

C&A

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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CELTIC LEAGUE



ALBA: COMUNN
CEILTEACH • **BREIZH:** KEVRE
KELTEK • **CYMRU:** UNDEB
CELTAIDD • **ÉIRE:**
CONRADH CEILTEACH •
KERNOW: KESUNYANS
KELTEK • **MANNIN:**
COMMEEYS CELTIAGH



alba



Bi Eòrpach! Alba

Tha fios againn nach biodh sinn toilichte gu buileach neo sàsaichte gus am bi a' Ghàidhlig againn far a bheil a' Bheurla chruaidh Shasunnach an diugh agus sin tre Alba uile go làir. Direach mar a tha Gearmailteis feadh na Gearmailt, no Pòlais feadh na Pòlainn no Portagail feadh na Portagail agus mar sin air adhart o cheann gu ceann na Roinn Eòrpa.

Ach, gidheadh, 's fheudar dhuinn sùil a thoirt thairis air cor na Gàidhlig an latha an diugh, agus chì sinn gum bheil turas fada againn ri thriall gus am bi ar cànan gnàthach air gach bile feadh Alba gu làir.

Sa chiad dol a-mach, chaill sinn Caraid na Gàidhlig, Ministear na Gàidhlig san Oifis Albannach... Brian MacUilleim e-fhéin. Dh'fhuadaich Tony Blair e gu Lunnain!

Ach nuair a bha Brian coir cumhachdach an seo ann an Alba rinn e sar obair air son na Gàidhlig.

Air 4 Og-mhios 1998 chuir Brian an cèill gun robh an Riaghaltas a' dol a chur a h-ainm ri Clar na Comhairle Eorpaich air son Cànanan air Roinneil mo Mionchanannan (European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages... European Treaty Series - No. 148) so-fhaotainn on European Commission, 9 Alva Street, DùnEideann/Edinburgh EH2).

Chuireadh an Clar (Charter) seo air chois ann an 1992 le Comhairle na h-Eorpa gus a bhith a' brosnachadh agus ag adhartachadh mion-chananan dualchasach air feadh na Roinn Eorpa.

Arsa Brian sa Ghàidhlig, "Dh'fhalbh na làithean far am biodh na mion-chananan air am faicinn mar chunnart do aonachd naiseanta. Tha na chaidh ainmeachadh an diugh a' toirt dhuinn an cothrom a' togail air na chaidh a steidheachadh as leth na Gàidhlig agus a' deànamh cinnteach nach tèid dearmad a dheànamh air an earrann chudromach seo de ar dualchas a chaidh tuilleadh."

Glè maith, ach dé tha an Clar Eorpach seo a' nochdadh?

Sa chiad dol a-mach tha roimh-ràdh ann agus an deidh sin Pàrtean I agus II. Taing don Pàirt II aithnichidh an Riaghaltas gum bheil Beurla Ghallda eadar-dhealaichte on Bheurla Shasunnach agus gum bheil cultur sa Bheurla Ghallda. Leis a sin, bithidh cuspair e an sna "Highers" agus sna oilthighean a thaobh na Beurla Ghallda.

A thaobh na Beurla Ghallda chì sinn gun do dh'fhoillsich The Saltire Society, 9 Fountains Close, 22 High Street,

DùnEideann/Edinburgh "A Scots Grammar" le David Purves.

Tha e feumail gum bi a h-uile cuspair air a theagasg tre na Gàidhlig feadh Alba gu làir eadhon a' Bheurla Ghallda. Le sin bhiodh... "A didna richt ken whit A wis thinkin aboot!"... eadar-theangaichte mar... "Cha robh mi dìreach cinnteach mu na bha mi a' smuaineachadh" an àite... "I was not completely sure what I was thinking about", sa Bheurla Shasunnach a tha na Cànan theagaisg gu ìre bhig anns gach sgoil, colaiste is oilthigh gu làir an diugh. Agus le teagasg tre na Gàidhlig uile gu leir cha bhiodh Alba roinnte mar a tha a' Bheilg (Belgium) eadar dà chànan.



Chaidh an dealbh seo a fhogail anns an Ath-leathain, an t-Eilean Sgitheanach. Bithidh ar cànan ri fhaicinn mar sin anns a h-uile sràid feadh Alba fhathast.

Gu cinnteach bhiodh cànanearan coimheach air an teagasg, mar Beurla Shasunnach, an Fhraingis, an Gearmailteis agus càch... tre na Gàidhlig cuideachd.

A nisd, a chuid a tha buntainn ri ar cànan ... Pàirt III. Tha trì taghaidhean ann:-

- (i) a dh'ullachadh rudeigin tre na cànan roineil no mion-chànaineach, agus dé na "rudan" ach croileagain, bun-sgoiltean, àrd-sgoiltean, colaistean, oilthighean agus clasachain-oidhche no lathail. Seo a dh'fheumadh sinn a' sireadh – se sin ri ràdh – teagasg tre na Gàidhlig – gabh no fàg. Direach mar a tha a' deànamh a-nisd gu ìre bhig anns gach àite feadh Alba – tre na

Beurla – gabh no fàg!

- (ii) far a bheil a' mhór-chuid sa chànan.
- (iii) far nach bi cail sam bith ri thairsginn mur eil na parantan a' guidhe dhà mar gun robh a' chlann nan dèircich! Seo agaibh an suidheachadh an diugh!

Rud eile – Bithidh Pàirt III a' ceadachadh ar cànan sna cuirtean laghail agus air pàipearan laghail – rudan a tha toirmisgte an diugh.

A bharrachd air na nithean sin bhiodh coir againn ri aon stèisean radio agus aon amar TV (ged a bhiodh e digital) is pàipearan-naidheachd agus ionnsachadh nan daoine a bhiodh air uinnseachadh air an radio, TV agus sna pàipearan-naidheachd.

A bharrachd air sin bhiodh còirichean aig ar cànan a thaobh nan ùghdarrasan ionadail – bailtean is sgìrean.

Mata, sin agaibh e, tuilleadh dòchas ann air sgath na cànan againn ma bhios sinn daingeann... is fheàrr a' feuchainn na bhi gun dùil...

Deànamaid gairdeachas! Tha a h-uile cail a' dol am feobhais! Bha feisean anns gach ceàrn am bliadhna. Ged nach eil pàipear-naidheachd againn fhathast tha tuilleadh Gàidhlig ri fhaicinn sna pàipearan m.e. anns "An Albannach", Am Pàipear

Beag Sgitheanach 7c. Nach eil Radio nan Gàidheal againn agus Gàidhlig air TV?

Ma bhios sinn air lorg leabhar Gàidhlig a sgrìobhadh, bithidh an Dornhnallach, 22 Mansfield Street, Glaschu/Glasgow G11 5QP toilichte gar cuideachadh. Tha "Gairm" agus "Tocher" ri fhaotainn cuideachd.

Beagan is beagan tha croileagan ann agus sgoiltean far am bheil na tidsearan a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig. Tha Sabhail Mór Ostaig daonnan a' dol nas fheàrr agus nas farsaing e, agus tha dà degrees ri fhaotainn san oilthigh far a bheil an teagasg agus, eadhon an deuchainn, uile gu leir sa Ghàidhlig a nisd.

Ma bhios thu dùrachdach deagh obair a dheànamh air sgath na Gàidhlig, theagamh

Dr Allan MacArtney SNP MEP North East Scotland 1941-1998

Allan MacArtney's sudden death at the early age of 57 years robs the SNP of a practical patriot and internationalist. He was a most civilised man who sought the cooperation of his fellow Scots to achieve self-determination.

Born in Accra, Ghana, a son of the manse, he set out on his quest for a self respecting, self governing, Scotland from his student days onwards. His internationalism was a hallmark, he spoke several African languages, some French, German, and Dutch. His interest and knowledge of Gaelic and support for the formation of organisations like the Celtic League was one important strand in his work. His electoral success in 1994 in the NE Scotland European Parliament seat which he won from Labour against the British trend by a convincing 31,000 majority gave him the platform to press Scotland's European and World profile alongside his long serving European Parliament colleague, Winnie Ewing, madame Ecosse, the SNP member for the Highlands and Islands.

His early teaching career was in Eastern Nigeria and then in universities in Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland, before returning to lecture in political science in

the Open University, based in Edinburgh in 1970. Many publications followed including his doctorate in 1978. He was an expert in electoral systems and devised the new methods adopted by the SNP for proportional representation polls in the Scottish Parliament and Europe next year.

His book *The Referendum Experience* analysed the 1979 debacle which laid the foundations for the new cooperation that led to consensus over plans for a devolved Scottish parliament in the late 1980s. He was also a co-founder of the Edinburgh University Unit for the Study of Government which has done valuable work to establish a Scottish base for the craft of governance.

Within the SNP Allan's unceasing work was inclusive, humorous and wise. His eventual elevation to Senior Vice Convener – Deputy Leader was a testament to his organisational and representational efforts on behalf of the party. His was a strand of thinking which championed the Scots Independent paper, the St Andrews Society and embraced broad elements within the Scottish public in a decent, hard working and often humorous stance. His time in the European Parliamentary arena gave him the recognition that his academic and national standing more than deserved.

He was never happier than singing the older songs of Scotland and encouraging new members to delve into the depths of Scottish history and the democratic intellect which has guided this ancient nation onto the route to modern independence. That he will miss the earthly celebrations of his country on the march is a grave loss but his example will guide many and his memory will be strong in the hearts and minds of fellow Scots. To his family, his widow Anne, his father, children and grandchildren we all are indebted for the all too short influence of one of the truly great Scots of his days.

Rob Gibson



Dr Allan MacArtney
campaigning in
Inverness in the 1997
General Election



Independent Scots read the
'Scots Independent'

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Information Leaflet Launched

The national Gaelic development agency Comunn na Gàidhlig have teamed up with the Scottish Office to produce an information leaflet and larger booklet explaining Gaelic medium education. Leaflets and booklets are available from: Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis IV2 3HQ. E-mail: Ailean@cnag.org.uk

Bi Eòrpach (contd...)

gum biodh An Iomairt Ionadail gad chuideachadh.

Tha cassettes is CDs Gàidhlig ri fhaotain sna bhùithtean.

A nisd, bithidh tuilleadh a' tighinn a-mach taing don Chlar Eòrpach (European Charter) seo.

Feumaidh sinn stri daonnan air son na cànan againn ach:-

"Bu chaomh leinn bhi mire..."

"Bu chaomh leinn bhi mire....."

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich
(Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig)

Summary

There was great sorrow among all supporters of Scotland's oldest surviving indigenous language ... of Gaelic ... when Brian Wilson fell victim to a Tony Blair cabinet reshuffle which deprived Brian of his position as Minister of Gaelic. He had proved himself to be a true friend of our language and a hard working supporter of all Scottish linguistic traditions. Before he was removed from office he announced that the Government had agreed to sign the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This can be regarded as a significant step forward.

BT Campaign

In the light of devolution, BT have renamed their Scottish operation "BT Scotland" and have announced that they intend to do more in future to build up a Scottish image for the company and to cater for distinctive Scottish needs. Gaelic groups are calling upon BT Scotland to use this opportunity to increase their use of Gaelic and to draw up a Gaelic policy. The lack of services provided by BT for Gaelic speakers has long been a bone of contention between the company and language activists.

At present, BT don't produce telephone bills or telephone books bilingually and digital instructions in phone boxes are not available in Gaelic even though they are in six other languages. All of these services are available in Welsh. Why not write to Doug Riley, the new director of BT Scotland asking him to draw up a Gaelic policy including the provision of Gaelic (or bilingual) phone bills, bilingual phone books and Gaelic instructions in phone boxes.

Write or send an e-mail to: Doug Riley, Director BT Scotland, Telephone House, 357 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh EH11 2RP.

E-mail: doug.riley@bt.com

Alasdair MacCaluim



breizh



Ostalerioù evit an iwerzhonegerien

Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (Kuzul Broadel an Iwerzhoneg) zo un aozadur a vod kevredigezhioù all hag a labour evit ar yezh. Met harpet eo – hep nemeur a c'hred – gant yalc'hadoù Stad hag evel-se e c'hall skoazellañ ar c'hevredigezhioù-se da seveniñ o c'hefridi. Emañ bremañ o tastum arc'hant evit digeriñ un ostaleri e kav an ti m'emañ e vurevioù, en niverenn 46 Sráid Cill Dara (Kildare Street), Dulenn. Prometet en deus an advaodiern, Éamon Ó Cuív, evit aferioù ar yezh, reiñ £50,000 d'ar C'huzul ma c'hall kaout o c'hement all digant proferien pe engouestlerien. An hanter a oa kavet a-benn derou miz Eost ha krediñ a reer e vo kavet ar peurrest buan a-walc'h evit bezañ prest da servij boued ha died kerkent ha dibenn miz Here. Eno o devo tu an dud a oar mat iwerzhoneg koulz hag ar re o defe c'hoant da ziverglañ o fleustr anezhañ da gejañ e-kerzh an deiz. An douristed hag a garfe klevet ar yezh komzet en un doare diardoù e Dulenn a vo deuet-mat ivez. Straed Cill Dara zo tost da Skolaj an Dreinded ha d'ar Gourliorzh Sant Stevan, en tu kreisteiz eus kêr. Aes eo da dizhout gant ar c'harr-boutin.

Gael-Linn, un aozadur prevez diazezet gant Dónall Ó Móráin er bloavezhioù '50 ha kaset en-dro war-bouez arc'hant diwar glaoustreoù (korvoet e voe evel-se tech an Iwerzhoniz da "lakaat arc'hant war gezeg-red") en deus graet meur a arnod evit kreñvaat pouez an iwerzhoneg er vuhez armerzhel ha sevenadurel. Ganto e voe embannet ur rummad pladennoù sonerezh ha kan gwriziennet donoc'h eget betek neuze e hengoun gwirion ar Gouezelva, ha lakaat a rejont aozañ filmoù en iwerzhoneg evel Mise Éire a-zivout ar stourm evit dieubiñ Iwerzhon e-tro 1916-1921. E-se eo bet Gael-Linn un touller-hent. E derou ar bloavezhioù '60, pa voe divizet a-berzh Stad krouiñ ur servij skinwel iwerzhonat, e klaskas Ó Móráin kaout an emell anezhañ, met nac'het e voe an aotre outañ. Ur servij dindan mestroniezh ar Stad e felle d'ar gouarnamant e vije eus Telefis Éireann ha moarvat e pouezas politikerien'zo evit mirout na vije ket fiziet en emsaverien.

Bloaz'zo e prenas Gael-Linn un takadig tost d'ar Bank Kreiz, nepell diouzh Skolaj an Dreinded ivez, gant ar mennad diazezañ eno ur greizenn sevenadurel gouezelek ma vije un ostaleri enni. Ne zeuas ket a-benn koulskoude. Adwerzhet eo bet an takad d'un embregerezh sevel tiez, met n'en deus ket kroazet Gael-Linn war ar mennad. Goulennet o deus aotre evit un ostaleri da vout lec'hiet en ti a vo savet eno, hag e vefe stag outi salioù evit emvodoù hag abadennoù sonerezh.

An hevelep soñj zo deuet e pennoù all. Emañ Bord na Gaeilge (Burev an Iwerzhoneg), un aozadur karget gant ar gouarnamant d'e guzuliañ war dachenn ar yezh – ur c'hevezer d'ar Comhdháil Náisiúnta eo – o paouez embann e roio skoazell arc'hant d'ur gevredigezh prevez hag a zigorfe un ostaleri ouezelek e-kreiz ar gêr-benn. Ne lavarer ket pegen bras e vo ar sammad.

Abaos 30 vloaz ez eus ur c'hlub iwerzhonek er c'hav dindan ti Conradh na Gaeilge en niv. 6, Straed Fearchair (Harcourt St.), e-kichen korn mervent ar Gourliorzh St. Stevan, pellik eta diouzh kreiz kêr. Eno e vez nebeut a ichou e-tal ar bar met frankoc'h eo en daou benn. Ret eo bezañ ezel eta evit mont di da gemer e vanne ha da varvailhat, ha ne vez ket digor a-raok 8 ur da noz. Pep ezel a c'hall avat degas ur mignon pe eur vignonez gantañ, met selloù du a vo graet ouzh an neb a safaro (kreñv) e saozneg! A-wezhioù e vez leun-tenn al lec'h, met e-kreiz ar sizhun na zeu ket kalz a dud, da vihanañ a-raok dek eur. Iwerzhoniz zo laboused noz...

An holl lec'hioù meneget a-us zo er c'hreisteiz d'ar stêr Life hag a red dre greiz Dulenn. Ken e c'hallfed krediñ n'eus nemet paloded e tu an hanternoz! Gwir eo ez eo dreist-holl tud eus ar renkad etre ha bet skolieta-mat hag a zo troet gant an iwerzhoneg e Dulenn hag e tu an norzh eus al Life eo peurvuiañ tud vunut, kalz anezho paour pe dibourvez, hag a zo o chom.

A. Heusaff

Summary

Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge expects to open a café for Irish-speakers in its building in Kildare Street by the end of October: their effort to raise the money is progressing well with backing promised by the government. On the other hand the government-controlled Bord na Gaeilge is prepared to give support to a similar private undertaking. Gael-Linn have carried out several projects since the 50s which have promoted the Irish language and culture. They are seeking to create an Irish cultural centre in Temple Bar which would also include a café for Irish-speakers. A club where the latter can meet for a drink and a chat on any evening was opened almost 30 years ago in a basement of the Conradh na Gaeilge Headquarters. All the above-mentioned places are fairly central in Dublin but South of the Liffey.



Ar Bed Keltiek

on line books, records, Celtic art,
Kemper: 02.98.95.42.82
Brest: 02.98.44.05.38
<http://www.arbedkeltiek.com>
e-bost: arfur@eurobretagne.fr
bernez.abk@eurobretagne.fr

Note: Ar Bed Keltiek (2 Str. ar Roue Gralon, 29000 Kemper), uses the term e-bost in preference to e-mail, like the Welsh. When phoning from abroad, omit the 0 in the prefix.

GIOVENTURA PIEMONTEISA

Contacts with the Celtic League are sought by the association **Gioventura Piemontéisa** (Piemontese Youth), Turin. They are endeavouring to spread an interest in the Celtic past/traditions of their region. We have requested further information from them about the Celtic elements in their culture and how they envisage a development of the identità celtica del Piemonte.

A.H.

A Monument to Glenmor

Two years after Glenmor's death, a stele in granite was unveiled in his honour on June 27th last in the presence of more than 250 people in the Thabor Park in Rennes. Like a figure head emerging from a stone, surrounded by young broom plants, the monument, draped with two Breton flags, was unveiled by Edmond Herve, mayor of Rennes and Herve le Borgne, president of *Glenmor an Distro*. This association was founded with the aim of popularising the work of the famous 'bard' in its written and sung forms, and had commissioned the sculpture from Jean Freour, an artist from the Gwenrann peninsula. In 1996 Freour was awarded the Ermine Collar, which is bestowed every year by the Breton Cultural Institute on four people for their work on behalf of our country and culture. He was a member of the SEIZH BREUR association founded in 1923 with the aim of renewing Brittany's art.



On either side of the statue there is a plaque inscribed with the quotation from Glenmor, one in Breton, the other in French, meaning "If there is no longer anyone to lament over its past, who will break Brittany's chains?"

The assembled gathering was moved on hearing these lines recited by a Diwan schoolgirl. Glenmor's widow, Katell, gave a talented reading of some of his poems. She was followed by a Flemish poet who came to testify to the spirit which urged Glenmor to combat all forms of imperialism. H. Le Borgne also took on the French centralists and especially B. Poignant for their hypocritical attitude towards the Breton language. He compared Glenmor to the Kabyle singer, Luones Matoub, assassinated in Algeria, who denounced the arabisation of his country. In the words of Edmond Herve, Glenmor was one of those who gave back pride to the Bretons, but also other minorities; thus achieving universality.

Jakez Gaucher

Unveiling stele to Glenmor

Towards a Breton Television Channel

A project for the setting up of a Breton TV Channel was presented to the public in Breton, with translations in French and English, at a debate which took place during the Film Festival for Minorities in Douarnenez in July. The presentation in Breton was meant to show that what is intended is not a supposedly bilingual channel in which our language would have a minor place but an instrument for its promotion. Up to now it is restricted to one hour and a quarter a week on FR2 (which is controlled from Paris). This channel is contributing to the attempts to dilute Brittany's identity in a Grand Ouest region, the latest manifestation of which was a proposal by the Socialist Party to divide the French territory in 7 artificial regions, one of which would include Brittany and nine neighbouring departments, as constituencies for the European elections.

The decision to launch the project was taken in November 1997 by the Breton Cultural Council. Since then, Andre Lavanant, ex-president of DIWAN, is heading a group entrusted with the task of preparing the dossier, which could take 2 to 3 years to complete. It is hoped that the channel will be subsidised by the Brittany-4 regional council and the 5 Breton departments as well as by private groups, while retaining its editorial freedom. It will show Brittany's everyday life, history, culture and reflect its aspirations. It will also broadcast programmes to help those who are learning our languages, a good command of which will be required from all its staff.

As if by coincidence, FR3 Ouest announced, the day before the project was made publicly known, that they would start a new magazine, *Red an Amzer*, in September. Was this intended to take the wind out of the sails of the Breton channel? One may be sure there will be a strong opposition to the Cultural Council's proposals, but an indication that this essential demand of the Breton organisations is nearing realisation can be seen in the announcement by the president of the new Regional Council that it will have such a service on its agenda.

A private initiative: at the instigation of Patrick Le Lay of TFI and Charles Biétry, president of Eurosport-France, running commentaries were broadcast in Breton on the Europa-Sport channel on the matches of the Soccer World Championship. Le Lay has come out strongly in support of a Breton language service. Many viewers were amazed that 'brezhoneg' could be used in the context of the World Cup...

Reinforcing their hold

A bill of law was adopted in June by the French National Assembly which will reform the mode of election to the Regional Councils in such a way that small parties will have their representation excluded. Lists will have to obtain at least 5% of the vote in the first round to have their candidates elected and at least 10% to be entitled to take part in the second round. The list with the largest vote will get a 25% bonus, which is undemocratic but advocated by the need to avoid instability, i.e. to prevent minor parties holding the balance of power, a situation which has presented itself in Brittany. But the law will preclude the Breton parties from being represented on the Rennes Council unless they can significantly increase their performance of the past 20 years. They must find a way to cooperate so as not to allow the French parties to reinforce their hold on our country.

Same Status for Brittany as for New Caledonia

The indigenous peoples of New Caledonia, a French possession in the Western Pacific, legally (?) an integral part of France, have repeatedly asserted their claim to freedom by violent means. An agreement was recently reached between them, the European settlers and the French government which if ratified in Paris will allow them a considerable degree

of self-government. The UDB has published a plan which would give Brittany a similar status. This, they argue, is necessary if this country is to keep pace with the other European regions. It would include legislative and financial powers linked with those of the State, the officialisation of Breton throughout the territory of historic Brittany, a Breton citizenship complementary to that of the French Republic and of Europe; adoption of the project by the French parliament to be followed by a referendum in Brittany.

DIWAN blows out its 20 candles

An impressive festival took place in Montroulez/Morlaix during the 8th to 10th of May week-end. DIWAN was celebrating its 20th anniversary with the participation, free of charge, of some of the most outstanding players on the Breton musical scene such as Dan ar Bras, Denez Prigent and Yann Fanch Kemener. Scotland was also represented by Karen Matheson and her group Capercaillie. Children from ten DIWAN schools presented a play under the guidance of Goulc'han Kervella, the talented director of the professional theatre company, Ar Vro Bagan.

The festival was attended by more than 15,000 people who came from all over Brittany to show their support for an undertaking which was inspired by the example of the Basques and which, at first greeted by many as a curiosity, has become an object of pride and identification for the Breton community. Clear proof of how strongly people feel about DIWAN is that elected representatives make a point of being present at the head of demonstrations which are organised whenever difficulties arising from official ill will make them necessary. You then see J.Y. Cozan, the "Diwan MP", vice-president of the Regional Council in charge of Breton cultural matters, who has come out in favour of self-government, often being joined by mayors wearing their official (tricolour!) sashes, such as the socialist J.P. Thomlin of Landerne, the communist J.P. Jeudy of Karaez, the UDF Alphonse Arzel of Ploudalmezeo...

Several of these people were in Montroulez to testify to their backing, even if only by putting in a brief appearance as in the case of Mme Lebranchu, Minister for the Small and Medium Size Enterprises. Cozan stayed during the whole week-end, moving around from the bar to the theatre, to the radio panel set up (not by Radio France-Bretagne Occidentale...) for a debate on Brittany's linguistic future, etc... In the discussion, while expressing his satisfaction with the 20% annual rate of increase in the number of pupils and with the development of auxiliary services such as the opening last year of the KELENN teachers' training course in Kemper, Andrew Lincoln, president of DIWAN, did not conceal the difficulties facing the association.

Until the French state agrees to give legal status to the minority languages in its ambit, they will remain in a precarious condition in spite of all efforts on their behalf. Education in Brittany should be the responsibility of the Regional Council, following for instance the example of the German Länder.

Th. Jigourel



Diwan Festival, Montroulez

REPORT ON MINORITY LANGUAGES

A report about the place to be given to minority languages in Education was prepared at the request of the French Prime Minister by Bernard Poignant, mayor of Kemper and ex-professor in this town's training college for teachers; it was handed in to Mr Jospin, French Prime Minister, on June 30.

Mr Poignant was known for his opposition to the demands of the Breton movement, having once said that no substantial concession should be made to it. He created an uproar when on being interviewed by a Ouest-France journalist on June 15 he stated that the slogan "One language, one territory" which he attributed to Breton language activists was "an Aryan theory". This is certainly not a motto used by the bulk of the language movement, but the mayor should have been aware of the harm he was doing to it among the public. It was pointed out that he could more appropriately be accused of subscribing to such a theory since he upheld Article 2 of the Constitution which makes French **THE** language of the Republic, to the exclusion of the "regional" languages.

It was therefore surprising that his report contained a number of proposals which, if adopted and implemented, would constitute a notable departure from a long-established policy.

He recommends that France sign and ratify the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages; that the obstacle to

that, the notorious Article 2, he changed, that the regional councils in the areas concerned be enabled to advise on language and cultural policy matters; that the state contracts with the Regions include provisions relating to the regional languages. As for concrete measures he recommends that different teaching methods, ranging from simple lessons to bilingual classes (as at present in some state controlled schools) to immersion (as practised by DIWAN) be admitted; that ways be found to incorporate DIWAN in the state school system, so that its teachers could go on the Department of Education's payroll. The demand for teachers of the languages should be foreseen, so as to ensure continuity in filling posts. Greater weight should be given to the regional languages in trainee teachers competitions. The number of children needed for new classes or schools to be opened should be specified.

The enquiry, originally undertaken by a Basque deputy with a wider remit, mainly concerns itself with education, but it contains a few proposals relating to the media, e.g. fixing binding quotas for the time to be allowed for broadcasts in regional languages on state controlled stations.

Poignant states expressly that his recommendations are primarily motivated by a concern for the interests of the State and of the French language. France should

sign the European Charter so as to be in line with the other European countries in their respect for linguistic and cultural diversity. Over-centralisation was harmful. Linguistic differences and aspirations had to be accepted. France's attitude towards its regional languages was inconsistent with the struggle to uphold the place of French in the international field.

To overcome the opposition to change which is strongly entrenched in the higher ranks of the administration and of the parties, Poignant argues that these languages no longer pose a danger to the unity of the State: they can now be tolerated! But the "Republican" values must be respected: everybody must learn French well; sectional groups have no rights; the regional languages are a matter of individual choice; there must be no obligation on parents to have them taught to their children and there is no question of adopting a policy of reparation for the damage done to them. Let them be friends at home and allies abroad for the expansion of the national language, the language of liberty.

Another reason for acceding to the demands for the regional languages was that if the Republicans rejected them, others would exploit the refusal. He meant presumably the National Front or the separatists.

It remains now to be seen what the government will do with these proposals. On receipt of the report, an expert was asked to see if the declared incompatibility between the Constitution and signing of the European Charter can be got around. Some of the Breton language organisations have welcomed the proposals as a basis from which to progress. They have joined other minority groups (Basques, Catalans...) in setting up a Republican Committee – so named as a reassuring token to political correctness – with the aim of canvassing support from politicians.

The *Emgann* monthly "Combat Breton" warned of the danger to be guarded against by those in charge of associations and publications, of being tied down by such subsidies as might be given to them if Poignant's proposals are adopted. They are entitled to public financial help, since Bretons pay taxes. But it could inhibit their freedom. It could also lull their members and supporters into a sense that they no longer need to keep up their efforts. The signing and ratifying of the European Charter would be psychologically important, but its provisions fall very short of what is needed to put the recovery of our language on a sound basis. It leaves so much latitude to the state that a lot of energy could be detracted from other work in trying to get valuable results from it. Any gains made came from a constant effort. It will be well to keep the saying in

mind that "the leopard cannot change its spots", and to reject the notion that our language is just to be tolerated, or that it is a "local idiom" only good for private use. It

is our national language, to be transmitted to the present and future generations of the Breton people.

A.H.



*Breton National Festival in
Bains-sur-Oust*

BRETON PEOPLE: NATIONAL FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

In order to commemorate the victory won by Nomenoe in 845, which insured independence for Brittany for almost 7 centuries, a national festival has been celebrated in June for the past few years. On June 14th last, it took place in several towns, Rennes, Karaez, Lanester/Lorient, Gwengamp, Kemperle. But it was at Bains-sur-Oust near Redon, where Nomenoe won a decisive battle against the troops of Charles the Bald, that the most important commemoration took place. Following an appeal by the party POBL and the association Koun Breizh, several hundreds of Breton patriots gathered on that Sunday morning to honour the memory of the first king of all Brittany. In front of the statue of him carved by Raffig Tulloce (Koun Breizh), the POBL president P. Montauzier, regretted that some were trying to give this annual event a folkloric coloration. He reminded the listeners "that it had a highly political character. The struggle we are engaged in", he said, "is basically the same as Nomenoe's... Today, like yesterday, the struggle for political freedom is a priority".

Thierry Jigourel

HOW BEAUTIFUL IS MY BRITTANY!

What does a summer visitor do when (s)he arrives for the first time in Brittany? Probably (s)he has prepared a plan of his/her route in accordance with information from tourist offices, newspapers, festival posters, most of which being of folkloric interest. Practically nothing transpires in that sort of literature about the existence of a cultural and political struggle in the country. I had recently the experience of meeting a German tourist visiting a museum where indications were given bilingually. He was wondering: "Is this Dutch? Italian?" I told him it was Breton, that we had here a language of our own. He had never heard of it.

This incident exemplifies that you see of Brittany only those aspects which she is allowed to display. If you get behind the shop window you will soon become aware that the most important is less colourful. The Breton language is on display indeed, but not in any place or at any time you

might like. The bilingual Breton-French signposts seem too often to be intended by the authorities just for the tourists, to give local colour. Counterfeit is rife. Thus a report about the language situation required by Prime Minister Jospin was entrusted to B. Poignant, a politician known for his opposition to any serious step to improve it. It gives the impression that something is going to be done.

Our sense of hospitality is renowned, but nowadays it has catastrophic consequences: it can lead you straight to court in Paris, particularly if it is extended to Basques. You are then "a person suspected of having put up individuals suspected of links with ETA". Such a double suspicion leaves doubt about the validity of the accusation.

Examples could be multiplied. If the foreign visitors wanted really to know Brittany they would have to be told that behind the pageants, the pipers' displays, the lively festoù-noz lies a less pleasant reality. But perhaps they prefer you did not spoil their recollections of magnificent landscapes and colourful folkloric events.

Viviane Le Menn



Pigion Celtaidd

YR ALBAN

Is-etholiadau

Mewn is-etholiadau llywodraeth leol mae'r Blaid Lafur yn colli seddau i bob cyfeiriad y dyddiau yma. Collasant sedd Hilton, cyngor yr Ucheldiroedd, i'r Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol, a sedd Gorllewin Dûn Blâthain/Dunblane, cyngor Sruighlea/Stirling i'r Torfaid. Ond yn fwy arwyddocaol oedd buddugoliaeth y Blaid Genedlaethol yn sedd Lafur Condorrat, cyngor Gogledd Lannrag/Lanark, a gipiwyd gan yr SNP gyda mwyafrif o 31% dros Lafur. Mae un cynghorydd annibynnol ar gyngor Earraghaidheal is Bod/Argyll & Bute wedi ymuno â'r SNP.

Ysgolion cynradd

Mae rhieni yn Glaschu a Chaeredin yn ceisio datblygu unedau cynradd Gaeleg yn y dinasoedd i fod yn ysgolion Gaeleg. Sefydlwyd ffrydiau newydd yn Sruighlea/Stirling a Gogledd Lannrag/Lanark ym mis Medi eleni.

Arolwg teledu

Dangoswyd gan arolwg ar draws yr Alban bod 80% o oedolion yn cytuno bod rhaglenni teledu Gaeleg yn bwysig ar gyfer diogelu'r iaith. Mae'r ffigwr yn codi i 90% o siaradwyr yr Aeleg. 'Roedd deuparth o'r farn fod y rhaglenni o gymorth i bawb ddeall y diwylliant Gaeleg.

Siartr Ewrop

Mae llywodraeth San Steffan wedi penderfynu llofnodi Siartr Ewrop am leithoedd Rhanbarthol neu Leiafrifol ar ran yr Aeleg. Bydd y weithred hon yn hwb mawr i'r ymgyrch i sicrhau 'statws sier' ar gyfer yr Aeleg.

CJ

LLYDAW

Addysg

Sefydlwyd ysgol Diwan newydd rhwng Sant Malo a Dinan.

B4 neu B5

Mewn pól piniwn 'roedd 62% o boblogaeth 'département' Liger Atlantel/Loire Atlantique o blaid ail-uno'r département gyda gweddill Llydaw hanesyddol a'r pedwar département arall.

MANAW

Newid cyfansoddiadol?

Mae senedd Ynys Manaw - Tynwald - wedi penderfynu apwyntio Llywydd i'r Ynys yn hytrach na'r hen Lywodraethwr Cyffredinol. Rhagwelir y bydd Manaw yn annibynnol o fewn ugain mlynedd.

Clive James

Lluoedd arfog Lloegr

Mae ystadegau'r llywodraeth yn dangos bod gan y llynges 1342 o longwyr yn Caradon a 2057 yn Kerrier a gan y Llu Awyr 41 o bobl yn Kerrier.

Cyngor Cernyw yn ddi-asgwrn cefn

Bu beirniadaeth fawr ar Gyngor "Sir" Cernyw am beidio â chefnogi hunaniaeth Cernyw. Cytunodd y cyngor uno gweinyddiaeth yr ynadon gyda Dyfnaint yng Nghaerwysg a chreu siambr ranbarthol hyd at Gaerloyw a Swindon. 'Roedd y cyngor hefyd yn erbyn cwestiwn am hunaniaeth Cernyw yng Nghyfrifiad 2001.

CJ

Siop Gernyweg

Mae Cowethas an Yeth Kernewek wedi agor eu siop gyntaf, yn Lyskerry/Liskeard. Gwynn ha Du ydi enw'r siop, a gwerthir yno llyfrau yn ac am yr iaith ac amrywiaeth o ddeunydd dysgu Cernyweg.

RapT

IWERDDON

Canlyniadau etholiad cynulliad y 6 sir

Plaid	Pleidleisiau	% pleidlais	Seddau	% seddau
SDLP	177,963	21.96	24	22.2
UUP	172,225	21.26	28	25.9
DUP	146,917	18.13	20	18.5
Sinn Féin	142,858	17.63	18	16.7
Alliance	52,630	6.50	6	5.6
UKUP	36,541	4.51	5	4.6
PUP	20,634	2.55	2	.9
Eraill	60,471	7.46	5	4.6
Cyfanswm	810,241	100	108	100

Dylid nodi fod 28 aelod yn erbyn y cytundeb; aelodau'r DUP (20), yr UKUP (5), a'r Unoliaethwyr Annibynnol (3).

Hybu twristiaeth ddiwylliannol

Mae Comhhdail Náisiúnta na Gaeilge (corff ymbarél y sector gwirfoddol Gwyddeleg) a Menter a Busnes yng Nghymru yn cydweithio i hybu defnyddio'r Wyddeleg a'r Gymraeg yn sector twristiaeth.

URDD YR ORENWYR - URDD SECTYDDOL

Dosbarthwyd copïau o daflen Gymraeg am Urdd yr Orenwyr a gynhyrchwyd gan Fudiad Milwyr Mâs gan gangen Cymru'r Undeb Celtaidd yn ein pabell ar faes Eisteddfod Bro Ogwr ym mis Awst. Dyma eiriau'r daflen:

" 'Wrth ymadael... dyma hwy'n ymroi'n llwyr i'r sêl wrth-Babyddol a oedd wedi'i hennyn ynddynt gan y gwasanaeth eglwysig a mynd ati i ymosod ar bob Pabydd ar eu ffordd, a'i guro a'i gleisio'n ddiwahân a malu drysau a ffenestri tai Pabyddion a hyd yn oed lofruddio dau werinwr cwbl ddihiwed'. Gorymdaith eglwysig Drumcree, 1795. [dyfyniad wedi'i gyfieithu o 'A History of Ireland' gan Francis Plowden (1809)].

Sefydlwyd Urdd yr Orenwyr dros 200 mlynedd yn ôl mewn ymateb i fudiad y Gwyddelod Unedig a oedd wedi rhoi ei fryd ar ryddhau Iwerddon o afael yr ymerodraeth Brydeinig. Mudiad hollgynhwysol a unai Babyddion, Presbyteriaid, Protestaniaid ac anghydfurfwyr oedd y Gwyddelod Unedig, ond mudiad caeedig, gwrth-Babyddol, sectyddol wedi'i gyfyngu i ddynion yn unig oedd Urdd yr Orenwyr o'r dechrau. Ni chaiff Pabyddion na neb sydd â chysylltiadau Pabyddol drwy briodas ymaelodi â'r Urdd hon. Fel y Seiri Rhyddion ym Mhrydain, bydd aelodau Urdd yr Orenwyr yn ymdrechu i sicrhau swyddi dylanwadol iddynt hwy eu hunain ym myd gwleidyddiaeth (mae llawer o wleidyddion unoliaethol hefyd yn aelodau Urdd yr Orenwyr), busnes, y gwasanaeth suful a'r mudiad undebau llafur. Mae gan Urdd yr Orenwyr gysylltiadau hefyd â'r Teyrngarwyr Paramilwrol.

Sefydlwyd Urdd yr Orenwyr ym 1795 yn dilyn ymosodiad sectyddol ym 'Mrwydr y Diamwnt' pan laddwyd 30 o Babyddion. Holl fwriad y mudiad yw cadw 'anfarwol a gogoneddus' gof am Gwilym o Orange a'i fuddugoliaeth dros y brenin Pabyddol James yr Ail ym Mrwydr Afon Boyne. Daeth yr holl wregysau a'r regalia a gysylltw'n â'r Urdd hon yn ddiweddarach. Ers eu dechrau yn ystod y bedwaredd ganrif ar bymtheg, y mae gorymdeithiau Orenaidd wedi tyfu a mynd yn fwy ymosodol wrth i'r Urdd ymateb i her y cenedlaetholwyr drwy ddangos ei lliwiau sectyddol a gorchestiaidd. Pwy a all anghofio 'dawns fuddugoliaethus' Trimble a Paisley yn

Drumcree ym 1996 na gorymdeithwyr Ffordd Ormeau Isaf yn 'dathlu' oherwydd nifer y bobl a laddwyd gan garfanau llofruddio'r Teyrngarwyr yn siop fetio Sean Graham? Mae mwy na 300 gorymdaith debyg i'r rhain yng Ngogledd Iwerddon bob blwyddyn.

Er bod yr hawliau i orymdeithio, ymgynnull a gwleidyddia i gyd yn cael eu diogelu gan ddeddfwriaeth hawliau dynol, nid yw'r un cytundeb yn gwarantu'r hawliau hynny ar draul dinasyddion eraill. Traddodiad rhagfarn, sectyddiaeth a gorchestiaeth yw'r 'traddodiad' a fyynnir gan Urdd yr Orenwyr. O orymdaith gyntaf Drumcree ym 1795 hyd orymdaith Drumcree eleni, y mae caniatáu i Orenwyr orymdeithio drwy gymunedau'r cenedlaetholwyr yr un fath yn union â gadael i ffasgwyr y BNP orymdeithio drwy St Pauls, Brixton a Handsworth.

Mae cyswllt anorod rhwng Urdd yr Orenwyr a'r holl weithred o greu gwladwriaeth fach y Chwe Sir. Mae anghydraddoldeb cynhenid y trefniant hwnnw a gefnogir gan y Teyrngarwyr ac Urdd yr Orenwyr yn un o'r rhesymau sylfaenol am y gwrthdaro a fu'n gyfrifol am ladd mwy na 3,000 o bobl ac anafu miloedd o bobl eraill yng Ngogledd Iwerddon. Cytundeb Dydd Gwener y Groglith a wrthwynebwyd gan 95% o Urdd yr Orenwyr yw'r cam cyntaf tuag at sicrhau trafodaeth ambleidiol er mwyn mynd i'r afael â materion sy'n trin a thrafod cydraddoldeb a chyfiawnder. Os nad yw Urdd yr Orenwyr yn barod i gymryd rhan yn y broses honno gan gynnwys siarad â grwpiau trigolion, bydd yn rhaid mynd ati i ailgyfeirio gorymdeithiau Orenaidd ac amddiffyn cymunedau'r cenedlaetholwyr rhag ymosodiadau sectyddol.

DYLAI GORYMDEITHIAU SECTYDDOL GAEL EU HAILGYFEIRIO

Mudiad Milwyr Mâs Bryste, Blwch Swyddfa Bost 5, 82 Colston Street, Bryste BS1 5BB, Lloegr "

Summary

A leaflet in Welsh summarising the case for the rerouting of provocative sectarian marches in the Six Counties, published by the Troops Out Movement, was distributed from the Celtic League stand at this year's National Eisteddfod.

NEWS OF WALES

Need for Property Act Highlighted

The debate surrounding Cymdeithas yr Iaith's campaign for a Property Act to control the sale of land in Wales returned to the front pages with the news that England international footballer David Beckham and his girl-friend Victoria Adams, one of the group the 'Spice Girls', were intending to buy a second-home near Abersoch in Pen Llyn, the westernmost part of the Llyn Peninsula. The intention of these celebrities was condemned by Cymdeithas yr Iaith (our main language movement). Llyn is one of the most important Welsh-speaking areas, but the communities where the language is otherwise thriving are threatened by the buying of houses by wealthy outsiders who have no intention of integrating, and this process creates an artificial housing shortage for locals. The predicted opposition to Cymdeithas in the Press from anti-Welsh commentators gave the language and housing debate a high profile over several weeks, but at the moment it seems that the English government is becoming less enthusiastic about the introduction of the legislation needed to alleviate the problem.

RapT

Plaid Cymru name change?

There is a movement within Plaid Cymru to change the name of the party to be officially bilingual viz. "Plaid Cymru - The Party of Wales", supposedly to reflect the "two languages of Wales" and win more support from non-Welsh speakers. It seems to be part of a movement to denationalise the party. The proposed change is being opposed, and with a view of successful organisations in the other Celtic countries the Cymru branch of the Celtic League has expressed opposition to dilute the basic principles of the national party.

RapT

By-election results

Plaid have gained seats in Cockett ward, Abertawe/Swansea County Borough, and in Dyserth ward, Sir Ddinbych/Denbighshire County Council.

Bilingual education is better

A report by the independent Institute of Welsh Affairs confirms that the academic success of Welsh-medium secondary schools exceeds those through English. Examination results are higher and attendance rates greater. They offer better support and management and are run more efficiently. Teachers' enthusiasm and parents' 'positive choice' and the schools' 'clarity of mission' are all essential components of their success.

Digital TV company

S4C, United News and Media and NTL will each hold a one third share in Digital Multiplex A which will offer 6 television services across Britain, including the digital version of Channel 5, S4C in Wales and Gàidhlig programs in Scotland.

Language of birth

University of Wales, Bangor, is to offer a bilingual midwifery course from this autumn. Also the Welsh Language Board has funded the publication of a leaflet explaining the advantages of early bilingualism for young children to be included in the free 'bounty packs' which all mothers in Wales receive on the birth of a child. The aim is to reduce the number of Welsh-speaking parents who do not talk Welsh to their children (this trend is particularly worrying in S.E. Carmarthenshire/W. Glamorgan at the moment) and to encourage non-Welsh speaking parents to choose bilingual education.

Clive James

Everything in Welsh and the Welsh Language in Everything - the Challenge to the Assembly

Popeth yn Gymraeg, Y Gymraeg ym mhopeth! Everything to be available in Welsh and the Welsh language to be a factor in all aspects of government. This is the new slogan launched by Cymdeithas yr Iaith at this year's National Eisteddfod in August, summing up the expectations of Cymdeithas from the forthcoming National Assembly, which will be sitting by the time of the next National Eisteddfod, and it was also the subject of a historic public meeting held by Cymdeithas which was addressed by Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, who was the first ever Secretary of State to attend a public meeting with the language movement. Ron Davies is learning Welsh and gave part of his speech in the language, the first Secretary of State since the last Labour government to have a knowledge of Welsh. Siân Howys and Angharad Tomos spoke for Cymdeithas. The meeting focussed on the document about the place of the Welsh language in the National Assembly recently published by Cymdeithas. The main points in the document are:

- Normalization of the language should be the aim of the Assembly, and to achieve this there should be total and thorough bilingualism from the very start
 - The Secretary of State should set up a *task force* immediately to ensure that the bilingual policy is effective from the start
 - The language policy will need careful monitoring
 - Cymdeithas will urge all Assembly candidates to declare their support for the language
 - Candidates who do not speak Welsh will be urged to learn Welsh
 - Offices in the Assembly should have Welsh titles e.g. "Llefarydd", not "Speaker"
 - The language must be a factor in all aspects of the Assembly's work and must not be treated like a "jug on a mantelpiece"
 - The Assembly must work towards the establishment of an independent education system for Wales and a Property Act to protect Welsh-speaking communities
 - It is vital for the language to be made attractive to young people through the development of appropriate youth culture and radio and television
- Considerable agreement and sense of joint

purpose was expressed between the Secretary of State and the leaders of the language movement, in total contrast to the enmity which existed during the years of Tory rule. During the meeting Ron Davies urged Cymdeithas that it was no longer necessary for them to shake fists at the government, and suggested that they follow the Labour Party and transform into "New Cymdeithas" (!). However, while accepting the complete change of attitude which has taken place in the Welsh Office, Cymdeithas can see that the threats to Welsh as a community language are still great and the rights of Welsh speakers still limited and they are not going to relax completely yet.

Robat ap Tomos

Political Correctness

The Welsh Office has issued a directive to its officials to refer to North and South Wales in English as "the North" and "the South" rather than "North Wales" and "South Wales" in order to strengthen identity. This brings English usage in Wales in line with Welsh where "Y Gogledd" and "Y De" have always been used to mean the North and South of Wales (rather than England). This directive is in accordance with what should be nationalist use generally. If you are in Cornwall "the East", out of context, should refer to Liskeard/ Launceston etc., not East

Anglia. In Wales the "South Coast" should mean Barri/Porthcawl etc., not Dorset! I have the impression that there is a peculiarly Scottish habit of referring to the whole of England as "the South" (which should mean Dumfries etc.). Someone from Manchester is said to be from the South, while in England Manchester is unquestionably (even if you are in Newcastle) part of the North. Such usage is part of a subconscious British mental orientation and as Celts we should avoid and challenge it.

Robat ap Tomos



Fellowship of Freedom

Kevin Whelan, Cork University Press 1998.

Comhleabhar é seo a foilsíodh mar chuid de Thaispeántas Chuimhneacháin ar imeachtaí na nÉireannach Aontaithe agus ar Éirí Amach 1798 a chuir an tÚdar le chéile agus atá ar siúl faoi láthair sa Mhusaem Náisiúnta i mBeairic Uí Choileáin. Is é an leabhar an chuid is fearr den chair, i dtuairim an scríbhneora seo. Léiríonn sé conas a chuaigh gluaiseacht na nÉireannach Aontaithe i bhfeidhm ar aigne na tíre, i dtreo is nár éalaigh sé riamh amach as an bpolaitíocht isteach sa stair.

Bunaítear an téacs ar ábhar súl, ábhar a shoilseann tuiscintí stairiúla, agus a thugann an tréimse chun beochta. Léirítear tionchar Réabhlóide Mheiriceá ar na Preisbitéirigh, abair, agus luí na bPreisbitéarach le Meiriceá. Léirítear chomh maith, an uasal-aicme Éireannach a lean faoi thalamh in ainneoin plandálacha agus géirleanúna, agus an tionchar a bhí ag an aicme sin ar imeachtaí 1798. (Tá cuntas níos iomláine ar an aicme seo i leabhar eile de chuid an údair chéanna, *The Tree of Liberty*, Cork University Press 1996, ceann de na leabhair is fearr ar fad ar 1798 agus ar lean é.)

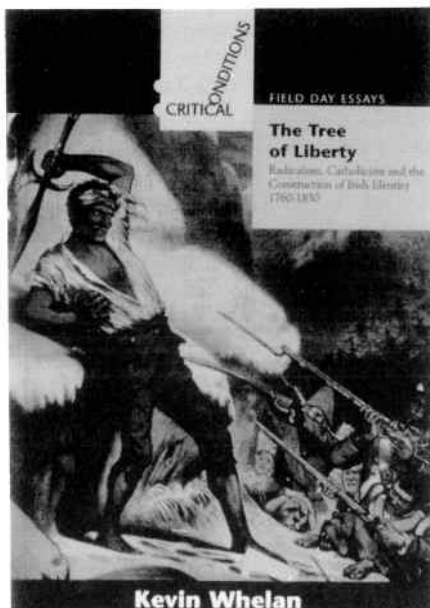
Mínítear conas a rinne Cumann na nÉireannach Aontaithe comhghuaillithe as grúpaí chomh héagsúil leis na Gildeanna, na Whigeanna, an Coiste Caitliceach agus na hÓglaigh. Míníonn sé a leagan amach míleata, agus tugann sé cuntas agus foilsíonn sé pictiúir na bpríomhcheannairí. Bhrisfeadh óige agus dathúlacht leithéidí Henry Joy do chroí. Agus chuirfeadh misneach agus seasmhacht Mary Anne McCracken mórtas ort.

Soláthraíonn an leabhar seo sleachta as nuachtáin na linne, amhráin chomhaimsireacha, léaráidí as irisí ón dá thaobh, agus cuntais bheaga phearsanta a thugann an tréimhse chun beochta. Tabhair faoi dear go háirithe Cailín an Iubhair ar leathanach 58 agus roinnt mhaith de léaráidí Cruikshank a leag síos steireaphláta an Éireannaigh ar feadh céad bliain d'fhoilseacháin ar nós Punch.

Mínítear, chomh maith, pointí beaga spéisiúla ar nós cén rud go díreach "long-barrelled gun from the sea" (lth 80) agus focail an amhráin "Croppies Lie Down"

(lth 118), an chaidhp pice agus an leathchrochadh (lth. 124).

Taispeántar, chomh maith, pictiúr truaimeileach de chuid Brocas, ina bhfuil, de réir dealraimh, fear óg a crochadh agus a dícheannadh. Dáiríre, áfach, níl anseo ach obair ealaíne - ní raibh an duine seo riamh ann, dá éifeachtaí a phictiúr.



'The Tree of Liberty', another work by the same author, which is one of the best covering the 1798 period.

Léirítear go h-an-soiléir, fiú amháin do dhallán mar mise, conas mar a bhain don Éirí Amach féin, agus an truaimeil agus an tragóid a bhain leis an samhradh agus leis an bhfómhar úd dhá chéad bliain ó shoin nuair a shíl 28,000 óigfhear Éireannach a gcuid fola. Má chreideann sibh daoine áirithe a deireann gurb iad na hÉireannaigh a tharraing an t-ár, gheobhaidh sibh firinne an scéil anseo ins na figiúirí báis ar an dá thaobh.

Críochnaíonn an leabhar le cuntas ar an slí inar láimhsigh na glúnta ó shoin imeachtaí na linne cinniúnaí sin.

Molaim go mór an leabhar seo, agus go deimhin, *The Tree of Liberty* chomh maith leis. Leabhair oibiachtúla, léannta is ea iad, agus leabhair a scríobhadh go neamhbalbh ó dhearcadh na nÉireannach.

Brenda Ní Shúilleabháin

A Chairde, Va Mignoned

Cén chaoi a bhfuil sibh go léir anois. Táimse i mo chónaí i mBrest sa Bhriotáin agus tá ranganna Ghaeilge bunaithe agam anseo. Múinim an Ghaeilge anseo i mBriotáinis agus i mBéarla agus beidh orm ranganna a chur ar siúl i bhFraincis an bhliain seo. Tá fadhb beag agam anois mar ní raibh mórán ábhair teagasc agam ar dtús agus tá orm rudaí nua a fháil chun ranganna spéisiúil a chur ar siúl. Níor cheap mé ar dtús go mbeadh an méid sin suim le haghaidh an Ghaeilge anseo agus tá sé deacair agam anois gach ceist a fhreagairt gan leabhair gramadach agus foclóir Gaeilge/Béarla. Níl ach mo nótaí ón choláiste agam anseo. Táimse ag déanamh obair deorach anseo le Cumann drámaíochta Briotáinse agus nílímse in ann aon rud a cheannach. Is iad na rudaí atá ag teastáil go uaim: Leabhar gramadach; Foclóir Gaeilge/Béarla; Téascanna dátheangach Gaeilge/Français nó Français/Gaeilge; Comic-strips as Gaeilge. Is ranganna neamhfhoirmeálta atá ar bun agam agus bíonn siad an-éifeachtach.

Cuirfidh mé aon rud ar iasacht ar ais chugat tar éis fótaicóp a dhéanamh. Is féidir dul i dteagmháil liom chun níos mó eolas a fháil ag na huimhreacha thíosluaite (Tá an faics níos fearr).

Go n-éirí,

Pádraig Óg Ó Raghallaigh
Ar Vro Bagan, An Heliex
F29550 Plougerne, An Bhriotáin,
Fón 0290045005
Faics 0298096084

Summary

The reviewer highly recommends this book which outlines the philosophy of the United Irishmen and external influences on it. 1798 is brought to life through contemporary newspaper articles, songs, personal accounts, drawings and cartoons illustrating clearly the pathos and tragedy of that summer and autumn.

Sectarian Rule in Portadown

In 1997 Robert Hamill, a Catholic, was kicked to death by a loyalist mob in Portadown while RUC men looked on from an armoured jeep parked a short distance away.

Apparently he had unfortunately decided because of their presence that he could take the shorter route home. His killers have yet to be brought to justice and needless to say those who effectively sanctioned his death have also escaped any punishment. For his family to have suffered such an injustice is bad enough but worse again is the taunting from loyalist thugs his family have to suffer if they venture near the city centre as these thugs mimic the murders' dance on the dying man's head.

The clearly partisan behaviour of the RUC towards Catholic residents in the events surrounding Drumcree has led to hundreds of complaints against them and solicitors handling these say it is not uncommon for RUC men to threaten "You'll end up like Robert Hamill". Indeed many of those who claim to want to march to Drumcree for Orange and Protestant rights (to dominate their neighbours!) also shout taunts and mimic dances.

It seems the loyalist gangs want ethnic cleansing and they have caused



Robert Hamill, murdered by a Loyalist mob

disturbances regularly in the city centre since the banning of the Drumcree march. Hate leaflets are widely distributed and in early autumn the loyalist hate gangs turned their attention to the town shopping centre. One Saturday in September a group of some 200 loyalists, including a number of women, gathered in the centre of the town and made for Dunnes Stores in the shopping centre. They carried placards and handed out leaflets saying "No Taigs Up Our Town" and walked through the aisles of the store ordering people to leave, causing shoppers to flee in a panic. The mob made no attempt to hide their faces and when leaving the store were met by the

RUC who simply sent them away. No arrests were made. Three Catholic business premises in the town have been burnt out - despite threats they had been granted no police protection and no police statement was issued to the media on the incidents, which occurred during the Clinton visit. Regular attempts at forays into Catholic housing areas occur. RUC statements (even though one of their members was killed by a loyalist blast bomb) say "rival factions were involved", a deliberate distortion, while also hiding for example the fact that five milk crates of petrol bombs were seized from the Orange mob. Loyalists seemed determined to persist in nightly violence. A planned demonstration in the town centre another Saturday in September was only prevented when the authorities finally took action and saturated the town with security forces. However the hate gangs claim they will step up their actions and organisers of a rally for "Protestant Culture and Heritage" (at the end of September) called for support from throughout the North (and Scotland!) but only achieved an attendance of 2,000.

If the Belfast accord is to have meaning the naked racism in Portadown must be firmly faced down and Mr Patten (ex Hong Kong Governor now charged with examining police reform in the North) must ensure that the RUC successors abandon the blatant partiality shown by that force.

Keep to the Agreement!

The Northern Assembly commenced in September and Republicans, Nationalists and Unionists sat in the one chamber together, with Unionist leader David Trimble as First Minister and Séamus Mallon, Deputy Leader of the SDLP, as deputy First Minister. Nothing of great note happened (unless one counts Sinn Féin President's Gerry Adams statement that he wanted to make friends with Dr. Ian Paisley, of the Democratic Unionist Party!) but a great deal of media hype was created in subsequent weeks over the timetable in the Agreement and the decommissioning issue. Essentially this related to Unionist manoeuvring to try to link a start on decommissioning of weapons with the setting up of the new Executive which will have representation

from all parties including Sinn Féin. Decommissioning was of course a crucial issue in the Good Friday Agreement but it was very clearly not linked to the setting up of the Executive. Indeed the requirement was for parties to support decommissioning and to try to use their influence to achieve it within two years. The fact that this was the reality of the Agreement was distorted by many Unionists in the election campaign for the Assembly when they stated they would never sit on an Executive with Sinn Féin unless decommissioning had begun. Paisley and other extreme unionists including some within Trimble's own UUP party hope to derail the whole Agreement using this issue. To listen to many media correspondents making suggestions that the IRA should give up some munitions now to assist Trimble seemed somewhat odd when the obvious suggestion should have been that, as a party to the Agreement and First Minister, he had an obligation to maintain its provisions (and face down his own extremists). The North/South Body, its

functions and relationships with the Northern Assembly and the Dáil should be agreed by October 31st. The Irish Government rightly considers the Executive should be in place to ensure this



Gen John de Chastelain.

On the Language Front

ARTS COUNCIL NEGLECT OF IRISH

In mid September a conference *Traditional Arts and Irish* was held under the auspices of the Arts Council, one of a series of meetings designed apparently to help the Council formulate its new action plan for the Arts.

While reasonable attempts at promoting traditional music and creative writing in Irish and goodwill towards the language was claimed by the Arts Council staff involved many present felt this fell far short of what is required. The Arts Council has a statutory obligation to promote arts in the Irish language.

However only a small part of its budget is devoted to Irish and traditional arts, only 2%, for example, goes towards supporting traditional music. Many areas which received no support were highlighted. Some of those attending suggested a separate council for Arts in Irish, as in Scotland, but this did not seem to be generally favoured by the attendance.

Keep to the Agreement (contd)

while Trimble may be hoping that in delaying the formation of an Executive he would have more control and be in a position to limit the range and proposed functions of the North-South bodies.

It is up to those who brokered the Northern Agreement to ensure that its provisions are maintained and that no underhand attempts at changing them are successful. Contrary also to the impression created by Unionists there has been progress made since the Agreement in the work of the Independent International Committee on Decommissioning chaired by Gen. John de Chastelain and many formalities associated with decommissioning have been agreed. Many hurdles had to be overcome to achieve the Northern Agreement and many more must undoubtedly be cleared to ensure the process continues but the key element must surely be to keep the Agreement!

SUBMISSION ON IRISH LANGUAGE ACT

The submission of Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge to the Minister for Arts, Heritage, the Gaeltacht and Islands, Éamon Ó Cuív, on proposals for an Irish Language Act was made at the end of September. Comhdháil Náisiúnta is the co-ordinating body for Irish Language organisations including Conradh na Gaeilge, Gael Linn, Gaelscoileanna and others and it had been asked by the Minister to submit representations.

Amongst the recommendations made are the setting up of an office of Commissioner for Irish whose primary aim would be the monitoring of the implementation of the provision of the Act and the Irish language services provided by the State to Irish speakers and Gaeltacht areas. The Commission would be independent and be given sufficient powers to ensure adherence of bodies charged with promoting the Irish language to their responsibilities. A seven year term is proposed for the Commissioners.

Another proposal is to set up the office of Ombudsman for Irish who would have powers to deal with complaints from the public in relation to Irish language services. Proposals are also made to grant recognition to the Gaeltacht as a separate region which would have its own local authority with control over planning. In that context the language question would be central.

The Minister has promised to put a strong Act before the Dáil. Let us hope that this report and others representations ensure that such an Act is forthcoming soon.

Irish Phonics Aid

Abair é... the first-ever Irish language phonics programme, designed to address the lack of Irish language teaching materials for primary teachers, is now available from Muintearas, a Connemara-based education and training research project. The pack costs £36.90 plus £.75 for postage. Information from: Muintearas, Leitir Mór, Co. na Gaillimhe - phone (091) 551300

FURTHER GROWTH in Gaelscoileanna

More new Irish medium schools opened in September 1998. Four primary schools started in Port an Dúnáin (Portadown), An Chreagán (Creggan, Derry), Caisleán Uidhlín and Downpatrick in the North. Six primary schools commenced in the Republic in Béal an Átha (Ballina, Co. Mayo), An tInbhear Mór (Arklow, Co. Wicklow), Port Laoise (Co. Laois), Longphort (Longford Town), and Carrick-on-Suir (Co. Waterford). An Irish unit opened in Thurles, Co. Tipperary. All the schools in the Republic have official recognition.

However while this is welcome news not so welcome is the attitude of the Department of Education and Science Commission on School Accommodation. Initial indications are that the soon to be published first report will contain conditions with regard to the recognition of new primary schools which will make matters more difficult for new Gaelscoileanna. Indeed as such schools were the most frequently established in the last ten years the suspicion must remain that the Commission was really set up to curb their growth.



New Irish Language Magazine

A new Irish language 'glossy' magazine was launched at the end of September - *Cuisle*. It is grant aided by Bord na Gaeilge and will have 40 pages. The magazine's editor is Uinseann Mac Dubhghaill, former *Irish Times* Irish Language editor. It has a staff of four and is produced in Casla, in the Conamara Gaeltacht. The initial print run will be 10,000 and the magazine will combine news, politics, features, gossip, competitions and current affairs. There will be a regular feature for parents raising their children through Irish and a learners section. Some well known names appear in the first issue. The magazine will cost £1.50 and will be distributed nationwide through Eason's.

HEYNES HA NEGEGATH AN MILVLUTHIANS

A lerh, Negegath an Milvluthians a orras avyzians en diffrans paperiow nowethis en creia dressa teez hunt tha tryigans bluth coath requiria ligan vos omgomeras rag gwithres fitty mesk an kecowethians. Pothew rowler *Teere ha Tavaz* gelles pell dres an oozma (suas!), eve a vekias e govednack, hag aheaz e vee grauntes dotha an pegans rag dereval aman *Heynes*, avel bagas ew omres tha whelas teez coath ha cuntel ago hovian rag gwetha rima ha go ystedna aleaz than kescowetha, en enwedgack than deez younk.

Ugge cowz adro than towle war Radio Kernow, ha provia screffow rag an paperiow nowethis, *Heynes* a thallathas tha gowas showre a armow thort teez coath o wensis tha derevas ago hovian; hanter blethan ugge an dallathvas thera nye stella a cowas garmow keffres thort kescreffers paperiow nowethis ha gonnaders TV, en whelas nawothow, ha en goofen thort nye fatel era nye a keel et agon veadge.

En deda, thea an dalla a Veez Whevral, *Heynes* a vee moaz aleaz en Kernow, en recordia covian an deez coath, ha pella ages hedna, en gweel leas cuthman noweth mesk rima. An deezma ew leal Kernowian ha Kernowaggow eze a quetha agye tha go colonnow kebmes tacklow ha geysiow thort cotheneb lev veeva scoan nekeves, ea, kelles, na vee agye.

Kerras andro en pow a Pensans tha Porthleven, a Keynwen tha Porthpera, a Seynt Colombe Vean tha Taphouse, a Seynt Niot tha Liscarret, ha pella, ma cuntles warbar kens lebmen leas owre a levow Kernuack a cowz adro than pow ew kear tha agye; ha whathe, nagew an veadge scantlower dallethes, ha ma thene ruster heer a deez eze quachas dressa nye omwellas warnothans. Buz nagew en ednack an covian an deez worthyma ew thene tha leas, rag et ago cowz tythiack ma res gongans drizlebmamal gerriow ew devethes athor an tavas Kernuack, ha mesk rima radn na vee beska recordes kens; ha moye arta, thera nye a tesky thor ago ganow fatla lavaral sertayn gerriow Kernuack a leb an sone ew gothvethes thene kenzenna en ednack thort an tibias nongy; en thiougel, mowns tesky tha nye polta.

End charge ew comeres aman gen *Heynes* ethew tha ystedna than deez younk an dewa a gon veadge, ha ort cumpas dalla a vee gwres kens lebmen en omwellas war scollow, hag en darbar peath nag en ednack tha rima buz tha leas hunyth enwedgack.

Dallethes drizlebmamal, ogastye, nangew *Heynes* a lenal gwage en deziria teez Kernow tha gavas ha tha adgan o hunnen arta; car dre hevol, ema an deez coath parres tha gutheffia ago skeans ha go heynes, ha mallew than ri younk o howas. Ethew an junkers anurma leb vedn boaz an deez coath hogan. Besy dothans cowas treeth o doola pegans lowre tha ystedna than flehas agye et ago turn.

En mene termen, nawothow an gwreans a *Heynes* reeg hethas tereba Institucion an Skeans Kernuack, ha Dr Garry Tregidga, is-Rowler an corfma, a theath alerh tha spenga edn journa barha nye, en considra fatel alga an theaw gowethians kesobery a niel gen e gila. Dr Tregidga a vee towla towlow poran adro tha provia than scollow Kernuack advisement an veary matters ez igges a cuntel warbar gen *Heynes*, ha andella eth ell gotheffia dotha keffres dasscreffow an recordians a vee gwres han exposicions a vee parres. Ez igges a towla dressa wheal *Heynes* furmia radn an Cuntellians an Heynes Cowzes an Record Sone Kenezlack.

Richard Gendall

Heynes and the Millenium Commission

Summary

Recently Teere ha Tavaz has been able to set up Heynes (Traditions) with funding from the Millenium Commission. Since February a team has been collecting valuable information about our past, including our language, that would otherwise soon be lost. The new archives are being used in school visits, and it is proposed that they will form part of the Oral History Collection of the National Sound Archive.

Gorsav Radio Kenwerthek Kernewek a Dhallesh Newodhow yn Kernewek

Marnas nebes seythus wosa dalleth 24 eur servyans newodhow "Pirate FM102" a wrug kemmer kamm aral yn rak gans y servyans newodhow. Dyworth de Sadorn 5ves mis Gwynngala, a wra "Pirate FM102" dyлло newodhow yn kernewek pub pennseythun pris li. (12.30) An newodhow yn kernewek a yw hynwys "Gonisogeth Lemmyn", hag yw dyskwedhys gans Matthew Clarke.

Pennrewler "Pirate FM", Joseph Swain, a leverys "An tra ma a dhyskwedha an vrasheans a les a gonisogeth kernewek aji hag yn mes an Ducheth hag yw gorthyb dh'agan goslowor."

An kynsa dyllyans newodhow yn kernewek der "Pirate FM102" a veu dhe'n keth jydh ages an 70ves Gorsedh Kernow synsys dhe Lanyust yn Pennwyth hag ytho ynno esa leverans arbennek dyworth an Barth Meur a'n Orsedh, Anne Trevenen Jenkin.

Cornish Commercial Radio Station to have News in Kernewek

Just a few weeks after beginning a 24 hour a day news facility, Pirate FM102 has taken another step forward in its news service. From Saturday 5th September Pirate FM102 will be broadcasting weekend lunch time (12.30) news bulletins in the Cornish language.

The Cornish news bulletins are called "Gonisogeth Lemmyn" or "Culture Now" and are presented by Matthew Clarke. Pirate FM's Managing Director, Joseph Swain, explained "This reflects the growing interest in the Cornish culture within the Duchy and outside and is a response to our listener".

The first bulletin was on the same day as the 70th Cornish Gorsedd held at St Just in Penwith. The first ever scheduled news broadcast in Cornish on Pirate FM102 therefore also incorporated a special message from the Grand Bard of the Cornish Gorsedd, Anne Trevenen Jenkin.

Martyn Miller
Secretary Cornish Branch

Tamar(a), the origin and history of the name

From the year 936 AD (Athelstan) the river *Tamar* has formed the larger part of the border between *Devon* and *Cornwall* and still continues to do so.

It appears to be a most imaginative stream in the minds of many Cornish people so it seems.

A Cornishman abroad, singing songs of home, will often sing about the *Tamar*, as a symbol of his homeland.

Crossing the river at the end of his journey, he will realise that he is finally back on native soil. The *Tamar* has proven its value for Cornwall and Devon through the ages.

Commerce, tourism, water and food supply are just a few examples.

Thanks to the West Country Rivers Trust and their *Tamar 2000* programme, the salmon may just find its way back upstream in the same amount as it did some fifty years ago.

The Legend of Tamara

(brief version)

Tamara was a lovely nymph, who was born in a cavern as the daughter of Spirits of the Earth who lived in the underworld. Her parents forbid her to visit the upperworld although she simply loved the light of day. They tried to protect her from the giants of the moors who were to be feared.

Tamara however went up and had a look at the sun as often as she could.

Tavy and Towrage were sons of Dartmoor giants who had noticed the young and beautiful Tamara, and they both desired her. Many times they followed her over moor and mountain trying to win her for themselves.

One day in Morewinstow the boys came upon her and tried to persuade her to choose either one of them, but she had a hard time doing so. Meanwhile her parents had missed her, and went looking in the upperworld.

Finally they found her under a bush, sitting between Tavy and Towrage. Her father who was very angry, made the boys fall asleep and told his daughter to return to their home in the underworld. As she refused to leave her lovers, he cursed her in a rage, and changed her into a river. Tamara cried and cried and as a beautiful crystal stream, the waters would flow forever to the sea, she had dissolved in tears.

Tavy was the first to awake and found his loved one gone, then he went to his father

on the moor. Knowing what had happened the giant transformed his son into a stream as well, in order to ease his pain. From that day on Tamara and Tavy run side by side till they finally mingle, to proceed together to the eternal ocean.

Towrage awoke much later, but he also learned what happened. He fled into the hills and prayed for an enchanter and was changed into a stream as well like Tamara and Tavy before him. Having taken the wrong way back however, he still flows far away from his beloved Tamara in everlasting sorrow.

Meaning of the Legend

There are many stories in Celtic Folklore explaining names of places, rivers, mountains, events from the past and whatsoever. Most of these stories seem to have an historical background, and so does the legend of Tamara.

It was told in order to explain the nature of the river and the meaning of the name. It is by no means a story which teaches us the facts in a direct manner, but by way of symbolic speech — *Tamara*, being the child of Spirits of the Earth living in the Underworld, while she loved the daylight.

Now, this can only be symbolic for a river, who's source is an underground spring or well or something of the kind. And so it is, at grid reference 55 271 166 (landranger igo) the source of the Tamar is to be found as an accumulation of water, wandering off into the bushes near Youlstone.

Tamara was referred to as a lovely nymph and this can only indicate a gently, smoothly flowing river, for the greater part anyway. And so she is, anyone knowing the Tamar will confirm this fact.

River or Nymph?

It is of course the question whether the river was named after the nymph, or the nymph after the river? Now it is a fact that



Tamara, drawn by Yvonne

in most cases waternames are likely to be the oldest names on Earth that we know of. The largest and best navigable rivers carry the oldest names, followed by the smaller rivers, tributaries, brooks and lakes.

Sometimes however it is hard to tell whether a name was given upstream, downstream, somewhere in between or was meant as a general definition.

In the old days for instance the main river *Camel* was referred to as *Alan* from Roughton to Wadebridge and was called *Camel* only upstream. Waternames gave their names to regions, settlements and tribes.

In France the river *Sequana* (=modern Seine) gave its name to the tribe of the *Sequani* and to the water goddess *Sequana*.

In the UK rivers gave their name to towns such as Cambridge, Colchester, Tamerton, Tavistock, Plymouth, Yarmouth, Axmouth, Weymouth etc.

The Celtic legend used a personification to keep the memory of the river's nature and namesake alive, and to hold the attention of the listeners.

*Ta, *Te

Many placenames, waternames, tribalnames etc. are formed by a basic word and a persuasive element.

In this case the name Tamar (a) may best be divided into *Tam* (persuasive element) and *Ara* (basic word) In its origin *Ara* is an Indo-European suffix signifying *flowing water*. In many cases this suffix is still recognisable in waternames throughout Europe and even further on. It also proves the ancientness and continuity of waternames.

The Indo-European root *Ta or *Te, which could be followed by several different suffixes means *to stretch* or *to draw*. Because of the diversity of suffixes, modern words derived from this root may

(contd overleaf)

have a different appearance, but all seem to have a mutual ancestor, and are still more or less recognisable in use all over Europe.

The English word *Taul* is a fine example, so is the German *Ziehen* < Teohan (to draw), the Dutch *touw* (=cord), the Latin *tennis* < tenu from the root *ten* meaning to stretch, and the Greek *Tavu..* "The root *Ta or *Te may even be expanded by the forms *ti and *tu, but the meaning to stretch remains metaphorically unaffected. In our case an *M* suffix was used signifying water in general.

In general terms the stretched flowing water = *Tamara* is synonymous for a gently, smoothly flowing river, just like the legend told us.

Ptolemy (+200 AD) was the first one to record the name of the river Tamar as *Tamaros*.

Being derived from an Indo-European root it is still hard to tell whether the name *Tamar(a)* is Celtic or pre-Celtic. Some Celts must have recognised the meaning of the name, hence the legend. It certainly does not mean *dark river* or *black water* and at the same time be of Celtic origin because then the Celtic element, Dubo, Dubh or Du should have been used, which is not the case. It was also not derived from a (proto) Indo-European root *Ta or *Te meaning to melt hence flowing.

There are of course a few rivers in Europe of that nature, but they are dependable on melting water coming from mountains covered with eternal snow, which rules out the river *Tamar*.

All facts considered we may conclude that the name *Tamar(a)* means: "gently, smoothly flowing water." Therefore the legend is not just another legend but a very important piece of information from the past.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Dr James CA Whetter BA PhD of the Roseland Institute of Gorran, Cornwall who kindly supplied very useful background information. Also thanks to Yvonne for drawing the picture of the nymph Tamara.

AJM van der Gust



Is this a Private Party?

This is neither the time or place to catalogue the particular details of Galician national history. However, I believe that this history is undeniably not an isolated moment of mass delusion on the part of Galician people.

Rather Galice's historical trajectory is firmly rooted in its Celtic past. This Celtic origin of Galice has produced the historical and cultural relationship which results in the Galician - Celtic identity.

In the c. 19th Galician intellectuals such as Pondal or Murguía, participated in the Osianic Romanticism movement. Celtica (the identification of ourself as Celtic) was sometimes a small part, sometimes a large part in the Galician national identity but from this moment was always a constant claim.

The period of Franco's dictatorship in the Spanish state, and thus Galice, was a watershed for Galician nationalism. Its leaders were exiled or silenced (often permanently) and our language was denied to us.

The repercussions of this setback still resound today.

Today in Galice we speak a romantic language, *O galego*. Our language is involved in a socio-political-linguistic conflict with Spanish (the dominant language of the Spanish state). This conflict is a barrier to the natural normalization of our culture and history into our society. *O galego* contains words that are "Gaelic Galician" (i.e. Celtic) in origin, for instance the folk tales told to us by our grandmothers are rich in the references and words of our Celtic past and include sentences in Gaelic Galician.

One of the authorities on language can deduct the moment of the disappearance of this Gaelic Galician, but it would appear this language survived in part through the Roman period. (It is possible that in Galice both Gaelic and Brittonic languages were spoken). However, today Galicians express themselves, through "*O galego*, but when one scratches the surface (of our language, history and culture) it becomes obvious to the beholder what we are not "Latins".

Today the political fight for our self-determination appears to be bearing fruit. For example, the debate about decentralization of the Portuguese state and the so called "Fenitlan-Celt War" allows us to see the emerging, although embryonic, Galicians in both states now campaigning for the reunification of Galician territory. The ignorance of our country, its past and its origin, is perpetuated (at home and abroad) by the people in power now, the same people who were in power under Franco's reign. These people through their

own lack of nationalist sentiment, their ignorance and their personal and collective, vested interests would deny the undeniable.

They would deny us our history and origins (which can be linked to the Irish mythological cycles to name but one source).

They would deny us our cultural and linguistic uniqueness (which they subjugate for Spanish). It is my opinion that this denied knowledge about our history and our present could actually facilitate the search for solutions to our problems. Furthermore, I believe it complements the future Galice in a search for an ethnico-cultural community and in turn benefits Celtic culture itself and these other Celtic nations.

Today Galice still suffers at the hands of political, cultural and economic colonization, but the struggle gains strength as our nationalist movement gets stronger and stronger.

Day after day Galician people recognise more and more where our land and our world begins.

Irmandade Celtiga Galaica

Contact e-mail:

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LIGA CELTIGA GALAICA

It is now almost two years since thirty young people came together in Santiago de Compostela to form this association. Its aims include: a) disseminating and creating an interest in the cultures of the Celtic nations in which they include Galicia; representing this country in international Celtic gatherings; promoting and financing investigations of the common elements of the cultures of these nations as well as the specific characteristics of the Galician one. On the occasion of the Ortigueira Celtic World festival (of which an excellent cassette was produced) they organised a day dedicated to Brittany as well as a projection of audio-visuals about the Celtic countries. They are seeking to formalise relations with Wales on account of the immigration from Britain to Galicia in the 6th century. The Liga Celtiga in a letter written in the Spring renewed the plea for an association with the Celtic League and would welcome personal contacts. The address is: Secretariat, Caixa de Correos 1364, A Coruña, Galiza.

mannin

Caggaghyn Chellveeish



Ayns yn aigney jeh peiagh erbee ta resoanagh, ta Teilifis na Gaeilge (TnaG) speeideilagh dy liooar. Shoh yn shirveish-chellveeish ayns Yernish va currit er bun ec y reiltys Yernagh er y gherid. Agh, myr veagh oo smooïnaghtyn, ta sleih ennagh ayns Nerin noi'n stashoon noa. 'T'eh costal rouyr as cha nel monney sleih jeeaghyn er', t'ad gaccan. Son y chooid smoo, myr veagh oo smooïnaghtyn reesht, y sleih ta gaccan nish, cha row ad laccal y stashoon er chor erbee. Kuse jee, shen sleih ta coontey Yernish dy ve marroo as by vie lhieu ve 'eddyrashoonagh', ta shen dy ghra, Baarlagh ny lomarcan.

S'mirrillagh dy vel TnaG ayn. Begin caggey liauyr 'yannoo dy chur eh er bun. Goll rish ny partanyn Manninagh, va Gaeilgeoiri ennagh slane noi cur stashoon Yernish er bun. Ren reiltyssyn Yernagh girree seose as tuitym sheese kyndagh rish scammyltyltyn anchasley as oddagh y trealtys dy chur TnaG fo raad er ve caillit ec tra erbee. Agh, bwooise da Jee, cha row y trealtys marrooit as haink TnaG rish.

Tra va TnaG fo raad, v'eh cur yn olk er paart jeh'n lught-jeeaghyn liorish ymskeaylley recortysyn jeh gammanyn Gaelagh classicagh. Va shoh tayrn ram sleih elley dy yeeaghyn er y stashoon, agh va Yernisheyryn ennagh gaccan nagh row y lheid cooie da stashoon Yernish. Shoh cooish va'n *Irish Times* glackey dy hoie er TnaG, gaccan dy vel y stashoon noa 'costal ass towse as failleil dy cosney lught-jeeaghyn ta mooar dy liooar' - er-lhimmeys jesusyn ta jeeaghyn er ny gammanyn classicagh ('red neu-chooie').

Myr t'eh eginit jannoo mennick dy liooar, ren Cathal Goan, fer-toshee TnaG, fendeil y stashoon dy mie. Hoilshree eh dy dooar TnaG mysh jeh millioon punt dy jeeragh veih'n reiltys Yernagh son 1998. Chammah as shen, ta TnaG geddyn mysh shey ny shiagh millioon punt voish Raidio Teilifis Eireann. Va ny earroyn shoh reaghit kuse dy vleeantyn er dy henney as, ec tra shen, cha row TnaG kiarail ymskeaylley agh son daa oor gagh laa. Ta TnaG er nyannoo cho

mie lesh yn argid oc as dy vel ad gymскеaylley ayns Yernish son kiare oor dy lieh gagh laa nish, lesh kiare gys shey oor ny smoo gagh laa ayns Baarle, gyn geddyn tooilley argid veih'n reiltys.

Skimmee undinagh TnaG, shen jehi persoonyn as feed ta goaill ymmyd jeh chagnoaylleaght ta thalk-noa. As, feiy Nerin, ta tree cheead kiartey er nyn groo, ta sleih aeg lesh schleighyn leaghar er ngeddyn caa dy ghoail ymmyd jeh ny schleighyn shen as ta TnaG er chosney aundryrn eddyrashoonagh son ny clareyn t'eh eh nyannoo. Ta Cathal Goan gra dy vel eh stiurey'n stashoon-chellveeish smoo fondagh ayns cooishyn-argidys sy teihl. As t'eh gyindys vel 'costal ass towse' aght sleetchagh dy ghra 'ny jean ceau veg er chellveeish ayns Yernish'?

Ayns Pobblaght Nerin, ta nane sy cheead jeh'n lught-jeeaghyn chellveeish jeeaghyn er TnaG ec tra-mulle. Shoh mysh yn earroo cheddin as adsyn ta jeeaghyn er Sky News as t'eh ny smoo na adsyn ta jeeaghyn er MTV ny Eurosport.

Shoh stashoonyn nagh vel cooney monney lesh bea sheshoil (social), bea chultooroil ny bea-argidys ayns Nerin er chor erbee. As cha nod jehi as feed sy cheead jeh ny cummaltee fakin TnaG noadyr. Son shickrys, ta Cathal Goan gra, yn earroo jeeusyn ta jeeaghyn er TnaG, t'eh injil casley reus ny earroyn ta jeeaghyn er clareyn veih stashoonyn mooarey va currit er bun bleecantyn er dy henney. Agh shegin da gagh stashoon noa jannoo caggey dy chosney lughtyn-jeeaghyn. Ayns y Vretin Vooar, ta Ammyr Queig (Channel 5) er roshtyn 3.5 sy cheead lesh doilleid mooar. Shoh stashoon ta gymскеaylley ayns Baarle rish sleih Baarlagh.

Ta caaryn elley ec TnaG, y politickeyr Maire Geoghegan-Quinn ny mast'oc. T'ee goaill moyrn dy ghra dy row ish y chied shirveishagh-reiltys dy reaghey (ayns 1992) cur er bun stashoon Yernish. Ta sleih dy liooar ayn, t'ee gra, ta gra dy vel TnaG costal argid mooar as, ansherbee, cha nel Yernish ec monney sleih. Ta'n daa red shoh

aggairagh - ta Sianel Pedwar (yn chirveish-chellveeish ayns Bretnish) costal mysh £80 millioon gagh blein cosoyllit rish £16 millioon son TnaG. As, coardail rish towse va jeant ayns 1996, ta 41 persoon sy cheead ayns Pobblaght Nerin gra dy vel Yernish oc. Cha nel clareyn TnaG goll er jannoo nyn lomarcan son sleih ta flaoil ayns Yernish. Va TnaG currit er bun dy vooadaghey'n earroo jesusyn ta loayrt Yernish: ta fo-heidylynn ec y chooid smoo jeh ny clareyn.

Ta Geoghegan-Quinn smooïnaghtyn nagh vel eh ny red olk dy vel clareyn ennagh veih TnaG ayns Baarle. Ta shoh tayrn sleih gys y stashoon, t'ee gra. Ta Geoghegan-Quinn guee er colughtyn-chellveeish, colughtyn-caabyll as sleih ta clou fys mychione clareyn-chellveeish dy chooney lesh TnaG sy tra ry-heet. Bee dussanyn dy h-ammyryn-chellveeish ry-gheddyn kyndagh rish chagnoaylleaght bun-earrooagh (digital technology). Ta'n gaue ayn dy bee ny chied crammanyn kinjagh currit da stashoonyn RTE as BBC as bee TnaG kiart heese y list, dyn monney geill currit da. Ta Geoghegan-Quinn shirrey er sleih dy chur TnaG faggys da mullagh y list dy chur fys da'n lught-jeeaghyn dy vel eh ayn, as dy chur fys daue mychione ny clareyn ayns Yernish.

Erskyn ooliley, ta Geoghegan-Quinn gra dy vel TnaG son y sheeloghe shoh cheet ayns Nerin. Reddyn ta boirey orryms, shen y faghtys (*campaign*) ta gra dy nhegin da TnaG 'sauail yn chengey Yernagh' as yn eab dy chosney lught-jeeaghyn smoo dy ghra dy vel TnaG 'speeideilagh'. Lesh y lheid jeh Rupert Murdoch prowla dy reill harrish y seihl, bee ny noidyn jeh TnaG kinjagh gobbal dy vel e lught-jeeaghyn mooar dy liooar. As cuin vee ny noidyn jeh Yernish dy bragh arryltagh dy ghra dy vel ee 'er ny sauail'? Tra vee elephantyn getlagh, foddee.

Orree Crennell

On any reasonable terms, the Irish language television station, Teilifis na Gaeilge, has made an excellent start. By definition, it will be impossible to silence all its critics, especially those who want the language dead and buried.





Appeal

Phil Gawne, the Greinneyder (Development Officer for Manx Gaelic), would like to hear from anyone with information, reports, development plans, letters and the like which outline the ways in which the other Celtic languages are being regenerated, as well as give an understanding of how the various Governments and language groups work together. He would be grateful for any information, even a few names he could contact would be of great help.

Anyone wishing to contact Phil Gawne can write to him at Thie Vaddrell, Cregneash, Mannin, IM9 5PT. e-mail: greinney@enterprise.net.

Phillie Beg

Much Inclin'd to Music. Manx Music up till 1918, Fenella Crowe
Bazin £11.99, Manx National Heritage Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LY.

Although this survey is apparently aimed at a school audience it draws together in one place what knowledge has previously been scattered in many books, publications and archive material. It also adds much and expands what has already been known. It takes an inclusive view of all forms of music known to have been practised on the island, largely by amateurs.

Although the Manx people are by no means unique in their love of music, this book illustrates the uniquely Manx way in which this love was manifested. It shows how choral and vocal music played a large part in the past, as indeed it does today. It brings out also the way in which the musicians adopted tunes and instruments and shaped them to their own taste.

The text is supported by a wealth of photographs and reproductions of archive evidence. There are also line drawings, sometimes comical, illustrating scenes about which much is known though, unfortunately no pictorial evidence exists.

This book will serve us well if it confirms and expands that growing confidence of the nation in its own worth. It is important also in informing this generation about the large part music has always played in the social life of the Island.

Colin Jerry

FEAILLEY GHAELGAGH

Feailley Gaelgagh will be held this year from 21st-28th, November, and it is envisaged that this year's festival will be run on similar lines to last year's. There will be concerts, ceilis, lectures, workshops and music sessions, as well as exhibitions and competitions.

This will be the fourth year we've had such a 'Feailley', and the general idea of it is to promote an awareness of the significance of Manx Gaelic to our culture and nation and to increase the number of people learning and speaking Manx. By having a week of events we are able to attract the interest of most people living in the Isle of Man, many of whom have little or no knowledge of Manx. The 'Feailley' also gives those of us who are working to promote and develop Manx a chance to celebrate our achievements.

For a community of only a few hundred speakers it is good to know that there is a greater Gaelic speaking world. It is important, therefore, for Manx speakers to establish links with Gaelic speakers in Ireland and Scotland; indeed many of the recent initiatives for Manx have come from ideas gathered from our Gaelic neighbours. So as with previous years musicians and singers from Scotland and Ireland will be supplementing the considerable Manx musical talent.

This year more than ever I believe that visitors will be enthralled by the music, singing and dance as the standards in Manx traditional music are currently extremely high and a number of acclaimed singers and musicians will join us from Scotland and Ireland. The arts will be more involved with this year's Feailley as competitions and exhibitions with a Gaelic theme have been organised.

More information from Philip Gawne at the address shown in *Appeal* (this page)

Philip Gawne

new manx language video

This summer saw the launch of the first professionally produced video shot entirely in the Manx language. Though by no means the first film of this nature (Foillan Films produced several short cine films in Manx during the 70s and 80s), it represents a step forward in that a professionally produced video in Manx is now generally available.

Entitled *Yn Turrys Taggloo* (The Talking Tour), it is hosted and narrated by Dr. Brian Stowell. The theme is that he is supposed to walk from *Kione ny h'Ayrey* (the northern tip of the island) to *Yn Cheylllys* (the southern extremity overlooking the Calf of Man) meeting and talking to other *Gaelgeyryn* (Manx speakers) on the way.

The film includes a little historical

information and interesting bits and pieces of general information about the Island and its history from each person spoken to.

The film is not intended for beginners, nor is it an educational video in respect of the language: It is a video in Manx for Manx speakers, though students will find listening to it very useful. There is a continuity problem on a couple of occasions when the best shots have been taken from different takes and put together, but it doesn't unduly spoil the video and at £14.99 a copy for the 55 minute film, I would say that it is reasonably priced.

The film was commissioned by *Caarjyn ny Gaelgey* (a Manx language support charity) and produced by Duke Video Ltd. with financial assistance from the Manx Heritage Foundation.

Copies may be obtained by writing to: Duke Marketing Ltd., PO Box 46, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Gaelic Group for Tiny Tots

A second Manx Gaelic play-group may be established in Ramsey.

Mooijer Veggey, the Bradden-based play-group, is hoping that a parents and tots group will be established in the northern town later this year.

A spokesman said: 'A number of people from Ramsey and the north have

expressed an interest in sending their children to a Manx Gaelic play-group, but find the distance to our group at Bradden school house too far.

'Establishing a parent and tots group will be the first step towards a Manx Gaelic play-group for the north'.

Tax Clampdown?

Not While the Culture of Secrecy Prevails

Despite the revelations of the level of deposits concealed in British off-shore centres it seems likely that British government action to control the centres will be limited.

The sections of the Edwards report leaked in the UK Guardian in late September seem to indicate that if the British proceed at all it will be with caution. Many of the areas that Edwards identifies as presently open to abuse are already being addressed by the authorities in Channel Isles and Isle of Man in a desperate attempt to stave off outside intervention. It appears, that in one of the areas, off-shore companies, already notorious for abuse Edwards will stop short of recommending that they be forced to publicly identify their directors. Edwards is reported as concluding "Some customers of the islands would move their business elsewhere if they felt their affairs would not remain confidential". Indeed!

Edwards seems to have completely missed the point that it is the very secrecy surrounding many of the activities in the off-shore territories that encourages the "dirty money" and money laundering that tarnishes legitimate business.

The Celtic League has long been a critic of the operation and regulation of off-shore centres and the finance centres in London and Dublin.

In correspondence to the British and Irish governments over recent years we have criticised the failure of the authorities in the territories to name banks which have been found to have handled suspect funds. Earlier this month the Garda Síochána criticised financial institutions in Ireland and questioned if they "were serious about assisting" (the Garda) in combating the problem. The main difficulty for enforcement agencies is the confidentiality surrounding most transactions which can traverse several jurisdictions in a matter of minutes.

Now, even "post Edwards" it seems that culture of secrecy will be allowed to prevail.

J B Moffatt

Jack Irving Nationalist - an Obituary

Jack Irving, who died on the 30th September, was a modest, retiring man whose quiet demeanour belied the charismatic role he played in the Manx national cultural and political movement from the late 1920s.

Jack, with many others, was initiated into the national movement through the Manx youth organisation, Aeglagh Vannin and was strongly influenced by the late Mona Douglas.

He was involved in both the cultural and political side of the movement at a time when it was not politic to expressly identify with the Nationalist cause.

When the Manx Nationalist Party was founded in 1964 Jack soon joined as an active committee member and subsequently chaired public meetings of the embryonic political party.

In those days Mec Vannin attracted almost vitriolic opposition which Jack shrugged to one side and in order to establish the credibility of the fledgling party he initiated talks with the Island's Governor, then still an anarchic figure, which took place on the morning of 14th July 1967. He also unsuccessfully contested a House of Keys by-election in Peel for the party in its formative years.

Jack's involvement in nationalist politics extended to support for the more radical Fo Halloo in the seventies where his experience and supportive influence were important. He weathered many splits and schisms in Mec Vannin that saw others fall away and at the time of his death was life President of the Party.



Jack Irving, R.I.P.

His contribution to was not however narrow nor parochial as he also played a significant role in the Inter Celtic movement, being an active member of both the Celtic Congress and the Celtic League serving as an official in the national branches of each organisation. He was the first Manx Celtic League Secretary and served in this position until the mid seventies. He was especially heartened by the recent moves in Wales and Scotland and the new freedom in Ireland. The moves towards devolution in these countries were a vindication of his lifetime commitment, which he was fortunate to live and see.

Behind the public role Jack Irving was a warm and considerate man. Many now involved in the Manx language and cultural or political scene received active encouragement from him and a small band of other Manx men and women who were driven by an overriding national pride in both the Manx nation and the Celtic race.

Jack Irving Manninagh dooie (A true Manxman) died 30th September 1998.

Manx Gaelic Summer School

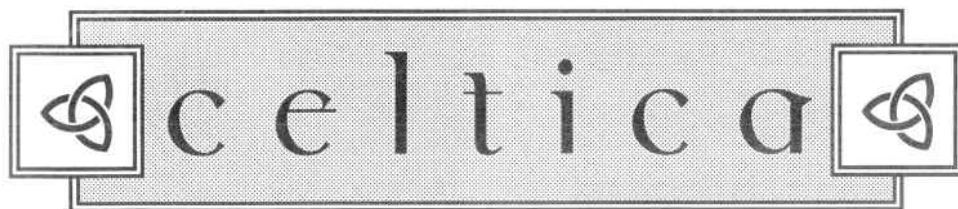
The eighth annual Manx Gaelic summer school was held in the Manx Museum, Douglas, under the auspices of *Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh* (Manx Gaelic Society) from 27 July to 7 August. Students from Sweden, Italy, Ireland, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man attended the course, which catered for those with a fairly extensive knowledge of Manx as well as for beginners.

The course this year was based on material used in teaching for the General Certificate in Manx (*Teisht Chadjin*

Ghaelgagh), a qualification which a significant number of those attending the summer school will be taking in the autumn.

As well as enabling students to learn Manx, the summer schools raise the profile of Manx generally and strengthen much needed links with the other Celtic countries.

Information on the 1999 summer school can be obtained from Brian Stowell, 16 Hilary Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles (e-mail: bstowell@mcb.net).



North Americans for the Breton Language

The ICDBL was first established in 1975 in Brussels, Belgium, to support the repeated demands of Bretons that their native language be given the recognition and place in the schools, media, and public life of Brittany that it needs to survive. The ICDBL was founded by and continues to count on the support of non-Bretons who show through their membership that, while the future of the Breton language does not directly concern them, it is a matter of world importance.

The US Branch of the ICDBL was founded in 1981 and publishes a quarterly 35-page newsletter called **Bro Nevez** (primarily in English with some Breton and French). Membership includes a subscription to **Bro Nevez** (\$18 for voting membership; \$17 for non-voting membership). Or one can subscribe without being a member (\$15 for US/Canada; other destinations: \$20 surface mail; \$25 airmail). The US ICDBL also publishes a

number of "working papers" and guides on the Breton language, music, and history. Contact: Louis Kuter, US ICDBL, 169 Greenwood Ave., B-4, Jenkintown, PA 19046, USA. Telephone: (215) 886-6361.

In January 1998, a **Canadian Branch of the ICDBL** was relaunched. This 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 US 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.

Show your support for the Breton language by becoming a member of the US or Canadian Branch.

Liga Celta de Argentina

This association has for the past few years organised three Celtic festivals in Buenos Aires, called Póitín after the strong illegal Irish brew (the name has now changed to Potim). They have issued a cassette in which Scottish pipeband music plays a prominent part. They have sent me a copy of an *Ensayo de Gramática del Celtico Antiguo Común* (Grammar of Old Celtic) by Higinio Martínez Estévez. This book of 143 pp. consists of 50 chapters (11 devoted to declensions), clearly set out, including also a prologue explaining how these lessons arose from comments and observations relating to the Celtic languages which the author felt impelled to make in his course of Galician-Portuguese lectures given at the Argentine Institute of Galician Culture over a period of 20 years.

It should be extremely interesting for all those who read Spanish and are keen to know the background of the Celtic languages to see how much they have evolved over 2000 years or more. There is a 5 page index of the words used in the lessons. The work refers to prominent Celtologists such as A. Holder, R. Thurneysen, J. Pokorny, A. Tovar, Vendryes, H. Lewis and H. Pedersen, etc... No indication is given as to price or availability from retail dealers.

The Liga Celta is also anxious to cooperate with the Celtic League as well as with people of Celtic origin in Argentina. The address given is that of its president, Manuel Castro, Saenz 2279, CP. 1832, Lomas de Zamora, Prov. of Buenos-Aires.

A.H.

FOR 'BRITISH' READ 'CELTIC' ?

For some time I have found the geographical description 'British Isles' to be both irritating and inaccurate. Its inaccuracy is at least two-fold - firstly, because over three-quarters of the island of Ireland is officially not 'British', with a further substantial number of those living in the North of Ireland choosing to formally reject the term 'British' in describing themselves. Secondly in the fact that independently-run Mannin, another of the so-called 'British Isles', is also not part of 'Great Britain'. Irritation with the term lies primarily in its implicit assumption of a homogeneity of culture and identity across this region, as indeed does the phrase 'British' itself. This assumption is clearly inaccurate - we all know that the culture, language, history, shared experience and indeed 'mind-set' of the population of the South-East of England is totally incomparable to that of the people of Gwynedd or the Western Isles, for example. There is no single identity and culture across 'Britain', as the term unfortunately implies.

Every one of the countries/self-governing units within the 'British Isles' (Éire north and south, Alba, Cymru, Mannin and England) has an indigenous Celtic history, culture and identity (in the case of England, limited to Kernow in modern times), yet at the same time not all are 'British'. Therefore - a more accurate, respectful and indeed suitable phrase to describe this collection of islands would be the term 'The Celtic Isles'. In fact, when one considers that even the word 'Britain' originates from the name of a Celtic chief, the phrase 'Celtic Isles' appears even more apt.

Any break-up of the 'UK' as a political unit could necessitate the formal adoption of a new term for these islands. Rather than wait for some anglo-centric academic to devise the formal title for our collective nations in the wake of that eventuality, the Celtic League should seize the initiative now and campaign for the adoption of the title 'The Celtic Isles' (or another such name) as a more politically, culturally and historically accurate description of these islands.

Steve Bradley

BROAD AGENDA AT CELTIC LEAGUE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Those who died at Omagh on the 15 August were remembered as delegates stood in silence at the conclusion of the Celtic League AGM held in Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, Éire.

Delegates from the Celtic countries debated a range of resolutions and proposals which will be given effect over the next twelve months.



During the day the General Secretary, B. Moffatt, laid a wreath at the monument erected in Ráth Cúil by the local 1798 Committee this year.

Resolutions

- Recognising the importance of Radio nan Gaidheal to Gaelic and to the Gaelic community, this AGM calls upon the BBC to:

- (a) Increase the funding of Radio nan Gaidheal to enable it to become a full time radio station, and
- (b) To ensure that Gaelic radio becomes available in all parts of Scotland as soon as possible.

- In view of the importance of broadcasting to the well-being of Gaelic, this AGM calls upon the Minister for Gaelic to:

- (a) Restore the £500,000 taken from the Gaelic broadcasting fund, and
- (b) To protect the level of the Gaelic broadcasting fund against inflation.

- This AGM calls upon Border Television to broadcast Gaelic (Gàidhlig and Gaelg) Television programmes.

- This AGM, contrasting the fairly enlightened attitude of most member states of the EU with that of France towards the demand for official recognition by their minority peoples:

- Views with grave concern the recent adoption by the French National Assembly of a reform of the system of election to the Regional Councils which (a) practically rules out the possibility for the Breton parties (among other small political groups) to get any candidate elected to the regional Councils in the foreseeable future.

- Denounces this reform as the latest step to prevent the political expression of a growing sense of Breton identity.

- Expresses, in a spirit of intercultural solidarity, the hope that the Breton parties taking part in regional elections will consider more seriously the need, at least at election times, to agree a common programme likely to win the widest support possible and so obtain the minimum percentage of the vote to achieve representation on the regional councils.

- This AGM, knowing well how reasonable the demands of the Bretons are for measures to enable their Celtic language to live:

- Wishes to express its utter reprobation of the attempt by the Mayor of Kemper to cast discredit on the Breton language movement by alleging that some of its members subscribe to an "Aryan theory of one language, one territory".

- Finds it amazing that he approves the article of the French Constitution which declares that French is the (only) language of the Republic, precisely an illustration of the theory he referred to.

- Acknowledges that the report which he has recently submitted to the French Prime Minister about the place to be given to Breton and the other minority languages within the State contains several positive recommendations but fails to form the basis of a policy for the restoration of these languages.

- This AGM draws attention to the fact that Brittany in its historic limits constitutes a region of average size and population among the EU regions.

- Views it as being in the Breton interest to have it recognised as a constituency in European elections.

- Opposes any proposal to incorporate it in a Grand Ouest region devoid of identity.

- In the light of the experiences of movements in the other Celtic countries, the Ard-Fheis advises Plaid Cymru against changing the name of the party to be bilingual viz. "Plaid Cymru - the Party of Wales".

- This AGM of the Celtic League calls on the Irish and Manx governments and the forthcoming Scottish and Welsh assemblies to use their contacts in the new British-Irish Council to work towards the inter-Celtic Confederation envisaged by the Celtic League.

Similarly we would call on all public representatives from the Celtic countries to avail of contacts within other forums such as the EU to promote inter-Celtic cooperation and an inter-Celtic federation.

- This AGM calls on the Irish government to honour and supplement its financial commitment to the Co. Louth residents opposing the Thorp project through the courts.

- This AGM draws attention to the attempts of the British government to dilute as much as possible the commitment given in the Northern Ireland Agreement to development of the Irish language in the North. It calls on the British government to honour its commitments and on the Irish government to ensure these are implemented to the maximum.

- That the Manx Government should take immediate and active action to recognise the important central position of the Isle of Man within the three Gaelic and six Celtic speaking countries, and commence a programme promoting the linguistic, cultural and intellectual links between such countries.

That the Manx Government should take the initiative and provide funding for a permanent centre to be constructed in the geographical focus of the Isle of Man.

That an administrative body should be created to oversee such a centre and to foster even closer cultural and linguistic ties between the Gaelic and Celtic speaking communities with particular regard to their language, heritage, education, broadcasting and cultural aspects – culminating in the foundation of a "Celtic College in Mann." That the funding of such a project should begin as part of the "Millennium Initiative."

- That the Manx Government should incorporate "Mannin" on all future coinage, paper money and postage stamps issued in the Isle of Man.

- This AGM calls upon the UK government to ensure that Cornwall is given equal treatment with Scotland and

(contd overleaf)



Part of the Irish delegation

Wales with regard to constitutional and Cultural matters. (In particular we oppose the trend towards "Devonwallisation" of Cornish institutions and emergency services).

- This AGM calls on the UK government to ensure that Cornwall, along with the other Celtic Nations, is included and covered fully under the provisions of the "Framework convention for the Protection of National Minorities" which came into force of law 1st May 1998.

- This AGM calls on the UK Office of Statistics to include Cornish as an ethnic classification along with Scottish, Welsh and Irish on the 2001 UK census and to ignore the misguided decision of Cornwall Council not to press for Cornish as an ethnic classification.

- This AGM of the Celtic League calls upon her Majesty's Government to hold a referendum in Britain to decide whether the British people wish to continue Britain's claim to Northern Ireland.

- This AGM of the Celtic League calls upon Her Majesty's Government to institute equal rights for the Irish and English languages throughout the United Kingdom while Northern Ireland remains part of the UK.

- This AGM of the Celtic League condemns the sickening atrocity at Omagh.

The answer is to convict, by due process of the law, those actually responsible for the atrocity and not to punish innocent people by innuendo, slander, libel, imprisonment, internment or loss of the right to travel.

- This AGM welcomes the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's statement of his intention to develop political, commercial and cultural links between Ireland and Scotland within the framework of the Council of the Isles due to be set up under the terms of the Belfast Peace Agreement!

- Urges the Irish Government to give attention to the development of similar links with the Isle of Man and Wales via their own institutions.

- Expresses the wish that Ireland, Mannin, Scotland and Wales would jointly look for ways to give all the support possible to Brittany and Cornwall in their efforts to maintain their identities and their languages.

- Applauds the decision of the Irish Government to establish Consulates General in Alba and Cymru and urges the establishment of similar consular representation in the other Celtic countries (Kernow, Mannin).

- This AGM views with concern the activities of the paramilitary police force of Spain in the area of the southern Basque country and in particular condemn the murder of Inaxi Zeberio who was shot dead by police in suspicious circumstances during a police raid on her apartment in Gernika on June 5 1998.

- This AGM expresses its concern that intimidation and abuse of prisoners is routinely undertaken by Spanish security forces against those remanded in custody as a result of the on-going war between Spain

and nationalists from the area of the Southern Basque country and in particular calls for an enquiry by the European Parliament into allegations that two female prisoners Maite Pedrosa and Cristina Gete were subjected to horrendous abuse of both a physical and sexual nature whilst held incommunicado at the Civil Guard headquarters (Madrid) in June 1998.

(Note Civil liberties groups in the Basque country documented 83 cases of alleged abuse and ill treatment of detainees in the first half of 1998).

- This AGM

- (a) condemns the Spanish government for breaching **Article 19 of the Int. Covenant of Civil and Political Rights** and **Article 10 of the European Convention of Human Rights** by its closure of the Basque language newspaper *Egin* and the Basque radio station *Egin Irratia* and the subsequent imprisonment of staff who worked for the two media outlets.

- (b) instructs the Celtic League Secretary General to protest this extreme censorship of the legitimate aspirations of Basque language and culture to both the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Secretary General of the United Nations.

- Recognising the importance of academic links between the Celtic Countries and European Universities this AGM expresses its concern at plans by the authorities at the Humboldt University, Berlin to delete the Chair of Celtic Studies.

Aware that this is the only such Chair in the whole of Germany and being conscious of the long tradition and connections of Celtic Studies at Humboldt University instructs the Celtic League Secretary General to mount a sustained campaign to ensure the retention of the Chair of Celtic studies at Humboldt.

- This AGM supports the efforts being made by residents organisations in the S. Armagh area to combat the social and environmental problems caused by the large number of military installations in that area.

Calls on the Irish Government to use the facility of the Inter Governmental Conference to ensure the British Ministry of Defence responds positively to the residents concerns.

ETA - A Bold Initiative

It is not enough to welcome the decision of Basque nationalist group ETA to declare a ceasefire. The unique opportunity the decision affords to resolve permanently the Basque peoples' legitimate right to self-determination should be vigorously supported.

Predictably the Spanish government's reaction has been disappointingly negative and it will require the pressure of all Spain's EU partners to ensure that the opportunity for a lasting peace settlement is not missed.

In this context the Celtic League will be continuing the campaign we began, some years ago, of lobbying EU governments to assist the process.

The historic step taken by ETA is understandably being linked to developments in N. Ireland and it is without question the example of that process and the close links between Basque and Irish nationalists that have assisted in creating the initiative.

Both conflicts have been bitter and protracted and both have illustrated the failure of superior military and financial resources deployed by the British in Ireland and the Spanish in the Basque country to defeat the independence movements led by the IRA and ETA. Realisation in Ireland that a dangerous stalemate was developing led the IRA to announce its first cease-fire. The Celtic League immediately praised that decision and attracted immediate condemnation from those whose agenda is continued conflict and the denial of self-determination for Europe's minority peoples.

We have no hesitation in giving equal endorsement to ETA's decision to that which we gave in 1994 when the IRA generated the political initiative to end the spiral of violence in Ireland, but undoubtedly there will be interests that wish to frustrate the Basque peace movement. Spain's obduracy is to be expected but more ominous is the silence of the French government. The French know that their ability to hold back the aspirations of national groups in Brittany and Corsica will be seriously comprised by moves to achieve Basque independence. Independence for the provinces in the southern (Spanish) Basque country is inconceivable if it does not take with it the French-dominated provinces in the north. France will bitterly oppose any such moves and it, as much as Spain, should be the focus of pressure at this time.

Developments to promote peace and security in Europe are ushering in an era of unprecedented opportunity for a wide

range of national minorities across the continent. The old agenda of the repressive "nation States" i.e. Spain, France and the United Kingdom should not be allowed to obstruct the road to freedom.

J B Moffatt

General Secretary, Celtic League
(Editors note: see AGM resolutions on Basque struggle)

Celtic League

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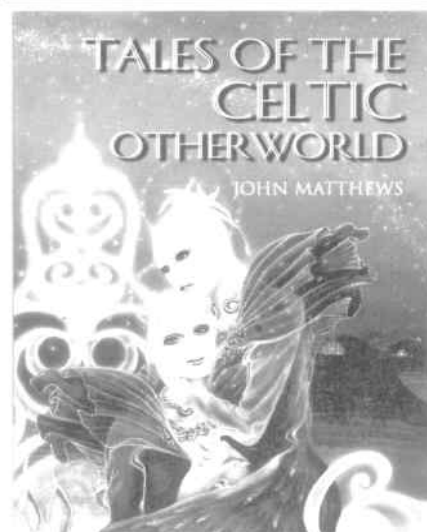
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Uaine le snaidhm ór a' Chomainn
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For further information contact
the Alba Branch Secretary
(addr. Pg 24)

Yann Fouéré Foundation

A foundation named after Yann Fouéré was set up in 1991 in Jersey, in accordance with the local Anglo-Norman legislation, with the aim of a) conserving historical documents which are or will be entrusted to it by Breton individuals, cultural organisation or political movements; b) creating of a font of documentation and of a library relating to the history of Brittany which may be accessible to research workers; c) awarding prizes to the authors of works published in French or in English or translated in either of these languages from any Celtic language, provided they concern the history of Brittany, past or present and its future place in Europe.

The foundation is constituted as a civil building society, based in the offices of Me. P. Le Person, notary, Yffiniac, Côtes-d'Armor, who will administer its premises at Nr 21 Place Duguesclin, Saint-Brieuc. It has already a collection of books, publications and diverse documents, most of which come from Yann Fouéré's library.



Tales of the Celtic

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Matthews, illustrated by Ian
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Information from Cassell Publicity UK
Tel: 0171 4205594.

Celtic Connections

The Ancient Celts, their Traditions and Legacy by David James and Simant
Bostok, Blandford, ISBN 0 7137 2750 0,
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An ideal introduction to Celtic origins, history and legacy, this book brings together the story of the Celtic peoples in Europe in a delightful and informative blend of text, illustration and photographs. Packed with historical, spiritual and aesthetic facts *Celtic Connections* tells of their origins, expansion across the continent and into the British Isles, their achievements and monuments to their ongoing legacy.

Further information:
Tel: UK 0171 420 5561

Bratrstvo Keltú, meaning 'Brotherhood of Celts', is an association whose members are interested in studying the part played by the Celts in the history of the Czech nation and in the culture (music, arts, etc.) of the present Celtic nations (they include Galicia and the Asturias).

The address is Prokopská 3, 11000 Prag. Membership numbers 500 in the Czech Republic. Activities are relayed to them via a quarterly journal, Zpravodaj. This provides information on Czech and World Celtic events, on music and books.

Every year since 1995, the Bratrstvo has organised on April 30/May 1 a big festival of Celtic culture called Beltine, lasting all night and the following morning. Three of the members are studying Cornish with the Kernewek Dre Lyther correspondence school which is run by Ray Edwards with exemplary dedication.

A.H.

CELTIC LEAGUE INTERNET SITE

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AL LANV, quarterly magazine in Breton, 50 pages. 59 Hent Kerdroniou Vihan, 29000 Kemper. Subscription 180 F but outside State 220 F

This periodical is a good deal younger than **AL LIAMM** having been launched in 1997. It deals with politics, literature, history, economics but it often carries also travel accounts.

AL LANV, in its editorial, expresses satisfaction at the progress of our language in its written form (including road signs) but concern at the frequent failure to use it in public life, even at festivals organised in its favour. This must be remedied if it is not to become a matter of folklore!

GWENN HA DU, bimonthly in French. 28 pp. Subs. to J. Le Maho, 190 bis, Ave. de Clichy, 75017 Paris. 150 F but outside State 170 F

In this nationalist periodical, the articles of historic interest are frequently the most important. In the July-Aug. issue an extract of the memoirs of the historian Abbé Poisson, relating his detention in a camp near Rennes in 1945 is particularly interesting. Th. Jigourel gives a different view of the Padanian movement for self-government from that generally expressed in the French papers. The text of a talk given by Yann Plunier at Toronto in 1978 tells us of the extent of the Breton immigration to Canada over the past 450 years. M. Janvresse proposes a Celtic vision for the future of the world rejecting capitalism and communism. He does not find much to inspire him in the willingness of the Celtic nations to submit to the influence of their (ex-) colonial masters.

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All those who agree with the constitution and aims of the Celtic League are eligible for membership. The membership fee (including *Carn*) and subscription rates are IR£10; Stg£10; 90FF or US\$20.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe Stg.£10 outside Europe Stg.£13.00 airmail.

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Original photographs must be forwarded.

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