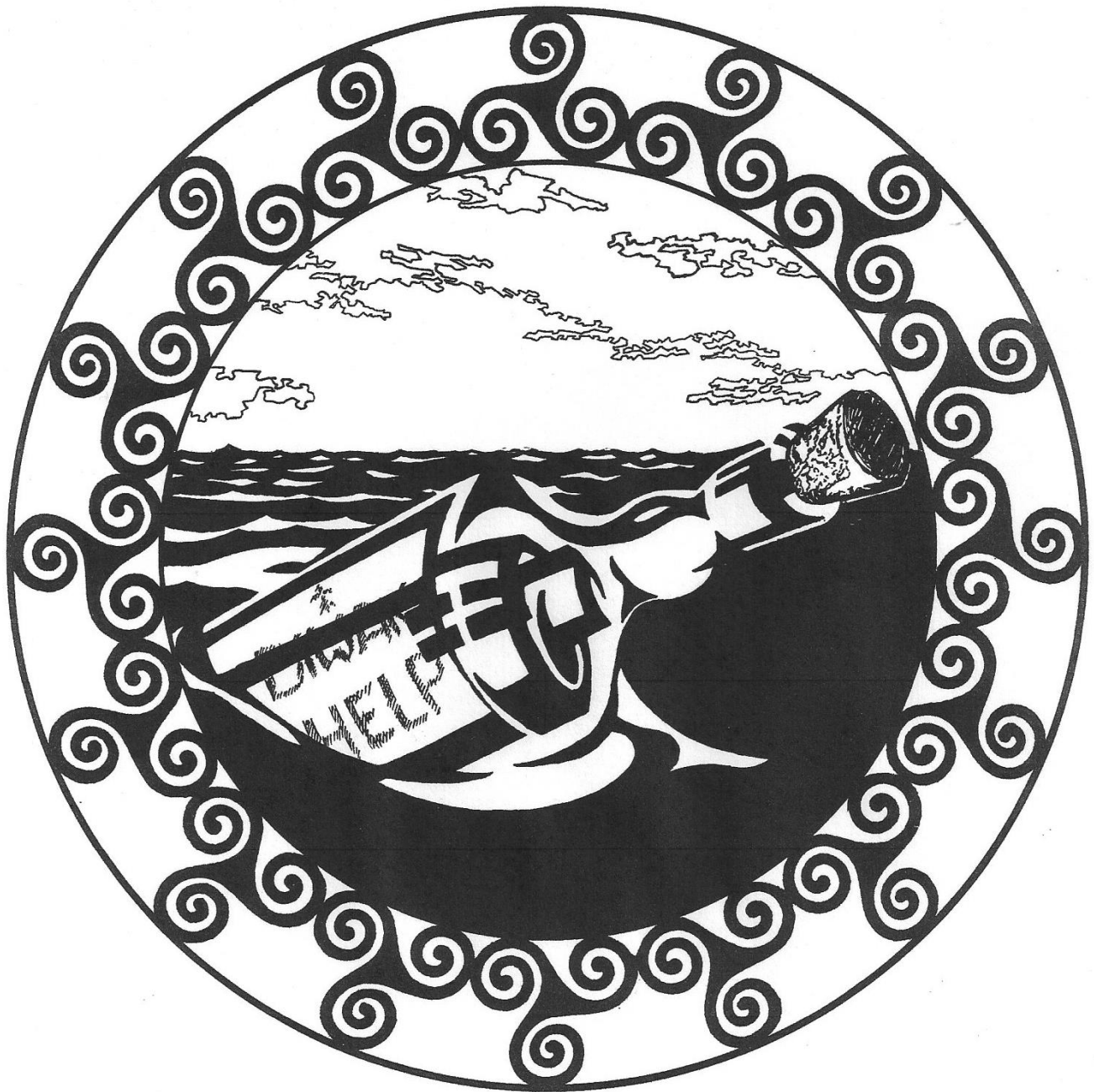


Kuzul Etrevroadel evit Kendalc'h ar Brezhoneg
International committee for the Defense of the Breton Language
U.S. Branch



Newsletter no.11

May 1984

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 11 - MAY 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 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.

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

As the standard opening to the newsletter states above, contributions and ideas are welcome from all readers. If you have anything for the newsletter send it to one of the editors above or to me. We count on you to fill the pages and our quality has gradually improved because more and more readers have sent in contributions to the Newsletter. Thank you to all who have helped us grow.

A REPORT ON THE BRETON LANGUAGE

Lois Kuter

The following report is an overview of the current situation of the Breton language in Brittany. As you will see from this report, many problems continue to threaten the future of the Breton language. (See also ICDBL Newsletter No. 9 of November 1983 and the Fact Finding Report of January 1983).

The information for this report is drawn from a variety of sources-- correspondence, newspaper and magazine clippings I have received from Brittany, as well as more detailed documents prepared by Breton organizations. The major source of information was a document prepared by the Union des Etudiants de Breton of the Université de Haute Bretagne in Rennes called Hor Yezh/Notre Langue - La situation de la langue bretonne en 1983 (Bruxelles, décembre 1983). This document of some 100 pages was presented to the European Parliament by Per Denez, a Breton professor, poet and writer in the Breton language, President of Kuzul ar Brezhoneg, and President of the Scientific Council of the Institut Culturel de Bretagne.

Brief reports of this document and of Per Denez's meeting with the European Parliament can be found in Breizh 295 (January 1984) and 296 (February 1984). I do not have information on ordering copies of Hor Yezh/Notre Langue (which should not be confused with the journal called Hor Yezh), but inquiries could be directed to: Union des Etudiants de Breton, Section de Celtique, Faculté des Lettres, Université de Haute Bretagne, 6 avenue Gaston-Berger, 35000 Rennes, France.

Also helpful in preparing this report was documentation prepared by the Association des Parents d'Eleves pour l'Enseignement du Breton (A.P.E.E.B.), a parents' group based in Rennes which has been particularly active in that area. I would be happy to provide further details on this organization to anyone interested, or they could be contacted directly: A.P.E.E.B., B.P. 2507, 35025 Rennes Cédex.

Information concerning Diwan was drawn in large part from documentation received in the past few weeks from them. These 14 pages of information are available to anyone interested in more details for the cost of xerox and postage (\$1.50).

BRETON IN THE SCHOOLS

Teaching Breton in private or public schools is dependent on the policies of the Ministry of National Education in Paris. The actual limits set and the state of affairs for different levels of schools are summarized as follows:

Preschool and Primary Schools

Official regulations state that Breton can be taught on a "voluntary basis on the part of teachers and students" for 1 to 3 hours per week. No statistics exist to document the evidence of teachers starting a regular program in their classes, but we do know that 8 itinerant teachers existed for all of Brittany (1982/83) to go from school to school to specifically teach Breton language and culture. This number does not meet the demand. For example, in the single

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Department of Morbihan, an official survey in 1982 indicated that 9,370 children (and parents) wanted a Breton program, while only 2 itinerant teachers were available for this work.

The recent Ministry of Education regulations of June 1982 concerning "regional languages and cultures" allows for bilingual teaching at the primary school level, if parents and teachers want to set up such a program. However, obstacles block the opening of such classes--teachers must volunteer to do it (and are not specifically trained to do it), permission is needed from school principals, town mayors and other local officials, and parents need to be informed that such an option exists. Only three bilingual classes opened in Brittany in 1983--and one was only able to start two months after the beginning of the school year.

Diwan Schools

Based on the example of Basque schools, parents have organized pre-schools and several primary school classes in the Breton language. The first preschool class opened in 1977 in Lampaul Ploudalmézeau in the Léon area. In 1983 there were 25 classes in 20 different locations, including approximately 300 children. 44 people were salaried to operate these schools: teachers, teaching assistants, and a small administrative staff.

The medium for instruction in Diwan schools is Breton. French is introduced at the primary school level. Children are bilingual by the time they leave the primary level and suffer no "setback" or disadvantage in dealing with the social and economic world around them.

Finances have always severely limited the growth of these schools which are free to children and run by parents and teachers. Until now schools have continued to grow as the demand for them has grown. A stoppage of growth is not due to slackened interest in Diwan schools, but to the difficulty of operating the schools within a budget dependent on donations from individuals' pockets. In 1983/84 the State covered 25% of Diwan's budget; individuals in Brittany supported 56% of the budget; a 14% deficit was covered by no one. Diwan is now facing very grave financial difficulties which threaten to close down its classes in the near future unless State or other funding of a large scale is found. These classes offer the only means for children to be educated in the Breton language. Their survival is extremely important for the survival of the Breton language.

Because Diwan is a public service, open to all in Brittany and supported by Bretons, efforts have been made since its founding to get integration into the regular school system--a means of insuring sound financial backing as well as pedagogical support. After years of negotiations, a contract was agreed upon in 1983. This was far from original hopes and expectations, but it did finally give official recognition to the existence of Diwan and to the legitimacy

of education in the Breton language. But, the contract did not deliver the financial support necessary to give Diwan schools a secure base. The state agreed to cover only half of teachers' salaries, and only for teachers with classes of 12 or more which have been in existence for more than 2 years. Newly created classes are automatically excluded from support. The blocks remain in place.

Secondary Schools

Various limits for Breton classes exist at different levels of the high school level program. For the 5th and 6th level, one to two optional hours of Breton are possible. For the 4th through terminal years, three hours per week are possible. Very little, if anything, is available to students in technical, agricultural, or maritime schools.

Only one-third of the secondary schools in four of the five Departments of Brittany offer Breton classes (statistics are not available for the Department of Loire-Atlantique since this area is not officially included in the State-defined region called "Brittany"). Of those programs that exist, many offer only 1 hour per week of class. Surveys of students show that the demand for classes is far from met. Many students do not have the chance to take Breton at all in their schools. Unofficial blocks are as effective as the official regulations in limiting classes--scheduling during lunch hours or after normal hours of the school day, and a lack of continuity in programs from one year to the next. Breton is a "special" subject of study; students have to go out of their way to enroll in a class. The problem of hiring teachers is a major obstacle--see the discussion which follows on teacher training.

University Level

The lack of Breton in lower levels of schooling means that those arriving for university work are at different stages of competence. Because of this, it is difficult to organize an effective university program. Yet programs exist and have high enrollments.

An important event in recent years has been the creation of a "licence" for Breton at two major universities of Brittany: the Université de Haute Bretagne in Rennes, and the Université de Bretagne Occidentale in Brest. Because preliminary degree programs for the licence have not yet been established by the Ministry of Education, enrolling in the licence program can mean a very round-about route. Those who want to earn a licence in Breton must first qualify in some other subject. Another problem--more serious--is that the licence offers little hope for a teaching job despite the fact that one is trained to teach Breton! Further certification required for teaching jobs do not exist for Breton. Interestingly enough, however, enrollment in the Breton licence program has been very high. In 1981/82, the first year of the program, 343 students enrolled in Rennes and 67 earned the licence that year.

Teacher Training for Breton

It is necessary first to state that there are no Breton teachers in Brittany in the sense that no one has been trained and hired to specifically teach only Breton.

Primary school teachers are trained in "Ecoles Normales" or "Centres de Formation Pédagogique" for private school teachers. Sometimes optional classes for Breton language and culture are available, but in none of the training programs in Brittany is there a professor hired specifically for such training. Teachers for the three bilingual classes at the primary school level and the eight itinerant teachers have never been trained specifically to teach Breton language and culture.

Teachers for the secondary schools are trained through university programs. Like other language teachers, Breton teachers must earn the "licence". However, to enroll in the newly created licence program for Breton, one must also have a preliminary degree (DEUG). But, there is no DEUG for Breton, so some other subject must be taken instead. Normally one takes a DEUG for one's specific field of study--for example, in English if one is to be an English teacher. The fact that there is no DEUG for Breton means that students arrive for the licence program from a variety of disciplines without strong training in Breton.

The problem of teacher training in Breton is reflected in problems of meeting the need for Breton teachers. To meet an explicit increase in demand for Breton at the secondary school level, the Ministry of National Education has freed hours in teachers' schedules on a temporary basis so that they could teach Breton. Thus, a History, Spanish or Chemistry teacher is allowed to teach more Breton and less of his or her own specialty during a specific year to meet students' needs. In 1982/83 the equivalent of 24 teaching posts were freed in hours--but, not one teaching job was created for teachers trained specifically to teach Breton.

The lack of posts for "Breton teachers" is tied to the requirement that secondary school teachers pass exams to qualify for a post in their subject area. After passing the CAPES (Certificat d'Aptitude Pédagogique à l'Enseignement Secondaire), a teacher can be hired. But despite demand for a CAPES for Breton, no exam has been established by the Ministry of Education. Math and English teachers who have a CAPES in Math and English (to cite just two examples) end up teaching Breton, while people who have a licence in Breton cannot get a job to teach Breton unless they take a second degree program in some other subject to "sneak in the back door." French logic? In the meantime, some 50,000 students who have expressed a desire to take Breton classes in their schools are blocked from getting teachers trained and most highly qualified to teach them.

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MEDIA USE OF BRETON

Radio

Three "regional" radio stations exist in Brittany: one based in Rennes (Radio Armorique), one based in Brest (Radio Breizh Izel/Radio Bretagne Ouest) and one based in Nantes which serves a State-created zone called "Pays de Loire" including areas outside of Brittany.

These radios are directly under the control of the State radio, France-Inter.

Radio Breizh Izel was created in 1982 to serve Lower Brittany (the western half of Brittany roughly), but it only broadcasts to the department of Finistère and today only emits one hour daily of Breton language programming (2 hours on the weekend. Bilingual programs--mixed Breton and French--took up 4 hours per day in 1982 but dropped to only 2 hours per day by the summer of 1983. German and English language broadcasts are available in the summer for the convenience of tourists.

Theoretically, Radio Armorique serves eastern Brittany and has dropped its Breton language programming in time since Radio Bretagne Ouest was to serve the western region where Breton speakers are concentrated. This ignores the fact that thousands of Breton speakers have moved to eastern Brittany to find work, and that urban centers throughout Brittany have always had strong pockets of Breton speakers. Radio-Armorique has one hour per day of Breton. Its Sunday programming is at the same hour as the only weekend Breton language television broadcast.

Local Radios in Brittany

Legalized in 1981, local radio stations serve to fill some of the void in Breton language programming. However, these non-commercial, poorly funded stations emit only to a very small area and have only a small budget. They are important media for the expression of Breton concerns in the Breton language and in French or Gallo, but only when local people choose to use them that way and volunteers come forward to create interesting programming. (See the letter which follows from J. C. Miossec which expresses one Breton's hope for this media).

Radio in Paris

Approximately one million Bretons live and work in Paris--one-fifth of whom are estimated to be Breton speakers. No large radio station serves them, but one small one has been developed in Paris. Radio-Pays was created in 1982 and serves not only the Breton community, but also the Basques, Occitans, Corsicans, Flemish, Alsatians, and Catalans who are also neglected in the larger media.

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The objective of the radio station is to keep emigrants in the Paris area in touch with their languages and cultures. Radio Pays has survived numerous problems in remaining afloat financially, getting a powerful enough transmission antenna, getting necessary licencing and a place and time slot on the radio band. (See Breizh 296, February 1984, for a good article on this important radio station).

Television

Several years ago a third television station called France-Regions 3 was created to explicitly serve the "regions" of France. Out of 60 hours of programming per week for Brittany, Breton language programs get only 1 hour and 40 minutes per week--20 minutes of this is bilingual. The potential of television for the Breton language is greatly limited by the fact that there is only one full-time employee for Breton language programming for all of Brittany. No one has been trained or hired to develop Breton programming.

To give readers a good idea of the frustration Bretons feel with the inadequacies of both radio and television in Brittany, I have included here the translation of "An Open Letter to French Radio and Television in Brittany" written by Tugdual Kalvez, a Breton teacher and poet who lives near Vannes. He cites specific problems which show that even the already dismal statistics on time devoted to Breton language programming misrepresent the inadequacies of these media to serve the needs of Breton speakers. In my translation I have tried to retain the tone of irony Mr. Kalvez uses very beautifully and humorously. I would be happy to send a copy of the original French text, as well as the response and follow-up letter, to anyone interested.

"Too much is too much"

Open Letter to
the French Radio and Television in Brittany
from Tugdual Kalvez

This Sunday, January 29, 1984, it was the last straw. What did O.R.T.F. offer to Breton-speaking listeners and viewers? ...Two broadcasts--one on the radio and the other on television ...at the same hour, even though this is the only thing for the people who work during the week to catch.

One could not have found a better way to cut by half the number of Breton-speaking listeners and viewers.

And the content of these broadcasts? Reruns! On the radio, a rebroadcast of the report in French by Gwennole Le Menn--excellent in itself--but directed to a French-speaking public, while it would have sufficed to ask this excellent Breton-speaker to record it in Breton as well. Add to this a poem

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by Tristan Corbière in French, a song about the Isle of Sein, in French, and Irish or Cornish recordings, and you can understand that, for a Breton-speaker, to hear the language and music of his country which he never hears any other time, is to lock him in his ghetto. One can believe that the project which was seriously formulated several years ago has now been put into action--broadcasts for Breton-speakers done in French so that everyone else can understand them too!

On television, we had the rebroadcast of "Un taol lagad": 15 minutes of the week's news stuck to a 20-minute segment of the second part of a broadcast about Bodadeg ar Sonerien--the first part of which was aired...a month ago!

Bric a brac broadcasts, carelessly done, without common sense. This is just one example of the offhanded way in which Breton speakers are treated. Additionally, the rare Breton-language broadcasts are sometimes rescheduled or cancelled without pre-warning. During the summer they didn't occur at all. And, some weeks, the Sunday broadcast was "forgotten" or the same one broadcast only 8 days before was repeated.

Why such an attitude? Because the Breton culture and its defenders are held in contempt. The broadcasters do the best they can, more or less well, without training after other jobs. The broadcasts of Fanch Broudig holdup because he is hired on a full-time basis, and even if he has had to progressively learn his job as he did it, he knows it well. We need a specific department for Breton-language broadcasts, complete with producers, journalists, and technicians--all Breton speakers and all full-time.

The attitude is the same in teaching. To be a Breton teacher, it is sufficient simply to be a volunteer. No diploma required. No job position. Courses given outside normal school hours, etc. . . .

Not only are broadcasts done in a haphazard way, but we only have the right to this minimal level when we can catch the radio broadcasts like those of Radio Breizh Izel which do not transmit as far as Vannes--despite the fact that this station is supposed to reach all of Lower Brittany and we have always been waiting for the long-demanded relay tower.

Several months ago FR3 Rennes and Nantes gained a supplementary three hours daily for regional programming, but that has not led to even one more minute of Breton on the television. It is a mockery of Breton speakers and the Breton culture to inflict such treatment on them. It is an attack of our dignity which can only incite a sentiment of revolt.

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Cultural defenders have never been listened to because they are nice: they ask politely and get nothing. When the peasants break and burn, they are scolded like noisy children, but one complies with their arguments. Do we need to find our example in the peasants, the Basques and the Corsicans? Do we need a new Roc-Tredudon? (Editor's note: reference to the blowing up of a radio and television transmitter in Brittany in 1974).

If it is necessary to revolt to get justice, let's have a revolt!

Tugdual Kalvez

In a follow-up letter, Mr. Kalvez sums up the problems in six questions to be answered by Radio-Armorique and Radio Breizh Izel:

- Why are the only two broadcasts of the week on radio and television for weekend viewers and listeners scheduled on the same hour of the same day?
- Why hasn't a relay tower been put in place so the inhabitants of the Vannes area can receive broadcasts from R.B.I.?
- Why, when one talks of decentralization, does one close the Vannes station, and in doing this, eliminate five minutes per day of Breton (that being all that there was).
- Why are there so few full-time permanent employees for Breton?
- Why is it that a number of the managers and technicians can't understand one word of the Breton programs they record and broadcast?
- Finally, to end this polemic, tell us about the improvements for the short-run and development programs for Breton broadcasting in the months and years to come.

BRETON IN PUBLIC LIFE

The Courts

Several cases can be cited which show clearly the place Breton has in law courts--no place. In 1981 two Bretons (Hervé Kerrain and Bernard Corbel) who, as Bretons, refused to serve in the French military, insisted on speaking Breton at their trial. A translator was available, yet the court refused to accept their choice to speak Breton and lengthened their sentence because of their lack of "cooperation."

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A more recent case is that of Hervé le Bec who was brought to court for an infraction related to the distribution of flyers advertising a fest noz. This in itself was perfectly legal, but the flyers did not have the name of the printer--a minor matter which normally could be settled very quickly. Insisting on his right to speak Breton in the court--a right clearly expressed in international human rights charters signed by France--the judge refused to hear the case and it was delayed to another time. The hearing in March did employ the services of a translator--used by the same court previously for monolingual Breton speakers unable to speak French. Mr. le Bec is one of the first Bretons granted the right to choose to express himself in Breton in the courts. His case was dismissed--the flyers were xeroxed and thus did not need a printer's name.

Another test of the court's willingness to serve justice in the Breton language is now underway. Two men on trial for defacing road signs (see discussion which follows) were brought to trial on April 10, 1984. Hervé Barry and Dominique Guesdon, the defendants, as well as 12 witnesses for them demanded an interpreter. Before an interpreter is provided, the judge wants proof that the defendants cannot speak French. The case is to come back to the court in Rennes on June 20. The defendants and witnesses are expected to insist on their right to speak Breton.

Post Offices

Letters addressed in the Breton language may slip through, but the post office generally refuses to deliver such letters.

Banks

For several years the use of checks in Breton has been growing and is accepted by banks. The Credit Mutuel de Bretagne has been printing bilingual checks for several years and an estimated 700,000 checks have been processed with no problems. Paying bills and taxes to the French state seems to be accepted in the Breton language.

The Railroads

This is an area which stands out in its refusal to accept checks in Breton for the purchase of tickets. In a recent court case, Gilles Bernard was prosecuted by the railroad company SNCF (Syndicat Nationale des Chemins de Fer) for not having a ticket. When the ticket office refused to accept his check made out in Breton, he "composted" it--stamped it before entering the train as you would a ticket--to show his good intentions. The courts eventually decided that his check was legal and had to be accepted by the SNCF. This is a small victory for the Breton language, won by someone who insisted on his rights. One has to wonder why Bretons should have to be put on trial because they insist on their right to use their own language.

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Road Signs in Breton

For many years, Breton organizations have requested bilingual road signs for public buildings. Facing total indifference on the part of the Ministry of Transports, the Breton organization Skol an Emsav decided to take matters into its own hands in 1982 by the use of self-adhering letters over road signs. In a few rare instances local politicians have authorized and used signs in Breton within their jurisdiction. Thus, the town of Carhaix has been the first to put up bilingual signs (Kreiz-kêr/City-center; Ti-kêr/Mayor's office, etc.).

However, facing no change at a higher level and continued resistance to Breton in all public uses, Breton language defenders have recently created a new organization--Stourm ar Brezhoneg--to take harder action since polite requests have failed to budge the government. A press release by this organization serves well to present it and its actions:

Press Release

Stourm ar Brezhoneg
c/o Herve ar Bihan
Kerlann
56000 Gwened (Vannes)
Brittany, France

The Breton language society, Stourm ar Brezhoneg, proclaims that the rights of the Breton language must be recognized in Brittany, especially on the road signs. This means that, as it has already been demanded in the past, our Breton place-names must be correctly spelled on those road signs, and that when French and Breton names differ, road signs must bear both, the Breton form being written as large as the French one and coming first.

On March 16, 1984, Stourm ar Brezhoneg started a non-violent campaign which won't stop till that is completed, as a first step toward the Bretonification of public life in Brittany.

On that day members and supporters of Stourm ar Brezhoneg phoned during daytime hours, the French Ministry of Transports in Paris, demanding that the Breton place-names of Brittany be respected, and painted at night signs bearing French names selected in advance around the towns of Roazhon, Gwengamp, Kemper and An Oriant.

Stourm ar Brezhoneg is ready to act in that way again as often as will be needed and calls on the Breton people to join its struggle. (Text in English as transmitted from Stourm ar Brezhoneg.)

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Although Bretons' actions may seem timid compared to those in Wales, this movement towards acts of blatant civil disobedience is significant and reflects a worsening situation for the Breton language. Growing numbers who refuse to pay taxes and who insist on using Breton for all public life, who continue to use Breton language checks for train tickets, and who illegally black out French road signs, will have an impact that years of peaceful, polite, and legal actions have not had.

WHAT IS THE U.S. ICDBL DOING?

In the past several months members of the the ICDBL and our Board of Directors have worked on several specific projects--at the request of people in Brittany who felt our support would be useful.

First . . . petitions in favor of the CAPES and the DEUG for Breton.

Many ICDBL members worked to collect signatures during the months of March and April in support of these two university certifications for the Breton language. The DEUG is a degree qualifying one to go on to get a "licence" in one's subject. The licence for Breton was created in 1981, but there is still no DEUG for Breton so students must earn it in some other subject before going on in Breton studies. The CAPES is an examination which gives one the necessary qualifications to be hired in public secondary schools. Since this does not exist for Breton it is difficult for people trained to teach Breton to get jobs in high schools unless they have a CAPES in some other subject.

Both of these degrees are necessary to expand Breton classes at the high school level--to meet the demands of students who want to take Breton classes.

During our short period of collection of signatures we came up with close to 500 which were sent to Brittany for presentation to President Mitterrand. The signers included people of all backgrounds. Along with 54 university professors, 34 teachers, and 50 students signing the petition, there were also artists, musicians, lawyers, actors, writers, business executives, secretaries, journalists, editors, store clerks, nurses, doctors, engineers, architects, roofers, construction workers, mechanics, carpenters, chefs, waiters, and clergymen and priests.

The diversity of signers of the petitions reflects the basic importance of the right to learn one's own language. This diversity also parallels the diversity of Americans who have

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joined the U.S. ICDBL--130 so far for 1984. While the U.S. Branch membership includes many university professors and teachers, it also includes workers, artists, businessmen and women, and people of many other occupations who live in 27 different states.

The CAPES has not yet been granted for Breton. . .

Second . . . support for Breton in the courts.

We have been asked to write a letter of support for Mssrs. Barry and Guesdon who will be tried June 20 for their road sign painting activity. We are not defending their actions in protesting the lack of Breton in public places of Brittany (although we certainly would agree that this is a problem to be solved), but we are supporting their right to speak Breton in the court at their trial. By insisting on the use of an interpreter they are insisting on this very basic right.

Third . . . some help for Diwan.

We were asked in the last few weeks to contact people in the U.S. whose international stature or importance in work for linguistic and cultural rights might aid Diwan in arranging a meeting with French President Mitterrand to work for the future of these schools. We sent approximately 30 letters to a variety of "personalities" in hopes that they could send their Appeal to Diwan by the end of May. At this time we do not know if a meeting with President Mitterrand was set up, or whether the outcome was successful. We do know that unless the French government can offer some real financial support for these schools, they will not reopen in the Fall. International support is necessary to show that the future of Diwan schools is our concern as well. Our support will continue and you will hear more on Diwan when we get some news of recent developments.

From the preceeding report you can see that the U.S. ICDBL still has plenty of work to do. When necessary we have sent our ideas to French officials, but this is just a small part of our work to support the Breton language. Our main role is as an educational group and this has been our work with the newsletter and publication series especially. Individual members of the ICDBL are responsible for all of that. Individuals have also done work which is less visible. Through conversations with friends and acquaintances and sometimes through public presentations and lectures, members of the U.S. ICDBL have introduced the Breton language and culture to other Americans. The following article is about one of our members who has worked in this way. His name should sound familiar since he was the author of the article on Loeiz Herrieu we featured in our last newsletter-- Dr. Edwin H. Jones. Thanks to Dr. Jones and all others who have done this kind of invisible work for the Breton language.

He's speaking out to save a language

By HILARY HOLLIDAY
Staff Reporter

To the ranks of the endangered, add the Breton language. Spoken by about half a million people in Brittany, a former province in north-west France, this old Celtic language appears to be going the way of whales and bald eagles.

But, like certain dwindling species of animals, Breton has its protectors.

Enter the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language. The group has about 100 members in the U.S.

One of three Virginians belonging to the committee is Dr. Edwin H. Jones, professor emeritus in the modern languages department at Mary Washington College. Jones recently published an article about a 20th century Breton poet who crusaded for preservation of his native tongue.

Appropriately, Jones published his article in the newsletter distrib-

uted by the U.S. branch of the International Committee.

Spoken Breton is "dying out fast," Jones says. Most young Bretons speak French; the language may literally die out with the elderly people who speak it. But there is a movement afoot among young Bretons who want to preserve their linguistic heritage.

A French professor, Jones first became interested in Breton when he met Mary Uguen, a speaker of Breton and a Fulbright scholar visiting Mary Washington College. In the mid-'60s, Jones and his wife, Frances, visited Ms. Uguen in France.

"I'm the type of person who, when I go to a country, if I don't know the language, I like to learn it," Jones said. During his first visit to Brittany, he bought a number of books written in Breton. He read these with the help of French translations and was on his way to becoming an official Breton defender.



Edwin Jones

His discovery of Loeiz Herrieu, a poet who wrote in Breton and dedicated his life to preserving his language, gave Jones a focus for his research.

Herrieu died in 1953 after publishing a Breton-language magazine for 35 years as well as 20-odd

Please see **Breton**, page 1

From: The Free Lance Star, May 12, 1984

Breton from page 1

books.

"He was a man trying to survive in very difficult conditions. He was angry that the French government would not allow the Breton language to be taught in the schools," Jones said.

The French government continues to frown on Breton. After all, it is spoken by the descendants of people who sided with England during the Hundred Years War.

"We've written letters to (Prime Minister Francois) Mitterand," Jones said of the International Committee's quest. The letters, however, have been unanswered so far.

Why does Jones bother with a language spoken by so few, so far away? "I kind of like the underdog. I know, (the Bretons) aren't aristocratic, but they're good people—and proud of their language."

LOCAL RADIOS IN BRITTANY. . .A POTENTIAL FOR THE BRETON LANGUAGE

The following note was received from Jean-Claude Miossec of Plouescat, Brittany. Mr. Miossec expresses his ideas about the potential development of local radios for Breton language broadcasting--ideas directed to fellow Bretons in Brittany as well as to readers of this newsletter. Several radios in different parts of Brittany have indeed served the Breton language and interests of local communities (in French, Gallo or Breton). In his note Mr. Miossec cites the good example of "Radio Emeraude" in the Bro Bagan area of northwestern Brittany. As stated earlier in the brief review of the use of Breton in the media, local radios were legalized in 1981 and have been used in Brittany as a media for news of local events in the language of the area. These radio stations are limited severely by their restriction to non-commercial means of funding (no advertising). A lack of funding means that they rely on volunteers and are often underequipped and understaffed for high quality broadcasting.

The article which follows was written in English by Mr. Miossec. I have made only some very minor grammatical corrections. L.K.

"Very Few Means But Important Results"

Jean-Claude Miossec

"Through striking a nail, you end up driving it in."

For the first time, this old charming proverb has been caught out... worse...now the hammer strikes nobody but the giver. The increased efforts of the Bretons for their culture comes up against the ten-fold uncompromising attitude of the authorities.

There is only one word which describes the present situation: SETBACK. We're now losing everything we won before May 1981. All of what seems to have been gained is but an illusion to the indifferent layman who bursts out: "What are you complaining about? You can now hear people talk Breton on the radio all day long!"

Radio: this is the new war-horse. There it is, all ours, small-sized, but we are free to expand it with our own means.

The field of independent radios is by no means totally in favor of Breton culture, but one of them, "Radio Emeraude," has awoken the "Pays Pagan" (Ar Vro Bagan) and extends its action over a wide area of the "Leon" with real success, broadcasting two hours of Breton a week.

Independent radios may achieve what has been denied to us by the authorities. Well, let's drive the nail into the lately opened gap and widen it as much as we can.

LOCAL RADIOS ...

There has to be set up in the various areas of Brittany (Vannes, Leon, Tregor, Cornouaille) three or four independent radios which would be similar to "Radio Emeraude". Three or four companions have to be found. They exist, actually. I know people who could do the job. They would accept to do it if they could only live on it.

Then, the financial question arises. These jobs can be created from the villages ("communes")--people pay taxes for that. But, supposing they're not sufficient. There exist other means. Advertising could be one of them and it isn't the least.

Therefore, we must give birth to new independent radios, create a good Breton-speaking section led by a conversant executive, and define its means of financing. With this, we will have made a huge step forward.

One hour and a half of daily listening in Breton seems enough to me as long as it is sensibly chosen.*

Let us give back to the Breton people the opportunity to speak with their own local particularisms. Let's listen to them so as to reap the fruit as we convey this necessary information that has been hidden for such a long time. In a word, let's restore all the means of communication which lead to a better understanding of human life.

In this field, the way is opened to us. It's our duty to make it possible. Let's make the most of very little.

Jean-Claude Miossec

* Many Bretons would argue that an hour and a half of Breton on the radio per day is not enough. Timing of Breton language programs has always limited its audience. "Sensible choice" would include placing even a small amount of Breton at "prime time". L.K.

CORRECTION FOR NEWSLETTER 10

Dr. Edwin Jones has sent the following correction to his article concerning Loeiz Herrieu. The footnote on page 14 should read: "the poet's brother" and not "the poet's son".

KONTADENNOU BREIZH IZEL

Reun ar C'halan

Ar Vreizhiz a zo bet dedennet a-viskoazh gant kontadennoù burzhudus pe fentus a bep seurt. Per Jakez Helias en deus displeget meur a wech pegement a foug e veze graet gant ar marvailher a oa gouest da lakaat an dud da skrijañ gant ar spont pe da darzhañ da c'hoarzhiñ gant e gontadennoù. Un dra a zo anat: er c'hontadennoù a veze klevet gwechall war ar maez e veze an aotrou Doue, ar sent, hag an diaoul ivez, red eo hen anzavout, heñvel-buhez da dud ar vro. Komz a raent evelto, ha pa c'hoarveze ganto en em gavout war an tu mat pe war an tu gin e teuent da vezañ hegarat pe da c'hoari of fenn. Evel-se eo er gontadenn-mañ. Sant Per a zo aet skuizh oc'h ober war-dro dor ar Baradoz, ha fellout a ra dezhañ mont d'ober un tamm tro war vord ar Ster Aon. Un tammig re bell e chom gant e dro, ha Sant Per a zo ruz e benn pa zeuan aotrou Doue da c'hourdrouz anezhañ. Klask a ra digarezioù evit en em zidamall, ha komz a ra diwar-benn ul lean santel a ra vad d'ar beorien ha d'ar re glañv. Goulenn a ra ma vo graet un dra bennak evitañ. An aotrou Doue a zo a du, ha kemenn a ra da zaou ael da reiñ d'al lean ar pezh a garo.

Setu an daou ael o c'houlenn ouzh al lean ha karout a rafe kaout un dra bennak. Sabatuet int, rak ne fell ket dezhañ kaout tra ebet diganto, nag aour, hag enorioù, nag ur vuhez hir. A-benn ar fin e c'houlenn ar c'hras d'ober vad hep dezhañ gouzout netra: evel-se ne savo ket ourgouilh en e benn. Divizet eo gant an daou ael e ray ar sant burzhudoù pa vo e skeud a-dreñv e gein. Evel-se ne ouezo netra. Ha da c'houde, e forzh pe lec'h ma vale al lean, e teu

KONTADENNOÙ...

an dud dall da welout sklaer, ar re vut da gomz, ar re vouzar da glevout, hag ar re seizet da vale. Al lean a chom diouiziek, o vezañ ma vez graet ar burzhudoù gant e skeud a-dreñv e gein. Se ne blij ket da ziskibien an diaoul, eveljust. Bez' ez eus unan er vro, un den fallakr penn-da-benn. Gwerzhet en deus e ene da Baolig Kornek, ha fellout a ra dezhañ dizober ar mad graet gant skeud al lean. Dre nerzh an diaoul e vez lakaet pep burzhud da vont da get. An dud kamm a zo seizet o fevar ezel, ar re vorn a ya dall, ar re glañv a varv, ar saout daou viz leue ganto a ziforc'h, ar bleunioù a zisec'h. Ken dichek e teu an den fallakr da vezañ ma gred klask trouz ouzh an den santel. Tapout a ra krog en ur mell penn-bazh, ha dav war gein ar paour kaezh lean. Hemañ a red kuit, gant e enebour war e seulioù. Al lean kaezh a zo kozh, ha skuizhañ a ra buan. Diskibl an diaoul a c'hounez, a c'hounez. Ul lamm c'hoazh, hag e teuo e benn-bazh da derriñ klopenn al lean. Met petra a c'hoari gantañ? Kerzhout a ra e skeud an den santel, ha setu ma'z en em strink war e zaoulin o c'houlenn pardon digant al lean kozh. Skeud al lean a zo bet kreñvoc'h eget galloud an diaoul. Adalek ar mare-se e krog diskibl an diaoul d'ober pinijenn. Aon en deus na zeuio an diaoul d'hen kastizañ, eveljust, ha chom a ra bepred e skeud al lean. Kerkent hag e teu an heol da guzhat et vez lakaet ur c'houlaoenn-goar war enaou: evel-se e kouezh atav skeud al lean war an hini en deus gwerzhet e ene d'an drouk-spered. Mall ez eus gant Paolig kas e breizh gantañ: "Deus 'ta", e lavar dezhañ. "Deus d'am c'herc'hat", e respont egile. Paolig a astenn e grabanoù,

KONTADENNOU...

met kerkent hag e teu e vizied e skeud ar sent e vez klevet c'hwez ar suilh. Paolig a zo boas ouzh tan an ifern, met ne c'hall ket padout gant ar boan: dêviñ a'ra e, zaouarn, ha m'ont a ra da zistanañ e dour berv puñs an ifern, izel e lost ha ken mezhek hag ur c'hilhog dibluet.

Reun ar C'halan

(The Breton people have always enjoyed stories which could give them a good scare or make them laugh. In these stories, God, his saints, and the devil are often depicted as ordinary people. They often play tricks on each other, as in this story where the devil, as is often the case when he tries to challenge a man of God, suffers a humiliating defeat).

NOTES ON RECENT BRETON PUBLICATIONS

Reun ar C'halan

Edouarzh Ollivro. Pikou mab e dad (Pikou son of his father) (Lesneven: Hor Yezh, 1983). 320 pages.

A Breton translation, by the writer Jakez Konan, of the largely autobiographical novel written by the late representative in the French National Assembly for the district of Guingamp.

Alan Botrel. Barzhonegoù 1973-1982. (Lesneven: Hor Yezh, 1983). 114 pages. 35 francs.

A collection of some 80 poems by one of the most original young Breton poets.

Yves Miossec. Lorh, kasoni ha poan (Pride, hate and suffering) (Brest: Brud Nevez, 1983). 264 pages. 40 francs.

This historical novel narrates the story of a deadly feud between two Breton peasant families at the time of the Reformation, around the end of the 16th century.

RECENT BRETON PUBLICATIONS...

Jef Philippe. En tu-mañ d'an ifern. (This side of hell).
(Brest: Al Liamm, 1983). 42 francs.

This collection of short stories mixes horror and humor in about equal quantities.

Guy Etienne. Geriadur ar bredelfennerezh. (Dictionary of psychoanalysis) (Quimper: Preder, 1983). 384 pages. 120 francs.

A dictionary of psychoanalysis by a practicing physician. The work is based on the celebrated Vocabulaire de la psychanalyse by Laplanche and Pontalis. It provides the Breton translations, definitions, and explanations for 1,435 psychoanalytic terms, as well as their French, English, and German equivalents.

Herve Lanndiern. An Hengoun Arzhuriek (The Arthurian Tradition).
(Rennes: Imbourc'h, 1983). 56 pages. 15 francs.

A short survey of the Arthurian tradition in European literature.

Loeiz ar Floc'h. Plant Breizh evit ho yec'hed (The plants of Brittany for your health) (Lesneven: Hor Yezh, 1983), 128 pages, 45 francs.

A study of traditional folk medicine based on the use of herbs by Breton peasants.

Tudual Huon. Laboused ar vro. (Birds of the land). (Quimper: Al Lanv, 1983). 110 pages. 39 francs.

A beautifully illustrated publication describing the birds found in Brittany. The drawings and the photographs are the work of the author.

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See page 32 for a note on a bookstore now carrying Breton language publications.

A NEW ICDBL PUBLICATION ... THE BRETON LANGUAGE - AN INTRODUCTION
by REUN AR C'HALAN

As most readers are aware, we have prepared a series of what are best described as "working papers" on different aspects of the Breton language and culture. The most recent to be prepared is an excellent introduction to the Breton language by Reun ar C'halan.

After a brief history of the Breton language this 33-page introduction provides descriptions of different features of the Breton language using generous examples and comparisons to the other Celtic languages. Sections include: Vocabulary; Mutations; Articles, nouns and adjectives; Degrees of Comparison; Numeration; the Pronoun; the Demonstrative; Relative Pronouns; the Conjunction; the Adverb; the Optative; Expressing a Command; and Idiomatic Breton Constructions. A brief bibliography is also included. If all of the above headings frighten those of you who have forgotten all the grammar you ever learned in high school, do not let that keep you away from this publication. The text is straight forward and with a few basic definitions in mind, you will have no trouble.

Reun ar C'halan's Introduction to the Breton Language is a must for anyone learning Breton, and for anyone curious about what the Breton language is like. The publication is not meant to teach you everything you need to know in order to speak or read Breton, but it is an excellent introduction to the basic features that make Breton distinctively Breton.

Like the other publications in our series, the cost for the publication is \$2.00--a charge which covers xeroxing and postage costs.

Other publications in the series are also available (from Lois Kuter):

FACT FINDING REPORT OF THE U.S. ICDBL

Prepared January 1983 by Lois Kuter, Lenora Timm, Laurie O'Keefe Fadave and Anne Habermehl. Review of the situation of the Breton language based on 4 independent visits to Brittany the summer and fall of 1982.

GUIDE TO LEARNING MATERIALS FOR BRETON

Lenora Timm, Reun ar C'halan, Lois Kuter, Nathalie Novik
A thorough guide to grammars, texts, dictionaries, classes, etc.

GUIDE TO LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS IN BRITTANY

Lois Kuter. Basic list of names and addresses.

CHRONOLOGY OF BRETON HISTORY

Lois Kuter. Basic list of events related especially to the Breton language and culture.

GUIDE TO MUSIC IN BRITTANY

Lois Kuter and others. Includes basic definitions, book reviews and a discography.

NEWS OF CELTIC LANGUAGES AND ORGANIZATIONS

Anne Habermehl
3925 North Main, Marion NY 14505

Please note: News of Celtic happenings, other than Breton, is the subject of this column, and I would welcome any contributions at any time.

Ken Nilsen reports that he is teaching Irish classes this summer in Ireland during June and July, ending in early August. June 14-28 will be the dates of courses on Irish Folklore and Mythology in Ballyferriter and Connemara; June 28-July 14 will find him teaching Beginning Irish in Ballyferriter; and his Intermediate Irish course will be held July 23-August 6. For more information he can be contacted at 71 Martin Street, Cambridge, MA 02137, (617) 661-8051.

Dr. Nilsen's special interest is modern Irish dialects, and his doctorate in Celtic Studies was from Harvard. He also speaks Scottish Gaelic and Welsh, and can read in Breton. He would especially like to meet some native Breton speakers in the Boston area.

Other Celtic events in his area that took place recently: the drama group from Spiddal, Ireland, did three performances of an Irish-language version of the play "Country Boy" during April in North Easton, South Boston, and Norwood MA; and there was poetry reading by a Gaeltacht poet, Cathal ó Searcaigh, and a showing of Bob Quinn's film, Poitín, at Cumann na Gaelilge in Boston.

The film, by the way, was also shown at the Eastern States Celtic Conference held in Manhattan on March 10, with English subtitles. ICDBL members who presented papers there were John Jones, Lois Kuter, Nancy Dorian, and myself.

Morgan Hoover is looking for Irish students for a beginners' course. He can be reached at P.O. Box 30015, Bethesda, MD 20814, or (301) 986-8745.

The Breton course at Welsh Heritage Week is looking for a few more students to sign up. This course, in beginners' spoken Breton, is the first of its kind; and may well not be offered another year, depending on the availability of a teacher, or demand for it. This year, July 15-22 at Keuka College, is your chance to learn some spoken Breton, and I urge you not to pass it up. For more details on this or any part of the Welsh Heritage Week program, please contact me at the address above, or call (315) 926-5318.

Also there is the Cwrs Cymraeg to be held in early August in Wilkes-barre, PA; contact Evan Parker at 9520 Accord Drive, Potomac, MD 20854.

CELTIC NEWS - 2

Have a good summer, and if there is a Celtic festival near you, please attend it to support it. While these festivals are often not very intellectual, none the less they do a lot to keep the Celtic culture known to the public, and we can build on this. Anyone interested and able to set up an ICDBL information stand at a festival is invited to contact Lois Kuter for brochures and other materials.

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NEWS OF NON-CELTIC LANGUAGES

Roslyn Raney

Having just volunteered to edit the column on non-Celtic minority languages for the ICDBL newsletter, I'd like to start by introducing myself briefly. I'm Roslyn Raney and am a fourth-generation Californian of Welsh and Irish descent. I've spent most of my life near San Francisco; my more noteworthy absences from this area have been several summers in Europe (particularly in Wales, Germany and France) and 1½ years in Austria as a Fulbright Graduate Fellow. I have just filed my PhD dissertation "A Discourse Approach to Word Order Change in Germanic, Romance and Celtic" and thus completed my graduate studies in Germanic Linguistics at the University of California, Berkeley, where I have taught German and French language courses for several years.

My interest in Celtic stems both from my heritage and from my enjoyment of learning languages. I've made several trips to Wales to visit my (Anglophone) relatives, do research and learn to speak Welsh. I cannot speak Breton--yet--although I have an article forthcoming (in Papers and Studies in Contrastive Linguistics, 18) entitled "VSO and SVO Order in Welsh and Breton". Breton is next on my list of languages to learn.

Now, a few words about the non-Celtic languages column. The Celtic areas are fertile ground indeed for questions of minority languages, bilingualism, diglossia, use of dialect vs. standard language, language contact, language death, etc. Contributions to this column should explore other language situations which involve languages 'disadvantaged' in some way. For the purposes of the column, I would like to define "minority languages" very broadly to include not only languages which are in danger of dying, e.g., Breton, but also languages spoken away from their center of standardization, e.g., Canadian French, and languages used only in one place or only by one small group of people, e.g., Icelandic, but whose continued existence is not threatened.

NON-CELTIC LANGUAGES - 2

The column will present articles about minority languages as well as reviews of books on appropriate topics. Information about minority languages anywhere in the world is welcome--I am only familiar with the European and North American situations and would like to have my horizons broadened. Contributors should remember to keep their submissions short--no more than four pages, typed, double spaced--and to provide sufficient background information on the languages and areas they discuss. We readers of this newsletter are all knowledgeable about Celtic, but beyond that I imagine that our backgrounds are quite diverse!

Let me close by saying that I am looking forward to seeing the non-Celtic column take shape. I welcome your suggestions, assistance and contributions.

Roslyn Raney
Department of German
University of California
Berkeley, CA 94720

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DEFENSE OF BRETON AND OTHER LANGUAGES:
EUROPEAN BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES

The following is excerpted from an article by Dónall O Riagáin which appeared in Contact (Number 1, November 1983). This is the bulletin of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages, an organization which came into being in 1982.

Roslyn Raney

WE ARE . . .

Dónall O Riagáin

The Bureau is in a sense a product of the "roots phenomenon"--this undefined movement of peoples seeking their identity and the human rights ensuing from their ethnicity.

It came into being at a colloquium held in Brussels in May 1982 to consider the implications of the Arfe Report which the European Parliament had adopted the previous October. The representatives of the various "small peoples" who attended this colloquium expressed their support for the establishment of a body which would act on their behalf at Community level with the various institutions of the EEC, the Council of Europe, etc. Its constitution defines this general aim--"to preserve and promote the lesser used autochthonous languages of the member states of the European Communities, together with their associated cultures".

The European Community is, essentially, a community of nation-states, i.e., independent states considered by their governments to be

BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES . . . 2

nations in the 19th century meaning of that term. State and nation are not however synonymous and in every member state of the European Community there exists at least one nation or community which differ from the majority of that state insofar as they possess their own language and their own particular identity. In fact, there are only two countries--in western Europe--that do not have such internally different communities--Iceland and Portugal--and neither of these are members of the European Community.

The European Community recognizes seven official working languages--French, English, German, Italian, Dutch, Danish and Greek. Irish is a "treaty language". That is to say that the text in Irish of the Treaties carries equal authority with the same text in the seven working languages. Irish is also "an official working language of the European Court".

There are over 300 million citizens on the European Community whose mother tongue is a language other than the seven official working languages. In reality this means that there exists a large number of people within the community who do not enjoy the same linguistic status as do the majority language speakers.

The communities who use these less widely spoken languages are various:

- (i) small nations without their own state. e.g., the Welsh, the Bretons and the Frisians;
- (ii) small independent nation states whose language is not now widely spoken. e.g., the Irish;
- (iii) communities who speak a minority language but do not consider themselves a nation in the accepted use of that term. e.g., the Ladins of the Alpine region.

One may add to these three groups,

- (iv) extra-territorial minorities, e.g. communities within one country who speak the majority language of another, e.g., the Danish speakers of Schleswig-Holstein, the French speakers of Val d'Aosta.

It cannot be denied that these communities of lesser-spoken languages are not without their problems. Indeed, one might well ask whether they can possibly have a future in the modern world. There is, however, strong evidence to suggest that they do indeed have a future, and a most viable one, once some basic facts are acknowledged.

BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES . . . 3

These languages are an integral part of the cultural heritage of Europe. They include some of the oldest languages of Europe with a rich literature and folk tradition. If they have been ignored in the past by the institutions of the European Community, this is no longer the case. In 1979, for example, John Hume (Member of the European Parliament for Northern Ireland) put forward in the Parliament a motion demanding certain basic rights for speakers of such languages, as well as supportive measures from Community institutions. In the following year, four other separate motions were tabled, all centering on the same area of concern. These motions were discussed in detail at Parliamentary Committee level and, as a result, Gaetano Arfe (an Italian member of the Committee) was requested to draw up a document encompassing the points made in the various motions tabled. Signor Arfe performed the function so efficiently that the outcome was the adoption by the European Parliament of the document now known as the Arfe Report on the 16th October 1981.*

This Report comprises basically a charter of rights with some indicators as to possible action. It is, in every sense, a basic foundation upon which to build. The building has begun.

In Brussels in May 1982 action was taken to ensure that the Arfe Report was kept to the forefront in European Parliamentary Affairs by the founding of the European Bureau for Lesser Used Languages... It is too soon to judge the work of the Bureau. Two very fruitful and interesting meetings have been held to date, one in 1982 in Brussels, and one in Dublin in 1983. A Constitution has been adopted and a short-term action plan agreed. Naturally, this is only a beginning as the members are well aware.

In February of this year (1983) there were two significant developments. An Inter-Group Parliamentary Committee was established by MEPs who have a particular interest in promoting minority and regional languages. A second motion, proposed by Signor Arfe to reinforce the provisions of the original report, was adopted in Parliament by an overwhelming majority.

For the first time since the European Communities were established a budget line, albeit a small one, was provided in 1983 to support lesser used languages and cultures.

The Bureau was accorded consultative status by the Commission and has had an opportunity to advance proposals as to how best this budget line might be spent.

* See U.S. ICDBL Newsletter 2 (February 1982) for a brief report on these important activities by the European Community.

BUREAU FOR LESSER USED LANGUAGES . . . 4

Broadly-based committees of the Bureau were established on a national basis in a number of member-states and others hopefully will be established in the coming months. The function of each National Committee, as laid down by the Bureau's constitution, will be to nominate a delegate to the Council of the Bureau and to make submissions to the Bureau concerning all aspects of minority language policy within the European Communities. . . .

What lies in store for the Bureau? We are cautiously optimistic and we can be certain that what we are attempting to do is to build a better and stronger Europe--a Europe of peoples--of all peoples. A Europe unified in its diversity. It is surely a challenge worth facing.

Dónall O Riagáin*
Chairman
European Bureau for
Lesser Used Languages
Gael-Linn
26 Cearnóg Mhuirfean
Baile Atha Cliath 2
EIRE (Ireland)

* Dónall O Riagáin is also active with the Irish Branch of the ICDBL.

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MORE ON THE U.S. LANGUAGE POLICY STATEMENT

The following letter has been received from Dinah Lehoven, an ICDBL member in Los Angeles. In her letter Dinah raises some important questions and problems to be considered before racing headlong into bilingual education programs in the U.S. Protecting the linguistic rights in U.S. communities where peoples of many different heritages find themselves side by side in the classroom is no simple matter as the letter indicates.

I was moved to write this on reading the U.S. Language Policy Statement and platform in the last newsletter. Obviously, I'm in favor of preserving linguistic and cultural diversity; I think it's vital children feel an ethnic difference from their fellow students is a valued and legitimate reason for pride. But I must seriously question the workability of a policy which drops the use of English as the only medium of instruction in American public schools. I write this from Los Angeles, where the linguistic and ethnic backgrounds of public school students are staggeringly diverse. Certainly the observable majority would resolve into the obvious languages, such as Spanish, or Japanese. But it seems to me the result of such a policy would see children from the smaller

U.S. LANGUAGE POLICY . . . 2

linguistic groups caught up in attending a school where the primary language of instruction was neither their own nor English. Also, since it is still true that in this country the path to mainstream "upward mobility" in the job market requires that the person be able to communicate well in English, I think it becomes an insidious denial of reality to teach non-English speakers in such a manner that they do not also learn English. (Although it is, I suppose, better than teaching them in such a way that they learn nothing at all because they don't understand the language of instruction.)

With the exception of areas with heavy Native American concentrations, I think the linguistic distribution problem in this country is considerably different from one where an indigenous population did or still resists obliteration of its language by an invader. Thus I think that where it might be very appropriate in such a country for the local community to choose the local language of instruction, it would not fit the situation here.

I think the solution lies more in the validation of ethnic roots and fluent bilingualism. If ethnic diversity is not really valued and rewarded by the society, even students being taught in their own languages will perceive that the best jobs, etc., go to "American sounding" English speakers. Rather than propose platforms which may ultimately weaken our students' abilities to communicate, I think the focus should be on the encouragement of learning and using multiple languages well.

I'm not sure how to propose this in a political context, other than perhaps encouraging national awards and recognition for diverse languages. (It almost seems more like an area where the media could be the most helpful, by providing positive examples, but that's not really a very fruitful area for legislation). Perhaps the best bet would be to offer our (ICDBL) assistance (or request our inclusion) in any federal studies made on the subject of education, for the express purpose of ensuring that the question of linguistic diversity is represented.

To sum up, I think that the requests for census data and most of the suggestions for funding are excellent, but I strongly feel that anything which helps prevent students from also learning English is extremely ill-considered.

Dinah Lehoven

Note: Other responses to the U.S. Language Policy Statement presented in Newsletter 10, or to Dinah Lehoven's letter, are welcome. We would also welcome your ideas on the best role the ICDBL can play in participating in or supporting FACLC (Federation of American Cultural and Language Communities).

AE GEGIN

Nathalie Novik

Breton Marble Pound Cake

This cake is called a 4/4 because it includes 1/4 flour, 1/4 sugar, 1/4 eggs and 1/4 butter.

Ingredients: 1 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup lightly salted butter (melted)
4 eggs (their weight is equal to 1 cup flour)
Vanilla
1 square baking chocolate

Beat the eggs with the sugar. Slowly add the flour, then the melted butter. Mix thoroughly but do not beat. Dilute the chocolate with a little water and mix it lightly with the batter, and pour into a greased baking pan. Bake 45 minutes in moderate oven (325).

Your recipes are welcome for inclusion in this column. Remember also that we are working on a cook book. So far we do not have enough recipes to do much in the way of cooking. Notes about cooking and eating in Brittany are also welcome. The possibilities are endless . . . but the contributions have not been.

QUIMPER FAIENCES

Elizabeth Nedwell writes to say that a brochure called Quimper Faiences is available for \$1.00 from the U.S. distributor. Anyone interested can order the brochure from:

Quimper Faience
141 Water Street
Stonington, CT 06378

Telephone: (203) 535-1712

I would be very interested in names and addresses for any other distributors of Breton products in the U.S. Can any readers be of help here? L.K.

BRETON (AND FRENCH) MUSIC COMING TO THE U.S.

Be on the look-out this June and July for a Breton musician named Dan ar Bras--a master of acoustic and electric guitar from Brittany, who will be touring with Gabriel Yacoub. The two will combine their great talents in a tour to "promote" the later arrival of the French band Malicorne which has recently reformed. Malicorne is a band that innovates, drawing its music from traditional and not so traditional sources...including Brittany and other lively heritages in France. Dan ar Bras will be touring with Malicorne also. Tour dates so far established are as follows:

Dan ar Bras & Gabriel Yacoub:

Friday, June 15 & Sat. June 16: Speakeasy, 107 McDougall St., NYC
 Wed. June 20, Adam's 21, 2100 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington D.C.
 Thurs. June 21, Rhythm Alley, 405½ Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC
 Fri. June 22, McDibb's, 119 Cherry St., Black Mountain, NC
 Sat. June 23, Fiddle & Bow Society, 418 Duke St., Winston-Salem, NC
 Tues. June 27, The Alternative Museum, 17 White St., NYC
 Wed. June 26, Passim's, 47 Palmer St., Cambridge, MA
 Fri., June 29, The Carriage House, U. of Connecticut, Bridgeport, CT
 Sat., June 30, The Towne Crier, Hopewell Junction, NY

Dan ar Bras & Malicorne

Fri. July 6 to Sun. July 8: Winnipeg Folk Festival, Winnipeg, CAN.
 Fri. July 13 to Sun. July 15, Vancouver Folk Festival, Vancouver, CAN
 Thursday, July 19, Le Spectrum, Montreal, Quebec
 Fri., July 20, Paine Hall, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA
 Sat., July 21, Hunter College Auditorium, Park Ave. & 68th St., NYC
 Mon. July 23, Brandywine Friends of Old Time Music Open air Festival
 Wilmington, DE
 Tues. July 24, Adam's 21, 2100 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington D.C.
 Wed. July 25, Bethlehem, PA, Godfrey Daniels (to be held elsewhere)
 Thurs. July 26, Museum of History & Industry, Seattle, WA
 Fri. July 27 & Sat. July 28: Eugene, OR
 Sun. July 29, The Great American Music Hall, San Francisco, CA
 Tues. July 31, The Olympic Village, Santa Barbara, CA
 Thurs. Aug. 2, Santa Cruz, CA
 Fri. Aug. 3, McCabe's, Los Angeles, CA

For further information contact: Dan Behrman
 Immigrant Music, Inc.
 205 W. South Orange Ave.
 South Orange, NJ 07079
 (201) 762-7580

And that's not all...

KORNOG is coming back...

KORNOG TO BE BACK AGAIN

In November 1984 the Breton group Kornog will be back again for a U.S. tour. This group includes: **Jamie McMenemy**, a transplanted Scot formerly of Battlefiel Band who brings to Kornog talents as a singer, bouzouki/mandolin player, and whistle player; **Soig Siberil** is a guitar player and composer...not just some thunmping of strings in the background, but a guitar you won't miss. **Christian Lemaitre** is a fiddler, among other things. You'll notice him too. And, **Jean-Michel Veillon** offers some extraordinary talent on wooden flute, whistle and a modified bombarde. The musicians of Kornog know what their doing, know Breton music and their love for this music and ability to fit it to being Breton today will be clear to the ear. The music of Kornog is not traditional Breton music, but it certainly is Breton in the sounds as well as way it is communicated to hearers. The November tour is now being put together. If you know of anyone who wants to set up a concert in your area (a "promoter") contact Kornog's U.S. manager: **Hershel Freeman**
4212 Old Chapel Hill Road
Durham, NC 27707
(919) 493-6208

Watch also for Kornog's record to be released in the U.S. this Fall by Green Linnet records (70 Turner Hill Road, New Canaan, CT 06840; (203) 966-0864).

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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 (7/8, May/August 1983), we plan to focus future newsletters on specific topics from time to time. **For August, the special focus of the Newsletter will be Breton hsitory.**

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

As has been the case with all our Newsletters, we count on readers for contributions. We do not have a professional staff of writers. If you have anything to contribute--from a short note or query to an article of several pages--send it to me by July 10. Contributions can deal with ancient or modern history, and book and article reviews are very welcome. Ideas are also welcome to make this newsletter issue a success. What do you want to know about the history of Brittany? Send in your questions and they can be answered in newsletters to come.

THE JEWISH LANGUAGE REVIEW AND THE BRETON LANGUAGE

Although the journal Jewish Language Review may sound like an unlikely source for articles about Breton, this journal, published by the Association for the Study of Jewish Languages, will indeed have an article in Volume 4 (1984) called "A Note on Jewish Aspects of Breton."

The Jewish Language Review is an annual publication (in English with an occasional article in French) 'devoted to all aspects of the inner and outer linguistic history of the Jewish people and related groups.' Each volume is available for \$15 (\$20 for institutions). The address for ordering, or for further information is:

Association for the Study of Jewish Languages
1610 Eshkol Tower
University of Haifa
Mount Carmel
Haifa 31 999, Israel

Dr. David Gold, co-editor of the Jewish Language Review is the head of the ICDBL branch based in Israel. Readers of this newsletter for the past few years may recall a note from him requesting help with information on a Jewish merchant's notebook, several hundred years old, said to have existed in the Breton language using the Jewish alphabet. Any information readers may have on this is still welcome.

Readers may be interested to know that in Hebrew "Breton" is called **bretonit** and in Yiddish it is called **bretonish**.

SOME BRETON BOOKS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE U.S.

From time to time I try to include notes on bookstores where Breton books are available. Stephen Griffith, a member of the U.S. ICDBL, has a book distribution service which has been primarily focused on Ireland and Irish language materials. I have recently received from him a listing called "A Selection of Celtic Language Books" which includes the following Breton language publications as well as books in Irish Gaelic and Scottish Gaelic: (all books are from Al Liamm).

ar C'halan, Reun. **Levr ar Blanedenn**. 1981 (\$6.50)
Glanndour, Maodez. **Va Levrig Skeudennou**, 1983 (\$6.50)
Hemon, Roparz. **Mari Vorgan**. 1975. (\$7.00); **Nenn Jani**, 1974 (\$7.50);
Tangi Kerviler, 1971 (\$6.50).
Huon, Ronan. **Evidon va Unan**, 1976 (\$6.50); **An Irin Glas**, 1971 (\$6.50).
Le Gleau, Rene. **Dictionnaire Classique Francais-Breton**. Vol. 1
(A-B), 1983 (\$17.50).

For details, orders, more information: Stephen Griffin, 9 Irvington Rd.
Medford, MA 02155
(617) 396-8440 (9 am-9 pm)

BRANCHES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE
DEFENSE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE

"A NETWORK OF BRITANNY'S FRIENDS ACTING FOR THE SAME CAUSE"

<u>COMITE DE BRUXELLES :</u>	<u>Téléphone</u>
Secrétaire Général : Mhr. Gerke SOMER - CISLB : B.P. 249 - 1040 Bruxelles	660.77.86
Secrétaire Général-Adjoint : M. Paul BOCKSRUTH	653.42.86
<u>AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE :</u> Miss Vivian CLARE - Celtic League of Australia 9 A Waveney Str. ST ALBANS - Victoria - AUSTRALIA 3021	
<u>CANADIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE :</u> M. Yann PLUNIER - 932, Pierre Viger, <u>COMITE NATIONAL CANADIEN</u> BOUCHERVILLE, P.Q. - J4B 3W2 - Canada	
<u>COMITE NATIONAL FRANCAIS :</u> Prof. Marcel TEXIER - 8, rue du Pas-de-Calais F. 78310 MAUREPAS (France)	3/050/24 03
<u>COMITE NATIONAL GREC:</u> Md.TSOUDERUS Virginie, Vassileos Georgiou B' 14, GR-ATHENES (138) <u>ΕΘΝΙΚΗ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ:</u> Κα.ΤΣΟΥΔΕΡΟΥ Βιργινία, Βασιλέως Γεωργίου Β' 14, ΑΘΗΝΑ (138)	721.83.34 - 721.08.12
<u>COMITE NACIONAL EN ESPAÑA :</u> Señor Mariano SOL-ORDIS - Calle Mari 22/28 ESC.B.Atic BARCELONA 32 - Catalonia - Espagne	3-220.83.34
<u>COMITE NATIONAL SUISSE :</u> M. Wilhem s'JACOB - Les Cassivettes-CH 1171 FECHY(Valais)021/76.5892	
<u>COMITE VOOR NEDERLAND :</u> Prof. Anthony PAUL - Instituut voor Vertaalkunde Universiteit van Amsterdam - 99, Kloveniersburgwal NL AMSTERDAM	20/18.97.57
- Mijhr. Wijbe STERKSMA - 15, Breitnerlaan - NL MUIDERBERG	
<u>COMITE VOOR VLAAMS-BELGIE :</u> Mr. Jan DELOOF - 25, Lindenlaan-B 8550 ZWEVEGEM	056/57.60.03
<u>CORRISPONDENTE IN ITALIA :</u> Sig.Gustavo MALAN - Via Carlo Alberto, 6 10123 TORINO (Italia)	011/53061 ou 0121/91174
<u>DANSK NATIONALKOMITE :</u> M.Mogens JANSSEN - 31, Vejlemasevej - DK 2840 HOLTE -M.Arne PETERSEN, Broksøvej 4, Vallensbaek DK.2660 BRØNDBYSTRAND	(02) 73.07.04
<u>DEUTSCHER NATIONALER AUSSCHUSS :</u> Prof.Gunther GRASSMANN-36,Rothweg D 8700 WURZBURG	0931/31339 or 0931/31.33.39
- Herr Otto FREITAG, Fasanenweg, 1 D 3012 LANGENHAGEN 1	0511/73.43.40
<u>IRISH NATIONAL COMMITTEE :</u> Mr Dónall O Riagáin, 26 Cearnóg Mhuirfean-(IRE)DUBLIN, 01/76.72.83 - Mr Pol BREATHNACH 24 Baitlini Ath Luimnigh Ragnallach DUBLIN 6(IRE)	
<u>ICDBL ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVE :</u> Dr. David F.Gold, Association for the Study of Jewish Language: 1610-ESHKOL TOWER-University of Haifa - MOUNT CARMEL HAIFA 31999 (Israel)	240.111
<u>NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ENGLAND :</u> Mr. Martin HODGKINSON, 70 Gurney Court Rd., St ALBANS, St ALBANS - Herts AL 1 4RL - U.K.	31538
- Mr.Colin MURRAY-The New Celtic Review BM Oak Grove -LONDON WCIN 3XX - U.K.	01/653.55.46 or 01/486/53.53
<u>NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WALES :</u> Mr Gwyn GRIFFITHS - 17, Graigwen Road PONTYPRIDD - Mid Glamorgan - UK WALES	Pontypridd, 406203
<u>NORSK NATIONALKOMITE :</u> Fr. Livja WEXELS-RISER, Hannevika Terasse 21 N 4600 - KRISTIANSAND	55.31.11
<u>OESTERREICHISCHER NATIONALER AUSSCHUSS :</u> Prof. Friedrich ESTERBAUER Institut für Öffentliches Recht- und Politikwissenschaft 30, Innrain - A 6020 INNSBRUCK	33601/992 2
<u>U.S. BRANCH OF ICDBL :</u> Secretary-treasurer : Miss Lois KUTER, 143 Plymouth Road Plymouth Meeting PA. USA 19462	215.828.4115

RENAMING OF THE U.S ICDBL NEWSLETTER

Below is a ballot for you to express your vote for a new, more imaginative name for the newsletter. Please note that you do not have to be a Voting Member of the ICDBL for this vote. All readers of the newsletter are invited to express a choice in this matter. A decision will be made only if over half of the subscribers and readers sent the newsletter respond. Please send your ideas.

The "entries" are as follows. Write-in suggestions will also be accepted. Remember that names have been suggested following the criteria that the title be short, ideally in Breton, not in use by anyone else, and in line with the aims and work of the U.S. ICDBL.

BREIZH HAG AMERIKA ("Brittany and America")

MOUEZH BREIZH EN AMERIKA ("The Voice of Brittany in America")

HARP ("Aid"; may be misleading due to musical meaning).

KENGRED (conveys solidarity; proponent thinks this might have a slightly different connotation than what the ICDBL is about)

BUHEZ D'AR BREZHONEG ("Life to Breton"--a slogan type of title)

BEVET AR BREZHONEG (:Long live Breton"--a bit more militant in nature)

AN TRISKELLIG (diminutive of "Triskel", the three-spiral motif found on megaliths in Ireland and Brittany; The triskel has been adopted as a motive frequently in Brittany).

AN ERMINIG (diminutive form of "ermin". The Ermine is the heraldic symbol of Brittany).

BRUD D'AR BREZHONEG ("Glory to Breton"; the word "brud" means "to make known" rather than actually placing it above something else)

BREZHONEG BEV ("Breton is Alive")

DORN HA DORN ("hand in hand" - name had been once used by an organization to aid Breton political prisoners)

I would like to following name to be the new title for the Newsletter of the U.S. ICDBL:

(write in one of the above or a different name your suggest)

Send to: Lois Kuter
Secretary U.S. ICDBL
143 Plymouth Road
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 U.S.A.

U.S. BRANCH of the
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE for the
DEFENSE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE
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Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE BRETON LANGUAGE

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