

BRO NEVEZ

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



Children of Skol Diwan Landerne
See page



KUZUL ETREVROADEL EVIT KENDALC'H AR BREZHONEG

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

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The U.S. ICDBL provides Bro Nevez on a complimentary basis to a number of language and cultural organizations in Brittany to show our support for their work. Your Membership/Subscription allows us to do this. In some instances we are also very happy to establish an exchange of publications.

* * *

The **Canadian Branch of the ICDBL** was relaunched January 1998. That branch of the ICDBL publishes a newsletter called **Brittany** (trilingual in English, Breton, French). Canadian Membership including **Brittany** is \$15 (Canadian dollars). A Canadian Membership which includes both **Brittany** and **Bro Nevez** is \$30. A subscription to **Brittany** without membership is \$10 for the U.S. and Canada and \$20 by surface mail elsewhere. Contact: Jeffrey D. O'Neill, 58 Century Drive, Scarborough, Ontario, M1K 4J6 CANADA (e-mail: jdkoneill@sympatico.ca). Telephone: (416) 264-0475.

A NEW OPINION SURVEY OF BRETONS

... on independence, regional power, the Breton language in schools, and Loire-Atlantique

As Corsica is granted a new status which grants it more—albeit limited—local power over its own government, discussion has opened up in France on the prospects of other regions gaining similar local powers.

In this context, the daily newspaper, Le Télégramme (with Presse-Océan and the Institut CSA) conducted an opinion poll which included some very interesting questions. This was a poll of some 500 people (considered statistically representative) taken between September 4-5, 2000. Question included ideas on basic identity, independence for Brittany, more or less regional power, obligatory teaching of Breton in the schools, and the reunion of Loire-Atlantique with the rest of Brittany.

I will not provide all the details of this poll, but would be happy to provide a photocopy of the results (in French) as they appeared on the Le Télégramme web site (<http://www.bretagne-online.com/telegram/suplemen/sondage>)

- **“You feel you belong first of all to ...”** (“Vous sentez-vous d’abord appartenir à ...”) Given a list of choices, here is how people responded as follows:

	People polled in Brittany (4 depts.)	people polled in Loire-Atlantique
Brittany	42%	32%
France	26%	32%
My “commune”	24%	7%
Europe	6%	7%
My “département”	1%	3%
The region “Pays de la Loire” (asked only of those in Loire-Atlantique)	NA	14%
no answer	1%	

- Question: **“Would you be completely favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat opposed, or completely opposed to Brittany becoming independent?”** (“Et seriez-vous tout à fait favorable, assez favorable, assez opposé ou tout à fait opposé à ce que la Bretagne devienne indépendante?”)

	People polled in Brittany (4 depts.)		people polled in Loire-Atlantique		Both combined
Completely favorable	4%	19%	6%	30%	5%
Somewhat favorable	15%		24%		18%
Somewhat opposed	29%	76%	41%	69%	32%
Completely opposed	47%		28%		42%
No response		5%		1%	3%

Those in Loire Atlantique led all the departments in being favorable (completely or somewhat) to the idea of Breton independence. Here's the breakdown by department:

	Côtes-d'Armor	Finistère	Ile-et-Vilaine	Morbihan	Loire-Atlantique
Favorable (completely and somewhat)	14?%	14/%	25%	26%	30%
Opposed (completely and somewhat)	80%	82%	69%	72%	69%
No response	6%	4%	6%	2%	1%

When broken down by sex of those polled, the responses were almost identical for men and women. However, there was a slight difference when looking at age groups.

	18-24 yrs,	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Favorable	38%	33%	20%	12%	15%	17%
Opposed	62%	66%	76%	87%	80%	75%
No response	0	1%	4%	1%	5%	8%

- Question: "In the future, would you like your region to dispose of more power, less power, or the same power than currently in each of the following areas" ("Souhaitez-vous qu'à l'avenir votre région dispose de plus de pouvoirs, moins de pouvoirs ou d'autant de pouvoirs qu'actuellement dans chacun des domaines suivants?"):

	More power	Less power	The same power	no response
Environment (Environnement)	67%	3%	28%	3%
Economic Development (Développement économique)	69%	4%	25%	2%
Culture (Culture)	66%	1%	33%	
Regional Planning (Aménagement du territoire)	59%	3%	36%	2%
Schools (Domaine scolaire)	57%	4%	37%	2%
Fiscal (Domaine fiscal)	41%	21%	36%	2%

This question was also broken down between responses for each of the areas (environment, economic development, etc) from people in the 4 departments of "official" Brittany and those in Loire-Atlantique, as well as by sex, age, and profession.

- Question: "Would you like the department of Loire-Atlantique to be reattached to Brittany?" ("Souhaitez-vous que le département de Loire-Atlantique soit rattaché à la Bretagne?")

	People polled in Brittany (4 depts.)	people polled in Loire-Atlantique	Both combined
Yes	63%	71%	63%
No	24%	24%	24%
No response	13%	5%	11%

In breaking this question down by department the following results could be found:

	Côtes-d'Armor	Finistère	Ile-et-Vilaine	Morbihan	Loire-Atlantique
Yes	60%	70%	60%	58%	71%
No	25%	18%	29%	27%	24%
No response	15%	12%	11%	15%	5%

This poll shows an even stronger attachment to Brittany on the part of those living in Loire Atlantique than the poll taken in April 1998 by SOFRES where 62% of those polled in the department of Loire-Atlantique indicated they were favorable ("tout à fait" or "plutôt") to seeing their department reattached to Brittany. 34% said "no" when they were asked if they would like to see Loire-Atlantique rejoin Brittany (4% had no opinion).

- Question: "Would you be completely favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat opposed, or completely opposed to obligatory teaching of the Breton language during the regular hours of the school day except when parents said no?" ("Seriez-vous tout à fait favorable, assez favorable, assez opposé, ou tout à fait opposé à l'enseignement de la langue bretonne pendant l'horaire normal des cours sauf demande contraire des parents?")

	People polled in Brittany (4 depts.)		people polled in Loire-Atlantique		Both combined	
Completely favorable	9%		7%		9%	
		48%		44%		48%
Somewhat favorable	40%		37%		39%	
Somewhat opposed	28%		35%		30%	
		49%		53%		49%
Completely opposed	19%		18%		19%	
No response		4%		3%		3%

When broken down by department, people from Côtes d'Armor were most favorable--60% completely or somewhat favorable, with 38% opposed. People from Finistère were least supportive with 44% favorable and 54% opposed.

Of course being in favor of "obligatory" teaching (even if parents could refuse it) is different than being in favor of having Breton as a class option each child could choose during the regular school day hours. The question in this latest poll is of an "all or nothing" nature where one can assume that some of those opposed to obligatory Breton classes might be favorable to having the option of Breton classes in their school.

In a telephone survey of 2,500 people in western Brittany conducted in April 1997 you had the following results:

"Are you for or against the teaching of Breton?" ("Etes-vous pour ou contre l'enseignement du breton?")

Yes = 80% No = 8% No response = 12%

"According to you, the teaching of Breton should be" ("Selon vous, l'enseignement du breton doit être ...")

Obligatory in all schools	7%
Optional in all schools	72%
Taught in special schools:	16%

The Breton Language and the New School Year

A summary of some information by Lois Kuter

As you will see in the statistical charts which follow—prepared by Ofis ar Brezhoneg—enrollment in Breton studies in the schools of Brittany continues to grow despite many obstacles that remain in place. For this school year there are a total of 6,554 students from preschool through high school in Diwan classes and bilingual programs in the public and Catholic schools—up from 5,673 in the 1999/2000 school year, a growth of 15.7%. Seven new sites were opened for public school bilingual programs and six new sites opened for Catholic school bilingual programs. Diwan opened two new classes. (See more detailed information on the Diwan schools later in this issue).

During the 1999/2000 school year an estimated 8,500 additional students took much more limited classes intended just to introduce the Breton language and culture. While these do not offer children the chance to learn to really use Breton, they do perhaps help create a desire to take things a step further.

In the case of the more limited “introductory” classes and the bilingual programs and the Diwan immersion program, teacher training has been a factor in slowing down the creation of new classes to meet student/parent demand. For quite a few years now Bretons have been demanding the creation of a specific program to recruit Breton language teachers—not teachers who would be trained to teach some other unrelated subject with Breton on the side, but teachers who would be specifically prepared as Breton teachers. The government has finally started to budge on this issue and Jack Lang, Minister of National Education, has declared that there will be a special recruitment to prepare teachers for the 2001 school opening ... for German language teachers for Alsace. It is hoped that this example will spread for other regional languages with an aim to have a similar effort for Breton teachers for the year 2002. Presumably more time is needed to prepare for Breton teacher training, despite affirmations on the part of those active in supporting Breton language programs that Brittany is ready now (and it appears to me that Brittany has been ready for many years to have such a special recruitment for teachers put into place).

As pointed out in the article by Fanch Olivier which follows, only 1% of the school population of Brittany is enrolled in bilingual programs (2% in the Breton-speaking western areas of Brittany), and only 5.4% of the communes of Brittany (not including Loire-Atlantique) are able to offer Breton classes. Enrollment can grow only if schools are prepared to offer parents the option of bilingual Breton classes. As things stand now, nothing is *offered* to parents. In schools where there is not already a bilingual program in place, parents must take the initiative to mobilize forces and “lobby” for a teacher and approval to open a new class in their school.

While the National Education system of France appears to support the growth of bilingual and immersion teaching for regional languages of France, they are masters when it comes to stalling or sabotaging progress. Immediate needs like effective teacher training—which Bretons have been demanding for years—get bogged down in long drawn out government plans so that it takes two or three years to accomplish what should take just a few months.

NOTE: Detailed statistics on enrollment in the various Diwan schools, and the bilingual programs in the public and Catholic schools are printed in the October issue of Kannadig, No. 69, miz Gwengolo 2000. (Newsletter of Unvaniezh ar Geleñnerien Brezhoneg). I would be happy to reproduce this information for anyone interested.

Breton : le boom des classes bilingues

Un peu plus de 20.000 élèves mettront cette année du breton dans leurs études. Un tiers le fait à forte dose au sein de la filière bilingue dont les effectifs progressent de 15 % avec l'ouverture de quinze nouveaux sites d'enseignement.

Pour limité qu'il soit, l'exemple n'en est pas moins parlant : à l'école Saint-Cyr de Moréac, une commune située entre Pontivy et Vannes, 94 élèves se sont inscrits dès la première année en filière bilingue !

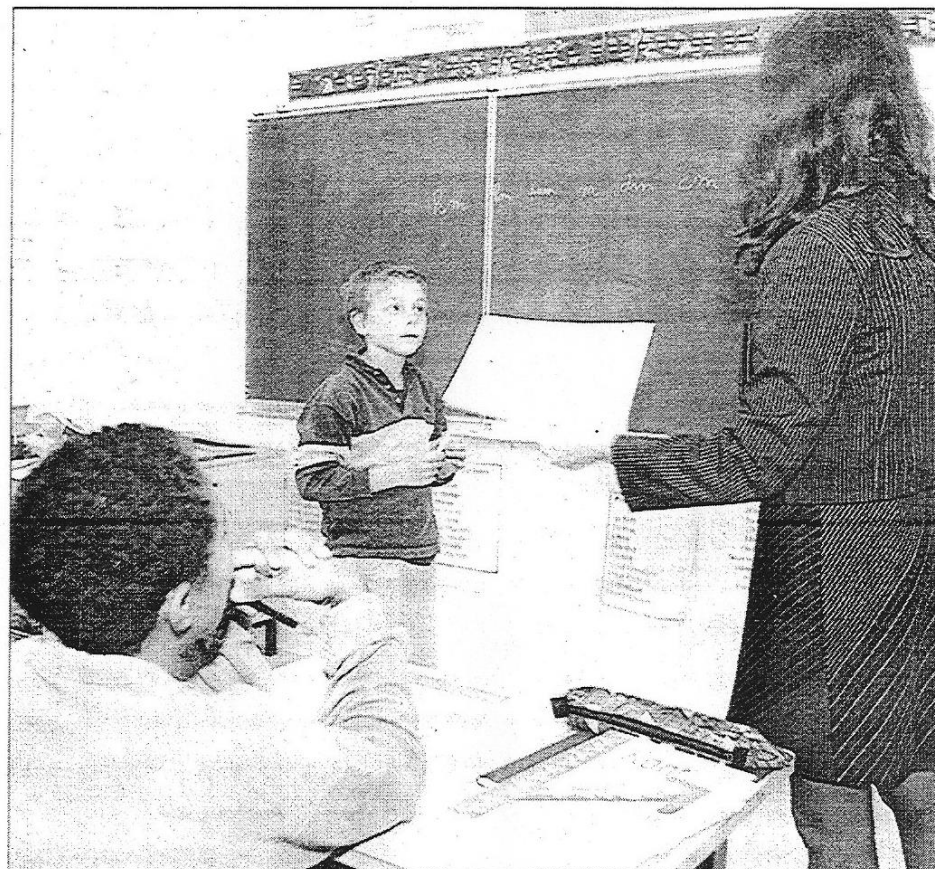
Au total, quinze nouveaux sites bilingues se sont ouverts à la rentrée dans l'académie, portant ainsi à 6.554 le nombre d'élèves, tous réseaux confondus, qui partagent selon les matières leur travail scolaire quotidien entre le français et le breton.

L'augmentation globale des effectifs par rapport à l'an passé est de 15,7 %. Près de neuf élèves sur dix sont des écoliers : 38,6 % sont accueillis en primaire et 48,2 % en maternelle. Le public affiche ses points forts à Lannion et Rennes, tandis que le privé se développe dans le Morbihan. Diwan est majoritairement implanté dans le Finistère.

Faiblesse de l'offre

Si le nombre d'élèves ne cesse de progresser, il représente cependant qu'un peu plus de 1 % de la population scolaire de l'académie (2 % en zone bretonnante). C'est de loin insuffisant pour assurer le renouvellement des locuteurs et donc la survie de la langue... Le fait que ces pourcentages font plus que doubler dans les maternelles est encourageant; encore faut-il que les familles confirment leur option au fil des ans et, surtout, que le suivi soit parallèlement assuré dans l'enseignement élémentaire puis secondaire.

La modestie des effectifs s'explique par la faiblesse d'une offre qui reste sans doute très en deçà de la demande. Malgré les ouvertures de ces dernières an-



En Bretagne, 6.500 élèves partagent leur travail scolaire quotidien entre le français et le breton, comme ici dans l'école bilingue de Pabu. (Photo Claude Prigent)

nées, le choix bilingue dans le premier degré, enseignement par nature de proximité, n'est offert que dans 5,4 % des communes de l'académie. Et ce, sans prendre en compte les affinités philosophiques ou religieuses qui conditionnent plus que tout autre élément l'inscription dans telle école. Les marges de progression du bilinguisme semblent donc importantes à condition que la demande s'affirme, que l'offre existe et que l'intendance suive...

L'enseignement des langues régionales existe également dans le système général. L'objectif n'est pas dans ce cas de sortir des bretonnants mais de donner

à l'élève le désir ou la possibilité de le devenir.

Selon le rectorat, 8.500 écoliers (2.100 en maternelle, 6.400 en primaire) ont été sensibilisés en 99-2000 à la langue bretonne. Leur nombre devrait progresser cette année grâce à l'apport d'intervenants extérieurs. Par contre, celui des collégiens (4.250 l'an dernier) semble stagner et celui des lycéens (1.000) régresser. A noter par ailleurs que, dans l'est de la région, le gallo est enseigné à 1.200 élèves du public et du privé.

Une mission reconnue

Les formes d'enseignement du breton hors classes bilingues (ini-

tiation avec une heure de cours par semaine ou options de langue vivante), si utiles qu'elles soient, souffrent d'un manque d'enseignants formés, d'une mauvaise intégration dans les programmes. Une situation fragile et marginale aggravée pour les lycées, du nouveau jeu des options provoqué par la réforme du bac.

Le système éducatif aura tout à gagner à rendre un peu plus lisible et plus accessible ses offres, de la sensibilisation à l'immersion, d'enseignement des langues régionales. Une mission désormais reconnue comme l'une de celles de l'Education nationale...

Fanch Olivier



Rentrée scolaire dans l'enseignement bilingue Année 2000/2001

Les effectifs bilingues augmentent de + 15.7% pour cette rentrée 2000/2001 : 881 enfants sont scolarisés en plus dans l'enseignement bilingue.

I - Effectifs de l'enseignement bilingue par niveaux

		1998/1999	1999/2000	CROISSANCE	2000/2001	CROISSANCE
Premier Degré	Ecoles maternelles	2.255	2692	+ 19%	3162	+17.5%
	Ecoles primaires	1.880	2170	+15%	2535	+ 17%
Second Degré	Collèges	494	654	+ 32%	695	+6%
	Lycées	117	146	+ 25%	162	11%
Ensemble		4.746	5.662	19%	6554	+15.7%

	PREELEMENTAIRE	ELEMENTAIRE	COLLEGE	LYCEE	TOTAL
Côtes-d'Armor	594	407	182	41	1224
Finistère	1201	1167	334	94	2796
Ille-et-Vilaine	233	141	35	18	427
Loire-Atlantique	164	111	-	-	275
Morbihan	970	709	144	9	1832
TOTAL	3162	2535	695	162	6554

Cf. Graphique 1- Répartition des effectifs par niveaux - Année 2000/2001

II-Répartition géographique de l'enseignement bilingue

Répartition des effectifs par système d'enseignement et par département Année 2000/2001

	DIWAN			PUBLIC			CATHOLIQUE			TOTAL
	Effectif	Répartitio	Evolutio	Effectif	Répartitio	Evolutio	Effectif	Répartition	Evolution	
Côtes-d'Armor	397	16%	+9%	635	28%	+14%	192	10%	+30.5	1224 +15%
Finistère	1424	59%	+2.5%	730	32%	+18%	642	34.5%	+14.5	2796 +8%
Ille-et-Vilaine	87	3.5%	+9%	306	13%	+22%	34	2%	-	427 +29%
Loire-Atlantique	181	7.5%	+17%	48	2%	+120%	46	2.5%	+28	275 + 32%
Morbihan	325	14%	+22.6%	570	25%	+12%	937	51%	+28.5	1832 + 23.5%
Total	2414	100%	+7.24%	2289	100%	+17%	1851	100%	+26	6554 +15.7%

Cf. Graphique 2- Répartition des effectifs par département année 2000/2001

III- Effectifs par système d'enseignement

CF. Graphique 3- Effectifs par système d'enseignement- Année 2000/2001

La répartition des effectifs par niveaux - Années 2000/2001

	DIWAN	%	PUBLIC	%	CATHOLIQUE	%	TOTAL
Préélémentaire	970	40.2	1193	52%	99	53.8%	3162
Elémentaire	937	38.8	826	36%	77	42%	2.535
Collège	423	17.5	196	9%	7	4%	695
Lycée	84	3.5%	74	3%		0.2%	162
Total	2414	100%	2289	100%	185	100%	6554

IV-Evolution des effectifs bilingues depuis la création de la filière

Tableau 1 - Effectifs bilingues depuis la création de la filière

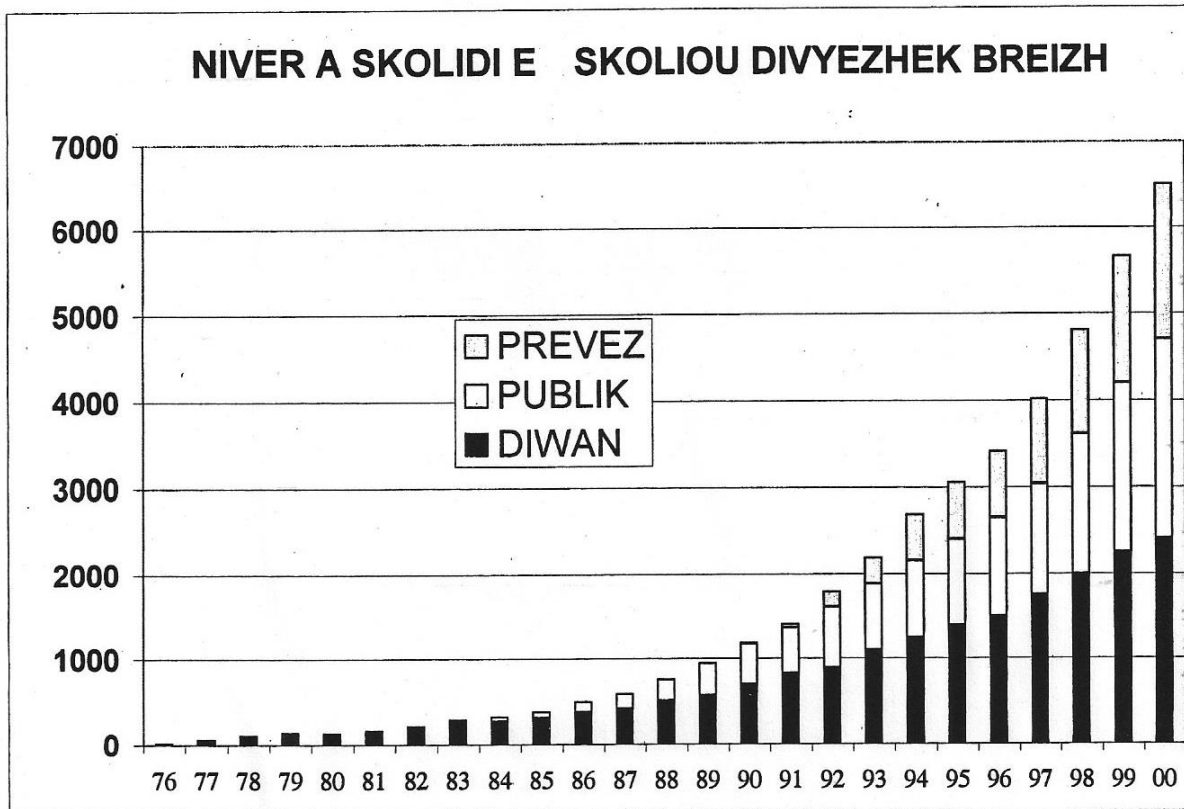
	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
DIWAN	16	65	104	143	137	170	223	275	276	321	387	428
PUBLIC	-	-	-	-	-	18	25	37	71	119	162	255
CATHOLIQUE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	16	65	104	143	137	188	248	312	347	440	549	683
	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	2000
DIWAN	520	668	832	937	1095	1235	1390	1498	1753	1996	2251	2414
PUBLIC	373	510	545	643	764	893	1017	1153	1283	1609	1953	2289
CATHOLIQUE	-	20	79	194	250	466	641	748	975	1141	1469	1851
TOTAL	893	1198	1556	1774	2109	2594	3048	3399	4011	4746	5673	6554

Cf. Graphique4 - Evolution des effectifs depuis la création de la filière.

V- Ouverture de sites bilingues

15 sites bilingues ont été ouverts à la rentrée 2000/2001

- **Deux écoles Diwan** ont été créées : une dans les Côtes-d'Armor à Dinan, et l'autre dans le Morbihan à Questembert.
- **Sept sites bilingues** ont été ouverts **dans les écoles bilingues publiques** : deux dans les Côtes-d'Armor (à Paimpol et Saint-Brieuc) un site dans le Finistère à Carhaix, deux sites en Ille-et-Vilaine (à Saint-Malo et l'ouverture d'un deuxième site à Rennes), et deux dans le Morbihan (à Maureon et l'ouverture d'un deuxième site à Lanester).
- **Six sites bilingues** ont été ouverts **dans les écoles bilingues catholiques** : un dans les Côtes-d'Armor à Ploubezre, un site dans le Finistère à Landivisiau, le premier site bilingue en Ille-et-Vilaine et trois sites dans le Morbihan (Moréac, Guégon et Bignan).



DIV YEZH 9/2000

Diwan

This fall Diwan has enrolled 2,414 students from preschool through high school—an increase of 7.24%. 1,907 of the Diwan children are at the preschool and elementary level, 423 at the middle school level, and 84 in the high school. Two new Diwan schools opened this year: one in Dinan (Côtes d’Armor) and one in Questembert (Morbihan).

While Diwan schools continue to grow, the negotiations with the French government to achieve public status are much rockier. Many sticky points remain in government proposals—especially in the role Diwan will play in future administration of this immersive education method in the future. There are fears that once Diwan becomes part of the public school system, the National Education administrators will “dilute” the use of the Breton language and introduce more French in early years. Right now proposals give Diwan only a consultative role rather than equal status with National Education in decision-making.

Disaccord among the Diwan Bureau of Directors over the government proposals has led four of its seven members to resign. The split seems to center on the process of decision making about the suitability of the proposals – can they be approved soon or is there need for yet more consideration and revision? However, there is absolute agreement for all Directors that the future of Diwan is too important to be jeopardized by this split, and there are signs that things can be patched so that the important decisions on the government proposals will receive the careful review on the part of Diwan teachers and parents as well as the Directors that is necessary. With a real concern to move forward as quickly as possible to insure financial security and the public status Diwan has demanded since its creation, patience must be difficult, but Diwan faces a big step that must be made carefully.

Our Diwan School – Skol Diwan Landerne

When I was asked to become the school's "godmother" in 1992, I brought along everyone in the U.S. ICDBL to be part of a special relationship with the Diwan School in Landerneau. And several of our members have had the chance to visit the school to bring greetings and support.

Each year, as Diwan children graduate to middle school, they leave for a new adventure—usually the Diwan middle school in Brest. New pre-schoolers take their place and new families might choose Diwan. This year Skol Diwan Landerne retains 64 students—with seven from last year now off to "college" (middle school) replaced by seven new little ones. The school has four classes—a preschool, "first grade" (6-7 year olds), a combined group of CE1 and CE2 (7-8 and 8-9 year olds), and a group of CM1 and CM2 (9-10 and 10-11 year olds).

Like all Diwan schools, parents are active supporters of the school—in tune with what is going on in their children's studies, but also active in helping to raise funds for the school. In October Skol Diwan Landerne had a Loto ("bingo") event and in January will have a fest noz to raise funds. In March the school will be present at a "Foire Bio"—exposition of natural biological products—and no doubt parents will take many other opportunities to set up a stand to present the school to residents of the area.

And speaking of public, Skol Landerne Diwan has had a computer for a year now which it uses for older children and to produce its newsletter and other materials for classroom use. With access to the internet and an e-mail address, the school is now internationally connected!

If you would like to send information or a note of encouragement to our Diwan school from time to time, here is their e-mail address: skol-diwan-landerne@wanadoo.fr

2^e année, Numéro 3
Septembre – Octobre 2000

**Skol Diwan
Landerne**



DOUAR SEIZ

(Terre de sole)



Éditorial



L'été est terminé, voici revenu le temps du cartable et de la cour d'école. Comme l'an dernier, nous avons commencé l'année avec 64 enfants et nous conservons nos 4 classes.

Bienvenue à Valérie, institutrice à mi-temps dans la classe des CE, ainsi qu'à Laurence qui prend en charge les CM en remplacement de Murielle, affectée à Carhaix. Merci également à Luce qui a accepté la charge de directrice.

Nous avons le plaisir d'accueillir 7 nouvelles familles, qui j'en suis sûre, trouveront rapidement leurs marques au sein de l'école. 7 petits de deux ans (qui ne correspondent pas tous aux nouvelles familles) ont remplacé 7 CM2 partis au collège. D'autres, venus de Diwan « Pont Neuf » à Brest, combient d'autres départs vers Brest ou Nantes notamment.

Ce numéro de « Douar Seiz » est plus étoffé que les précédents: rentrée oblige, vous y trouverez entre autres différentes informations relatives au bon fonctionnement de l'école (horaires de classes, cantine, garderie...).

Bonne lecture !

Echu an hañv, poent eo distreiñ d'ar skol, gant ar sac'h skol evel just! Evel warlene, ez eus 64 bugel ha 4 c'hlas.

Degemer mat da Valerie, skolaerez CE1-CE2, a labour hanter-amzer (d'ar yaou & d'ar gwener), ha da Laurence (khlas CM). Ha trugarez da Luce he deus asantet bezañ renevez.

Ar blijadur hon eus da zegemer 7 familh nevez a vo kredabl, en o aes er skol.

7 bugel bihan 2 vloaz (n'eo ket nemet bugale ar familhoù nevez) o deus kemeret plas ar 7 bugel CM2 a zo aet kuit d'ar skolaj; lod all o tont eus Brest (Pont-Nevez) o deus kemeret plas ar re aet kuit da Vrest pe d'an Naoned.

Niverenn-mañ, an « Douar Seiz » a vo tevoc'h abalamour d'an distroskol. Kavet e vo enni titouroù diwar-benn mont en dro ar skol (: eurvezhioù skol, diwallerezh, kantin,...).

A galon ganeoc'h !

Denise Podeur.

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- Diwan et la presse locale : la grande balade de Thomas et la rentrée scolaire P. 3 et 4
- L'école au carrefour des associations P. 4
- Nouvelles du Comité de soutien, l'informatique à l'école, brèves du Conseil d'école P. 5
- Informations pratiques : taxis, cours de breton, notes de rentrée, petite annonce, calendrier scolaire P. 6

Ont participé à ce numéro :

L'équipe enseignante, le personnel,
Denise Podeur,
Claudie Urien,
Joëlle Cosmao,
Gilles Faurot,
Jean-Pol Kerjean,
Xavier Martineau,
Emmanuel Gouélibo.

The Breton Language and Adult Learners – “Join the dance”

As classes for Breton in the schools continue to grow, so does the demand for Breton classes on the part of adults. Ofis ar Brezhoneg has coordinated a campaign this fall to encourage these classes and help adults find classes in their area.

An attractive flyer has been printed which not only lists a dozen organizations one can contact to find local classes, but also outlines some of the reasons why adults would want to spend evenings in a class. For example ... for the pleasure of understanding songs and literature in the Breton language, to become engaged in conversation with one's own children (learning Breton in bilingual or Diwan schools) or with one's parents or grandparents who are fluent in the language. One might also learn Breton to enjoy place names and history, or to find a job (since the ability to speak Breton is a highly marketable skill these days). Called “Entronns dans la danse, apprenons le breton” (“Let's join the dance, let's learn Breton”), the flyer underlines the importance of Breton as a social and cultural link between people.

Ofis ar Brezhoneg has studied the growth in adult learners of Breton and estimates that over 9,000 took classes in 1999/2000 (compared to 23,000 adults in Wales studying Welsh). This year, some 177 organizations and sites are offering evening classes for adults at all stages of learning. 40% of the 5,936 taking evening classes last year were in Finistère. An additional 2,390 adults studied Breton through “stages”—week-end or week-long intensive classes offered by 24 organizations. Six organizations offer correspondence classes for Breton which involved some 800 adult learners during the past year (80% via Skol Ober which has been at work since 1932 and uses 70 volunteer teachers).

»»»»

Here, miz ar brezhoneg – October, Breton Month

For the third year Coop Breizh (with the support of Skol Uhel ar Vro/Cultural Institute of Brittany) has initiated a month of activities to promote the Breton language in some 50 book stores in all five departments of Brittany. In displaying the rich diversity of Breton language writing, the aim of this month is to show that Breton is a living and dynamic language. Ranging from dictionaries and grammars to children's books and poetry, book stores are encouraged to set up window displays and tables during this month.

« « « «

The Complete Works of Anjela Duval now available

One of the new publications especially featured during “Here, miz ar brezhoneg” was the newly published complete works of Anjela Duval. Those with any familiarity with Breton language literature will recognize the name of Anjela Duval (1905-1981). As described in the attached flyer, she was a Breton-speaker by birth and worked a small farm all her life. She learned to write in her native language when she was 55 years old and from 1961 to 1981 produced over 500 poems and 100 prose texts in the Breton language. Her writing is not remarkable for its mere quantity but for the quality where the richness of spoken Breton is successfully transformed into a literary form. And her works are loved as wonderful expressions of her love for nature but also as militant expressions of her love for Brittany and the Breton language.

Under the leadership of the organization Mignoned Anjela, seven editors have collaborated on the publication of this massive work: Al Liamm, Coop Breizh, Hor Yezh, Mignoned Anjela, Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, Skol an Emsav and Skol Ober. With the title Anjela Duval, Oberenn glok, this 1,300 page work includes all of her poems and prose texts, 20 articles about Anjela Duval and her work, numerous notes, indexes and a bibliography, and 200 photographs. The co-editors have chosen to keep the price as low as possible: just 380 francs.

eston !

Un événement exceptionnel
dans l'histoire de la langue bretonne



**Oberenn glok
Anjela Duval**

La parution de
l'œuvre complète
d'Anjela Duval

Ar seizh embanner :
Al Liamm-Tir na n'ôg, Coop Breizh, Hor Yezh, Mignoned Anjela,
Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, Skol ar Emsav, Skol Ober.

Ar skozellerien :
Kuzul Rannvro Breizh, Kuzul Meur Penn-ar-Bed, Kuzul Meur
Aodoù-an-Arvor, Ti-kêr ar C'houerc'hed, Ti-kêr Karaez ha
Kumuniezh kumunioù ar Poc'her.

Les sept éditeurs qui ont pris part au projet :
Al Liamm-Tir na n'ôg, Coop Breizh, Hor Yezh, Mignoned Anjela,
Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, Skol ar Emsav, Skol Ober.

Les collectivités qui ont apporté leur soutien :
le Conseil régional de Bretagne, le Conseil général du
Finistère, le Conseil général des Côtes-d'Armor, la Mairie du
Vieux-Marché, la Mairie de Carhaix et la Communauté de com-
munes du Poher.

Bet embannet gant Mignoned Anjela e 1998
Déjà paru aux éditions Mignoned Anjela en 1998



Follenn rakprenañ – Bulletin de souscription

Anjela Duval, Oberenn glok	Priz dre levr Prix unitaire 380 300 F/lur gall (45,73 €)
Kementad Quantité	
Hollad Total	
Mizoù kas Frais de port	Profet deoc'h Franco
Da vezañ paeet Net à régler	

Chomlec'h e-lec'h m'ho peus c'hoant e vefe kaset al levr :
Adresse d'expédition :

.....
.....
.....

A-raok ar 15 a viz Here 2000,

kasit ar follenn-mañ leuniet gant ho chekenn war anv Mignoned Anjela da
Yann Desbordes, 1, plasenn Charles-Péguy, 29260 Lesneven.

Avant le 15 octobre 2000,

retournez ce bulletin de souscription complété et accompagné de votre
règlement à l'ordre de Mignoned Anjela à Yann Desbordes, 1, plasenn
Charles-Péguy, 29260 Lesneven.

Ul levr hep e bar

- Evit ar wech kentañ e vo bodet holl skridoù Anjela Duval er memes levr; betek-henn e oant strewet e pevarzek levr ha muioc'h evit kant kelaouenn;
- Evit ar wech kentañ e vo embannet oberenn glok ur skrivagner brezhonek;
- Evit ar wech kentañ e vo gwelet seizh embanner breizhek o kenembann un oberenn;
- Kement-se gant skoazell-arc'hant strollderioù Breizh.



Brav-eston...

- Holl varzhonegoù ha testennoù komz-plaen Anjela Duval;
- Ugent pennad-studi skrivet gant mignoned hag arben-nigourien ar varzhed;
- Ur bern notennoù displegañ, daou roll, ul levrtenna-dur, un daolenn hag un daolenn verr;
- Kement-se o sevel da vil tri c'hant pajennad testenn (war baper olifant);
- Daou c'hant luc'hskeudenn (war baper gwenn lufr);
- Ul levr stummet kaer, moulet brav ha gant ur golo lien.

Ha marc'had-mat !

- Divizet o deus Mignoned Anjela hag ar genembannerien lakaat al levr e gwerzh d'ar priz izelañ posupl;
- Betek ar 15 a viz Here nemetken e vo rakgwerzhet al levr 300 lur gall (45,73 €), hep mizoù kas da lakaat ouzhpenn.
- War-lec'h e vo gwerzhet al levr 380 lur gall (57,93 €).

Un oberenn dibar

Peizantez e oa Anjela Duval (1905-1981). Brezhonegerez a-vihanik, n'eo nemet d'an oad a bemp bloaz hag hanter-kant he doa desket skrivañ yezh he bro. Krog neuze da skrivañ eo deut da vezañ diwezhañ barzhez douar Breizh. Ha neuze — etre 1961 ha 1981 — seul wech ma ne veze ket beuzet gant labour he menañ pe dis-karet gant ar c'hleñved, e spluje e mor ar brezhoneg gant plijadurezh. Adalek ma oa bet tapet gant terzhien ar skritur, n'he doa ket dihanet da zuañ paper: ouzhpenn pemp kant barzhoneg ha c'hwec'h-ugent testenn e komz-plaen he deus bet skrivet e-doug an ugent vloaz-se, war-lerc'h he devezhioù labour! Ar vuhez a c'hweze tan he spered birvidik, sachet, diouzh un tu, gant arvezterezh an natur ha, diouzh an tu all, gant ar stourmoù 'enep d'al laoskentez. Ur varzhez e oa hag a ouie kevreañ pinvidigezhioù ha soutilderioù yezh komzet he c'horn-bro gant reizhded ar yezh lennegel.

Une œuvre unique

Anjela Duval (1905-1981) est le dernier écrivain-paysan breton. Bretonnante de naissance, elle apprend à écrire sa langue maternelle à l'âge de cinquante-cinq ans. Puis, de 1961 à 1981, elle se plonge dans l'écriture dès que les travaux de la ferme et sa santé fragile le lui permettent. Prise d'une sorte de ferveur, elle rédige en vingt ans plus de cinq cents poèmes et plus de cent vingt textes de prose. Son esprit pétillant, sans cesse stimulé par la vie qui l'entoure, oscille entre l'attrait pour l'immersion méditative et une vive indignation contre toutes les formes de lâcheté. Poëtesse accomplie, elle sait accompagner la riche subtilité du langage populaire à la rigueur de la langue littéraire.



Un livre sans pareil

- Pour la première fois, les écrits d'Anjela Duval, dispersés en quatorze livres et une centaine de revues, sont réunis en un seul volume;
- Pour la première fois, l'œuvre complète d'un écrivain d'expression bretonne est publiée;
- Pour la première fois, sept éditeurs bretons coéditent un ouvrage;
- Le tout grâce au soutien sans faille des collectivités bretonnes.

Une qualité exceptionnelle

- Tous les poèmes et tous les textes en prose d'Anjela Duval;
- Vingt articles de fond rédigés par les amis ou les spécialistes de la poésie;
- De nombreuses notes explicatives, deux index, une bibliographie, un sommaire et une table des matières;
- Soit un total de mille trois cents pages de texte (sur papier ivoire);
- Deux cents photos (sur papier couché blanc);
- Une présentation raffinée, une impression soignée et une couverture toilée.

Un prix exceptionnel

- Mignoned Anjela et les coéditeurs ont fait délibérément le choix de fixer le prix au plus bas;
- Jusqu'au 15 octobre 2000 seulement, le prix de vente par souscription est fixé à 300 F TTC (45,73 €), franco de port.
- Le prix de vente public sera ensuite fixé à 380 FTTC (57,93 €).



LOUARNIG

A New Magazine in Breton for Children

A new magazine for children 7-12 (and older) is now out. This very colorful monthly magazine called Louarnig (little fox) includes some 25 pages of cartoons, articles on history and contemporary life, fiction stories, games and puzzles and takes advantage of some of Brittany's excellent artists in the school of "bande dessinée" (comic strip). Entirely in Breton, the magazine presents not just Brittany, but people and animals from around the world.

Issue Number 4, which I received has a focus on Plains Indians of North America (the Lakota in particular) and a feature with lots of photos on the "wallabied" (wallaby). Also included is an article about Abraham Lincoln and the war between North and South and the issue of the abolition of slavery—including a short but good description of the war's development and Lincoln's life. The bulk of this issue focuses on Indians, and I regret that the majority of images and some of the text seem to reinforce a stereotype of Indians as a people of the past—brave warriors with chiseled features, lots of teepees, buckskins and feathers, and bows and arrows. Much of these remind me of the "Cowboy and Indians" images common when I was growing up—except for the sexy Indian woman with breasts bulging behind her low-cut buckskin jacket (in the story "Dindan gwarez an arzh"). One report does present contemporary Indian youth of the Lakota Rosebud reservation and mentions the challenges facing Indian families today, such as alcoholism, but this article focuses on summer powwows with all but one photo of Indians in ceremonial dress. While the text does explain that this is "festival" dress, images still overwhelmingly reinforce the picturesque—imagine that the only images American children would see of Bretons would be a Cercle Celtique in full costume for a festival.

While the photo presentation of the Lakota festival ("Me, Sun-Gila-Waste, indian lakota...") shows Indians as a living people proud of their heritage, old stereotypes are once again dominant in the short story "Dindan gwarez an arzh" The short story is set in the "old days" with Indians in teepees, paddling canoes, hunting bison, and suffering from the invasion of the White Man ("Du gwenn") and looking to the Great Spirit ("Spered Meur") for help. The history of Native Americans and the consequences of European colonization of North America does need to be told—I'm not sure this story helps children really understand much of that history, but one cannot present the complexity of such a history to children in 5 or 6 pages! My regret with this issue of Louarnig is that it focuses so much on the old days—reinforced again in an essay by Luther Standing Bear (1933) on Indian childhood which is very interesting, but hardly reflective of today's experience. And the photos of old Indian toys show the wonderful craftsmanship of the 18th and 19th centuries, but tell nothing about contemporary children.

It is evident that there is great interest on the part of Bretons (and Europeans more generally) in Native peoples and their past and contemporary challenges. Too bad that this particular issue of Louarnig has the potential to reinforce the "bow and arrow" images of Indians rather than help children truly understand the Lakota and the many other North American tribes as people of today. Perhaps a future issue could present an Indian rock band (which like fest noz bands incorporate many traditional music elements in their performances) or urban Indians in the east.

While I regret that I found it necessary to give a rather negative review of this particular issue of Louarnig, this new magazine is an important new resource for children learning Breton. Its pages are colorful and attractive and the variety of images and text—from entertaining comic strips to challenging puzzles as well as factual reports and short stories—give children the chance to use vocabulary in many ways (and a vocabulary list is included to help readers with new words).

While Louarnig has been created for children, there is no reason why adult learners can't also take advantage of this enjoyable magazine to work on their Breton. As you will see from the coupon reproduced here, the editors of Louarnig have generously offered a free issue to Bro Nevez readers (if copies are available). Better yet, support this important effort with a subscription—380 francs for 11 issues per year.

You can contact Louarnig at the following address: Louarnig, 29520 LAZ, France (louarnig@caramail.com)



Louarnig



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New Books in the Breton Language and About the Breton Language

The following descriptions are drawn from short notes found in Ar Men 114 (August 2000) and Bretagne des Livres 51 (May/June 2000), 52/53 (Summer 2000) and 54 (October/November 2000), and Breizh Info no. 193, 11 October 2000) -- Lois Kuter

Aesc'hulos. Prometeus ereet; Ar Bersed.
Mouladurioù Hor Yezh. 2000. 170 pp. ISBN 2-86863-118-5.

Reedition of the translation of two plays by Aeschylus by Youenn Drezen for the literary review Gwalarn. This edition includes an analysis of the works by Aline Gleoneg and an essay on Greek theater.

Yann-Baol An Noalleg. Jedoniezh II. Stadegouriezh, tebegouriezh.

Preder. 2000. 534 pp. ISBN 2-901383-38-6.
Study of Breton terminology for statistics and probabilities, including lexicography of 1,500 new terms.

Andreo ar Merser. Précis de grammaire bretonne.
Ar Skol Vrezhoneg. 2000. 172 pp. ISBN 2-906373-40-0.
Fundamental grammar for the Breton language.

Ar Vro Bagan. La légende de la ville d'Ys / Mojenn Kêr-lz.

Emgleo Breiz. 2000. 164 pp. ISBN 2-911210-19-0.
Bilingual text prepared by Stollad ar Vro Bagan of a theater piece for children (or adults) to perform, including pedagogical materials that can be used in a class.

Loeiz Bihannig. Gant avel ar vuhez.

An Here. 2000. 160 pp. ISBN 2-736800-57-5.
Reminiscences by Bihannig of his childhood in Landeda, of a father who was a seaweed collector, of school, of the Liberation, and of a maritime career.

Eujen Chalm. 1938-1942—Ur Breizhad skolaer er Mezven.

Hor Yezh. 2000. 142 pp. ISBN 2-910699-36-6.
Follow-up on memoirs of his youth (Eñvoriou ur c'haper droc'h) covering a period when Chalm was a teacher in Mayenne. Also includes his participation in the "Chantiers de Jeunesse" in Vercors with interesting observations on this period of history.

Thierry Châtel. Alhwez louzeier bleunveg Breiz.
2 vols. Emgleo Breiz. 2000. 282 + 164 pp. ISBN 2-911210-16-6.

A guide to names of plants in Breton, Welsh, French, Latin and English.

Christos Clairis, Denis Costaquec, Jean Baptiste Coyos (Coord.). Langues et cultures régionales de France: Etat des lieux.

Harmattan. 2000. 278 pp. ISBN 2-7384-8717-3.
Papers from a colloquium held at the Sorbonne in Paris gathering linguists, teachers, publishers and journalists on the regional languages of France, their state, and measures for their protection.

Francis Favereau. Le bilinguisme précose.

Klask No. 5. Presses Universitaires de Rennes. 2000. 320 pp. ISBN 2-86847-449-7.

Analysis of early bilingualism in different areas (Brittany, Occitania, Basque country, Catalonia, Galicia, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)

Claudio Rodriguez Fer. Muioc'h kal eget mil bloaz/Moito máis que mil anos.

Mouladurioù Hor Yezh. 2000. 104 pp. ISSN 1142-7340.
A selection of poetical texts by a Galician writer which are inspired by Brittany and the Celts.

Auguste Guillevic, Pierre Le Goff. Grammaire bretonne du dialecte de Vannes.

Ar Skol Vrezhoneg. 1999. 170 pp. ISBN 2-906373-14-7.
Reproduction of a 1904 grammar for the Vannetias dialect of Breton.

Per Jakez Helias. Biskoaz kemend-all. Vols. 1 + 2.
Emgleo Breiz. 2000. 130 + 156 pp. ISBN 2-911210-15-8 + ISBN 2-911210-17-4.

Reedition of theater pieces by Per Jakez Helias.

Per Jakez Helias. Mével ar Gosker, Pez-c'hoari.

Emgleo Breiz. 2000. 167 pp. ISBN 2-911210-20-4.
A story about a rich peasant of the Bigouden area who tries to marry his two daughters off to suitable matches.

Roparz Hemon. Yezhadur istorel ar brezhoneg.

Hor Yezh. 2000. 304 pp. ISBN 2-910699-37-4
Translation into Breton by Alan Dipode of Roparz Hemon's work A Historical Morphology and Syntax of Breton.

Meriadeg Herrieu. Le Breton du Morbihan vannetais.

Emgleo Breiz. 1999. 140 pp. ISBN 2-911210-13-1.
Grammar for learning the Vannetais dialect of Breton.

New Books in Breton – continued

Hyacinthe Kerneliz. Kêr ha mêziou.

Emgleo Breiz. 2000. 129 pp. ISBN 2-911210-18-2.
Novel written in 1908 with some outdated views of women and "foreigners"--a period piece written in good Breton.

Yves Miossec. O foeta bro e Stadou-Unanet an Amerik (1976). O foeta bro er Hanada (1978).

Ar Skol Vrezhoneg. 147 pp. ISBN 2-906373-84-0 + 165 pp. ISBN 2-906373-84-9.
Accounts of trips to the U.S. and Canada in the 1970s.

Youenn Olier. Gourlenn war lerc'h an tre (Deizlevar ar bloavezh 1961).

Imbourc'h. 2000. 370 pp. ISBN 2-910493-14-8.
Journal of family life and of militant action for Brittany in 1961,

Bernard Poignant. Langues de France: Osez l'Europe.

Indigènes Editions. 2000. 140 pp. ISBN 2-911939-20-4.
Thoughts on why France defends minorities and human rights outside of France, yet refuses to act on cultural demands from minorities within its borders.

Per Pondaven and Mikael Madeg. Renabl anioù lethioù arvor bro-Bagan, Gwiseni, Kerlouan. T-2: Etre ar Vougo hag Enez Kerlouan.

Ar Skol Vrezhoneg. 2000. 275 pp. ISBN 2-906373-83-5.
Inventory of place names in the maritime areas of Guisseney and Kerlouan in the Pagan country of northwestern Brittany.

Anne Quéré. Les Bretons et la langue bretonne. Ce qu'ils en disent.

Brud Nevez 2000. 106 pp. ISBN 2-86775-195-X.
A survey of Bretons on their attitudes about the Breton language and its status.

Jakez Riou. Triou-kamm Alanig al Louarn. Brud Nevez. 2000. 165 pp. ISBN 2-86775-184-5.

Third edition of this work by one of Brittany most famous Breton language authors.

Pascal Rolland. Atlas linguistique de la région de Pontivy (Morbihan, Côtes d'Armor). 2 vols.

Ar Skol Vrezhoneg. 2000. 336 + 162 pp. ISBN 2-906373-33-8.

Mapping of different dialect forms of Breton in the Pontivy area.

Andrev Sinou. Brezhoneg Lechiagad. Geriaoueg.

Hor Yezh. 2000. 140 pp. ISBN 2-910699-38-2.
Second part of a study by Sinou, including lexicography of terms and expressions collected in Lechiagad.

Stumdi. E brezhoneg pa gari!

2 CD-Rom / DVD-Rom. Stumdi. 2000.
Stumdi organizes Breton classes for adults and has invested over a year of work in the production of a 2-CD set to teach Breton. Compatible with Mac or PC. This is the equivalent of 150 hours of class.

John N. Synge. Puñs ar zent.

Brud Nevez. 2000. 85 pp. ISBN 2-86775-193-5.
Translation of the complete text of Synge's "Well of the Saints" (1905) by the theater group Strollad Plougin.

John M. Synge. Lubaner Kreiz-Breizh. Transl by Sylvain Botrel and Mari-Elen Morvan.

Skol Vreizh. 2000. 106 pp. ISBN 2-911447-34-4.
A Breton version set in Callac in Western Brittany of Synge's "Playboy of the Western World" which was performed by Strollad Kallag in 1993.

Iwan Tangi. Donaw.

Skol Vreizh. 2000. 84 pp. ISBN 2-911447-35-2.
Life and history along the Danube River.

Various authors. En un tu bennak.

An Hemon Embannadurioù. 2000. 84 pp.
Collection of short stories written by students in the Diwan middle schools and high school.

Coop Breizh. Agenda Breizh 2001.

Coop Breizh. 2000. 250 pp. ISBN 2-84346-128-6.
This is a French-Breton calendar arranged by weeks from October 2000 through December 2001. Includes proverbs and 40 illustrated pages on all aspects of Breton culture.

Skol an Emsav. Deiziataer 2001.

Skol an Emsav. 2000.
This is an all-Breton calendar which has been produced for many years by Skol an Emsav. It includes a wealth of information related to the Breton language and organizations which support it.

Gouel an Erminig – Ceremony for the Order of the Ermine

Lois Kuter

Each year Skol Uhel ar Vro (the Cultural Institute of Brittany) inducts four new members into the Order of the Ermine, and this gives me the opportunity to present some of the remarkable people of Brittany who have spent much of their lives working for Brittany and the Breton culture in particular.

The Order of the Ermine is one of the oldest military/honorary orders in Europe, founded by Jean IV in 1381 following the Battle of Auray. It was unusual in its inclusion of women and commoners who served Brittany. The idea of honoring Bretons for outstanding service to their country was revived by Georges Lombard in 1972 to honor René Pleven when he took his place as head of CELIB—a very important economic planning group of that period. In 1985 when Georges Lombard was President of the Cultural Institute of Brittany, this became a yearly tradition.

Since 1972 fifty-two individuals (including four non-Bretons) have received this distinction which not only recognizes past deeds but imparts a responsibility for a lifetime of work for Brittany: Anna-Vari Arzur, Vefa de Bellaing (deceased 1998), Jacques Briard, Herri Caouissin, Denise Delouche, Per Denez, Vetig an Dret-Kervella, Jean Fréour, Charlez ar Gall, Yvonig Gicquel, Pierre-Roland Giot, Glenmor (d. 1996), Pierre-Jakez Helias (d. 1995), Jean-Jacques Hénaff, Ronan Huon, Yvonne Jean-Haffen (d. 1993), Dodik Jégou, Goulc'han Kervella, Riwanon Kervella, Lois Kuter, Pierre Laurant, André Lavanant, Raymond Lebossé, Joseph Lec'hvien, Robert Legrand, Pierre Lemoine, Pierre Le Treut, Jean L'Helgouac'h (2000), Louis Lichou, Georges Lombard, Pierre Loquet, Henri Maho, Patrick Malrieu, Ivona Martin, Joseph Martray, Jean Mévellec (d. 1985), Polig Monjarret, Rita Morgan Williams, Bernard de Parades (d. 2000), Gabriele Pescatore, Michel Philipponneau, René Pleven (d. 1993), Yann Poilvet, Jordi Pujol, Henri Queffélec (d. 1992), Maryvonne Quéméré-Jaouen, Loeiz Ropars, Naig Rozmor, Alan Stivell-Cochevelou, Albert Trévidic, Jean Tricoire (d. 1994), Jean-Bernard Vighetti.

With the addition of four new members, the Order of the Ermine has now been awarded to fifty-six people. The information which follows on those honored this September in Pontivy was drawn from Sterenn No. 16 (September 2000), a magazine published by Skol Uhel ar Vro.

Pierre Le Rhun was born in 1936 into a large rural family of the Bigouden area of southwestern Brittany. After completing university studies in Geography in Lyon in 1962, he returned to Brittany where he taught at the Lycée Clemenceau and then at the Université de Nantes in 1968. He completed a 3rd Cycle thesis in 1972 on intensive agriculture in Brittany and since then has published numerous articles and collaborated on some key publications: Géographie de la Bretagne (1976), Bretagne et Grand Ouest (1988), Géographie et aménagement de la Bretagne (1994) and Atlas de Bretagne (1990).

But Pierre Le Rhun is not just a fine scholar; he has used his knowledge to fight for the protection of the Breton environment (in opposing the massive destruction of field hedges, the construction of a nuclear power plant in Carnet, and in supporting the development of the salt marshes in the area of Guérande). He has worked with the SEPNB (Société pour l'Etude et la Protection de la Nature en Bretagne) and has been active with Ar Falz, an educational organization promoting knowledge of the Breton language and all aspects of Breton society, history and culture. He has long fought for the reunification of Brittany and today serves as President of the Comité Pour l'Unité Administrative de la Bretagne (CUAB) which spearheads the fight to get Loire-Atlantique back as part of "official" Brittany.

Lena Louarn, born in 1950, is one of the "younger" members of the Order of the Ermine, but in her 50 years she has certainly accomplished much more than many could in several lifetimes. Lena Louarn is President of Ofis ar Brezhoneg (Office of the Breton Language) created in May 1999, and is also Editor for Bremañ, a 20-page monthly magazine in the Breton language which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. She has also directed Skol an Emsav for twenty years. This organization has not only organized Breton classes for adults for many years, but was in the forefront in pushing for Breton language road signs in the late 1970s. Lena Louarn also works part time with the Cultural Council of Brittany and serves on several cultural councils in Rennes to support Breton language, culture and identity. For several years

she also served as President of Skeudenn Bro Rhoazhon, a federation of cultural organizations in the Rennes region.

She's a busy lady! – but this is not surprising given her family. One of ten children, Lena was brought up in the Breton language by two militant parents – Noela Olier and Alan Louarn (1918-1993). Alan Louarn is well known for his role as the founder of Brudañ ha Skignañ—an information center on Place de Lices in Rennes which I remember very well from my first visit to Brittany in 1975 as a place where one was warmly welcomed and assisted with information of all kinds. Alan Louarn gave me much needed encouragement and helped me open many doors when I was a student just discovering Brittany. Lena Louarn has likewise opened many doors in her leadership roles to support the Breton language and culture.

René Vautier was born in 1928 in Camaret, and began to express his courage as a militant at the age of 16 when he was active with the Resistance movement during World War II. He studied film at the Institute des Hautes Études Cinématographiques, earning a degree in 1948. In 1950 his short documentary "Afrique 50" earned him a year in prison for its outspoken condemnation of colonialism (and also earned him awards in the film community). René Vautier worked on several films in North Africa and served as Director of the Centre Audiovisuel d'Alger (1961-1965) as well as Secretary-General of Cinémas Populaires in Algeria. His sympathy with the Algerians' fight against France for independence has not made him a popular man in some political circles.

On his return to France, René Vautier founded the Unité de Production Cinématographique Bretagne in 1970. In 1973 he went on a 31-day hunger strike to protest political censorship of film and was recognized in 1974 by the jury of Film Antiraciste for his film work as a whole. In 1984 René Vautier founded an independent production company called "Images sans chaînes" and in 1998 he was once again recognized for this film work with a Grand Prize from the Société Civile des Auteurs Multimédias. Some of René Vautier's better known titles include: "Avoir vingt ans dans les Aurès" (1972), "La folle de Toujane" (1973), "Quand tu disais Valérie" (1976), "Quand les femmes ont pris la colère" (1977), "Marée noire et colère rouge" (1978), and "Voyage en Giscardie" (1980).

Whether René Vautier's films make a statement against colonialism, the oppression of workers, or the pollution of the environment, they are all strong and courageous statements.

Tereza Desbordes was born in 1934 on a small farm in Pont-Aven. When her mother died when Tereza was just 16 years old she took charge of the household and many farm duties. In 1952 she married Yan Desbordes who had arrived in the area in 1949 as a teacher. In 1955 Yann Desbordes "discovered" Brittany and the Breton language and both he and Tereza learned Breton as adults and made Breton the language of their home for their four children. At the urging of Per Denez, Tereza Desbordes became involved in Breton language publishing, and took on the direction of Mouladurioù Hor Yezh in 1980. During its twenty years, this publishing house has produced over 140 books—dictionaries and learning materials for Breton as well as contemporary literature and poetry in the Breton language. Tereza Desbordes has also been active with the Cultural Institute of Brittany as head of the Literature Section since 1989.

For me it is impossible to present the remarkable achievements of Tereza Desbordes without also mentioning the work of her husband, Yann Desbordes. I first met Yann as a student at the 1975 "Crash Course" for Breton in Rennes which he helped to teach. I later visited the Desbordes home in Lesneven and Yann and Tereza introduced me to the Leon area of Brittany and to the work they were both doing. Yann Desbordes has provided Breton learners with a number of useful tools such as his Petite grammaire de breton moderne (1983) and a compact and easy to use Breton-French/French-Breton dictionary (1993) as well as the reedition of Armand ar C'halvez' textbook Herve ha Nora. Like Tereza, Yann Desbordes has played an important role in helping to make Breton language writing accessible to readers. He has served as Secretary for the Breton language journal Hor Yezh since 1968. This journal—and publishing enterprise—has focused on linguistic studies, but also biographies, sociology, literature and folklore—all in Breton. Both Tereza and Yann Desbordes have been "low-profile" people, hard workers who have contributed immensely to Breton language publication (starting in days when readers and rewards were very few).

NEW MUSIC FROM BRITTANY

Reviewed by Lois Kuter

Kornog. *Korong*, Green Linnet Records. GLCD 1209. 2000. 53'53.

Kornog first toured in the U.S. in 1983 and cross-crossed the country each fall for the next three years. During their four years of touring here the band got to know more airports than any of us will ever see in our lifetimes. And, they had the chance to introduce Brittany and Breton music to thousands of Americans. The trips were grueling and the musicians of Kornog probably could have made more money touring Europe where Breton music was better known. I don't know why this band decided to tour again in the U.S.—a nearly non-stop nightly schedule from October 19 through November 19th hitting fifteen different states from Washington and California to Massachusetts and New York with lots of stops in the middle (Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Oklahoma and Texas...). But, we can be thankful that they did, and that Green Linnet Records has produced their latest CD. It's a gem where each musician has the chance to show off his unique talents.

The original lineup of Kornog included guitarist Soig Siberil and then later Gilles le Bigot; both went on after the band broke up to brilliant solo careers and collaboration with a variety of ensembles and some of Brittany's hottest bands. Neither Soig nor Gilles are back with Kornog for this new CD or tour, but no need to despair. Joining Kornog is Nicolas Quemener who brings considerable experience as guitarist for Gilles Servat, a participant in Dan ar Bras' "Heritage des Celtes," the guitar and flute player for the band Skeduz, as well as member of a duo with uilleann piper Ronan Le Bars. Like many Breton musicians, Nicolas Quemener has spent a lot of time hanging out with Irish musicians and may be

best known to U.S. audiences as a member of the Irish band Arcady. While the guitar is a key part of Kornog's overall "sound" and rhythmic punch on dances especially, Nicolas Quemener has the chance to stand out with a particularly lovely solo: "Air pour faire pleurer la mariée" followed by some dance tunes for the gavotte.

While tours by Breton musicians in the U.S.—at least on the east coast—are all too rare, we have had the opportunity to hear fiddler Christian Lemaitre on tour with Kevin Burke and Johnny Cunningham in a trio called "The Celtic Fiddle Festival". On their stop in February 2000 in my part of the world, they also brought along Soig Siberil. Since the breakup of Kornog in the 1980s Christian Lemaitre has played with a number of Breton groups (Pennou Skoulm, Storvan, Archetype, and with Gilles Servat) and recorded a solo CD. He has some lovely solos on the new Kornog CD with a melody and dance from the Guerande area of southeastern Brittany ("La Belle Eléanore"/"Les filles de Saillé") and a composition by Herri Léon ("Al letanant Schmitt o kimiadiñ ar 5ved Kompagnunez"). And Christian's fiddle is often found in duo with the flute of Jean-Michel Veillon to power the main melodic line of dances and songs.

In the past two decades Jean-Michel Veillon has carved out a formidable career with his wooden flutes and is considered today one of the best in the world on this instrument which he uses to interpret slow Breton melodies as well as fiery dances. He has played with a number of bands (Barzaz, Pennou Skoulm, Alan Genty ...) but has been most prolific as a solo artist or in duo with Yvon Riou in recent years. Jean-Michel Veillon's mastery of the wooden flute stands out in several cuts on the Kornog CD where he takes

the lead--the opening "Baleadenn" which includes a series of dances from the Vannetais area; "Là bas dans la prairie," a melody from the repertoire of Albert Poulain followed by tunes for the "Rond de Saint-Vincent-sur-Oust"; and "Ar Plac'h diw wech eureujet," a melody from the Goadec sisters followed by the lively dance fisel. On the closing "dans plinn" Jean-Michel brings out the bombarde to add even more energy to this already highly energetic dance.

No Kornog recording would be complete without a dance tune from Eastern Europe—in this case (former) Yugoslavia. Jean-Michel Veillon and Christian Lemaitre take the lead on two very lively dances—the first composed by Jean-Michel. For this suite they are joined by Jacky Molard on viola and guitar, and the bouzuoki from Quemener and McMenemy add to the feverish pitch.

While Veillon, Lemaitre and Quemener have been very active in Brittany's music scene in a number of ensembles and as soloists, Jamie McMenemy retired from the music front lines after Kornog broke up in the 80s with just occasional guest appearances on recordings. It is indeed good to see and hear him back. Jamie has lost none of his touch on the bouzouki and mandolin and still has that lovely warm voice those who know Kornog of the 80s will remember. And Jamie's voice is featured in a number of wonderful Scottish ballads that get blended with Breton melodies or rhythms for a unique Kornog sound. "Child Noryce" is a dramatic tale of jealousy and murder which "ping pongs" (as the notes say) from 7/8 to 6/8 time and this gives it a wonderful intensity. "The Braes O'Killiecrankie" (a Burns song) speaks of Scotland's battle with England. McMenemy takes the very old Scottish melody and sets it to the rhythm of a Breton dance, the scottische. "Lassie wi' the yellow coatie" perhaps shows off best Jamie's warm and expressive voice as does the lovely lullaby "For a new baby" by Peggy Seeger.

In their ability to perform beautiful slow airs as well as some very lively dances, the musicians of Kornog show that since the "old days" they have lost none of their touch; indeed, they are much better! Kornog still sounds like no other band with its blend of Scottish ballads and Breton melodies and dances—pulled from the traditional repertoire of Brittany that each musician knows so well, as well as from their exploration of newer compositions from fellow Bretons—like "Fest Stivell" which incorporates several of Alan Stivell's most interesting compositions.

The notes to the CD introduce the band (and Brittany) which is important since this CD will be widely available in the U.S. and will be purchased by those who might just be discovering Breton music and Kornog. Each tune is introduced by the musician who is featured in solos or who brought it to the band, and the introduction includes notes on how and where the melodies and tunes were learned and the complicated path they sometimes took in being rearranged. Texts for all the songs are included, which is helpful since the "English" of Scottish ballads bears little resemblance to the "English" of most Americans. Photos of each musician and the group are also included which always adds a more human element to CD notes.

While the revival of a band after musicians have spent nearly 15 years going their separate ways can seem pretty risky, Kornog works well as a band of musicians who enjoy playing with each other. The considerable talents of each musician are given plenty of room for expression and yet combine very beautifully to contribute to the unique sound of the group. This is a CD which gets better each time you play it and hear a few more nuances. Kornog has not lost the sound that those who heard them in the 1980s will want to hear, but all of the musicians bring with them a certain sophistication and finesse that has grown from the wealth of all their musical experiences since 1986!

Kornog Concert - November 14, 2000,
Wilmington, Delaware, Green Willow Folk Club

I wrote the CD review for Korong before attending the concert held in Wilmington on November 14, and found that many of my impressions from the CD carried over to the concert performance. BUT, a live performance is always better than any recording because you have more than just sound. While the introduction of each selection in the CD notes to Korong gives a sense of the personality of each musician, this is pale in contrast to their stage presence. Each musician on stage shared in the introductions, but in Wilmington it was Christian Lemaitre who did much of this job. And this was not so easy since the audience, while in no way hostile or unappreciative of the fine music they were hearing, was unusually serious and on the "dead" side. The fact that food was being served throughout the evening did not help in establishing a close rapport with the audience. Too bad, because those who were not paying attention missed some of the dry wit and subtle humor of Christian's (and other band members') introductory remarks. Jamie McMenemy introduced the Scottish ballads which were interspersed with Breton dances. The fantastic stories told in these ballads are sometimes lost since the words are hard to follow for us Americans, so Jamie's detailed introductions helped us fully appreciate the finer details—especially some of the more graphic scenes of violence where heads were hacked off or children were chopped up to be baked in a meat pie (which prompted wishes of "bon appetit" from the other Kornog band members for those of the audience having dinner).

While on the CD recording of Korong it is evident that Kornog is a band that meshes very well and enjoys playing together, this is even more evident on stage. The interplay of Nicolas Quemener's guitar with Jamie McMenemy's bouzouki was

particularly impressive to me, because I did not hear this so distinctly on the CD—perhaps because my sound system is not the highest quality. In live performance musicians have the power to draw your attention to sounds that you might ignore on a CD. I found Kornog's performance in Wilmington compelling—both for the slower ballads which had passionate tales to tell and for the very intense dances where the four musicians played off of each other's energy—despite an audience that was barely tapping a toe!

It was the performance of some very familiar pieces found on Kornog's earlier recordings (Première and Ar Seizh Avel/On Seven Winds) that made it clear to me just how different the "new" Kornog is from the "old". And why shouldn't they be. Each musician has matured in terms of technical skills, but also in terms of depth and breadth of experience. They have all played with a variety of musicians of different styles in Brittany, and in their travels outside of Brittany have learned to appreciate the wealth of musical expression the world offers. The fact that these guys are masters of their instruments (and voice in the case of Jamie) allows them a certain freedom and the ability to innovate. You just have to listen to Jean-Michel Veillon's flute to hear some of the most obvious examples.

It is in the increased sophistication of the arrangements of tunes and songs that Kornog becomes "new" and definitely better than the old Kornog (which was not bad to begin with!). Their arrangements are intricate but not so elaborate that the words to the songs become obscured or the dances become so convoluted that you do not want to get up and dance. Kornog challenges listeners already familiar with Breton music and introduces newcomers to the beauty of melodies and unique rhythm of each Breton dance. Each musician supports the others and everyone is given the chance to fly ... and Kornog can truly soar.

New recordings - continued

Yann-Fañch Perroches and Fañch Landreau.
Daou ha daou. Keltia Musique. KMCD 111. 2000.
 49'

This is a very simple CD—as the notes say. It is *just* fiddle and diatonic accordion, but played by not just any old musicians. You have in duo here two of Brittany's best—Yann-Fañch Perroches on accordion and Fañch Landreau on fiddle—both veterans of the group Skolvan as well as a number of other musical experiences, including classical, jazz and Irish. While the simple elegance of traditional melodies and dances predominate, these are not always played in such a simple way. The very danceable Ronds de Saint-Vincent, "Ninette," and the Gallo song "Les rats d'eau de St-Malo" bring a touch of Quebec in the swing of Landreau's fiddle and I'm not sure how to describe the jazzy exuberance of the "kas a-barh." For two lovely compositions, Yann-Fañch Perroches brings inspiration from other cultural encounters—a very ethereal and modern composition "Maria" is inspired by Finnish accordion player Maria Kalaniemi, and "La (grosse) valse à Dudule" borrows a melody from a Welsh traditional song performed by Julie Murphy of the group Fernhill.

In interpreting traditional airs and dance tunes from both eastern and western Brittany, these two musicians bring a fresh sound but respect perfectly the free flow of Breton singing and the precise rhythm of each dance. Less mature musicians often have a good mastery of dances of their home region, but lack experience to convincingly carry out dances from across Brittany. Perroches and Landreau are as much at home with the an dro and rond de Saint-Vincent from Gallo country as they are with the gavottes and plinn of the west.

The thirteen selections on the CD include a number of dances (plinn, gavotte, kas a-barh, gavottes pourlettes, ronds de Saint-Vincent, waltz, and an dro) but also four marches—which in Brittany resemble slow dances more than a "walk" or military march. And there are a few slower airs included as well to show that both musicians have the musical depth needed for this more difficult expression. Playing an impressively snappy dance is one thing, but capturing the emotion of a slow air is quite another. The CD closes with a lovely homage to Henri Landreau (1934-1999), Fañch's father, who was a pioneer in Breton experimentation with the arrangement of traditional music in "folk" groups in the 1960s. He played with one of the earliest of these bands, Namnediz, but was also a key figure in the revival of the veuze—the bagpipe of southeastern Brittany which had nearly gone extinct.

Like the music, the notes to the CD are simple—with a very short description in French with an English translation (by our own ICDBL member Mary Turner). There's a photo of the musicians and a nice cover layout, but no fancy colors or photo overlays to make reading the notes a challenge. Part of the relative sparseness of the CD notes may be due to the fact that the music CD doubles as a CD ROM you can pop into your computer to access additional text, photos and written music for the accordion and fiddle. I couldn't seem to figure out how to access this on my computer without performing a few "illegal operations", but no doubt others with more computer savvy or the programming necessary will have no trouble taking advantage of this additional information. And the notes invite those interested in more information to contact Yann-Fañch Perroches via his internet address (YannFanch@aol.com) or by regular mail for those who haven't joined the computer age.

New Recordings – continued

I found Daou ha daou to be a very enjoyable CD—full of spirit with interesting arrangements of great traditional melodies and dances. There is nothing overly ornate to clutter the music of these two great players. The simplicity of their performance is simply wonderful.

Korriganed. Avel an heol. Coop Breizh KEL 05. 2000. 54'06.

Korriganed has undergone some shifts in its personnel during its 26 years, but it retains a distinctive sound and continues to have at its core the traditional song repertoire of Vannetais Brittany—both in Breton and French. Dominique Gicquel is the lead singer and has a wonderful spirited voice for the dances such as the challenging *laridé-gavotte* as well as for more plaintive ballads from the exceptionally rich repertoire of Vannetias Brittany. Gicquel also has talent as a composer as demonstrated in his text for the opening cut, "Le chant des salines," about the transformation of salt marshes into a preserve for migrating birds. Other members of the band for this CD include Michel Robino on fiddle, Jean-Marc Guilcher on guitars, Yann Lagatu on electric bass, Philippe Arz on fiddle, and Philippe Gouezhin on flute, bombarde and whistles.

While I liked the strength of Gicquel's fine voice, I felt that the instrumental accompaniment was uneven in its response—sometimes instruments lacked a corresponding spirit and force in responding to the voice in dances such as the *laridé* "Entre la rivière et le bois de Boulogne." At other times the instruments seemed to overwhelm the voice. The instrumental accompaniment has moments of inspiration and I liked the job done in the an dro "La maladie des

couleurs", but in other songs and melodies the mix seemed to promote some instruments at the expense of others. At times it seemed as if each musician was in competition with the others to be heard.

Korriganed does take nice advantage, however, of the beautiful melodies of the Vannetais area where they have their roots. The rendition of the Breton language ballad "Glav hag avel e ra" was especially lovely. The guitar and violin accompaniment added dramatic support to the voice in this song about a girl who wants to marry a laborer's son but is forced by her father to go into a convent. While Korriganed captures perfectly the rhythms of the dances native to their Vannetais area, the group was much less successful with the three-part *plinn* which closed the CD. Despite the added energy of a bombarde, the first part of the dance plodded along at a very slow pace. By the third part, the pace had picked up a bit, but the dance still lacked a certain something, although I liked the blast of bagpipes and bombarde from the Bagad Er Melinérien.

CD notes include a brief introduction (in French and Breton) to each selection, describing the source for each tune or melody. The full song texts are included as well.

While this CD has some weaknesses in balancing voices and instruments, Korriganed has a nice repertoire of lovely songs and great dances from their home territory. I like the unique sound of this group and will enjoy this CD more each time I listen to it.

HEARD OF, BUT NOT HEARD

The following short notes are based on reviews found in Musique Bretonne No. 162 (September-October 2000), and Ar Men No. 115 (October 2000) and 116 (November 2000). These are just a few of the CDs to come out in the past months, and as you can see they include a range of styles.

Black Label Zone. Pot'velu. Siam Productions BL2 310 300.

This Breton group combines Scottish style piping and pipe band drumming with a hard rock electric guitar for a high energy ride. The pipers show off technical virtuosity in fast-paced arrangements based primarily on Scottish reels and jigs.

Dastum. Gwerzioù ha sonioù Bro Dreger—le répertoire trégorrois, cent ans après Luzel. Dastum 138. 2000.

The 15 songs on this well-documented CD are found in the famous 19th century song collections by Luzel. They are sung here by masters of the song tradition in Tregor, on recordings made between 1961 and 1992 (with the exception of one wax cylinder recording from 1900 of one of Luzel's primary sources, Marc'harid Fulup). This is a valuable collection of excellent traditional singers for the most part now deceased.

Duo Bertrand. Fleur de sel. Label Ouest 306 004-2. (Distr. L'Autre Distribution). 2000.

This CD features the duo of Thierry Bertrand (veuze, oboe and fiddle) and Sebastian Bertrand (accordion) with melodies and dances from the Breton-Vendée marshlands.

L'Epille. Chansons traditionnelles recueillies à Plédran et Saint-Carreuc. L'Epille EPL 005. Cassette. 2000.

This cassette tape features the traditional repertoire from the area in Côtes d'Armor found south of Saint Brieuc. It includes recordings collected during the past fifty years of ballads, marches (sung), songs for dancing, as well as vielle à roue.

Hommage - da enoriñ - Glenmor. Radio France Bretagne Ouest/Kan an Douar. KAD 01. (Dif. Coop Breizh). 2000.

This is a recording of a concert given at Gouel Broadel ar Brezhoneg to honor famous "chanteur engagé" Glenmor. Performers of his songs include Katell, Andrea ar Gouill, Yvon Etienne, Mona Jaouen, Manu Lann Huel, Bernez Tangi, and Kristen Nikolaz.

Menestra. Dog of Pride. Coop Breizh. 2000

This is the first CD by this young group which is well known on the fest-noz circuit. There is a focus on dances, including the rond de Loudéac, rond de Saint-Vincent, laridé-gavotte, an dro, hanter dro, mazurka, scottische, and bourées from southern France. The reviewer notes the effective inclusion of vielle à roue (hurdy-gurdy), an instrument rarely found in Breton groups.

Merzhin. Pleine lune. Stormy Music 74 321 (Dif. BMG France). 2000.

This is a young Breton rock group who draws on the Breton tradition, incorporating bombarde, bagpipes and tin whistles, and using the Breton language in songs.

Denez Prigent. Irvi. Barclay 543 6472 (Dif. Barclay). 2000.

Denez Prigent is one of the best known young traditional singers in the Breton language. But he is also a man of the electronic age and this recording puts his voice with instruments such as bass clarinet, bombardes and an electroacoustic vielle in a very modern mix. This CD got a rave review by Michel Toutous—who knows his stuff!—in the October 2000 issue of Ar Men.

Rozaroun. Malasevska. EOG Productions. 2000.

This instrumental group performs dances from all over Brittany, with a few also from Auvergne and Macedonia. They are described as having a "Medieval" sound with a flavor of the Middle East.

SOME FALL FESTIVALS IN BRITTANY

In the August issue of Bro Nevez (no. 75) we listed a wealth of music festivals that take place annually in Brittany during June, July and August. The Fall months are by no means devoid of festivals, so here are a few of the great ones found in September, October and November. (Information is from Musique Bretonne 162, Sept./Oct. 2000, and from Armor 309, October 2000; These issues include lots of good details on the contents of most of the festivals listed below).

September

Nuit de la Gavotte, Poullaouen (Finistère). September 15 & 16, 2000

Starting with a "veillée" on Friday evening, this festival featuring the dance gavotte takes place mostly on Saturday with workshops on kan ha diskan, biniou/bombarde, accordion and treujenn gaol (clarinet) during the day. There's a great line-up of traditional singers and musicians for dancing during the "night of the gavotte."

October

Fête de la Veuze, Malville (Loire-Atlantique), September 30-October 1, 2000

Organized by Sonneurs de Veuze, this festival features the mellow bagpipe native to southeastern Brittany.

Festival Celtomania, Nantes (Loire-Atlantique), October 10-16, 2000

This festival opens with a concert by Alan Stivell and includes a series of evening concerts and festou noz featuring Breton groups, rock bands and traditional singers and musicians. One evening is devoted to storytelling.

Le Grand Soufflet – Accordéon en Ile-et-Vilaine, October 11-21, 2000

This is a series of 25 concerts held throughout Ile-et-Vilaine, featuring the accordion in all styles and types of ensembles—from Brittany and beyond.

Bogue d'Or, Redon (Ile-et-Vilaine). October 20, 26-29, 2000

This is the 29th year for this festival featuring traditional singers of Gallo Brittany. While song is at the heart of this festival, there are also contests for various instruments and a big fest noz. The rich storytelling tradition ("conteurs" and "menteurs") of this area gets its own night on the 27th. The eliminatory contests held on weekends from the end of September up to the weekend of the Bogue d'Or are held in small villages and towns and are always wonderful testimony to the strength of oral traditions in this part of Brittany.

Gouel Digor, Guingamp (Côtes d'Armor), October 24-November 5.

This is a series of exhibits, workshops, theater, a fest deiz and a fest noz, and concerts organized by the Centre Culturel Breton of Guingamp.

November

Fête de la langue gallèse, St Caradec/Loudéac, November 3-5, 2000

This festival features the Gallo language with theater and workshops, and includes lots of dance and concerts, a fest noz, and a contest for singers, musicians and dancers of the Rond d'Loudia.

Les Estourniales, Liffré (Ile-et-Vilaine), November 14-19, 2000

This is the fifth year for this series of evening events including theater, music, film and storytelling, as well as demonstrations of old crafts.

My Breton September

by Mary Turner

Editor's Note: In past issues of Bro Nevez we have published travel accounts from the 19th and early 20th century, but it is nice on occasion to print a more contemporary account. Here's one from U.S. ICDBL Member Mary Turner. Mary is the webmaster for the U.S. ICDBL and she includes a few web sites to visit in this travel report.

Well another year has passed, and I had another wonderful but exhausting trip to Brittany. I spent most of September there, and I'll try to give some highlights:

When I arrived the 'gas crisis' was still on, Bernez Boulc'h told me he only had enough gas to drive one more day from Brest to Quimper to work, and to come to the Brest airport to pick me up. The day after I arrived I took the train to see my friend Roger Poitevin who lives in Lannion. He told me to take the train from Brest to Plouaret. Arrived at Plouaret and no Roger. Now if you remember my story from last year, I got on the wrong train at Rennes when going to see Roger and called him from a borrowed cell-phone on the train when he was already on his way to pick me up.... So I called him from a pay phone and he said "I only have enough gas to come pick you up ONCE, I was waiting for your call". As I predicted, I'll never live it down, hehehe.

While there I had another wonderful dinner with Roger's family and Pierre Levanant, at my favorite restaurant "Le Tire Bouchon" in the old part of Lannion, I highly recommend it. His wife Soaz and I also had a great afternoon walking along the sentier cotier (walking paths which run the entire coastline of Brittany, formerly used by customs men to watch for smugglers). The Côte de Granit Rose is breathtaking with its bizarre giant rock formations, well worth an extended visit.

I spent a lot of time with Bernez Boulc'h and his family in Brest, and got to see my new 'nephew', his son Sezni (named after an old Breton saint) who was born a month before I arrived. Bernez sold the Brest Ar Bed Keltiek store back to Gweltaz Ar Fur last year and now works for the Brittany Shops website in Quimper, where I am also employed as the English translator and customer service rep for English-speakers with questions. So I spent a lot of time there with him too, and the rest of the team. I actually 'lived' mostly in Quimper this time, with one of the Brittany Shops owners, Thierry Cayot, and his family.
(www.brittany-shops.com)

I finally got to stop by the Quimper Ar Bed Keltiek and meet Gweltaz too, but only for a few minutes. We were going to do lunch the next week and I never had time, I was on the dead run as usual. I'll be sure to take him to lunch next year! His son Keven, who now runs the Brest ABK, got married in the St. Corentin cathedral in Quimper while I was there, I'm sorry I missed it, I'll bet that was fabulous.
(www.arbedkeltiek.com)

I finally got to meet Jo Le Guen and his family this time. I've corresponded with him for two years, since he launched his "Keep it Blue" project to row solo across the Pacific to raise awareness about ocean pollution. As some of you may know he started out at the end of January, a month after the birth of his son Tangi, and had to stop in April, at roughly halfway, because his feet were in terrible shape and gangrene had set in. He was rescued by a British cargo ship, the Palliser Bay, which is one of those bizarre 'synchronicities' since 1) Jo set off from Palliser Bay in Wellington New Zealand and 2) the ship Palliser Bay left England the day Jo left Wellington... Anyway, Jo is doing fine although they had to amputate ALL his toes, and his feet and lower legs are still very swollen. His walk is rather a shuffle at this point but nothing keeps him down and he's full bore into his next project, to encourage the public to use rechargeable batteries and to encourage the collection of used batteries at their points of sale for recycling.
(www.KeepItBlue.com)

Travels in Brittany – continued

I also spent quite a bit of time with my email-pal Jean Failler, the author of the “Mary Lester” series of detective novels set in various Breton locales. (I’m translating these books to English and looking for a publisher, so if any of you have a tip let me know!) I visited him at his second home on Ile Tudy (south of Quimper), and it happened that they were filming a TV movie of the Mary Lester book set there, so I got to meet the actress who plays Mary (this is the 5th or 6th movie France-3 has made from the books). That was very cool indeed! And Jean’s wife has a wonderful (and expensive) clothing boutique in Quimper called “Calypso”, right across from Les Halles, stop in and dream...

(www.marylester.com)

While I was there my friend Yann-Fañch Perroches (ex-Skolvan) and his companion Soaz had their first baby, a beautiful girl named Philomène after the song “Ma Petite Philomène” on his new CD (see Lois’ review elsewhere in this issue, it’s a wonderful work that I highly recommend). YF will be in Houston in December with several other great Breton musicians to provide the music for the annual ‘Christmas Revels’ shows, coordinated by the ICDBL’s own Jan Zollars. The theme is Brittany this year.

(www.perroches.com – new website!)

And speaking of accordionists, I got to spend some quality time with Bernard Loffet, wife Gaëlle and my favorite little girl (she’s not a baby anymore, sniff!) Mailys. And as an extra-special treat, Bernard, who is a licensed pilot now, took me flying down over the Gulf of Morbihan, out around Belle-Ile, and up the Quiberon peninsula, it was absolutely wonderful!

(www.diato.org)

I stopped by for a quick visit with Gilles Lozac’hmeur at L’OZ Production outside Riec-sur-Belon... I forgot to say in my article last year that I had gotten to meet him and see the studio facilities, it’s incredibly beautiful, all restored thatched cottages for his house, office and studio. (I took the picture last year of Gilles that’s on the L’OZ webpage). Upon leaving I discovered a great crêperie right next door, called Chez Angèle. It’s right on the road between Riec-sur-Belon and Rosbras, you can’t miss it. Stop in and say hi to Renée-Marie from me, and eat some of her scrumptious crêpes! And to prove it’s a small world, she knows the owner of the crêperie Ty Couz in San Francisco, I’m charged with passing along her best regards in that direction.

(www.loz-production.com)

While in that area I also visited my artist friends Yvonnick Jacquier and Yannig Guillevic in Pont-Aven (introduced to me last year by YF). And I got to see Yvo and companion Solen’s baby girl Lou, who was born after I left last year (it’s been rainin’ babies over there this year!) Yvo did the cover art on YF’s CD ‘an droug himez’ and for the new CD, and all together they have founded a new artistic movement called “Ideorealism”. If you have access to the internet and are interested, go see their art and read the manifesto...

(www.jacquier.org)

I made a quick trip to Rennes to see my friends Nicolas Le Sourd and Tangi Ollivier. Tangi and I wandered around old Rennes all morning, and I finally got to go into Coop Breizh. Needless to say I came out with a large, heavy bag of purchases, and lots of goodies thrown in when they found out I was a member of the ICDBL, chouette! I also stopped by the university (Rennes-2) to see friends there.

I got to go to the giant fest-noz at Brasparts this year with two guys who are Monts d’Arrées natives. We stopped at several pubs on the way (hehe), including Ty Elise in Plouye, a very old pub owned by an ex-pat Welshman, famous for the curry chicken and rice which legally he’s not supposed to serve since it’s a packed-dirt floor, but it was great! While there I met Cristi Molard, American ex-wife of the great sonneur Patrick Molard, and we’re corresponding now, she’s very involved in the art scene in Brittany. Then around midnight we finally left for the fest-noz. You walk in to a concrete cattle-pen building, then down a narrow concrete stairway which suddenly opens out into an incredible scene, a huge room created by covering a large open area between farm buildings,

Travels in Brittany – continued

with thousands of people dancing, stage lit like for a rock concert, and loud like a rock concert too! It was mesmerizing. I got to see Annie Ebrel and Noluen Le Buhé sing just a few songs, and became a fan of a young fest-noz band called Wig-a-Wag.

I spent my last weekend on the island of Molène, and it was a real treat. The owners of the hotel Kastell an Daol are friends of Bernez, so we were treated like family. And since I know Didier Squiban through Bernez, I got to see his little hideout on the island and play the piano he recorded “Molène” on, what a thrill! And incredibly enough, this was the only opportunity I had the entire time to see TV Breizh! It’s only available by satellite right now, and nobody I know has a dish except Erwan at the bar on the island. I didn’t get to see enough to say anything about it, most of what I saw was music videos, hopefully next year... If you go to Molène, say howdy from me to Robert and Cécile Masson, owners of the hotel, and their sons Erwan who runs the bar (and is the world’s #1 fan of Johnny Hallyday) and Yannig who is the excellent chef in the restaurant.

The night I got back from Molène, Bernez and I went to meet ICDBL member David Darr and his lovely French wife Pascale, who have moved from Seattle to Brest for 6 months for work (they are both in oceanography). After corresponding with David for almost 3 years it was great to finally meet him! I also met David and Pascale for lunch the next day (my last day in Brittany), I sure wish I’d had more time to visit with them.

That afternoon I made a trip over to the Musée de la Fraise in Plougastel, a gem of a museum whose website I translated a couple of years ago. I’m going to update it for them soon, when I get time (!). (www.musee-fraise.infini.fr/)

I did much more than I can pack in here, but time and space is limited so I’ll stop here. There are a number of people I didn’t have time to see this year, first and foremost our friend Hervé Le Bevilion and his family, SORRY HERVE!! I’m actually hoping to move to Brittany next year, so I can see everybody often, and without a lead foot on the gas and a stopwatch!

One last item-I received the new CD-Rom set “E Brezhoneg Pa Gari!” by Warok a few days ago, to learn Breton (also available on DVD). So far it looks great, I’ll write a review for the February Bro Nevez. If you want a look at it, you can find good information about it in the “Culture” boutique at the Brittany-Shops website. Kenavo !

* * *

NEW BRO NEVEZ INDEX

With the completion of this issue of Bro Nevez, we now have an index of issues from their origins in 1981 to the end of 2000. On the pages which follow you will find an “index to the index” which gives an idea of the many topics we have covered.

The new index will be available in the coming months (at a cost to cover photocopying and postage). It is some 90 pages! I have separated out the book and recording reviews so people particularly interested in those can get just those indexes which run about 17 pages each.

We have been busy over the years!

INDEX 1981-2000

BRO NEVEZ

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

This is an index to articles, short notes and book and record/CD reviews which have appeared in the quarterly newsletter of the U.S. ICDBL. With issue 13 (November 1984) the newsletter acquired the name Bro Nevez ("New Country").

The index is divided into three sections: **I. General Topics; II. Book Notes and Reviews; III. Recordings of Breton Music – Notes and Reviews.** Major topics in the general section are in bold letters; subtopics are underlined. Unless alphabetical order is important articles are listed chronologically. When an author is not printed in the newsletter, but known, he/she is listed within parentheses. Articles are listed under the category of their major focus. Many are listed under two topics and cross referencing is done as much as possible. Contents have been listed below to orient users to the index and give an idea of the range of topics presented.

Lois Kuter, Editor, Bro Nevez

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