

BRO NEVEZ

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



50th Anniversary for the Inter Celtic Festival of Lorient

KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

No. 159

Sept. 2021

Bro Nevez 159

September 2021

ISSN 0895 3074

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The U.S. Branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (U.S. ICDBL) was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation on October 20, 1981. Bro Nevez ("new country" in the Breton language) is the newsletter produced by the U.S. ICDBL. It is published quarterly. Contributions, letters to the editor, corrections, and ideas are welcome from all readers and will be printed at the discretion of the Editor.

The U.S. ICDBL provides Bro Nevez on a complimentary basis to a number of language and cultural organizations in Brittany to show our support for their work. Your Membership/Subscription allows us to mail print copies. Membership (which includes subscription) for one year is \$20. Checks should be in U.S. dollars, made payable to "U.S. ICDBL" and mailed to Lois Kuter at the address above.

This newsletter can be sent as a PDF file attached to an e-mail instead of the print version. Just let the Editor know how you would like to receive it. The e-mail version is much more colorful than the photocopied print copy!

Back issues of Bro Nevez can be found on the U.S. ICDBL website

Ideas expressed within this newsletter are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent ICDBL philosophy or policy.



Editor's Note

In this issue you will find a long – and perhaps a bit tedious – look at the history of *Bro Nevez*. During the 40 years it has been published our "newsletter" has not been internationally widely known, but I believe we have served an important role in making the Breton language and culture better known to American and Canadian U.S. ICDBL Members and *Bro Nevez* subscribers. And sometimes we have even presented something new to Bretons themselves who have received the newsletter on a complimentary basis.

Lois Kuter – loiskuter@verizon.net



France and Language Rights

The European Language Equality Network Sends a Letter of Protest to the United Nations

This July the French organizations which are part of the European Language Equality Network (ELEN) sent a letter to the UN Special Reporter on Minority Issues protesting the continued discrimination and violation of rights for the minority languages of France. Signed by the General Secretary of ELEN Davyth Hicks and the VP of ELEN Tangi Louarn, this protest was sent on the part of some twenty organizations and federations from Alsace, Brittany, Catalonia, Corsica, western Flanders, Guyana, Occitania, the Basque land and Langues d'Oïl.

The letter addresses the regressive and threatening stance of France in view of the May 21 decision on the part of the French Constitutional Council to block two articles of the Molac law for the protection and promotion of regional languages. This law was adopted April 8 by the National Assembly of France by a large majority (247 votes for, 76 against, 10 abstentions) as it was by the Senate.

As reported in the June issue of *Bro Nevez* (No. 158) two essential articles of this law were deemed inconsistent with the French constitution by the Constitutional Council. Article 4 concerned immersion style teaching of languages where the majority of teaching is done in a regional language and school life is also conducted in these languages. This has been the case for Brittany's Diwan schools as well as for other languages for some 50 years – schools which have been associated with the French school system since 1994. This includes today some 14,000 students in pre-school through high school in the Basque Seaska schools, Catalan Bressola, Breton Diwan, Occitan Calandreta, Alsatian ABCM, and Corsican Scola Corsa. Students in

these schools have excelled in exams and have mastered French with no difficulty. The decision by the Constitutional Council is viewed as a clear attack on the immersion schools for regional languages, putting their existence in jeopardy.

In its communication to the UN, ELEN notes the history of France's efforts to eradicate regional languages since the 18th century with schools forbidding language use and punishing students for speaking anything but French. The first timid authorization for the use of "local languages and dialects" was the 1951 Deixonne law, but these languages were offered outside the school day schedule with very limited resources. Numerous laws since then have been shot down in the French Parliament.

The ELEN letter documents the hostility and activities of the current French Minister of National Education, Jean-Michel Blanquer, which have impacted the place of regional languages in schools – a refusal to bring immersion schools into contract with the French state, and in 2017 a high school reform which put regional languages in competition with other languages for baccalaureate credits, resulting in a drop in students opting for regional language studies.

While the bulk of the ELEN communication focuses on the threat to the future of regional languages in the attack on immersion style teaching, they also address article 9 of the Molac law which was also voided by the Constitutional Council. This concerns the use of diacritical marks found in regional language names but not used in French for civil acts. These include the ñ used in Breton for the name Fañch or in Basque for the name Beñat. Also "banned" in public records is the í used in the Catalan name Lluís or the Occitan name Magalí. These marks are important in enabling the proper pronunciation of these names.

For both the case of immersive teaching and blockage of the use of non-French language diacritical marks, ELEN points out in the letter and in annexed documents the manner in which France breaks international and European laws and conventions to protect minority languages and cultures.

For more about the work of ELEN and the letter to the UN check out their website: elen.ngo.

Tugdual Kalvez of the Cultural Institute of Brittany Calls for Justice for Regional Languages

This September Tugdual Kalvez, scholar, poet and teacher of Breton, published a statement arguing that contrary to the decision of the French Constitutional Council, immersion teaching of regional languages is not unconstitutional.

In his statement Tugdual Kalvez affirms that immersion teaching is not an ideological position but a highly effective means of teaching a language. Stifling this pedagogical method for schooling in regional languages not only in the classroom but in all activities of a school is highly prejudicial when this precise method is used in what are called European Sections of the French education system. In these programs non-French foreign languages (English, German, Arabic, Chinese, etc.) are taught using an immersion pedagogy and the Ministry of Education and Youth encourages the use of these languages outside the classroom so that students learn them more effectively (*Guide pour l'enseignement en langue vivante étrangère de l'école au lycée*, 2020). Kalvez asks why this immersion style of teaching is unconstitutional for regional languages of France when it is encouraged by the Ministry of Education for foreign language teaching?

Kalvez does not propose the end of immersive teaching for foreign languages in the European Sections, but asks that this successful pedagogy be encouraged in schools for regional languages. Instead of using the French Constitution as a weapon against the teaching of regional languages, Kalvez and others propose that wording of the article 75-1 stating that "the regional languages belong to the patrimony of France" be extended to specify "immersion teaching of these languages is constitutional."

For the full text of Kalvez's eloquent statement (in French) see nhu.bzh/immersion-enseignement-bretagne/



A New School Year for Breton

I was unable to find statistics for this new school year 2021, but will report in the December issue of *Bro Nevez*. While the demand for Diwan immersion schooling and for bilingual programs continue to grow, challenges remain which block expansion of Breton in the schools. Getting teachers named to positions, getting authorization to open a new class, finding adequate funding, and insuring continuity in access to Breton language schooling from one level to the next all remain obstacles. Nevertheless, the fight will go on to expand opportunities for students in preschools through high school, and there is significant engagement on the part of adults to master Breton in evening or more intensive classes.

The "unconstitutionality" of immersion teaching has not meant schools are closing. Diwan has 48 pre- and primary schools, 6 middle schools and 2 high schools. In

Corsica, Scola Corsa opened two immersion pre-school classes for the first time this year with a total of 25 children.

The President of Ireland in Defense of Breton

President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, spoke of Ireland's long friendship with France on the occasion of the visit by the President of France Emmanuel Macron to Ireland on August 26, 2021. Included in this address was a mild rebuke of France's disregard for the value of its linguistic diversity.

Here is just part of full speech posted on Hotpress.com website.

"Mr President, in a widely commented speech three years ago on the subject of the Francophonie, you observed that the special dignity of language means being conscious of it in such a way that it is not reduced to a communication tool, but rather recognizing that it is the very substance of what makes us human.

We in Ireland understand this well. We have in daily use two languages, of which English is by far the dominant one. However, in the special sense you spoke of, Mr. President, we affirm in our Constitution, Bunreacht na hÉireann, that the Irish language – the native language of this island – is a fundamental source and element in our culture. Just as Breton is an important part of French culture – and a link to our own – so we, in France and in Ireland, share an appreciation of the contribution of language, in its diversity, to a living culture, an appreciation that must surely be at the heart of our common European future."

<https://www.nhu.bzh/michael-d-higgins-president-irlandais/>

In an article posted September 1 on the NHU website (nhu.bzh) Jacques Yves Le Touze speaks of the long friendship Michael Higgins has had with Brittany. A Gaelic speaker, poet, sociolinguist as well as a politician, he spoke up for the Breton culture at the Lorient Inter Celtic Festival in 1995 as Ireland's Minister of Arts and Culture and again in 2014 as President of Ireland. Clearly he has not lost his affection for Brittany and appreciation of the Breton language as expressed in his address during the visit of French President Macron to Ireland this August.



Produced in Brittany

Produit en Bretagne is an association of businesses and organizations with the aim of promoting Brittany and its products. Promotion of the Breton language as a marker of Breton identity naturally figures into this and Produit en Bretagne does its best to encourage its members to incorporate Breton into their visual marketing and internal operations. Actions to do this have included Breton on packaging and logos, media promotions, customer information, signage in shops or businesses, and in public announcements (at festivals, for example), as well as in internal operations.



Each year Produit en Bretagne recognizes an "Ambassador for the Breton Language" – an organization that stands out for its creative and extensive use of Breton. The Ambassador for 2021 is the association Mon Tro Breizh who developed written materials and signage for walkers and hikers following the Tro Breizh pathways. Breton language materials include vocabulary and expressions rooted in the history of this pilgrimage route. Walkers – including lots of tourists to Brittany – are introduced to Breton language words and expressions related to natural history, geography, place names, and Breton culture in an engaging manner.



Deep Inside a Breton Skull 68 A SUBLIMATED HERITAGE

Jean-Pierre Le Mat

What makes up an inheritance, or heritage? Inheritance can be material or financial. Heritage can be cultural, historical, biological. Applied to Breton heritage, the question crosses the questions of belonging, of culture, of history and of group cohesion. The past is no longer a dead weight, but a wealth passing on from memory to memory, from generation to generation. Culture is not only a private knowledge, but also a manner to be linked with others.

Such transmission is not governed by laws, whether physical, biological or otherwise. The heritage, when transmitted, is never exactly the same as the heritage received. The heir retains only what is convenient for

him. He selects; and his selection will be the central part of what he will transmit.

We inherit biological characters, which are translated into an external appearance, a skin color, a potential. They pass also through impulses. Impulses which are rooted deeply are called instincts. Imprinting and learning in early childhood create what are called conditional reflexes. Transmission can be performed also by education, by learning, by example to emulate. That is called culture.

Breton culture is the tip of the iceberg of Breton heritage. Instincts are the deepest part of it, where the sun's rays do not penetrate. The darkness of the unconscious takes them away from our gaze. In between, shrouded in an uncertain glow, are elements that can be interpreted in terms of habit, impulses, inspiration. Official history and collective memory have their share of light and darkness, their share of proven facts and interpretation.

Habits, impulses and inspiration shape our behaviors; some are compulsive, others are intended. They shape our know-how, our skills, our manners; all our knowledge, whether conscious, semi-conscious, or unconscious.

To inherit is to take over what others have accumulated. When the heritage is intangible, sharing it does not reduce the part of the heirs. It would seem, however, that the more the heritage is shared, the less powerful the collusion is that it creates. International languages trivialize the exchanges. Standard skills are not amazing. Oddity of the Breton heritage attracts and fascinates most of the heirs.

In the physical sciences, the word "sublimation" means a direct change from solid to gas. The sublimation of the Breton heritage, by heating it without any pressure, removes heaviness. Like gas, it is everywhere in subtle ways. On the contrary, cultural heritages that are bigger and under greater pressure tend to crystalize into a solid official culture.

Sublimation makes Breton heritage light and subtle. The sublimated heritage shines both on the heir and on the group. This can be seen in folk festivals, festoù noz, sessions of Celtic sports, and all our peculiar forms of collusion.

The first way of sublimation is spreading myths. Myths can be agreed easily; unlike truths, everyone can interpret them in his own way. When a scholar of mythology presents Merlin as a 6th century Caledonian poet, that does not disqualify your neighbor who considers him a nice and vaguely medieval Breton wizard. Myths bring people together.

In big countries, spreading History can be a means to sublimate a culture. "History is a succession of lies that everyone agrees on" said the emperor Napoleon. Joan of Arc, the French revolution, the resistance against the Nazis, many historical events have been mythified by French scholars. In Brittany, it is more difficult to beautify or to veil our history; we need to get political power for that.

Actually, sublimation can work on uncontrolled parts of our heritage: music, arts, dances, sports. That is why Breton rebellion can be seen as an aesthetic movement rooted for eternity in a lost peninsula more than an ethical claim.

Another way of sublimating our heritage is humor. It can be seen on T-shirts, car stickers, and social media. It makes people laugh and, as everyone knows, laughter is a mark of humility. The expression "Proud to be Breton" was fashionable twenty years ago. Then came other slogans, more humorous: "À l'aise Breizh," "Kiss me, I am Breton," "God invented alcohol to prevent the Bretons to be the masters of the world," "Why learn American? Soon, everyone will be speaking Breton," "I didn't choose to be Breton, I just got lucky," "If perfection does not exist on earth, then what planet are the Breton from?" Brittany is a smiling response to both individualism and globalism. It's a twinkle, a flash, maybe a challenge.

The shared heritage fosters a sense of belonging. Sublimation creates what we might call memetic collusion.

Our cultural heritage needs to be shared; sublimation makes sharing a pleasant game.



2021 Inductees into the Order of the Ermine

Founded in 1381 by the Duke Jean IV, the Order of the Ermine was the first chivalric order to be created in Brittany and was one of the few to be open to women and commoners. It disappeared toward the end of

Breton independence in the 15th century but was reinstated in the 1970s and each year the Cultural Institute of Brittany (Skol Uhel ar Vro) – members of the Order of the Ermine - elect four (sometimes more) individuals who have demonstrated a lifelong service to Brittany. This is always a difficult decision with many candidates who have served Brittany in different ways – supporting its culture, economy, and identity. This year the ceremony takes place in Quimper on September 25.

Information below is from the Cultural Institute of Brittany. My translation. I have added a few notes and clarifications in brackets for the benefit of American readers. Lois Kuter



Bernez Audic

Born in 1953 in Paris, oldest child of the family, with a Vannetais father and Leonard mother. A Breton consciousness was certain with his father a bombard player and two of his brothers part of the Bagad Bleimor. From before the war he

discovered the Breton center Ker Vreizh in accompanying his father, and there he discovered the Breton language. He studied at the Lakanai high school, the Saint Louis high school, and then at the ENS Telecom for an engineering degree.

On vacations in Brittany he met Gwenole Le Men, the Laurent family and in particular Donatien [Laurent]. He would learn the Breton language through the correspondence course of Skol Ober, then summer workshops with KEAV [Kamp Etrekeltiek ar Vrezhonegerion], and at Ker Vreizh with Yann Kerlann. He followed up on his own.

He got involved with this association [Ker Vreizh] and with MOB [Movement pour l'Organisation de la Bretagne]. In 1964 he was a founder of the organization Sked Pariz which promoted Breton culture, pedagogical materials, books in Breton, the first 45 rpm record of Glenmor, the gwenn ha du [Breton flag] ... and Breton objects. Bernez always manned the stand.

In 1965 the association created the BZH sticker for the back of cars. Reticence in the Emsav [Breton movement]: “at best 200 were distributed.” But the desire for the sticker was such that the Minister [of France] Olivier Guichard banned it. It has continued to flourish on the back of vehicles. Today the Gwenn ha du appears on all vehicles of the administrative region of Brittany with Breizh or BZH. In Department 44 [Loire-Atlantique] the logo PDL [Pays de la Loire] is often replaced by the Gwenn ha du with the BZH noted. The BZH has been used to affirm Breton identity well beyond the hopes of those who initiated it.

In 1966, he was among the founders of the Celtic Circle of Sceaux, “Da Virviken.” Daring for the time, there were public conferences offered on contemporary issues – sometimes political.

From 1968 to 1970 he worked in Scotland where he met militants of the SNP Scottish National Party. He helped distribute their election literature and they, in turn, in the spirit of Celtic inter-solidarity, gave him contributions for Skoazel Vreizh* in which he was one of the first members. On his return from Scotland he again took up Breton classes at Ker Vreizh.

Since 1976 he has supported the Amicale de Versailles. Also since 1976 he has been an administrator for the Mission Bretonne d’Ile de France, Ti ar Vretoned. He was a member of the Association des Cadres Bretons de la Région Parisienne.

A committed and modest militant who has served the cause of Brittany and Bretons all his life.

Editor’s Note:

* Skoazell Vreizh was created in 1969 to assist with court costs and support families of Bretons jailed for militant activity – including presumed activity with the Front de Libération de Bretagne (FLB), refusal to serve in the French army, tarring of French-only road signs or refusal to pay television taxes in view of the lack of Breton programming.



Danièle Novello Floc'hlay

Born in Saint Thoïs / Santoz, Danièle Novello earned a degree in Philosophy in Rennes / Rhoazhon. After a stay in New York she moved to Paris in 1965 and worked as a journalist.

Becoming conscious of her Breton identity, she became active in political and cultural projects and would work on public relations for the Centre Elysée Bretagne which was opened in Paris by CELIB* [Comité d’études et de liaison des intérêts bretons] and was particularly active in the 1970s.

Danièle chose to return to Brittany in 1974 and specialized in press relations which included media and festivals.

In 1984, with the support of Alexis Gourvennec, she launched the label Made in Breizh for which Bernard Hinault, Eric Tabarly and Jean Loup Chrétien served as honorary presidents. Important businesses such as Brittany Ferries, Britair and Fleetguard bought into the concept.

In 1989 Danièle Novello became the press secretary for Edmond Hervé, the mayor of Rennes / Rhoazon.

More and more sensitive to the protection of Breton culture she devoted herself to Celtia starting in 2001. This focused on a concept of contemporary Breton design for hotels of Brittany. Six hotels adopted this concept which had as a goal to extend the initiatives of Seizh Breur.**

Living in Saint Malo / Sant Maloù since 2011, Danièle Novello regularly puts her know-how in communications to work to serve organizations which promote the Breton culture and reunification of Brittany.

Editor's Notes:

* CELIB gathered business and government leaders of Brittany to develop economic initiatives for Brittany during the 1950s and 60s.

** Seizh Breur was a group of Breton artists active from the 1920s through the mid-1940s who developed modern decorative arts and architecture rooted in Breton tradition.



Yvette Peaudecerf

Born in Saint Nazaire / San Nazer in 1950, she spent her childhood in the Guerande presqu'île. Moving to the Nantes area when she was 13 she joined the Celtic Circle of the Iles d'Indre created in 1963 by Jacques Praud,

former president of Kendalc'h. She became its president in the 1980s and remains so.

A member of CNCC (Centre Nantais de Culture Celtique) she participated in the establishment of activities to develop Breton culture in the Nantes area in the 1970s and 1980s. At the request of the mayor of Nantes / Naoned, she established contacts with the city of Cardiff / Caerdydd (Wales) with several exchange trips between the Celtic Circle of Iles d'Indre and a group from Cardiff. Simultaneously she joined the Amicale du Pays Nantais where she quickly took on responsibilities; she undertook its presidency.

She participated in the Amicale Bro Naoned. She initiated dance workshops for groups of adults and children. She set up a link between the Amical Bro Naoned and Kentelioù an Noz for joint cultural activities.

She is very much engaged in work with children's groups – future bearers of our culture. In the Nantes area she organized leisure days to explore the countryside and local life. Vice president of the Festival Anne de Bretagne association, she participated in highlighting the

Nantes County. She has been an active member of the choral group Kan ar Vro for three years.

Vice president for Kendalc'h for several years now, she has traveled throughout Brittany to conduct specific workshops and to research and promote local dances. She has served on contest juries as a judge or president. She actively worked for the fusion of the two confederations Kendalc'h and War'l Leur. In this new confederation Kenleur she is vice president for material and immaterial patrimony. To export Breton culture, Yvette organized a group for Nantes County Celtic Circles to participate in the Européades: in Italy, Spain Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium ... Recently she participated in the establishment of a Breton language class in Indre; a bilingual class is projected.

In this cultural commitment it's also Brittany of five departments that she defends, present at demonstrations and meetings to support different actions do that Loire-Atlantique is Breton.

Yvette has always served as a volunteer, leading in her involvement for Brittany and its culture and in her profession as a social service assistant – a remarkable ability to inspire and bring people together for Brittany.



Denez Prigent

Born in 1966 in Brest with family origins in Santeg, The son of a Breton-speaking teacher who did not think it useful to transmit this language to his son, he discovered it only at his grandmother's house in Santeg since he lived in the city

of Brest. He would discover with her gwerzioù [Breton language ballads] and became passionate about this expression, for the Breton language, and for learning them [gwerzioù] and then in composing them.

He would discover kan ha diskana [paired singing for dance] at a fest noz where the Goadec sisters sang, and would "tour" then in the festoù-noz as did his partner and mentor Alain Leclère.

Secondary school studies at the Kerichen high school in Brest, followed by university studies in Rennes / Roazhon, let to a parallel study of plastic arts and to learning Breton with the Celtic Section of Rennes 2 University.

He would devote himself afterwards to teaching Breton in the Diwan middle school and high school in Carhaix.

He made his [musical] debut on stage at 16. Then abandoning his teaching for performance, he would successfully develop an international career.

Making his creative songs contemporary throughout his career he brought together the Breton cultural tradition and modern musics.

Following the path of his predecessors Alan Stivell, Yann Fañch Kemener or the Tri Yann, he brought the existence and lively spirit of the Breton culture to Brittany, France and the world through large spectacular concerts.

He formed significant ties with numerous minority peoples of the planet in sharing his art with them. He thus is part of those who have played a true role as an ambassador for our people and culture, especially for minority peoples.



A Loss for Brittany and the Celtic World

Jean-Pierre Pichard (1945-2021)

Jean-Pierre Pichard was born in Châtellerault on September 17, 1945, and died from cancer this August 13 at the age of nearly 75. He was a piper and became the Penn Soner of the bagad of Rennes, helping it win the national championship of bagadoù in 1969. He was active with the Bodadeg ar Sonerion and helped launch the Inter Celtic Festival of Lorient with Polig Monjarret. He directed the Festival from 1972 until 2007 and made it internationally recognized and certainly one of the largest festivals of Europe.

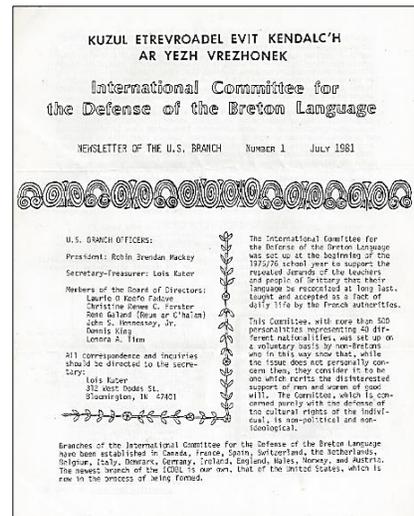
Jean-Pierre Pichard also gave an international stage to Breton music in creating in Paris the Nuits Celtiques and Breizh Touch, as well as the Saint-Patrick festival at Bercy. In 2007 he was elected Breton of the Year by Armor Magazine. In 2016 he was awarded the Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by France's Ministry of Culture.

Jean-Pierre Pichard recently published the book *FIL, Festival Interceltique de Lorient – Une grande aventure humaine* (Coop Breizh, 192 pages). No one could be better placed to present this festival which brings musicians, dancers and artists together from Brittany, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Mann, as well as Asturias and Galicia in Spain and Celtic diaspora communities elsewhere in the world.

While the 2020 festival was cancelled due to COVID restrictions, the 2021 festival was held from August 5 to 14 and featured Asturias as well as celebrating the 50th anniversary of the festival. While programming was reduced a bit from past years, there were 7,000 spectators for the parade of Celtic nations in the

Moustoir stadium, 2,500 for the bagad “carte blanche” concert, and 1,818,000 viewers for the airing of the Nuit interceltique on France 3 television. Some 700,000 people checked out the festival on FIL social media sites.

While the contributions of Jean-Pierre Pichard to bring Breton and Celtic music international renown have been well appreciated by the Breton and Celtic musical world, at least one Breton – Alan Stivell – has voiced disappointment (perhaps better said as outrage) that Jean-Pierre Pichard was never inducted into Brittany's Order of the Ermine, even though proposed as a candidate. To underline his feelings that this honor should have been bestowed, Alan Stivell offered the “collier” he himself received in 1994 to the Pichard family and resigned from the Order of the Ermine.



40th Anniversary for *Bro Nevez*

Lois Kuter

As reported in the June 2021 issue of *Bro Nevez* (no. 158), I had been asked for information by Fañch Broudic who was preparing a presentation on *Bro Nevez* for an International Colloquium on Brittany/North America held in Brest (June 8 & 9, 2021). With very little lead time, I struggled to provide detailed information and the statistics he sought, and I realized that although I had file drawers full of records for the U.S. ICDBL, many hours would be needed to research records to get a less “impressionistic” view of the past forty years of *Bro Nevez*. The following report tries to provide a reasonably accurate overview of the history of *Bro Nevez* and its readers.

Production of *Bro Nevez*

While the U.S. Branch of the international Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language was launched in 1980, the first issue of our newsletter was published in July 1981 – a modest 11-page issue.

With the exception of the cover and few interior pages which were photocopied and collated into each issue, the early editions of the newsletter were produced using stencils. In the 25th anniversary Report for the U.S. ICDBL (November 2006) I described the method as follows:

“In the early days putting out the newsletter was a heroic effort. It was easy enough to find things to write about, but getting this onto paper had its challenges. Stencils were typed on a typewriter capable of punching the letters through the stencil page so that you had the cut-out letter on a thin black sheet. If you made an error you applied a smelly liquid that closed the hole so you could type a new letter over it. It was extremely tedious and did not lend itself to the easy editing and the freedom of revision a computer allows. Once you had your stencil sheet, you put this on the stencil machine – a drum which turned as paper came through to apply black ink to the page. It could be a messy affair, and the quality of print varied wildly, and often pages needed to be thrown away if one side was too pale. Thankfully new technologies have sent stencil machines the way of the dodo bird, but until the end of 1986 this remained the only affordable method to produce *Bro Nevez*.”

With issue no. 13 (November 1984) the U.S. ICDBL Newsletter had been given the name *Bro Nevez* (New Country). With issue no. 21 (November 1986) stencils were gone and each issue was typed. Titles in a larger print of various styles were added by applying letters from plastic sheets – rubbing the sheet to transfer the letters desired. A number of images and news clippings were added by the cut & paste method before pages were photocopied. By issue no. 50 text was generated on a computer but there was still some inclusion of materials added in the cut & paste method. By the 2000s the editor had mastered the art of scanning and copying images directly. *Bro Nevez* has continued to this day to be photocopied at professional “print & copy” centers for those who receive it by mail.

The 158 issues of *Bro Nevez* produced through June 2021 have included 4,060 pages, not including a count of most cover pages and contents pages. Up until 2001, issues had more pages, but with increased use of the computer to arrange pages and vary type size and margins, issues rarely went over 25 pages and by 2012 they were usually 17 to 18 pages – a purposeful limit to keep postage costs in line with income from memberships and subscriptions.



Content of *Bro Nevez*

The bulk of “news” in the pages of *Bro Nevez* have focused on the Breton language – basic reports on the number of speakers and the state of Breton in the schools and classes for adult learners, with regular reports on Diwan in most issues. Reports also covered demonstrations and militant action to provoke the French government to act in favor of the non-French languages within France. And some two dozen Breton language organizations were presented. Coverage also included the state of Breton in the media (radio, TV, internet) as well as public presence in road and other signage and recognition through prizes. Gallo was not ignored but certainly the focus was always intended to be on the Breton language.

Bro Nevez readers also had the opportunity to learn a bit of Breton in short language lessons and vocabulary or phrase guides. Those who had some mastery of Breton could practice reading with some Breton language articles and a bit of poetry – most notably a series of 26 articles by Reun ar C’halan from 1982 to 1991.

Bro Nevez also presented learning materials for Breton as well as notes on fiction and non-fiction books in the Breton language. Book reviews and notes of materials in Breton, French or English are a regular feature of *Bro Nevez*. In the past 40 years 345 books from and about Brittany were reviewed, with an additional 25 on Celtic languages and culture and 11 on minority languages. *Bro Nevez* has published some 600 short notes on books from or about Brittany or Celtic/minority languages and cultures. Some 20 Breton publishers have been presented and 54 Breton magazines/journals have been described with an additional 15 Celtic journals also noted.

Many Americans discover Brittany and the Breton language via music – Alan Stivell or other touring musicians. While LPs and CDs are only very rarely sold in American stores and not all that easy to obtain by mail-order or internet, music has always had a large place in the pages of *Bro Nevez*. 339 albums have been reviewed with an additional 1,640 described in short notes. 24 Breton festivals and 14 Celtic festivals (in the U.S.) have been presented and readers have been alerted to any U.S./Canadian tours by Breton musicians.

Short articles have also provided the basics about Breton dance, song and instrumental traditions.

Besides an introduction to organizations working in support of the Breton language, some 20 groups working more generally for Breton culture have also been presented – some like Dastum or Kendalc’h with a focus on music, and others with a focus on history (Dalc’homp Sonj!), maritime culture (Le Chasse-Marée), or economic development (CELIB, Produit en Bretagne). While politics has not been a topic much explored, *Bro Nevez* has reported on the work of Breton militants and organizations such as Skoazell Vreizh, Stourm ar Brezhoneg, Bonnets Rouges (21st century), and Union Démocratique Bretonne.

The topic of emigration has also been presented including news of organizations such as Bretagne-Transamerica, Organisation des Bretons de l’Exterieur, BZH New York and Breizh Amerika.

Because many U.S. ICDBL Members/*Bro Nevez* readers have been active in support of other Celtic languages and cultures, *Bro Nevez* has also presented news of Celtic languages, Celtic societies and organizations in the U.S. and Canada, the Celtic League, and Celtic studies in U.S. universities, as well as presentations of a dozen or so minority languages in other parts of the world.

A wide range of other topics have had a place in the pages of *Bro Nevez* – geography, history, environmental concerns, reunification of Brittany, media (TV, radio and internet resources), sports, cuisine (including recipes), wine and beer, art and sculpture, faience, costumes, and legends. A regular feature in more recent issues has been excerpts from 19th and early 20th century travel accounts by English or American visitors to Brittany. Since 2004 *Bro Nevez* has included a column by Jean-Pierre Le Mat, “Deep Inside a Breton Skull,” which has covered a wide range of topics.

Biographical portraits have also been a regular part of *Bro Nevez* content – sadly often in noting the death of an individual, but also in presenting new members of Brittany’s Order of the Ermine or notable people in Breton history. Over 200 Bretons (and a few European friends of Brittany) have been presented, with an additional 40 members of the U.S. ICDBL. This does not include the many brief biographical notes included in book or CD reviews.



How many *Bro Nevez* readers?

Members of the U.S. Branch of the CDBL all receive *Bro Nevez* as part of the membership. Additionally, a few individuals and institutions have been subscribers only. While I cannot guarantee total accuracy in numbers, I have taken a deep dive (many hours)

into U.S. ICDBL records to come up with statistics which may or may not be interesting or particularly revealing of 40 years of *Bro Nevez* history.

A total of 538 individuals/institutions have joined the U.S. ICDBL or subscribed to *Bro Nevez*.

This includes 12 institutions (libraries, bookstores, cultural organizations ...), 30 couples, 308 men and 186 women (“men” and “women” being my designation based on name or knowledge of individuals).

U.S. ICDBL members/subscribers have been from 45 of 51 states, plus Puerto Rico. Canadians have been from 6 different provinces. For the U.S., the states with the highest numbers have been California (79), New York (63), Pennsylvania (40), Massachusetts (35) and Virginia (33) – states with large populations and U.S. ICDBL members who have been particularly active in recruiting others.

Longevity:

36 (6%) of U.S. ICDBL members and subscribers have been with it for 25 years or more (13 of those for 35 to 40 years).

40 (8%) have stayed for 15 to 24 years (24 of them for 20 to 24 years).

119 (22%) were members for 5 to 14 years.

151 (28%) for 2 to 4 years.

192 (36%) for just one year.

The short termers were often individuals given a gift subscription by someone else or someone who just didn’t “stick” with the cause of supporting the Breton language for any number of reasons.

U.S. ICDBL Members / Subscribers per year:

In some cases memberships spanned two different calendar years (say June 2017 through May 2018) to include four issues of *Bro Nevez*. For memberships / subscriptions falling in two calendar years I counted them in the year in which most of that membership/subscription fell. While the numbers below

are thus not absolutely accurate they reflect general changes over time in numbers.

There is a clear dip in numbers especially in the last decade (2010 on). Those who eagerly joined the cause in the 1980s and 90s have certainly aged and many have chosen to “retire” from the U.S. ICDBL, or poor health and limited resources have caused a need to drop memberships. Recruitment efforts in more recent years have not been nearly so intensive as those of early years which also accounts for a lack of growth, and in the U.S. the number of important causes and issues in need of support right in one’s backyard have certainly provided “competition.”

While simply supporting the cause of the Breton language and those working for it in Brittany has been a main motivation for U.S. ICDBL membership, a main benefit of becoming a member was a subscription to *Bro Nevez*, since our dispersal across the country meant few other activities to engage members. It is important to consider that in the 1980s and 90s *Bro Nevez* served as one of the very few English language sources of information about Brittany. January 1983 is considered the birth of the internet, 1990 marks the presence of the World Wide Web, and Wikipedia saw the light of day in January 2001. While today one can easily find more and more information about Brittany from Bretons themselves on the internet, this has grown only in the past few decades to replace print media. With *Bro Nevez* now available on the U.S. ICDBL website, it is available to anyone and there is no need to join the U.S. ICDBL to receive this benefit. Since the aim of the *Bro Nevez* is to provide information about the Breton language and Brittany, its wider availability is a good thing!

For what it is worth, here is my count of U.S. ICDBL memberships and subscriptions year by year:

1981	94	2001	94
1982	102	2002	100
1983	92	2003	86
1984	141	2004	97
1985	138	2005	91
1986	144	2006	90
1987	139	2007	88
1988	88	2008	82
1989	100	2009	77
1990	107	2010	66
1991	105	2011	63
1992	96	2012	57
1993	99	2013	55
1994	92	2014	45
1995	85	2015	36
1996	80	2016	36 + 6 e-mail only
1997	85	2017	39 + 8 e-mail
1998	89	2018	32 + 9 e-mail
1999	101	2019	31 + 9 e-mail
2000	98	2020	32 + 11 e-mail



A Profile of *Bro Nevez* readers

Information was not collected for most individuals joining the U.S. ICDBL or subscribing to *Bro Nevez*, but known backgrounds reflect a diversity of occupations. Leading the way were 64 university professors – especially from French Departments (14),

English (10), linguistics or other languages (25), but also a smattering from history, anthropology/sociology, Celtic studies, Communications, math and biochemistry.

University students were also present with 10 undergraduates and 12 graduate students. High school teachers number 9 (6 French teachers) and other occupations had strong representation in arts and culture with graphic designers, journalists, librarians, book sellers, writers/novelists, music/record store staff, poets, arts organization staff, musicians, architects, artists and filmmakers.

Other businesses represented included bakeries, law offices, restaurants, computer programming, government administration, manufacturing, gift shops, public relations, secretarial, college administration, travel agencies, psychiatry, medical practice, and banking.

More interesting than job profiles are other interests and activities that might have motivated people to join the U.S. ICDBL. While information is lacking for the vast majority of those who joined the U.S. ICDBL or subscribed to *Bro Nevez* during the past 40 years, I was able to roughly break down some background information that might be considered “motivations” for *Bro Nevez* readers. There is overlap in the categories with individuals citing more than one in many cases.

Interest in minority languages cited by 14 individuals
Desire to support minority languages – 6

Interest in Celtic languages and cultures generally – 18
Active with a Celtic studies organization or university program – 17

Interest in the Welsh language – 3
Is a Welsh speaker – 8
Is learning Welsh – 13
Teaches Welsh – 1

Interest in Irish Gaelic – 7
Is an Irish speaker – 12
Is learning Irish – 9
Teaches Irish – 7

Interest in Scottish Gaelic – 5
Speaks Scottish Gaelic – 2
Is learning Scottish Gaelic – 1
Teaches Scottish Gaelic – 1

Is a Breton language speaker – 18
Writes in the Breton language – 3
Is Breton and wants to or is learning Breton- 2
Is non-Breton who studied or is studying Breton – 18
Wants to learn Breton / seeking learning resources – 17
Wants to support the Breton language/Diwan – 8
(as would be the case generally for any U.S. ICDBL member)

Interested in bilingual education – 1

Wants more information generally on Brittany and Breton culture – 14 (including 12 French teachers)

Celtic family heritage:

Active with a Celtic organization

Welsh – 13

Scottish – 8

Irish – 9

Cornish – 1

To promote inter-Celtic relations – 6

Active with the Celtic League – 11

Breton identity:

Self-identifies as being Breton – 36

Has a parent or grand-parent who is Breton -14
(often just one side of the family)

Has Breton ancestors (often via Canada) – 11

Has a Breton spouse – 4

Has traveled to Brittany:

Had a long stay (3 months or more) – 29

Took a short trip – 18

Makes frequent trips – 11

Hopes to travel to Brittany – 5

Interest in Celtic music generally – 40

Via Alan Stivell – 3

Via Kornog – 4

Learned Breton dance – 2

Attended the Potomac Celtic Festival – 9

(where the U.S. ICDBL has had an information stand)

Attended other Celtic festivals – 2

Is a musician

Harpist – 5

Piper – 12

Fiddler – 2

Singer – 1

Other instruments – 17

Includes Breton tunes/songs in performances – 20

Wants to learn Breton music- 4

Other:

Interest in political movements/nationalism – 12

Interest in history – 4

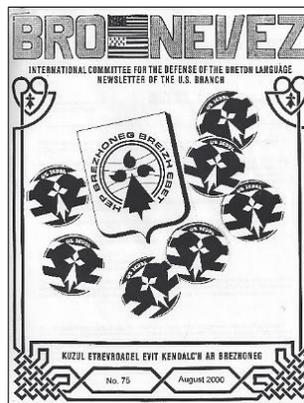
Interest in medieval literature and history – 4

Interest in flags, national anthems – 1

Interest in Breton/Celtic art – 7

Interest in folklore, legends, mythology – 6

Learned and teaches gouren (Breton wrestling) - 1



Other readers of *Bro Nevez*

The aim of the ICDBL has been to demonstrate that the future of the Breton language is felt to be important to people other than Bretons themselves. Thus, it has been a policy to send *Bro Nevez* to Bretons on a complimentary basis to show that Americans support their work.

During the past 40 years 147 organizations and individuals in Brittany active in support of the Breton language and culture have received *Bro Nevez*. While a few have been for just a short number of years, in many cases *Bro Nevez* has been sent for 30 or more years. In return many individuals and organizations have exchanged information and publications which have allowed the editor to glean news for the U.S. ICDBL newsletter.

Here is the breakdown of those in Brittany who have received *Bro Nevez*:

17 schools and organizations focused on the Breton language
22 cultural organizations with a broader focus including the Breton language
9 libraries and university departments
17 publishers (often with an exchange of newsletters or journals)
82 individuals

In addition 15 representatives for the ICDBL – primarily in Europe – have also received *Bro Nevez* on a complimentary basis.

And what of the future?

Certainly there is plenty more to be said about the Breton language and culture ... and *Bro Nevez* will continue to provide information to help Americans and other English speakers whose language skills limit their access to French and Breton language resources.

Heard of but not heard – 9 New Albums from Brittany

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

And ... 3 New Books about Breton Music and Dance

Information for the follow short notes was gleaned from reviews in *Ar Men* 243 (juillet-août 2021) and the Coop Breizh website (coop-breizh.fr)



50 ans – Festival Interceltique de Lorient.

This is a two-CD set encompassing 33 performers and groups that have marked the 50 years of the Inter Celtic Festival of Lorient. Well known Breton artists dominate with names such as Alan Stivell, Gilles Servat, Dan ar Braz, Gwerz, Soldat Louis and several bagadoù. But performers from the rest of the Celtic world are also present such as the Dubliners, Brenda Wooton, Capercaillie, Llan de Cubel, Carlos Nuñez and the Chieftans.



Barok. Fest Noz!

This is the first album by the group Barok composed of sax player Lomig Le Lu, accordion player Gwenvaël Le Moal, fiddler Kais Rhaddouf, bass fiddler Ludovic Kernin and percussionist Alan Le Bozec. They perform 16 selections of dance (as the title Fest Noz would indicate) including ridée, gavotte and plinn suites, rond de Saint-Vincent, Kas a-barh, kost ar c'hoad, and others. These are all seasoned musicians bringing together various musical backgrounds for a new sound for Breton dances.



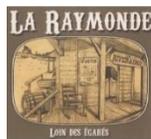
Coeur de Bretagne – Danses, musiques et chants

This CD includes performances of over 20 musicians and dancers from the Eostiged ar Stangala of Quimper for an overview of Breton music and dance in a contemporary style. The CD includes 12 selections to evoke countryside and maritime life, as well as legends and traditions of Brittany.



Lune Bleue Trio. The Other Road. Klam Records CD KR13

This is a trio composed of Clotilde Trouillaud on harp, Erwan Bérenguer on guitar, and Jaen-Marie Stéphan on drums. Their performances are based on traditional Breton melodies with a touch of rock-blues and jazz.



La Raymonde. Loin des égarés

This is a duo of Mika (singer and guitarist) and JC (singer and bass fiddle player) who present 13 selections in French (with 2 in English) inspired by rock music, French chansons, and American folk music.



Nnear Nesañ. Beyond the Pier.

The duo of Breton singer Lors Landat and accordion player Thomas Moisson are joined by Manx harpist Mera Royle and piano player, fiddler and singer David Kilgallon. While it is common for Bretons to partner with Scottish and Welsh “cousins”, collaboration with Manx musicians is rare. This CD includes 13 selections celebrating song and dances of Brittany and the Isle of Mann, with several songs in Breton and in Manx.



Fabien Robbe. 24 Préludes. CD Mazeto Square

Composer and arranger Fabien Robbe uses piano here for 24 preludes of varying influences from Bach to Keith Jarret, François Tusques and Didier Squiban. The melodies and dances drawn from Breton and other cultures are freely interpreted.



John Trap. Cinéma. L'Église de la Petite Folie / Modular

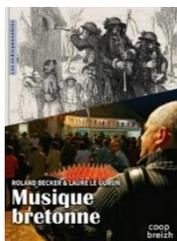
This is a CD of 12 selections in French on various themes from childhood to death to childhood, love and nature, in a rock style.



War-Sav. Ar vuhez.

The group War-Sav from the Tregor area perform a variety of dances. Together since 2011 the group includes fiddle, bombarde, accordion, guitar and vocals. This album includes 11 selections including a gavotte suite, rond de Loudéac, suite plinn, mazurka, ridée and rond de Saint-Vincent.

Several New Books about Breton Music and Dance

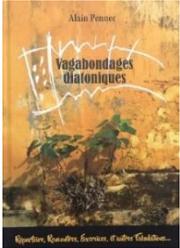


Roland Becker and Laure Le Gurun. Musique bretonne. Coop Breizh. 202 pages.

This is the revised and augmented edition of a book published in 1994 presents the basics of Breton music, dance, song, musical instruments and the history of their practice in Brittany. The 1994 edition is a much valued part of my library and this amply illustrated new edition must be an even better introduction to Breton music.



Alan Pierre and Daniel Cario. *Danse bretonne*. Coop Breizh. 204 pages. This new book is a guide to traditional Breton dances, their history and geographic locations, including a basic description of steps. Not intended to teach one to dance, this serves as a great introduction to the variety and social context of Breton dances.



Alain Pennec. *Vagabondages diatoniques*. Editions Alain Pennec. 304 pages.

Alain Pennec is a master of the diatonic or button accordion as well as a piper and bombarde player. He has been part of a number of prominent Breton musical groups and continues a successful solo and collaborative

career. In this book he relates the musical paths he has taken, but the main goal of the publication is to provide beginner accordion players with techniques, exercises, and music notations for dances from all over Brittany. Music is available for oral learning with a link from Pennec's book to his website.



A View of Roscoff in 1889

“A Corner of Brittany” by J. Walter Fewkes
American Naturalist V ol. 23, 1889. pp. 95-109

While it may seem odd that a travel account of time spent in Brittany would appear in *American Naturalist*, a journal devoted to scholarly studies of the natural sciences, a look at the life of the author of this account explains this quite well.

Jesse Walter Fewkes (1850-1930) was born in Newton, Massachusetts and studied at Harvard where he graduated to professional work in marine zoology. He published some 69 academic articles and books on marine life.

In the 1890s his studies would shift to ethnography – especially of the Pueblo peoples of southwestern United States. He was the first to make sound recordings of their languages and would publish hundreds of books and articles on the prehistory, archaeology, art, pottery, artifacts and life of the Pueblo and other Native peoples until the late 1920s.

If one reviews his extensive biography, “A Corner of Brittany” stands out as an odd departure off the

academic path. But, as one reads in his account, his trip to Roscoff was in fact right in line with his professional work in marine biology. And, this was published before his shift to ethnography and study of Native peoples of the Americas. Here he remains an enthusiast of maritime life as well as a tourist enamored of the picturesque landscapes and people of Brittany. Original spelling in this article has been maintained - LK

“Billet pour Roscoff, s’il vous plait.” The train is waiting at the Gare St. Lazare in Paris, and in a few moments we are hurried along beyond the fortifications, past Bellevue, Sevres and Versailles, through a wooded country, alternating with rich farms and beautiful fields. All day long we ride through Normandy and Brittany, looking out of the window of the coupé on one of the most interesting landscapes of France, crowded with towns and cities of historic interest and scenic beauty, every hour presenting some new phase of life to relieve the monotony of the trip. What is our destination and what leads us to turn from the beaten tracks of European travellers? We have abundant time to answer these questions before we reach the end of our journey.

Our destination is Roscoff, a town in the department of Finistère, frequented by artists, better known to naturalists, and too rarely visited by travellers, who have penetrated into all the most picturesque corners of Europe. Roscoff, a fishing village, truly Breton in character, preserving many features of the old France, and presenting a pure example of ancient Brittany, unchanged by modern innovations. Roscoff has not a casino nor known the swarms of pleasure seekers which many other towns on the coast of France draw to themselves every summer. It has no delightful promenades, no beautiful forests, but it has its wonderful rocks, its soft, laughing climate, its southern flora, its fertile lands, its hardy fishermen with their original costumes, its picturesque homes, and its beautiful church. Of more importance than all to the naturalist, it attracts him as the site of one of the most interesting of all those institutions for the study on the sea-shore of marine animals, the Laboratoire Experimentale et Générale, founded by Prof. Lacaze-Duthiers. It is this establishment which turned me to this distant corner of Finistère, which I was permitted to spend two of the most charming months of a summer's vacation in Europe.

Roscoff is situated on the confines of Brittany, on a peninsula which juts out into the English channel, about opposite Plymouth in England. Away from beaten lines of travel it is unaffected by the changes which are being made in the larger cities about it, and remains, as it was when Mary Stuart landed on its shore, a veritable survival of old Brittany of three centuries ago. Artists know it, and naturalists have long studied the rich life which peoples its coast and the waters which bathe its

shores. Lovers of nature find there a sea most savage, and cliffs most rugged and picturesque. The blue sky of the Mediterranean and the beautiful water ever changing and never tranquil are here. Its islands are eroded by the ocean into fantastic shapes so that their contours rival our own "Garden of the Gods" in their grotesque shapes. The whole appearance of the coast, changed in a few hours by the great tides, the wonderful scenery on all sides, these are some of the beauties of nature which once seen retain the visitor in this interesting place day after day and week after week.

The place is situated on a small peninsula, the main street extending along the sea, and terminating at either end on the coast. Near one end of this street there rises a bald cliff capped by an ancient chapel of Sainte Barbe and a small fortress called the Blosson. At the other end this road broadens and opens into a place called the Vil upon the sides of which arise the Hotel du Bains Mer, the church, and the Marine Laboratory. On either side the main street of the town is lined with picturesque old houses, many of which date three centuries back, bearing the stamp of an old civilization. Small side passages lead to the shore on one side of the street, while on the other are narrow passage ways leading into tortuous alleys which extend out into the cultivated fields. Midway in the course of the main street, between the chapel of Sainte Barbe and the Vil or place of the church, is the port, an artificial structure, forming a high breakwater in the hospitable protection of which lie a few small craft. At high tide these vessels swing at anchor, but the retreating sea leaves them stranded high and dry on the shore.

The old houses which line the main street of Roscoff date back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and are all built in the peculiar style of those times. The doors are low with oftentimes a small lookout or window at one side of the entrance. The object of these windows carries one back to the times of the corsaires, when the prudent inhabitant was obliged to have some means of observation before he opened the door and allowed a visitor to enter his home. The windows are placed high upon the roofs and are ornamented with rudely-cut grimy faces and grotesque heads of dragons. The long sloping roofs, sparsely covered with plaster, give the appearance of a recent snow storm. The houses are built of granite much eroded and with their walls often whitened by lime. With the exception of the apothecary and one or two other modern buildings none of the shops have visible signs to denote the wares which are on sale. Glass is rare in the windows and the cellars open obliquely to the pavement of the street. On the seaward side the houses are separated from the ocean by courts and gardens protected from the ravages of the ocean by high walls, which form the fortifications of the place. At intervals on the walls there are lookout towers in which, no doubt, many a time the old Breton corsaires have watched a strange vessel on the channel, or from

which the wreckers perhaps have enticed a passing ship to its doom.

These houses are now the homes of the sailor and the fisherman, but in times past the smuggler found there a secure refuge from his enemies. These mysterious, small, narrow streets, leading down to the water's edge, all remind us of the trade of the smuggler and the wrecker. These men have long since disappeared from Roscoff, but the old houses, the narrow tortuous passage ways still remain and recall the history of the romantic times of the past.

On the western side of the peninsula on which Roscoff stands there is a sandy beach out of which rises in the form of a marine monster a precipice called Roch-Croum. Seaward from this cliff a number of islands much eroded project in fantastic shapes, a scarred battlement broken in points by the resistless ocean. In the forms of these rocks we can trace many a giant's head, or fancy many a monster rising out of the waves which continually beat at their bases.

The eastern side of the peninsula is still more picturesque than the western. It forms a part of the magnificent bay of Morlaix and its cliffs rise abruptly out of the sea. Here the fortress of Taureau, a wonder of Brittany, projects out of the ocean from a submarine reef.

There is but one road leading to Roscoff from the mainland, and that bisects the peninsula entering the main street near the church. It is the national road to the neighboring city called Saint Pol. On either side there branch off true Breton lanes lined by lofty embankments thrown up by the farmers. No trees, nothing but sandy fields of onions and potatoes line its borders, Everywhere the land swept by the high winds of the Atlantic, has a somber, melancholy look. The hills are low, and here and there rocks project through the thin covering of sand, but otherwise the landscape is little varied.

The sea, however, at Roscoff makes up the interest where the land fails to attract. Nowhere have I seen such a variety in the sky and horizon, nowhere a more savage coast resisting a more determined ocean.

There are many neighboring islands, the largest of which is called the Ile de Batz, a strange name, taken from a tongue reaching back before the origin of the modern French tongue. Near by this Island there are the so-called Bourguinous, and still further away Tisosou, "the house of the English." Some miles more distant seaward the rock of Pighet, all of which islands are remnants of a former battlement which, resisting the inroads of the sea, are fast losing their form and size in protecting the mainland. Sown here and there are submerged rocks most fatal to navigation around which course "cailloux"

or currents which render the approaches to the port so dreaded by sailors. As one glances across the channel from the island, Roscoff seems a very large city. Its seawall, its row of houses along the shore and the elegant church would lead one to exaggerate the size, but the town is simply a crescent of houses, enclosing fertile fields of potatoes and onions.

Such is a brief sketch of the place to which we are hastening through Brittany by way of the railroad from Paris to Brest. We alighted at Morlaix, a picturesque old town, which has contributed many a sketch to the artist's portfolio, early in the evening, and take a branch road to Roscoff. Somewhat later the train halts and we have reached our destination.

"A La Maison Blanche," says a man near me, in an accent which is immediately distinguished from that of the Parisian "cocher." "Oui!" is replied in a confident tone as if a knowledge of the whole French language was at the tongue's end. He asks if I am the American who is going to work in the laboratory and I reply that I am. We trudge down the dark road unlighted by a single lamp, and in a few moments the hostess of "La Maison Blanche" had me in charge. The hotel looks comfortable but its surroundings are very strange. The threshold of the entrance is lower than the pavement of the street. Along the entry hang rows of chickens, legs of lambs, sausages and vegetables. A crowd of Roscovites hang about the bar, which is elaborately filled with all the necessities.

The hostess has picked up a little English from the numerous sailors who frequent her house and gives me a good reception. A bed of purest white and an excellent cup of coffee and bread in the morning form a cordial introduction to a town in which I was destined to pass many, very many, happy days.

French naturalists were the first to found special institutions on the seashore for the study of marine zoology. There are many problems connected with the study of marine life which cannot be successfully taken up without a residence near the localities where the animals live, for they must be worked out either on living or fresh material, and it must be possible to have ready access to the habitats of these animals to study these questions. A first step in this work is to watch the animals in aquaria and carefully study their mode of life. With the improvement in methods of research a work room near the aquaria thus becomes a necessity for a successful answer to many problems.

One of the earliest laboratories founded especially for the study of marine life on the shore was created by Prof. Lacaze-Duthiers at Roscoff. This institution is an "Annexe" of the Sorbonne in which the founder holds a professorship of Natural History, and over the door is

placed this significant inscription, so often found on public buildings in Paris, "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité." This motto has here a new significance, and I thought as I approached the building of the well-known laboratory in Roscoff on the morning after my arrival, how much that motto means in the organization of the institution. The advantages are free to all of every nation, French, English, American, Russian. Every specialist is freely given without expense the advantages of the institution. All are equal who enter its walls with a love of nature and a desire to study, or to investigate. No one who has known its hospitality can question the justice of the third word of the legend.

The laboratory founded by Prof. Lacaze-Duthiers is a laboratory for students as well as investigators, and it numbers among its workers those who have earned the title of naturalists as well as those who have just begun their studies. It is not too much to say that every facility which experience and money can suggest are here placed without expense within reach of every student of zoology who makes a choice of Roscoff for a working place.

Everything is free, microscopes, reagents, boats manned by experienced collectors, books, work-table, instruction, all are given with a lavish hand, with no distinction of nationality or peculiarity of scientific belief. There is no charge for an opportunity to contribute to the advance of knowledge or to take the first steps in the acquisition of methods of research.

The students in the laboratory are even furnished with sleeping rooms near their working tables, so that no time may be lost or expense incurred. In liberality there is no known institution outside of France which does more or even as much for those who wish to investigate marine animals.

The laboratory at Roscoff is a laboratory for summer work and is supplemented by a second creation of the same founder at Banyuls-Sur-Mer on the Mediterranean Sea, for research in winter. These two, both connected with the University of France, offer a continuous opportunity at all times of the year for the study of marine animals of the two shores of France. They open to students two different faunas under the most experienced instructors. the most favorable influences under the most liberal circumstances.

The laboratory at Roscoff not only furnishes material for investigation, but it also presents opportunities for collecting, and for the study of marine animals in their native habitats.

In the study of marine animals on the shore, as well as in museums and laboratories situated inland, students may become closet naturalists. It is recognized that it is a good thing to collect as well as to study animals after

they are collected. Two methods of work on marine animals are possible. Either the naturalist may remain at his work-table and have experienced collectors bring him what he desires to study, or he may himself visit the localities where the animals live and find them himself. Both methods have advantages, but the latter gives a wider knowledge of the whole subject than the former, for it familiarizes one with natural conditions of the life of the animals.

The laboratory at Roscoff not only permits a study at the work-table but also offers facilities for collecting. Excursions are made to grounds where certain animals occur and in that way the possibilities of knowing more of their mode of life are increased. This feature in the marine laboratories of Prof. Lacaze-Duthiers is certainly a most important one and one which particularly commends itself to a person whose sole knowledge of animals is based on specimens preserved in a museum or brought to him by a professional collector. We may study the histology, or anatomy of an animal without knowing whether it lives in the sand or is free swimming, whether it is dredged or inhabits the shore line, but it is better to combine with that knowledge some familiarity with its natural habitat and its mode of life. One excellent feature in the Roscoff laboratory and one which attracted me to it is the fact that it offers facilities for both kinds of work.

There are two different departments in the laboratory at Roscoff, one for students who are beginners, the other for those who are investigators engaged in original research. These two departments work harmoniously and the advantages are equal for both.

The apparatus of a laboratory and the manner of investigation belongs to the technique of zoological work, a consideration of which would take me too far into details for this article. There are many excellent features in which this laboratory differs somewhat from those of other institutions of this kind, but in all marine laboratories with the readiness with which new methods are made public there is a surprising uniformity in technique in all marine stations. I should say that at Roscoff there is a proper regard to the relative importance of all branches of marine research, toxonomy, histology, anatomy and embryology, although perhaps the published results in the latter branch may show that it is not at present given the predominance that it has in some other similar institutions.

An excellent feature in the laboratory at Roscoff is the existence of a small local collection identified for the use of investigators and students. For the information of those engaged in the study of animals found there a card catalogue with a notice of the time of collecting the genus, locality where it is found, the time of laying its eggs is an excellent help. Anyone describing a new species or genus is expected to deposit in the collection

a single specimen to serve as a type for the good of those who may later avail themselves of the advantages of the place.

In our own marine zoological stations the existence of a catalogue stating the time when ova, embryos, or adults could be found or had been collected and where they occur in abundance, would be an excellent thing, and must in the course of time be made by competent observers.

The beach of Roscoff is one of the richest grounds for collecting marine animals which I have ever visited. The enormous tides lay bare an extent of bottom which is extensive, and betrays the home of a very large number of different genera of animals which live along the shore. Moreover the character of this life is greatly influenced by a branch of the Gulf Stream, which making its way from the main current bathes this part of Brittany and imparts to it the mild climate which it has. This same current also tempers the climate of the Scilly Islands, which lie in its direct track, so that several plants, which are limited to the shores of the Mediterranean, here flourish in a more northern latitude.

The rich fauna of the coast at Roscoff is, no doubt, more or less modified by the warm action of this branch of the Gulf Stream, still the floating life which distinguishes this great ocean current off the coast of the United States is almost wholly wanting. Now and then some straggling "Portuguese man-of-war" drifts into the channel; or some medusa, whose home is in the tropics, is captured, but these are exceptional. The wealth of floating marine life which the Gulf Stream brings even to the coast of New England is not found inshore on the coast of Brittany.

To be continued ... with more about the sites of Roscoff, its people, and the fishing industry there.

Editors Note: The Laboratoire Experimentale described in this travel article was founded in 1872 by Professor Henri de Lacaze-Duthiers, a professor at the Sorbonne University in Paris. Thus, it was a relatively new institution when J. Walter Fewkes visited it in 1889. The laboratory still exists – bigger and better than ever – as the Station Biologique de Roscoff. It is part of the Sorbonne and the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and serves as a research and teaching center.

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