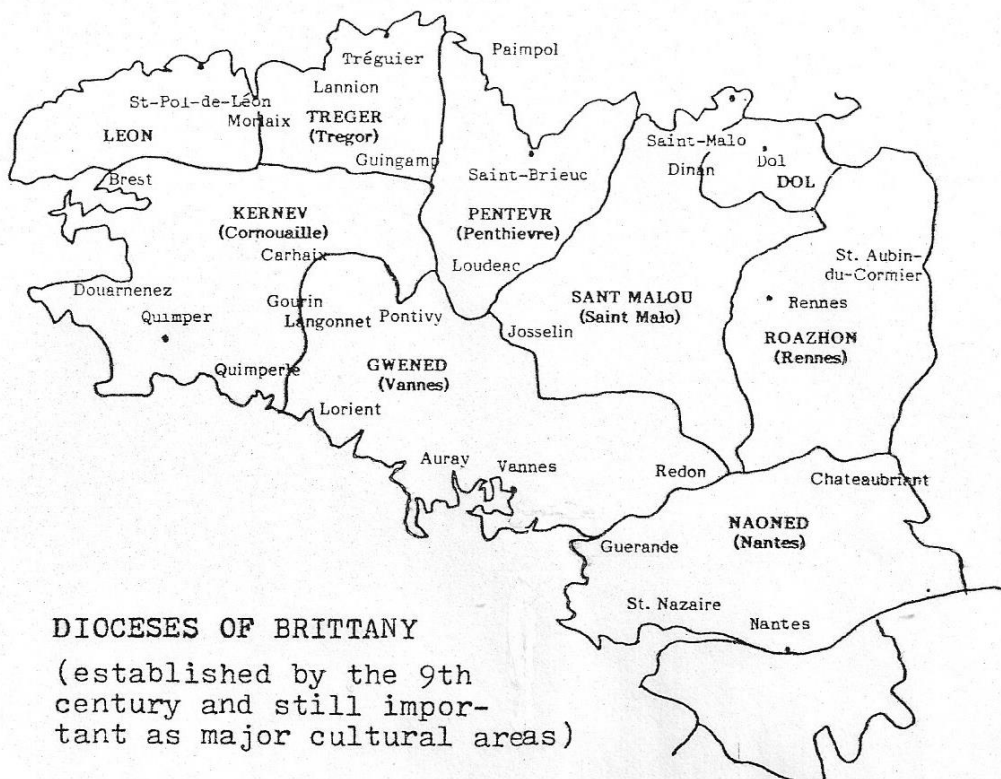
secular works don't really begin to appear until around the turn of the century. Yann-Ber Kalloc'h, a nationally important poet, was killed in the first World War, having brought out only one book, Ar En Deulin.

The journal Dihunamp (1905-1944) provided a focus for regional writing representing in Vannes the growth of periodicals combining religious and secular material for local readers. One of the editors, Loeiz Herrieu (1879-1953) produced a body of poetry and prose that is noteworthy, in addition to a collection of folk songs, 'Sonnenneu Bretoned er Morbihan.'

This literature, grounded in Breton society and produced for the Breton people came to an end in the World War II period. The literature which has emerged since then is basically a product of an urban milieu. It reflects the backgrounds and assumptions of its writers, and these are often quite different from those of rural Bretons.

Those interested in Gwened language and literature could take a look at the following:

- Emile Ernault. Dictionnaire Breton-Francais du dialect de Vannes. (Vannes: Lefoyle Frères, 1907).
- A. Guillevic and P. le Goff. Vocabulaire Breton-Francais et Francais-Breton (dialect du Vannes). (Vannes: Lefoyle Frères, 1907; reed. 1924). Out of print, but may be located in libraries.
- Meriadeg Herrieu has produced a 400 page grammar and selection of readings, entitled Le Breton Parlé (1980). It's a bit of a grab-bag, but very useful.
- Studi in numbers 15 and 16 has produced a general introduction, in French, to the Gwened situation, and a selection of readings from Dihunamp. These include everything from poems, proverbs and tales, to recipes, agricultural advice, and original ads.
- Obereù en in-noz is a collection of tales, songs, and a play by Guillam er Borgn (1866-1927) reprinted from his home area near Guemene.
- Roparz Hemon edited the Christmas Hymns, under that title for the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. The book includes a study of the language, in English, and translation.
- Dastum has produced two recordings, and collaborated on a third that relate to this area. Cahier de musique traditionnelle no. 2 Pays de Lorient-Hennebont (1974) and Cahier de musique traditionnelle no. 7, Noal-Pondi (by Jean Le Clerc de la Herverie, 1983) both include extensive notes on language as well as other aspects of culture. These records include field recordings. Another record of traditional music focuses on one singer--Mari Harnay from the Pourlet area (Les Traditions Populaires en France, Vol 2--Breizh/Bretagne. Dastum and Ocora 558 603, 1982). Yet another recording, "Kan ha Diskan Vannetais" is a wonderful collection of dance songs from the Auray-Carnac area (although "kan ha diskant" is inaccurate to describe it) (Ar Folk TH 704B).



READING A BRETON TEXT

Reun ar C'halan

When I tried to think of a way to give the readers of this newsletter an idea of the Breton language, I felt that a brief passage from a Breton text followed by a phonetic transcription, an English translation, and pertinent observations about the grammatical points raised by the text itself might be the best way to handle the problem. For this purpose, I selected the opening paragraphs from **Roparz Hemon's** short story, "**Plad-nij Marijan**" (Marijan's flying saucer), from his collection **Ho kervel a rin en noz** (Brest: Al Liamm, 1970).

PLAD-NIJ MARIJAN

Marijan he doa labouret en he fark a-hed an deiz, ha bremañ e oa aet d'he zi d'ober koan. N'he doa ket bet pell da vont. Eus he frenestr (ne oa nemet ur prenestr en he zi bihan) e c'halle gwellout he fark, o teñvalaat e damsklerijenn an abardaez.

Un dra bennak a droe en oabl. Ur c'harr-nij, a soñjas Marijan. Ne rae trouz ebet. Met ar vaouez kozh ne oa ket nec'het gant se. Ar c'hirri-nij a rae trouz. Hemañ ne rae ket. Ha goude?

For this phonetic transcription I have used the International Phonetic alphabet. The accented syllables are indicated by a stress mark (') above the line. The stress usually falls on the penultimate (next to last) syllable (the most common exceptions are words of one syllable, compound words, and a few others).

plád-niž mariž'án

mariž'án e dwá labúret ěn e fárk aéđ áñ déj a brémá e wá ét de zí dóbžr kwán. Ne dwa két bét pél da vónt. øs e frénestr ne wá német ør prénestr en e zí bián) e hále gwélut e fárk, o tẽvalat e dãmsklerijẽn áñ abardáẽ.

ũn drá benák a dróe en wábl. ør xárnij a sōžas mariž'án. ne rée trúz ebét. mét ar váwez kóz ne wá két néhet gánt se. ar xiriniž a rée trúz. hémá ne rée két. a gúde?

Translation:

Mary-Jane's flying-saucer

Mary-Jane had worked in her field all day long, and now she had gone to her house to fix dinner. She did not have far to go. From her window (there was only one window in her small house) she could see her field getting dark in the dusk of the evening.

Something was turning in the sky. A plane, thought Mary-Jane. It did not make noise at all. But the old woman was not worried. Planes made noise. This one did not. And then?

READING A BRETON TEXT (continued)

Some Explanations:

plad-nij: New words are often created by assembling two existing words or roots. **"nij"** is the root of the verb **"nijal"** (to fly). **"Plad"**: plate. **"Plad-nij"**: flying-saucer.

In the second paragraph, **"ur c'harr-nij"** (a plane) was created in the same way, by adding **"nij"** after the word **"karr"** (car).

"Plad-nij Marijan": possession is indicated by placing a noun referring to the thing possessed before the noun referring to the possessor.

"Marijan he doa labourat": the pluperfect tense combines the past participle of the verb **"labourat"** (to work), the third person singular of the imperfect tense of the auxiliary **"endevout"** (to have), and the object from of the third person feminine of the personal pronoun **"he"** (her). This form of the personal pronoun is required before the verb **"endevout"**, even when the subject is otherwise indicated (here, **"Marijan"**), and although there is a subject form of the pronoun **"hi"** (she).

en he fark: Before a word beginning with a vowel or a silent **h**, **n** is added to the preposition **"e"** (in). **"he"**, which is the third person singular feminine object pronoun, is also the possessive adjective (her). **"he"** causes certain mutation in the word which follows. This is why initial **p** in **"park"** mutates to **f**: **"he fark"**. The same mutation occurs in the third sentence: **"prenestr"** becomes **"he frenestr"**.

an deiz: The normal form of the definite article is **"ar"**. It becomes **"al"** before initial **l**, and **"an"** before initial **d** or **t**.

Bremañ e oa aet: **"aet"** (gone) is the past participle of the verb **"mont"** (to go); **"oa"** is the third person singular of the imperfect tense of the verb **"bezañ"** (to be), which is used as an auxiliary instead of **"endevout"** with such verbs as **Mont** (to go), **"dont"** (to come), **"pignat"** (to climb), **"mervel"** (to die), as is also the case in French (of **"elle était allée"**). **"e"** is the particle which precedes a verbal form which is itself preceded by an adverb or an indirect complement.

d'he zi: **"d' "**, for **"da"** (to); **a** is elided before a vowel (as in **"d'ober"**) or a silent **h**. After **"he"**, initial **t** mutates to **z**: **"ti"** (house) thus becomes **"he zi"** (her house).

n'he doa ket bet: **"n' "**, for **"ne"**; **e** is elided before a vowel or a silent **h**. **"ne . . . ket"**: the equivalent of "not" (of French **"ne . . . pas"**). **"bet"** is the past participle form of **"bezañ"** (to be); it doubles as the past participle of **"endevout"** (to have).

da vont: **"da"** (to) also causes a number of initial consonants to mutate. Initial **m**, in **"mont"** thus mutates to **v**: **"da vont"**.

e c'halle: After the particle **"e"**, the initial **g** mutates to **c'h**. **"gallout"** is the infinitive form. **"e c'halle"**: third person singular of the imperfect tense.

o teñvalaat: **"o"** is a verbal particle like **"a"** and **"e"**. Placed before the infinitive, it has about the same meaning as the ending **-ing** added to the infinitive in English: **"teñvalaat"/"o teñvalaat"**: to darken/darkening.

READING A BRETON TEXT (continued -2)

un dra: The normal form of the indefinite article is **"ur"** (a). **"ur"** becomes **"ul"** before and initial **l**, and **"un"** before **d** or **t**. The definite and indefinite articles also causes certain initial consonants to mutate in the words which follow. Thus initial **t**, in feminine singular words, mutates to **d**. **"tra"** happens to be a masculine word, but it is treated as feminine. It is about the only exception.

a droe: **"a"** is the verbal particle which is used before the verb (other than **"endevout"**) which is preceded by the subject or by a direct complement. It also causes certain mutations. Thus initial **t** becomes **d**. **"droe"** is the third person singular of the imperfect tense of **"treiñ"** (radical **"tro"**).

ur c'harr-nij: after the article, initial **k** in masculine words mutates to **c'h**: **"karr-nij," "ur c'harr-nij"**. The plural form of **"karr"** is **"kirri"**.

a soñjas: The verbal particle **"a"** is used here, since **"ur c'harr-nij"** has the function of a direct complement of **"soñjas"**. **"soñjas"** is the third person singular of the perfect tense of the verb **"soñjal"** (to think).

ne rae trouz ebet: **"rae"** is the third person singular of the imperfect tense of the verb **"ober"** (to make).

ne . . . ebet: "not . . . at all".

ar vaouez: The article causes initial **m** to mutate to **v** in a feminine singular word (**"maouez", "ar vaouez"**).

nec'het: Past participle of the verb **"nec'hiñ"** (to worry).

ar c'hirri-nij a rae: A verb in the affirmative retains the form of the third person singular when the subject is expressed. It agrees with the subject in the negative, or when the subject is not expressed: **"Ar c'hirri-nij ne raent ket trouz"** (The planes did not make noise); **"trouz a raent"** (Noise they made).

hemañ: "this one"; masculine singular form of the demonstrative pronoun.

A few significant features of the Breton language thus stand out: Breton is an accented language; initial consonants may be mutated; verbal particles are used; the conjugation of a verb depends on the expression or the omission of the subject, on the use of the negative or the affirmative, on the fact that it is preceded by a subject or a direct complement, or by an adverb or an indirect complement.

A review by Lenora A. Timm

Yann Desbordes, Petite grammaire du breton moderne. Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1983. 116 pages.

This newly published, compact grammar of standard literary Breton fills a gap in the repertoire of grammatical treatments of the language. Like the vast majority of Breton grammars, it is directed to a francophone audience; but this one is distinctive in that it is primarily a descriptive, as opposed to a pedagogical, grammar that dispenses with the usual dialogues, vocabulary, and exercises associated with the latter. It constitutes, in short, a mini reference grammar and, as such, serves alongside a work such as Per Trépos' Grammaire bretonne, to which, however, it is probably preferable in clarity, organization, and explanation, especially for the relative newcomer to Breton.

The grammar is divided into 22 short chapters, and each paragraph of the text is numbered consecutively for a total of 240. This practice facilitates the indexing of topics in the table of contents at the end. I don't think it is necessary to list here all the chapter titles; suffice it to say that Desbordes opens with a chapter on the mutational system, and then moves to a consideration of the major grammatical categories of the language, as well as of prominent exceptions to, say, rules of mutation or of common irregular verbs. Explanations, comments, and examples are interspersed among neatly mapped out charts of verbs, pronouns, prepositions, etc., yielding a palatable and easy-to-read text.

Quite a few words and short phrases are shown in phonetic transcription, which, for those with some training in phonetics, will prove a bonus. However, I feel Desbordes should have included a fuller account of the articulatory movements associated with the various symbols for the benefit of those readers innocent of such training. For example (\$) and (\$) are defined simply as "plus en arrière encore" (than (s) or (z)), which, while true, must seem vexingly vague to the uninitiated.

Syntax is broached in Chapters 16-18, in which major sentence types and several kinds of subordination are presented. This is sketchy, to be sure, but then such is the intended nature of the entire volume.

The final chapters include: a very brief survey of some of the major derivational affixes of the language (Chapter 20); orthographic conventions--i.e., phoneme-to-grapheme correspondences, using the "zedechek" spelling system (Chapter 21); and patterns of stress placement (Chapter 22).

Overall this work appeals because of its compactness, its legibility (the Breton is always set in bold face, thus making it easier for the reader to apprehend at a glance), and its lucid organization. It is not a work for the advanced student of the language; but, as noted earlier, for the novice in Breton, Desbordes' Petite Grammaire will likely prove a helpful back-up reference work to be used in conjunction with one or more of the graded learners' manuals.

BOOK REVIEW COLUMN - GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS

Amy Varin

In spite of all the books worth reading about Celtic subjects in general and Breton in particular, the Newsletter has been receiving disappointingly few reviews. Under the circumstances, it seems appropriate to clarify a few points about book reviewing.

You, our readers, write the book reviews. There is no restricted list of expert reviewers. If you have been seeing the same names on reviews every month, it's because the same people send in reviews every month.

There is no need to limit reviews to recent publications. A huge backlog of good material, dating as far back as Gildas, has never been reviewed in the United States, let alone in this newsletter. No matter how old a book or article is, if it's still worth reading, we can use a review of it.

The subject matter is almost unlimited, as long as it relates to Brittany, or Celtic studies in general, or minority languages, or anything else that might interest the members of the ICDBL. Don't decide not to review a book because you don't think the subject is serious or important enough. This newsletter has published recipes and will gratefully accept reviews of cookbooks, or comic books, or road maps of South Finistère. The last book review column included our first Celtic fiction review, of The Mists of Avalon, by Marion Zimmer Bradley. If you want to tear apart something lightweight in the wrong sense, like a cute little guidebook with color photos of Quaint Peasants, go ahead. An occasional fit of destructive anger is good for the soul and for the Book Review column.

Don't assume that because a certain issue is devoted to a certain theme, like the projected August issue on Breton history, only reviews of books on that subject are welcome. If the available space is overflowing with reviews of books on the chosen topic, which hasn't happened yet, other reviews will be saved for the next issue, which will almost certainly need them.

Don't wait for complimentary review copies of books. Given the very limited circulation of our newsletter we can't expect struggling Breton publishers to send free copies to us yet.

Books reviewed do not have to be of Breton-language books! It is wonderful if they are, but there's a good deal that ought to be reviewed in English and French.

Here is a short list, anything but complete, of books that would be worth reviewing. It ranges from linguistics to juvenile fiction. If you have strong opinions, positive or negative, about any of these books or any others that suggest themselves to you, send your reviews to: Amy Varin, 34 Wall Street, Kingston, NY 12401 (new address).

Some suggestions for review:

Lloyd Alexander, The Book of Three.
 Arthur de la Borderie, Histoire de Bretagne.
 Nora Chadwick, Early Brittany.
 G. H. Dobie, Saints of Cornwall.
 Xavier Gall, Le Cheval Couché.
 P. -J. Hélias, Le Cheval d'Orgueil. (The Horse of Pride).
 Kenneth Jackson, A Historical Phonology of Breton.
 Kenneth Jackson, Language and History in Early Britain.
 Paol Keineg, Le Poème du pays qui a faim.
 Gwenc'hlan Le Scouezec, Guide de la Bretagne Mystérieuse.
 Pierre Loti, Pêcheur d'Islande.
 Tanguy Malmanche, Gurvan, ar marc'heg estranjour.
 Rosemary Sutcliff, Song for a Dark Queen.

RECENT BRETON PUBLICATIONS

Notes by Reun ar C'halan

Ronan ar Gléau. Dictionnaire classique français-breton. (Brest: Al Liamm, 1983). Volume I: A-B. 352 pages. 92 French francs.

The first volume of this major undertaking came out last Fall. Sentences taken from Breton writers illustrate the type of context in which each word may be used. This dictionary will take its place next to Roparz Hémon's Geriadur istorel.

Tudual Huon. Laboused ar vro. (Quimper: Al Lanv, 1983) 110 pages. 39 French francs.

A beautifully illustrated publication, with drawings and photographs by the author showing the birds of Brittany.

Fañch Elies-Abeozen. Kan ar spered hag ar galon. (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1983), 120 pages, 35 French francs.

The poems of this Breton writer, mostly known for his war diary, Dremm an Ankou, his novel Herveline Geraouell, and his short story collection Pirc'hirin Kala-Goañv, have now also been collected.

Meven Mordiern. Eñvorioù bugeliez (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1983). 46 pages, 20 French francs.

In 1937, the celebrated author of Sketla Segobrani and Istor ar Gelted Kozh sent the manuscript of his childhood memories to Roparz Hemon. It has now been published in its original form.

Yann Ezel. Askornouriezh. (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, 1983). 150 pages. 60 French francs.

A detailed study of the bones in the human body by a Breton doctor who completed it before his death in 1967. 136 illustrations.

Roperzh ar Mason. Tri fezh c'hoari. (Rennes: Imbourc'h, 1983). 68 pages. 20 French francs.

Three short plays by the poet of Chall ha Dichal and the novelist of Evit ket ha netra.

B. de Rohan-Chabot. Geriadur Klotennoù. (Rennes: Imbourc'h, 1982), 204 pages. 50 French francs.

A dictionary of Breton rhymes which will replace the one published by Colonel Troude at the end of his Nouveau dictionnaire pratique breton-français in 1876.

Loeiz ar Floc'h. Ma zamm buhez. (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 40 French francs.

The picturesque autobiography of a Breton jack-of-all-trades.

Per Salaun. War-lerc'h ur foeter-bro: Charlez Roland. (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 40 French francs.

A study of the Breton writer Charlez Roland.

Marsel Klerg. Canu Llywarch Hen (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 30 French francs.

A Breton translation of the works of the Welsh bard Llywarch Hen. The original Welsh is included.

Fañch Elegoet. Bezhinerien an enezeier. (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 60 French francs.

The life of a Breton couple who harvested seaweed from the bottom of the sea off the islands of Molenez and the coast of Bro-Leon.

Goulven Jacq. E Gwinieg an Tad. (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 105 pages. 30 French francs.

When Goulven had to leave France at the end of World War II, he found refuge in Brazil, where he became a convert to the spiritualist Church founded on the teachings of Allan Kardec.

Gwendal Denez. Peskettourien Douarnenez (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 30 French francs. 173 pages.

Interviews conducted with fishermen of Douarnenez who fished for tuna and lobster off the coast of Africa.

NOTES ON RECENT PUBLICATIONS - continued

Yann-Erwan Kemener. Ar Vuhez war ar maez (Lesneven: Mouladurioù Hor Yezh). 130 pages. 60 French francs.

Interviews conducted with two elderly women about life on a Breton farm at the turn of the century.

- - - - -

AN ECONOMIC NOTE - THE BRETON HENRIOT PORCELAIN WORKS IN BUSINESS AGAIN

Corinne Fachetti has sent the following note concerning the reopening of the world famous Henriot porcelain works ("faïence", "drockery") in Quimper, Brittany. Corinne and her husband, René, own and operate the Chez René Restaurant in Glenmont, New York (near Albany). René is originally from Brittany, born in Saint-Christophe de Valains which is not far from Mont Saint-Michel. As collectors of Breton porcelain they were pleased to send news of the reopening of the Henriot factory where each dish is hand painted. I am pleased that Corinne has agreed to contribute an article to a future newsletter issue on the Henriot works--one of the finest manufacturers today in a craft which dates back many centuries in Brittany.

The note we received is originally from France-Amérique, December 15, 1983: (my translation).

"An American Buys Up Henriot Porcelain"

The porcelain works of H. B. Henriot will start up again in the beginning of January with 50 employees instead of 208 (previously) under the direction of their new head, Paul Janssens, an American of Dutch origin, who bought the firm for the sum of 8 million francs. To capture the American market--the objective of the new leadership--Mr. Janssens will concentrate on the highest quality of the range of products.

AR GEGIN

Gwestell ar Baelon.

("gwestell", plural form of "gwastell";
"paelon" - pan; when preceded by the article, initial "p" in a
feminine word mutates into "b")

Ingredients per serving:

1/4 cup of milk
1/4 cup of flour
1 pinch of salt
1 teaspoon of sugar
1 teaspoon of vegetable oil
1 egg
1 teaspoon of your favorite liqueur (Cointreau, Grand Marnier,
etc.)

1. Mix thoroughly in a bowl.
2. Prepare a flat pan and rag dipped in vegetable oil.
3. Wipe the bottom of the pan with the rag.
4. With a ladle holding approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 ounces, pour the mix into the pan.
5. Cook over a low to medium flame until the "gwastell" underside starts to brown; turn the "gwastell" over, cook until the other underside starts to brown. Remove the "gwastell" from the pan.

Start again at Step 3 until the batter is gone.

"Gwestell ar baelon" may be eaten as such, sprinkled with sugar, or with your favorite preserves. It is better to place the "Gwestell" in a keep-warm oven until all of the batter has been used.

Editor's Note: As you might have suspected from the linguistic notes which came with this recipe, it has been contributed by Reun ar C'halan. He comments in his letter accompanying the recipe:

"This was one of our favorite deserts when I was a child on my grandparents' farm. The use of Cointreau or Grand Marnier is a later refinement. Breton peasants considered that even a sprinkle of sugar was an indulgence that one could tolerate only in a child who had not yet reached the age of reason (i.e., 7)."

BRETON COOKBOOK

We announce with this newsletter a cookbook project. This cookbook will include recipes that have appeared in the newsletter, but also new ones that you have to offer us. We will also include short notes on Breton cooking, books about it, proverbs, drawings, or anything else of interest. If you have recipes, or any other contributions for the cookbook, or just ideas, send them to the project coordinator:

Barbara Morgan (ICDBL Cookbook)
4504 Fernhill Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215

NEWS OF CELTIC LANGUAGES AND ORGANIZATIONS

W.A.Y. - Welsh Associated Youth of America and Canada

a note from: David Greenslade
 Editor of W.A.Y. Newsletter
 505 Pharr Road, NE #2
 Atlanta, GA 30305

W.A.Y. was founded in 1970 at the annual Welsh Festival, held that year in Milwaukee. Every Labor Day weekend Americans and Canadians of Welsh descent gather for a festival of congregational hymn singing, a Cymanfa Ganu, as it is known in Welsh.

Founded in 1929 the American National Cymanfa Ganu is of enormous importance to Welsh-Americans and people travel thousands of miles in order to attend. During the late 1950's and 1960's, however, attendance fell sharply and trustees noticed and alarming increase in the average age of those attending. W.A.Y. was launched at this time in order to interest younger people in their Welsh Heritage.

W.A.Y. has two functions, to demonstrate a youthful presence at the Cymanfa Ganu and to produce an entertaining newsletter of interest to American and Canadian children while informing them of Wales and the Welsh language.

After 14 years W.A.Y. has only a membership of 180 compared with a readership of 7,000 for the two Welsh American newspapers. W.A.Y.'s main effect has, however, been to serve as a thorny reminder that the Welsh-American community must change with the times and anticipate the needs of a younger membership.

Since the formation of W.A.Y. two particularly effective clubs have started, Cymdeithas Madog and Welsh Heritage Week, which have both done a great deal to revive Welsh interest. Between the three of them, operating independently--Cymdeithas Madog, Welsh Heritage Week, and W.A.Y.--Welsh Americans are now well served with associations that are youthful and optimistic in attitude.

This is a situation quite different from the 1950's and is an American reflection of the vigorous Welsh interest that is reemerging in Wales.

Cwrs Cymraeg y Cymoedd - Another Intensive Welsh Language Course

In our last newsletter we included news of Welsh Heritage Week which will also include a beginning course in Breton this year. (For details contact: Anne Habermehl, 3925 West Main, Marion, NY 14505).

Another annual course for Welsh learners is now being finalized, so if you're looking around for a Welsh course, take note of this one as well. Cwrs Cymraeg y Cymoedd ("Welsh Course of the Valleys") will be held July 29-August 5 at Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

CELTIC NEWS - continued

Cwrs Cymraeg y Cymoedd - continued

The course is sponsored by Cymdeithas Madog and the St. David's Societies of Lackawanna County and Wyoming Valley, PA. The location of this week-long course in northeastern Pennsylvania is appropriate given the concentration of Welsh in this area formerly who had come for work in the coal industry. Today, descendants of Welsh immigrants maintain traditions, as evidenced in a 95th year for the annual eisteddfod in Edwardsville--the Cynonfardd Eisteddfodd. Wilkes-barre was also the site in 1983 for the National Cymanfa Ganu (congregational singing festival). The intensive Welsh language week is in its eighth year and includes teachers from the U.S. and Wales. Space is limited, so place a reservation as soon as possible by mailing a \$75 deposit (of approximately \$295 for tuition, Room and board for the week) to: Miss Donna Morgan tel.: (717) 287-7254.
428 North Maple Avenue
Kingston, PA 18704

Checks should be made out to "Cwrs Cymraeg y Cymoedd"; they are refundable up to June 15.

Eastern States Celtic Association

The second annual conference of the Eastern States Celtic Association will take place March 10 (or perhaps has already taken place, unfortunately, by the time this newsletter reaches you), at Marymount Manhattan College, New York.

Papers include:

Past

Anne Habermehl, "The Welsh Eisteddfod, Past and Present"
John M. Jones, "A comparison of the 1567 and 1661 Editions of Llyfr Gweddi Gyffredin (the Welsh Book of Common Prayer).
Nancy C. Dorian, "Writing History Without Records--Oral History Among Gaelic-Speaking Fisherfolk in Scotland"
Eadhmonn Uachinn, "On the Gaelic Language in Modern Media"
Lois Kuter, "Being Breton--Breton music as an Expression of Problems in the Definition of a Contemporary Breton Identity"
Kevin Dixon Gilligan, "The Cornish Revival--Language and Literature"
Michael J. Collins, "Anglo-Welsh Poets and the Elegiac Tradition of the Cynfeirdd"
Joseph P. Clancy, "Readings from 'Scenes from Saunders Lewis'"

The Celtic Studies Association of North America will also hold its annual meeting in New York City this year, March 22-24, at Queens College. Details on the program were not available for the newsletter. Inquiries could be addressed to:

Professor Catherine McKenna
Program Chair, CSANA
Dept. of English, Queens College
City University of New York
Flushing, NY 11367
tel.: (212) 520-7239

CELTIC NEWS - continued

Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington

Readers in the Washington D.C. area might be interested in subscribing to An Nuaideacht, the publication of Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) of Washington. As described on the front of this 15-page publication which comes out six times a year:

"An Nuaidheacht aims to keep people in the Washington area informed about local events of Irish interest; it also publishes reviews of Irish records, journals, and books, carries articles relating to ancient and modern Irish language and culture, and publishes occasional Irish language lessons and pieces in Gaelic for the many students of language in this area."

Incorporated in 1981 the Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington not only sponsors Irish language classes, but also lectures, films, ceilis and other events. To receive the publication of this active group, An Nuaideacht, send a \$5 donation (to cover expenses) to:

Conradh na Gaeilge/Washington
6626 Tunlaw Court
Alexandria, VA 22312

Or, better, yet, join Conradh na Gaeilge if you live in the area: \$7.50 for a single membership; \$10 joint membership, and on up to give some real support. Checks should be made out to Conradh na Gaeilge and mailed to Liam Ó hAnnachair, Treasurer, at the address above.

U.S. ICDBL MEMBERSHIP LIST

I am planning to prepare an address list of U.S. Branch members in the next few weeks (instead of waiting until the end of the year again). In the interest of respecting privacy, I have in past years asked members their permission to be placed on our address list. For financial reasons, this year I am notifying you by means of this newsletter instead of sending personal letters. Members who do not want to appear on this list should contact me as soon as possible. This address list is distributed to U.S. ICDBL members only. When permission has been requested I have approved its use by Celtic organizations based on my judgement that members would not mind hearing from them (for instance the Celtic Studies Association of North America). The fact that your name and address is on our list is extremely unlikely to land you on a "junk mail" list.

The U.S. ICDBL list is arranged alphabetically within broad geographical regions and by state. It is intended to serve as an aid in bringing our dispersed membership just a bit closer for those interested in contacting others who have expressed interest in the Breton language and culture. Your inclusion on this address list is your option, so please let me know if you opt out.

Some time ago, we decided that "Newsletter of the U.S. ICDBL" was a rather unimaginative title and we requested suggestions for a short and snappy name for this publication. We collected a good number of names, but due to a lack of passionate interest and diversion to other matters, the renaming of the newsletter got shuffled aside.

We now have ~~many~~ ~~new~~ readers so I am reopening "nominations" for a name. Basic criteria include:

- the name should ideally be in Breton.
- the name should be short--ideally one or several words
- the name cannot already be in use.
- and, obviously, the name should express the aims and work of the U.S. ICDBL.

If you do not know any Breton and still have ideas, send them in--perhaps a translation in Breton will sound good, or we may find that an English title is more interesting.

Suggestions we have had in the past are as follows:

- BREIZH HAG AMERIKA ("Brittany and America")
- MOUEZH BREIZH EN AMERIKA ("The Voice of Brittany in America")
- HARP (Breton for "aid"; the proponent cautioned that this might be misleading due to the music reference)
- KENGRED (conveys solidarity, but the proponent thinks that it might have a slightly different connotation that what the ICDBL is all about)
- BUHEZ D'AR BREZHONEG ("Life to Breton"; a slogan-type of title)
- BEVET AR BREZHONEG ("Long live Breton": for a more militant ring)
- AN TRISKELLIG (Diminutive of "triskell", the three-spiral motif found on megaliths in Ireland and Brittany and used today in Brittany in designs)
- AN ERMINIG (Diminutive form of "ermin". The ermine is the heraldic emblem of Brittany)
- BRUD D'AR BREZHONEG ("Glory to Breton"; the word "brud" means "to make known" rather than actually placing something above something else)
- BREZHONEG BEV ("Breton is alive")
- DORN HA DORN ("Hand-in-hand"; has been used by an organization of ex-political prisoners, but that organizations seems to no longer exist under that name (?))

Please send your suggestions to me by April 30 so we can take a poll of readers with the May newsletter.

Lois Kuter

Some last minute notes . . .

I am very pleased to report that the U.S. Branch of the ICDBL has received a contribution of \$150 from the Brussels committee of the ICDBL--the base branch of this international organization--in appreciation of our work. As anyone who has taken time to read our brochure should know the ICDBL has branches throughout Europe as well as in the U.S., Canada and Australia. You will hear more about the work in Brussels and elsewhere in future newsletters.

On a different topic, readers may be interested to learn of a note I received from Vincent Bourke of "Irish Books" in San Francisco (655 Hyde Street). Mr. Bourke informs me he would like to branch out from Irish books to more Celtic materials in his shop. Those of you on the west coast might want to give him a bit of encouragement.

And on yet another topic...I regret to have to report that Alan Stivell will not be touring the U.S. this Spring as hoped. The release of the recording of his "Symphonie Celtique" by Rounder Records due to coincide with his tour will, however still take place as planned. This is a marvelous 2-record recording of a very interesting and beautiful composition expressing the individualism and universality of Celtic culture.

As Alan Stivell explains on the record jacket of the Keltica III/CBS release (88487, CB232) of 1980 (through my less-than-poetic translation):

"I wanted to express in a superimposed way three tensions which are deep within us: individual tension to go beyond ourselves; community tension to seek an ideal society; and universal tension towards the Absolute, the infinite, God. Next, I tried to evoke, as in a dream, this perfect harmony. One must immodestly try to look ahead, even imperfectly--poor relative creatures that we are--to find the clear water that gives us the force to advance."

It should not be necessary to repeat that DIWAN--Breton language preschools and primary schools in Brittany--can always use your contributions. The future of the Breton language lies with the children of Brittany. If you want to do something practical to support the Breton language send DIWAN your contribution. The address is:

DIWAN
Treglonou
29214 Lannilis
Brittany, FRANCE

We'll try to include our usual note on DIWAN in the next issue of this newsletter.

THE ICDBL

The ICDBL was set up the fall of 1975 to support the repeated demands of teachers and the people of Brittany that their language be recognized at long, last, taught, and accepted as a fact of daily life by French officials and institutions. This Committee was established and operates today on a volunteer basis primarily by non-Bretons who in this way show that, while the future of the Breton language may not directly concern them, they consider it to be a cause meriting their support. The ICDBL is concerned with the defence of cultural rights; it is non-political, and open to all regardless of race, religion, or heritage. Branches of the ICDBL have been established in Canada, France, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, England, Wales, Ireland, and Australia. The United States Branch was officially incorporated as a not-for-profit organization on October 20, 1981.

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. ICDBL

Published quarterly (February, May, August, November), this 20-25 page newsletter is designed to inform readers in the U.S. and abroad about the Breton language and the work of Bretons to support it. Regular features include:

- news of Breton language and cultural organizations
- a column in Breton
- short book reviews and bibliographical notes
- notes on Breton language learning materials
- news of other Celtic languages and organizations in the U.S.
- news of European and international groups to defend Breton and other national and regional languages
- a recipe column
- an information exchange column
- various notes and articles on ICDBL activities.

The aim of the newsletter is to be both a source of and a guide to information about the Breton language and culture.

Subscription for 1983 (starting with the February issue (Number 6) is \$5.00 for the U.S. and Canada; \$6 overseas (surface mail); \$7 overseas (A.O. Printed Matter rate). Note: Subscription is included in membership dues. Address all inquiries or subscription requests to the General Editor:

Lois Kuter
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 USA

Back issues of the newsletter are available as follows: (prices include postage)

No. 1	\$1.00	
No. 2	\$2.00	or all issues for \$7.00
No. 3	\$2.00	
No. 4/5	\$4.00	

THE ICDBL - U.S. BRANCH

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

Officers: *Robin Brendan Mackay*, President
Lois Kuter, Secretary-Treasurer

Board of Directors:

Laurie O'Keefe Fadave
Christine Renée C. Forster
René Galand (Reun ar C'halan)
John S. Hennessey, Jr.
Dennis King
Lenora A. Timm

With the primary aim of promoting education in and about the Breton language, the U.S. ICDBL has initiated the following activities: a bibliography project, the development of informational packages about the Breton language and culture for use by individuals or in U.S. classrooms, work to make Breton books and journals better known and more accessible in the U.S., and participation in festivals and conferences.

MEMBERSHIP

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

Voting Members have the right to cast one vote for their membership on all issues brought to vote. Groups or several individuals may hold a membership in common. **Dues for 1983: \$7.00.**

Non-Voting Members have no voting rights but are welcome and encouraged to be active in all Branch activities. This category is primarily for those who would like to show support, but do not want decision-making responsibilities. **Dues for 1983: \$5.00.**

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

Lois Kuter
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Persons living outside the U.S. are urged to join ICDBL Branches existant in their location. The U.S. Branch Newsletter is available to non-members through subscription.

For membership in the Canadian Branch of the ICDBL contact:

Yann Plunier
932 Pierre Viger
Boucherville, P.Q.
J4B 3W2 CANADA

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NEWSLETTER OF THE U.S. BRANCH NUMBER 10 FEBRUARY 1984

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