

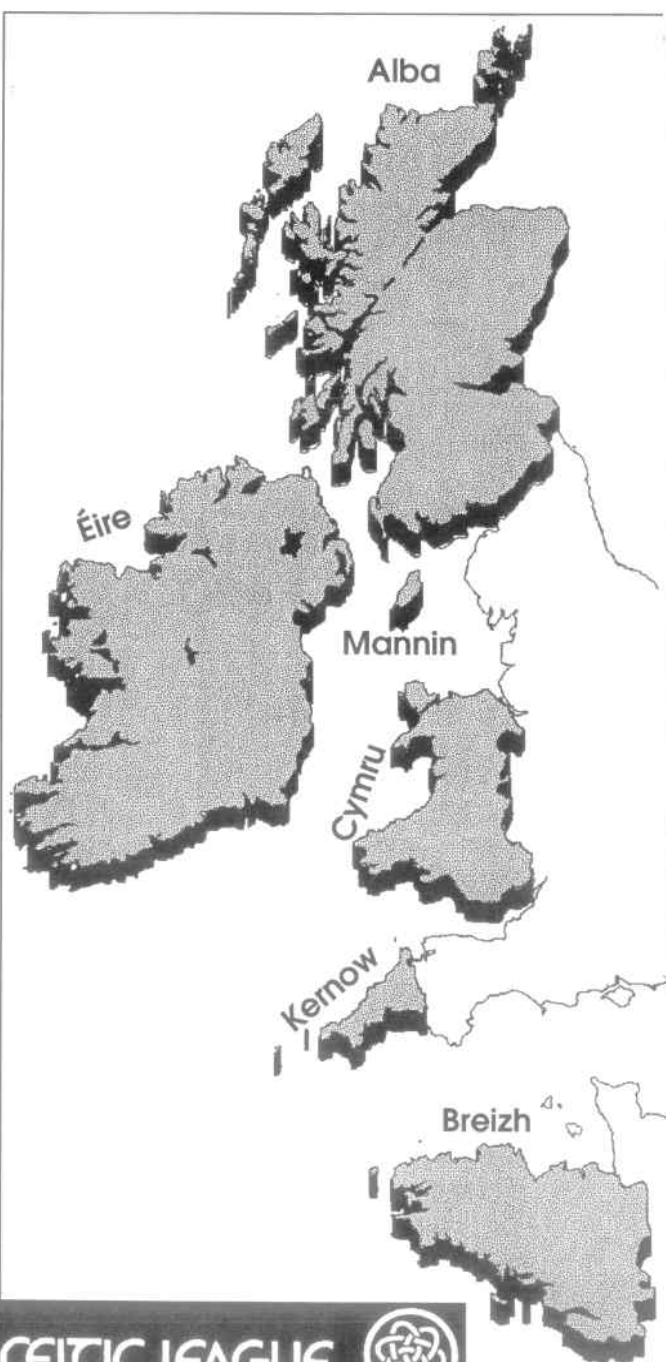
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A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

No. 108

Winter 1999-2000

£2.00



A TRIBUTE TO
ALAN HEUSAFF

RIP

1921-1999

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

CELTIC LEAGUE



Alan Heusaff

July 23 1921 – Nov. 3 1999

Alan Heusaff, a founder member and long time General Secretary of the Celtic League passed away in Galway on 3rd November 1999.

Alan was born in Sant-Ivi, Cornouaille in Breizh. He was a native Breton speaker and only learnt French when he went to school. Alan also spoke Irish, Gaelic, Welsh, German and English fluently and had a very good grasp of the other Celtic languages.

With a strong sense of cultural and political awareness of the colonial position of his country, Alan was active in cultural movements in his youth and joined the Breton National Party in 1938. He dedicated his energies to securing independence for Breizh. He saw the goal of cultural, social and economic independence as essential for the survival of the Breton people. Alan was one of the most prominent Breton nationalists of this century.

In 1943 Alan, aged twenty-two, joined the Bezen Perrot, a Breton military unit, to fight for Breton independence. Alan, like many other youthful Bretons at that time, saw an opportunity to end the French occupation of Brittany once and for all.

French hostility towards the Breton movement at the end of World War Two forced Alan to leave Breizh, along with other members of the Bezen Perrot, to eventually settle in Ireland. It was not only the Bezen Perrot that was singled out for harsh treatment, but the entire Breton movement. Imprisonment without trial, executions, ill treatment and suppression of basic human rights caused an international outcry against the French regime at that time.

Alan was sentenced to death *in absentia* by the French State. Nearly thirty years after, he was to benefit from an amnesty from the French government, but like many of the other Breton refugees, Alan did not return to Brittany to live because the French State was still as repressive as ever to the Breton national movement.

On settling in Ireland Alan, who had trained as a primary teacher after leaving school, studied maths/physics at University College, Galway, where he met his wife, Bríd Ní Dhochartaigh, from the Fanaid Gaeltacht in Donegal, from whom he learnt his Irish.

On graduation Alan joined the Irish Meteorological service and in 1958 he and Bríd moved to Dublin. Irish became the medium of the Heusaff family of four daughters and two sons. Alan, like Bríd, became a member of Conradh na Gaeilge and they were involved in the establishment of Na Teaghlaigh Ghaelacha, an organisation for Irish-speaking families, in 1960. In 1986, the then Irish President, Dr. Patrick Hillary, presented Alan with the

Pearse Award for his service to the ideals of Pádraig Pearse.

While he worked assiduously for his adopted country, he never ceased to promote the Breton language and to support the struggle of his native country for independence from France. In the 1960/70s Alan ran Breton language classes in Dublin. He was one of the most prolific journalists in Breton, editing *Argoad*, a Breton news bulletin, and *Breton News*. He was a frequent contributor to Breton language magazines including: *Hor Yezh*, *Galv*, *Bremàn*, *Gwalarn*, *Arvor*, *an Amzer*, and *Al Liamm*. He spent most of his later years involved in the preparation of *Geriadur Brezhoneg*, a pioneering Breton/Breton dictionary (1995). He also published an important work on the Breton language of his native area – *Geriaoueg Sant-Ivi* (1996). His memoirs, in Breton, are due to be published in the near future.

The Celtic League, an inspiration of Alan's, was formed in Rhos in Wales on August 9, 1961. Alan was elected General Secretary and held the post until 1984. When he retired from that post he became International Secretary of the League, a position he held until his death. He was involved in the establishment of *The Celtic League Journal*, published annually in the 1960s – early 70s and with the publication of *Carn* magazine from its beginnings in 1973. In 1984 the Celtic League, in recognition for his work for the League, published *For a Celtic Future – A Tribute to Alan Heusaff*. Alan also received recognition for his dedication to the Celtic movement when he was made a Bard at the Eisteddfod in Cymru in 1986.

Alan through his involvement in the Celtic League was involved especially with the Celtic language movements, always emphasising the absolute importance of the national language and culture to countries that were seeking self-determination. This did not, however, preclude him from establishing informal links with the Celtic movements in Galicia and Asturias, and with La Liga Celta de Argentina. Wherever an interest in the Celtic movement was shown, Alan worked to build on that interest; encouraging groups in Poland and as far away as Japan and Australia, to name but a few. Alan's influence, internationally, is evidenced by the tributes that continue to flow in, all expressing the sad sense of loss felt by groups who kept in touch with the Celtic movement through Alan.

Alan was a tireless campaigner for the Celtic countries and built a formidable reputation for the Celtic League on both an inter Celtic and International basis – a legacy we have to ensure is built upon.



A Sad Loss for the Celtic League

It is with great sadness that I find myself with the job of compiling this tribute in *Carn* to Alan.

I have worked closely with Alan since joining the League in 1974 and even more so since taking on the post of Editor in 1985.

I found Alan's help and guidance in compiling *Carn* invaluable. I was devastated when I heard that he had died - I had lost a friend and mentor.

Since *Carn* was first published in 1973 Alan has been a major contributor in all issues. Alan always ensured that there was enough material to fill the Breizh section and also sent in additional material to use elsewhere in *Carn*. His articles are testament to his deep understanding and knowledge on all aspects relating to the Celtic movement.

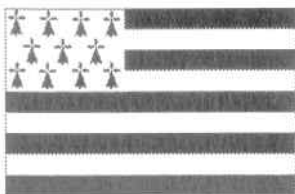
Carn will be poorer without Alan's excellent coverage of events in Brittany, which could always be relied on for accuracy and continuity. Political, educational and cultural developments etc in Brittany were meticulously chronicled in *Carn*. A rich source of information for those interested in learning about Brittany. We hope to work towards building up on the contacts Alan established, in order that the Breizh section will retain the high standard set by Alan.

Many tributes and articles have arrived in. I have endeavoured to include a variety of articles to indicate the loss felt by Celts worldwide. Unfortunately, there is not enough space to include all, some have been edited to show the many different aspects of Alan's achievements, while some indicate the personal influence Alan had on friends and acquaintances.

I would like to thank Bríd for giving a good selection of photographs to include in this issue.

My sincere condolences to Bríd and the family.

P.A. Bridson



Kenavo Alan

E-kerzh an hañv 1965 em eus kejet gant Alan Heusaff evit ar wezh kentañ tamm pe damm dre zegouezh. Va eil beaj en Iwerzhon e oa. Pedet e oan bet d'ober un droiad e Dulenn da weladenniñ Róisín Ní Shé ha Séamas Ó Tuama he gwaz, mignoned Mari-Jo Marot un emsaverer kalonek genidik eus Douarnenez a zalc'he ur stal arz en Naoned. He setu me kouviet da vont du-se ha da chom diwezhat diouzh an noz o c'hortoz distro o bugale hag o c'heneiled holl anezho kanerien, dañserien, pe sonerien mod Iwerzhon. Pedet oa bet ivez Alan ha Bríd e wreg. Dav eo en anzav e voen bamet ganto. Un den hegarat kenañ prest da selaou, da gompren, ha gouizie war un do. En e vleud e oa e-touesk an holl iwerzhonegerien a oa eno en ur gomz ouzhin e brezhoneg pe e galleg a-wezhioù rak ne oan ket barrek da doulañ kaoz nemet e brezhoneg d'ar marese. Bet on bet 3 gwezh c'hoazh da Vro-Iwerzhon e 1966, 1967 ha 1968, hag e 1970 ec'h asanten da vezañ sekretour Skourr Breizh ar C'hevre Keltiek diwar e c'houlenn. Spisaat a ris avat dezhañ ne vin nemet ur sekretour da c'hortoz hag e voen sekretour evit 9 bloaz!

Eveljust hon eus bet tro da gomz diwar-benn-perzh an Emsav e-pad an eil Brezel-Bed. Ne voe ket distroñs tamm ebet! Met un dra a zo sur e lusk pouezusañ dezhañ e-unan hag eus a-bell, e oa e garantez evit Breizh ha he fobl, ha n'eo ket un ideologiezh bennak. Nemetken un eveshaer didu a c'hellfe istim pouez folladenn divent brizh broadelouriezh jakobin ar Stad C'hall adalek 1870 (a gaso d'al lazhadeg ha d'an toull 240,000 a Vreizhiz) war zibabou pellañ un nebeut Emsaverien yaouank diwezhatoc'h. E-keit se e oa darn vrasañ ar Vreizhiz oc'h en em c'hallekaat buan ha buan hag o fellout dezho bezañ div wezh gall abalamour d'an douj dleet d'ar Re Varv. Kuzhet ma oa o istor dezho ha ken bras ar mall warno da vezañ sellet outo evel keodedourien wirion!

Chom a raio Alan feal da uhelvennad e yaouankiz "ober eus ar Vreizhiz ur bobl dizalc'h" ha se betek fin e vuhez. Un den speredek hag a galon e oa Alan. Gwelet en doa e oa un troc'h re zon etre ar Bobl ha penn-araog an Emsav broadel daoust ma oa didro ennañ!

En ur chom start war e zibabou e roe ton d'un emglev etre an holl Vreizhiz kar-o-bro forzh ma oa disrannerien, emrenerien,



Louis Feutren, Neven Henaff, Alan and Yann Goulet laying a wreath at the 1966 Jubilee Commemoration of the 1916 Irish uprising.

kevredadelourien, pe zoken rannvroelourien didro evit dont a-benn da lakaat ar Stad C'hall da blegañ war draoù diazez evel Unvanidigezh Breizh, an deskiñ hag ar c'helenn dre ar Brezhoneg, kelenn hon istor memes ma ne oa ket graet re vat ha ma oa evit daspugn ar brasañ niver a Vreizhiz ne oa ket diseblant war ar c'hudennoù a gevredigezh. Ar re o deus lennet aketus ar c'helaouenn "Ar Bed Keltiek" o deus bet tro d'en em rentañ kont. Betek e varv e chomas war evezh war pep degouezhadenn e Breizh, o kas pennadoù d'ar c'helaouennoù brezhonek, o reiñ e skoazell evit studiadennoù, o lakaat emsaverien Vreizh da c'houzout petra c'hoarvezhe er Broioù keltiek all! Dispar eo bet evit al labour-se er bloavezhioù 70, d'hon lakaat amañ e Breizh da reiñ sikour d'an Norzh-Iwerzhoniz ha dont a rae e labour da glokaat lizhiri ha troc'hadennou kelaouennoù a gase din ingal Cathal Ó Luain.

Eveljust e rae Alan kemend-all evit reiñ sikour d'ar Vreizhiz toullbac'het!

D'am soñj e oa e bal kentañ lakaat Breizh da vezañ anavezet evel ur wir vroad geltiek gant ar brasañ niver a Gelted Tramor evel m'en doa fiziet ennon.

Diriezh e vefe komz diwar-benn Alan hep ober anv eus Bríd e wreg, ur plac'h kalonek kenañ, digor frank he spered. A-bouez bras, hag evurus kenañ eo bet he levezon hag he c'henlabour evit Alan. Gant he harp dezhi eo deuet da lakaat e harlu diouzh ret da vezañ ur gwir penn-ober e servij an etrekeltiegezh! Moarvat he deus lakaet Alan ivez da sellout sioulloc'h hag objektiveloc'h ouzh stad Pobl Vreizh a-vremañ kement ha ma oa tu dezhañ d'hen ober. Ur gwir "Leon" a oa anezhañ!

Ur wezh am boa lavaret outañ en doa c'hañs da vevañ er C'honamara hag em boa gwelet diouzhtu liv an dristidigezh war e zremm. Forzh pegen tomm e oa e galon ouzh Iwerzhon, he fobl hag he yezh e spered a zistroe daved e vro c'henidik Sant-Ivi ha Bae Konk-Kerne.

Kenavo Alan!

Jakez Derouet

A Loss for Brittany and the Breton Language

It was with great sadness that I learnt of the death of Alan Heusaff on November 3rd. I can think of no one in the world who has done more than Alan to make Brittany and the Breton language known outside Brittany.

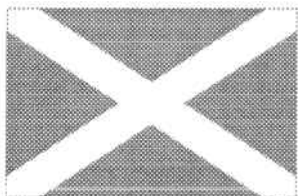
I met Alan Heusaff just twice, both times very briefly. I remember almost nothing of my first meeting in Dublin in December 1978 when I was in Ireland over the Christmas holidays. My second meeting was in New York when Alan spoke at the 10th Anniversary Conference of the US Branch of the Celtic League in May 1983. It was a very busy day and he was guest of honour with many people to meet. I never got to know Alan personally, but I will very much miss a long correspondence with him which began in 1974 when I was just discovering Brittany and preparing for a trip to explore future research there. During the past twenty-five years Alan's letters have been full of encouragement for the work I was doing and full of ideas and answers to my questions. He has been a generous teacher to me and always seemed to have a few provocative and challenging thoughts. In looking back over this correspondence, it is evident how very up to date he always was on events in Brittany, despite living in Ireland. The distance did not stop Alan Heusaff from being on top of everything that seemed to be going on, from political issues to cultural events, new books and music.

Alan's letters often began with an apology for being too busy to write a long letter. In looking back at his letters, however, most were at least a page long, and towards the end of letters the writing would often grow smaller and smaller to squeeze more in. There would often be a

postscript or two added, and a gentle but firm reminder when subscription money was due for Carn (I always seemed to be late with my check). Even when Alan tried to limit his notes to a smaller bit of paper, it was always jammed to the margins with information. While our correspondence became less frequent in the 1990s, it was always a pleasure to find a little note tucked into Carn. I know that Alan must have kept up a very large correspondence with friends in Brittany and all over the Celtic world, I feel privileged to have had the chance to exchange ideas and news with him.

Brittany can be grateful for the incredible work Alan did to educate Celtic cousins and non-Celtic friends of Brittany about his native land and language. His efforts to help forge inter-Celtic cooperation and to help people everywhere better understand Brittany, its history and unique culture have been nothing less than heroic.

Extracts from the Obituary Notice by Lois Kuter, Editor, Bro Nevez (Newsletter of the US Branch of the International Committee for the Defence of the Breton Language.)



*Alan Heusaff...
c6-bhr6n 6n
mheur Alba...*

Tha mulad, tha mulad
lion mhulad ro mhor sinn

Nuair a chaidh sinn agus an Spidéal ann an Eirinn air an siathamh latha den Shamhain bha sinn a' dol a chur blàth-fhleasg* air an uagh aig Alan Heusaff aig an tiodhlacadh aige.

O nach robh ar gaol dùrachadh aige air sgath dualachais is neo-eisimeileachd nan dùthchannan Cheilteach.

Bha fios againn gum bi e cuide ruinn ann an spiorad bhon a bha fios aige gum bi sinn dìleas don bhrosnachadh a rinne e cho dùrachadh air son na sia nàiseanan Cheilteach againn.

Ni sinn co-bhròn leis an teaghlach aige bhon a tha gaol is urram ró-mhór againn air cuideachd a-nis is gu brath.

*fhleasg (wreath)

**Risnìdh agus Louise
Comann Ceilteach Alba
(eadar-theangaichte le Gilleasbuig
Lachlainn)**

A Tribute to Alan

When I heard the news of Alan Heusaff's death it came as a great shock. Although we knew his health had been declining such was the level of his continuing work for the League that we did not expect a sudden death in such sad circumstances. He had been in regular contact regarding the Breton section of *CARN* and the International branch and had in fact initiated the process of a planned gradual disengagement, handing work over to a new International Secretary designate. He had also made arrangements for the

Bui the Irish speaking Club in Dublin where one of my functions was to look after our table selling Irish language books. Alan asked that we sell the Breton language periodical *Ar Bed Keltiek* which we were pleased to do of course. I'm sure he did not expect many sales, though we did sell a few, but he wanted a Breton language magazine on display. Alan recruited me into the League and asked me to take over as Irish Branch Secretary. Since then Alan was not only a comrade in the inter Celtic cause but a true friend.



Alan teaching Breton in Dublin, 1968

establishment of an archive for Celtic League material in the University of Aberystwyth in Wales and had sent most of his collection of papers there already.

Unfortunately, I was literally on the other side of the world and was not able to be present at his funeral to express my sympathy in person to his good wife Brid, his six children and their families. In the circumstances then I was very glad that so many of the General Council officers of the Celtic League were able to attend his obsequies and that delegations attended from other Celtic countries. Breton and Irish airs were played at the requiem mass. The coffin was draped in the Breton flag and the Breton national anthem was played at the graveside by Máire Breathnach. The graveside orations were given in Irish by Micheál MacAonghusa and in English by the League General Secretary, Bernard Moffatt.

I met Alan and Brid first thirty years ago. They came along regularly to *An Bunnán*

Over the years in working closely with Alan one saw his dedication to his own Breton language and culture, to his adopted Irish and to the general inter Celtic cause. In spite of his lifelong work for the Celtic League and the Breton language he not only learnt Irish and raised an Irish speaking family with Brid but was active also in promoting and working for the Irish language. Over the course of many years he was active in Conradh na Gaeilge, attended numerous Ard Fheiseanna and partook in a variety of campaigns.

Alan expended considerable effort in establishing the Celtic League and putting it on a sound footing. He remained a major influence in the debates, developments and new directions taken over the decades.

Alan was always the diplomat who listened to both sides of a debate and attempted to achieve a compromise, which still maintained principles. He was a copious correspondent and used a

consultative style to engage people. He gave freely of his advice to many who sought it, from students to university professors, and dispersed much knowledge on a range of matters concerning the Celts.

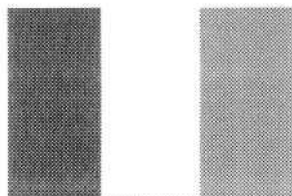
When Alan retired as Celtic League General Secretary, after some 23 years, it was a pleasure to have been associated with the production in his honour of *For a Celtic Future*, a collection of essays many written by those who worked alongside him in the League over the years. The suggestion for this came in fact from one of the younger generation of Bretons. Of course he took on the onerous task of International Secretary and continued as Breton sub-editor for the Breton section of CARN, continuing to write high quality material and ensured the Breton section was always one of the most interesting and varied in the magazine.

Most Bretons who valued their country and language made a point, if they visited Ireland, of seeking out his house where they, and indeed many from other Celtic countries, were always welcomed by himself, Brid and the family.

Alan had a good sense of humour and enjoyed good company. I well remember many a good evening with lively discussion and the best of hospitality. New Year's Eve of course was special. The house resembled the embassy of a Free Brittany on those nights, full of Alan's contemporaries and friends and with luck Alan would sing An Alar'ch before the end of the night!

Alan's loss is great but he has left much after him. Our sympathies go to Brid and his family. *Sonas siorraí dá anam uasal.*

Cathal Ó Luain



Aitheasc ag an Uaigh

A Bhrid, a chroí, a Kantilla, Niamh, Anna agus Éadaoin, a Eoghain agus a Dhiarmaid, is crá croí dúinn uile anseo bhur mbris.

Ba cheart gurbh é cathaoirleach an Chonartha Cheiltigh, Cathal Ó Luain, a dhéanfaidh an píosa cainte seo ach ar an drochuair tá sé ar chuairt ghnó san Astráil agus titeann an dualgas ormsa.

Is fada an bóthar é ó Sant-Ivi na Briotáine go dtí an uaigh seo i gConamara. Agus is fada an óidéise atá curtha de ag Alan Heusaff ó rugadh é in Sant-Ivi in aice le Kemper ar 23 Iúil 1921.

Oileadh é ina óige le bheith ina mhúinteoir agus marach tosa na staire d'fhéadfadh go mbeadh a shaol oibre caite aige ina oide scoile in Quimperlé nó áit éigin mar é. Níor éirigh le hAlan riamh gothaí an mhúinteora a chur de. Bhí sé i gcónaí pointeáilte. Bhí abairt amháin nár chualthas riamh ó Alan Heusaff. B'in an abairt "Déanfaidh sé cúis!" Ba shaihdhiúir é Alan tráth den saol. Níor chas mé riamh ar fhear a bhi chomh séimh, chomh lách, chomh cuirtéiseach le hAlan Heusaff agus ba mhinic a rith sé liom go raibh sé deacair a chreidiúint go raibh sé ina shaihdhiúir tráth, fiú ina throdair saoirse. Ach luaigh an sagart ag an aifreann ar maidin – dílseacht, díongbháilteacht, buanseasmhacht agus, dá ndéarfainn é, diansmacht.

Saibhriocht tír seo na hÉireann go mór i mBealtaine na bliana 1950 nuair a tháinig Alan Heusaff chun cónaí inár measc. Ba bhliain acadúil 1950-51 chríochnaigh sé cúrsa céime san fhisic, cúrsa a raibh tús curtha aige leis roimhe sin in Ollscoil Marburg sa Ghearmáin.

Ach tharla rud níos tábhachtaí d'Alan sa bhliain chéanna. Chas sé ar Bhrid Ní Dhochartaigh. As sin amach bhí lámh ag Brid i ngach a rinne Alan. D'fhoghlaim Alan Gaeilge go paiceanta agus thóg sé féin agus Brid seisear clainne le Gaeilge. Sna caogaidí, sna seascaidí, sna seachtóidí, sna hochtóidí agus sna nóchaidí ní raibh feachtais Gaeilge ann nach raibh páirt a bheag nó a mhór ag muintir Heusaff ann. B'iomdha eagraí imeachta a bhí in ann a rá: "Níl fhios agam cé mhéid duine a thiofadh ach beidh muintir Heusaff ann."

Ach níor thug Alan cúl ar an mBriotáin. Ar feadh dhá bhliana, idir 1957 agus 1959 dháiltí go forleathan sa Bhriotáin iris Bhriotáinse den teideal *Ar Goad*. Bhí sé ina rún ag an am gurbh é Alan Heusaff an foilsitheoir agus an t-eagarthóir. Ar feadh 12 bhliana, 1960-1972, d'fhoilsigh sé *Breton News*, nuachtlitir faoi chúrsaí polaitíochta, eacnamaíochta agus cultúir na Briotáine a scaiptí ar fud an domhain. Is dócha gur shíl go leor léitheoirí go raibh foireann mhór agus oifigí áirgiúla ag an gceannáras, 9 Bóthar Chnoc Síon, Droim Chonrach.

Chinn Alan Heusaff go mbunófaí eagraíocht pholaitiúil idir-Cheilteach a bheadh ina nasc idir na gluaiseachtaí náisiúnta sna tíortha Ceilteacha, Albain, An Bhreatain Bheag, An Bhriotáin, An Corn, Éire agus Manainn. Chuir sé an smaoineamh faoi bhráid daoine sa Bhreatain Bheag agus in Albain agus dá thoradh sin bunaíodh an Conradh Ceilteach ag Rhos-ar-Chrugog, in aice le Wrecsam, i Lúnasa 1961 le linn Eisteddfod náisiúnta na bliana sin. Bhí Alan ina ardrúnai ar an gConradh Ceilteach ó 1961 go 1985. Scriobh sé na mílte tuairiscí, meamrain agus litreacha a raibh pointeáltacht agus ardchaighdeán machnaimh iontu i gcónaí. B'fhada uaidh an meon "déanfaidh sé cúis." Fágann sé an Conradh Ceilteach agus fis an tsaoir-chomhlathais Cheiltigh ina n-oidhreacht againn.

Tugadh aitheantas do shaothar Alan Heusaff ar cheithre ócáid le linn a shaoil. D'fhoilsigh an Conradh Ceilteach *festschrift* den teideal *A Celtic Future*, curtha in eagar ag Cathal Ó Luain, in ómós dó. Glacadh leis ina chomhalta den chéim is airde in Gorsedd na Breataine Bige. Bhronn an tUachtarán Pádraig Ó hIghile Gradam an Phiarsaigh air, thar ceann Fhondúireacht an Phiarsaigh. Agus bronnadh air gradam bliantúil sa Bhriotáin mar aitheantas ar fheabhas agus ar thábhacht a scribhneoireacht Bhriotáinise.

A Alan, chaith tú saol an-iomlán, saol fiúntach, saol uasal. Tá tú ar ais anois i gcomhlúadar Iouan [Leonach] agus Neven [Henaff] agus na gcomrádaithe eile ón tráth sin fadó. *Kenavo! Breizh Atao!*

Micheál Mac Aonghusa
Reilg an Chnoic, 6 Samhain 1999



Alan, pictured here with Brid, Kantilla, Diarmaid and Anna, receives the Pearse Award from President Hillery, 1986



Cofio Alan Heusaff

Tristwch mawr i'r Undeb Celtaidd oedd y newyddion am farwolaeth Alan Heusaff ar y 3ydd o Dachwedd, a cholled sylweddol. Bu'n un o sylfaenwyr yr Undeb ym 1961, a bu'n weithgar iawn gyda'r mudiad ar hyd y blynyddoedd ers hynny. Yn frodor o Sant-Ivi, Bro-Gerne, Llydaw, ffodd i Iwerddon ar ôl yr Ail Ryfel Byd er mwyn dianc o'r erlid milain a fu ar genedlaetholwyr Llydaw gan y Ffrancwyr. Siaradai Lydaweg fel mamiaith, ac yn Iwerddon dysgodd Wyddeleg yn rhugl. Yr oedd ei frwdfrydedd dros ryddid i'r gwledydd Celtaidd a'u hichithoedd yn ddifflino, a llwyddai i gadw safbwynt cymedrol a chytbwys bob tro y byddai anghytgord yn codi yn yr Undeb ynghylch rhyw fater dadleuol.

Robat ap Tomos



Alan relaxes with Yuann Craff, Breizh Secretary and long-standing friend.
Celtic League AGM Cymru, 1997

Immeasurable loss for Pan Celticism

Alan's loss to the League and to the wider Pan Celtic movement is immeasurable. The Celtic League was his inspiration and his dynamism caused the meeting in August, 1961, at Rhos, in Wales, at which it came into being. His was the firm guiding hand which steered the League during its early years and formed its diverse components and differing personalities from the six nations into one cohesive movement that was central to the development of the modern Celtic consciousness. His place of prominence in the history of the Celtic struggle is assured.

Alan had been a supporter of earlier Pan Celtic movements, and in 1960 he proposed a more formal structure for Pan Celticists. 'The basic reason why I proposed the setting up of the organisation to a few correspondents,' he later wrote to me, 'was that in 1960-61 things were stirring in Brittany (farmers in revolt), which led me to hope that the (Breton) national movement might gain a new momentum. But this could lead again to French repression – it was important that in such an event, an organisation existed ready to mobilise international opinion, particularly among Celts anywhere in the world.'

The idea of an inter Celtic structure should (I thought) appeal to all Celtic nationalists since the Celts – each nation – were numerically small in the modern world and we have enough common points to be able to gain from maximising contacts and cooperation. It would have to be nationally minded, committed to the languages, neutral in religious matters (not to be a vehicle for a Celtic religion' either) – capable of rallying people with different views on social matters. It should involve its members, but at the same time aim at being a link between the national parties and organisations of the different countries'

Alan's contribution (to the League) was a major one. Yet he was essentially a modest man, a man who never rested on his laurels. His commitment to a reunited Ireland, for self-government for all the Celtic countries, moreover for the social, cultural and economic freedoms for all the Celtic peoples, never wavered. Only a full-length biography will ever do justice to his life and achievements.

Without Alan the Celtic League would not have survived into the 21st century; would not have achieved the success it has. For let no one tell you the League has not been successful. Oh yes; there are many things that need to be achieved; but just think back to what things were like in the early 1960s.

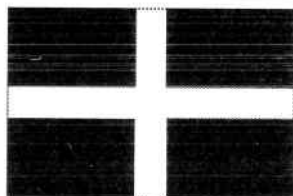
Dhe Alan

Enor bras yw ragov vy skrifu geryow berr yn kever Alan HEUSAFF. My re omvetyas ganso yn mis Hwevrer eus passyes yn An Spidéál ha my ow spena dy'goelyow yn Iwerdhon. Gwynn ow bys rag henna!

Den klor o Alan HEUSAFF na vostya bythkweyth yn kever y wransow ha sewenyansow. Dres y vywnans yth o ev skriyer, treylyer, yethador hag omsavor hag onan a'n hembrenkisi – an brassa hembrenkyas, dell grysav – a dhasserghyans an Omsav keskeltek!

Ytho ni a omvetyas yn An Spidéál yn mis Hwevrer eus passyes ha ni re gewsis dhe-hys yn kever an yeth Kernewek. Pur dhe les ova gans an yeth Kernewek hag yn arbennik yn kever Kernewek Kemmyn! Igor o y vrys dhe buptra ha henna o, martesen, y vrasa gnas, dell grysav!

My re dreylyas a-gynsow hwedhel an Mabinogion henwis "Hunros Maccen Wledig" ha my re dhannvonas dhodho onan a'm lyvrigow. Gwynn ow bys pan skrifas ev dhymm ow leverel: "lennet em eus an Hunros penn-da-benn kerkent ha



degouezhet. N'eus em c'herzh nemet ur geriadur Kerneveurek-Saoznec, hini Morton Nance, met n'em eus ket bet ezhomm kalz da sellout outañ, aes a-walc'h eo ar yezh evidon da gompren koulz lavaret kement ger ha troienn en danevell. Laouen e vefen o kaout pennadoù e Kernewek Kemmyn diganit evit Carn."

Pur dhe les ova gans treylyansow ha keschanjyow keskeltek. My re dreylyas korsow Kernewek Kemmyn dhe Vretonek a-gynsow mes soweth ny yll gweles an treylyans ma! Mes sur ov vy y vos lowen gans an treylyans ma! Ker dh'y golonn o treylyansow hag oberow a'n par ma!

Rag gorfenn ow omaj dhe Alan, my a wra skrifu geryow kevys war ven bedh Robert Morton Nance: "oberow y vywnans yw y wir kovadh". My re gollas koweth pur ger dhe'm kolonn.

José CALVETE

Today Pan Celticism is firmly placed in people's minds. The veritable industry of things Celtic sprang out of the work of the Celtic League in those early days.

The forthcoming decades of the new millennium are the time when the achievements of the last forty years must be built on and extended. That will be the only true and lasting memorial to a great visionary and practical man – Alan Heusaff. The achievement of the aims of the Celtic League.

Peter Berresford Ellis

A Celtic Farewell to a Celtic Friend

I have never had the chance to meet him, to speak to him, nor even hear the voice of his experience in Celtic matters. It was, and still is, a pity, but during the twenty years I did have the opportunity to send him letters to ask for his support for the Celtic Galician Movement that was established during the eighties in Argentina.

Alan was one of the few, if not the only one, that believed in our struggle for recognition of the Celtic Galician identity within the League, not only for the Celts in South America but for the Celts of Galiza and Asturias.

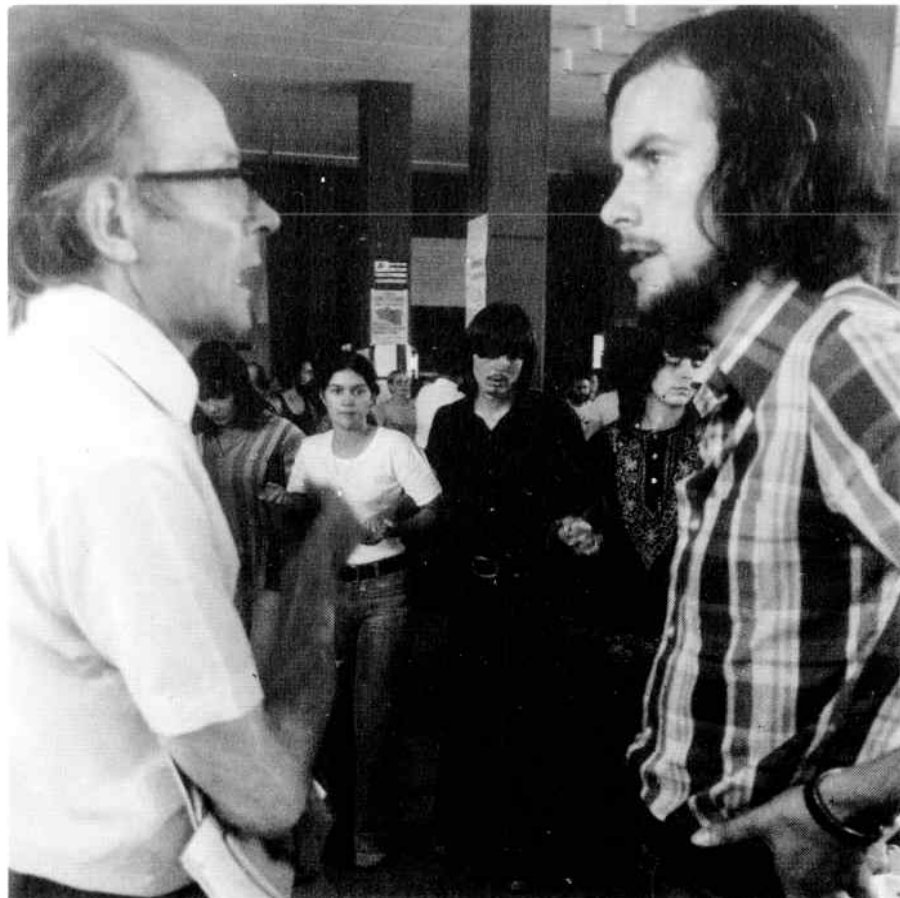
As we had failed to gain recognition from the International Celtic League for Galiza and Asturias at its Annual General Meeting that took place in Edinburgh in 1986, we decided to continue our work alone but not totally separated from the Celtic League (that means: not totally separated from Alan). Alan was our contact. Alone, we have achieved many of our goals, such as: radio programmes, Celtic Music Festivals, CD's, Pipe Bands, books written by Argentine researchers of Celtic origin and more recently we have set up our Celtic Internet site. Alan was well aware of what was taking place here.

The Celts of Europe must know Argentina is not a Celtic country, but it is a country with millions of people with Celtic origin living here. The Celtic Diaspora must be considered in a different way from the truly Celtic countries, but, although we are living overseas, the Celtic Diaspora is STILL CELTIC.

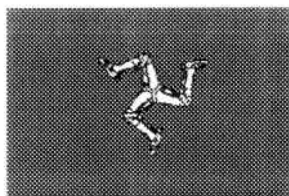
This was quite clear for Alan, which is why he helped us.

His death is a terrible loss and the question for us is: *Are the Galician Celts alone again?*

Manuel Castro
President, Argentine Celtic League
La Liga Celta de Argentina



Alan, talking to well-known Breton and Celtic singer, Alan Stivell in the '70s.



Co-obbreys eddyr-Cheltiagh. Shen bun jeh'n Chommeys Celtiagh as my vees banglane ashoonagh rieu cailt ain, bee jeeil mooar jeant rish yn dean bunneydagh shen. Cha row peiagh erbee ayn va toiggal shen chammah's Alan Heusaff. Shen yn oyr, sy vlein nuy chead jeig, kiare as tree-jeig tra va Banglane Vannin moal as beggan lag creeagh, ghow eh fo yn banglane y aa-vioghey.

Ga dy row ashoonaghys Manninagh feer lajer ec y tra a v'ayn, ashoonaghys bunraghtagh as ashoonaghys caggail neesht, cha row yn Chommeys Celtiagh g'obbraghey myr lissagh eh fegooish banglane breeoil ayns Mannin. Lhih Alan cooish ayns pabyr-naight mychione ben aeg

ren beggan dy yeeil ayns Mannin son dean ashoonagh as loayr eh ree. Kyndagh ree, haink eh quail ashoooneyryn poblaghtagh ayns Mannin v'arraltagh cur bree noa sy vanglane.

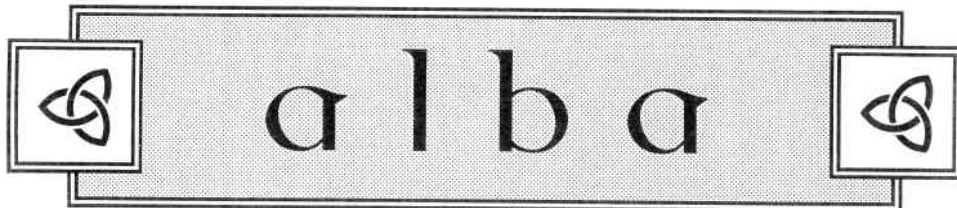
Choud's hie tra a shaghey, gheiyrt eh orroo, choon eh lhiu as haink yn banglane dy ve stroshey as ny stroshey derrey v'eh cho stroshey as banglane erbee elley, ga dy vel Mannin ny ashoon sloo mastey ny cheeraghyn Celtiagh. Ta'n Commeys Celtiagh er yannoo ram obbyr ass lieh Mannin as ny Manninee feie ny feed bleecantyn queig shoh chaie, ga nagh vel paart dy leih cur enney er yn obbyr shen. S'licklee nagh geayll yn chooid smoo dy leih ayns Mannin ennym Alan Heusaff derrey v'eh oanluckit as cha doig ad yn lhiastyns oc da, agh by gummey da shen. Ga dy vel eh ersooyl nish, ta'n spyryd echey foast bio ayns nyn gree as hemayd roin.

Sollys Yee er dty Annym Ooasle.

Mark Kermode

Extracts from the Obituary posted on the La Liga Celta de Argentine Internet site. Manuel Castro has certainly been forthright in his praise of Alan and his article clearly conveys the sense of loss felt. The site also

carried the obituary in Spanish with photographs of Alan and illustrations from Carn together with a link to our Celtic League site. For those who are on line the Internet address is:
<http://207.153.250.87/almargen/>



MAR A SHABHAIL AN LAIDEAN AICE AN DOTAIR

Bliadhnachan air ais bha Gilleasbuig Lachlainn ann an Vienna air son na làithean-saora aige. An uair sin bha e caran reamhar agus bha feile-beag air.

Chaidh e do'n Oilthigh Vienna air son loidseadh fhaighinn aig Taigh nan Oileanaich oir bha e an samhraidh ann agus bha na h-oileanaich aig an Oilthigh air na làithean-saora aca.

Thuir am bodach aig seomar prìomh dorus an Oilthigh gum biodh an Dotair a' tighinn a dh'aithghearr. Ach thuir Gilleasbuig nach robh e tinn idir.

Rinn am bodach gaire ro mhór. Thuir e gun robh Vienna an uair sin air a pàrteachadh ann an ceithir ceàrnan, coltach ri Berlin, ach cha robh sanasan ri fhaicinn nuair a bhiodh duine a' dol a-steach don cheàrn Ruiseanach no ceàrn eile. Ach, ghlèidheadh 's docha gum biodh e cunnartach a dhol an sin gun fhear no té ionadail gad dhion. Bhon a bhiodh Gilleasbuig a' fuireach ann an Taigh nan Oileanach ann an Sràid a' Phorsalain (no sa Gearmailt... Studentenheim, Porzellangasse...) uime sin bhiodh fear no té à Vienna a dhol cuide ris feumail. Thagh am bodach an Dotair (PhD)... bhon a bha i a' fuirich faisg air Porzellangasse. Thàinig i na lathair an ùine gheàrr. Bha i mu seachd air fhichead bliadhna a dh'aois. Abair gun robh i boidheach, marfan agus ceudna lan de spors!

"Chan eil ach aon chunnart ann," ars' ise, "'se sin ri radh... saighdear Ruiseanach le sgian air lorg an t-uairreadair agad. Ach chan eil a mhór chuid de na Ruiseanaich mar sin... tha iadsan beusach gun chron." Ach chan fhaca iad Ruiseanach sam bith.

Mar a bha iad a' coiseachd bha iad a' bruidhinn air iomadh cuspair ach mu dheireadh thall bha iad a' bruidhinn mu dheidhinn cànaichean agus ma ra bha *Higher Laideann* aca le chèile.

"Bha mi fìor thaingean gun robh Laideann agam," arsa ise.

"Ciamar?" dh'fhaighnich an t-Albannach reamhar.

"Mata, an uiridh, bha mi 'nam shuidhe air an Lido... eilean gainmheil faisg air Venice. An deidh snamh bha an t-acras orm. A reir m'uaireadair cha bhiodh biadh deasail san taigh-osda fhathast," arsa ise. "Cho-dhùin mi gun robh an tide freagarrach pìos *chocolate* is toiteanan (no *fags*) a cheannach agus sin o'n bhuth bhig faisg orm air an t-sràid. Cha robh mi ach air

an cheannach nuair a dhlùthaich poileasman orm... agus chunnaic mi sealladh suarach tàireil 'na shùilean. Bha e coimhead naimheil cuideachd... agus thuig mi gun robh cunnart ro mhór ann! Thuig mi nach do chòrd am "bikini"... culaidh-snamh... ris idir," arsa ise.

"Bhon a tha thu gun naire sam bith agus a' chulaidh a tha umad ro ghanh, cuiridh mi càin... *fine* ro mhór ort!" arsa am poileasman gun trocair sam bith, agus bha a chàin mór gun teagamh sam bith!" Bha ionagadh ro mhór ormsa. Cha robh am bikini mi-laghail san Ostair... Austria... idir idir.

"Gu deimhinn," arsa ise, "bha a' chulaidh-snamh seo ro fhasanta sna lochan Ostaireach. Ma bhios mi a' paigheadh uiread de dh'airgead tha mo làithean-saora seachad! Feumaidh mi ubhlan a chruinneachadh air a' bhaile-fearain aig mo pharantan gu fosgail an Oilthigh as t-fhoghair.

Bha an trafaic a' dol seachad. Uairean bhiodh draibhearan ag eigheach rudeigin mi-mhodail bhon a bha iad a' tuigsinn gun robh e a' cur dragh oirre.

"Abair gun robh an *adrenalin* a' ruith tromham gu grad!" ars' ise, "Ach, gu h-obann, chuimhnich mi gun robh Laideann agam. Dhèanadh i an gnothach! Bhruidhinn mi rudeigin sa Laideann... "Canaidh mi mu euchdan agus an duine!... Arma virumque cano!" thuir an nighean à Vienna.

Gu nadarra cha do thuig am poileasman smid.

An sin thuir i sa Laideann... "Nuair a bha na nithean sin suidhichte agus na cuirtean-lagh air na làithean-saora aca, chaidh Caesar gu Eadailt mu Thuath."

Bha am poileasman bhon chuthach agus dh'eigh e, àrd a chlaigean... "Fhear mineachaidh"... *Interpreter... Interpreter*.

Chuala dithis gillean air motor-baighgean... *motor-bikes*, air sin san dol seachad. Stad iad. Dhlùthaich iad air a' phoileasman.

"Well, well," arsa an fear àrd, "Co th'againn an seo ach ar fear-gleidhidh an lagha — ar nabaidd — poileasman Luigi. Car-son nach eil thu a' glacadh na meirlich? Agus nach tusa a tha a' bagradh sinne daonnan gun cuiridh thu càin ro mhór oirnn bhon nach eil àite-paircidh againn air son ar motor-baighgean."

Bha gach fear comhdaichte ann an cota leathar le tarragan ann. Nuair a thug iad dhiubh na clogaidean aca; dé chunnaic an PhD Dotair ach gun robh taragan sna cluasan aca cuideachd! Abair gun robh iad nam fìor 'skinheads'!

"Mach a seo! Sgudal gun fheum! Radain shalach! Bi falbh no cuiridh mi càin oirbh, le chèile!"

"Eisd Luigi, cuir càin sam bith oirnn bhon chan eil sinn ach ri spòrs no a chionns gum bheil sinn a' pairceadh ar motor-baighgean sa chùirt faisg air ar àite-comhnaidh agus innsidh sinn a h-uile cail do Mharia!"

De mu dheidhinn Maria, a' bhean agam?"

"Tha mise fuireach os do chionn san teanant... *tenement*... againn agus chuala mi ise a' troid riutsa iomadh uair," arsa skinhead àrd.

"Fuirichidh mis'san *flat* fon taigh agadsa agus chuala mi nuair a bha Maria gad sgiùrsadh nuair a thuig i gun robh thu a' dèanamh suas ris an tidsear òg san bhun-sgoil!" arsa an gille eile. "Dé nì Maria nuair a innsidh sinn dhi gun robh thusa a' cur dragh gun naire air nighean choimheach leth-ruisgte san t-sràid! Car-son nach eil thu a' glacadh nam meirleach, eh?"

"Na h-abair facal do Mharia mu dheidhinn càil agus cha chuir mi càin sam bith oirbh!" dh'eigh am poileasman Luigi agus theich e air falbh cho luath is gun robh e a' ruith 'sna Olympics.

On latha seo a-mach bha an Dotair PhD à Vienna fìor thoilichte gun robh blasad de Laideann aice!

Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig

Summary

This factual tale is set in the days that Italian policemen could adopt a most puritanical jaundiced attitude to the 'bikini' or scant swimsuit. A young woman from abroad has no idea of such prejudice and finds herself in dire straits. She manages to hold the line against the policeman with meaningless Latin phrases till two skinhead neighbours of the cop send him fleeing.

GAELIC PETITION

A petition promoting the wider use of Gaelic in the Scottish Parliament has been produced by Comann Ceilteach Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann (Edinburgh University's Gaelic and Celtic languages society). The petition demands that the Parliamentary Petitions Committee accept petitions presented to it in Gaelic and also demands that the Parliamentary website be made bilingual. Copies of the petition are available from: The Campaigns Officer, Comann Ceilteach Oilthigh Dhùn Èideann, c/o Department of Celtic, Edinburgh University, 19 George Square, EH8 9LD.

Alasdair MacCaluim

Integration for Gaelic

As a follow up to CARN issue 107 on, *A Parent's Perspective on the Gaelic Struggle*. I read with interest an article in the *Oban Times*, 4 November 1999.

Gaelic education for those children who learn it as a second language in primary school is coming under bombardment in Lochaber. Parents have been angry that although pupils can be taught either entirely in Gaelic or English in primary schools, there is no integration for those that wish their children to learn Gaelic as a second language. This is a major problem for Gaelic as there is no balance. Our children need to learn our language through the medium of Gaelic or not learn it at all. While GME is very good and works well for many families it does not work for everyone.

In many rural areas where there are Gaelic medium units, English speaking parents believe that it would be good for their children to take on Gaelic culture but are unable to do so until they reach high school where it can be taught as a second language. This is not the case in Edinburgh, if the family lives outwith the catchment area of the school there is no Gaelic classes for the children at all. Highlands and Islands MSP Mary Scanlon wrote to the Director of Education, Bruce Robertson, at Highland Council stating parent's worries. She fully supported the council policy on promoting Gaelic medium teaching and stated she would like to see greater integration so that children can have the opportunity to learn Gaelic as a language throughout their primary education.

Mr Robertson also recognised that there is a gap in the provision and it is a national issue. The council in Lochaber will be piloting a new introductory course for English speaking pupils in the near future. It is imperative that children from other areas also benefit from similar resources and that other councils learn from this introductory course.

Mr Robertson added, 'we have Gaelic medium provision in a number of rural primary schools and it has been very successful with relatively high academic standards and very little problems by way of socialisation matters,' he said. He also stated that, 'with the review of Gaelic education being undertaken by the council, all these matters would be discussed by the education committee while considering the future policy development of the language in the Highlands.' It is hoped that Gaelic will soon be available to all our children. For a parent who speaks little Gaelic it is difficult in today's demanding society to become a fluent speaker and subsequently pass it to their children. We need results now. This may be a way of restoring a part of it and encourage our children to take their Gaelic further.

Louise NicLeoid

Voices from the Famished Lands

Poetry, recitations, stories, songs and music of
the Great Famine and its Aftermath in Ireland and Scotland
c/o Rob Gibson, Highland Heritage, 8 Culcairn Road, Evanton.
Tel 01349.830388

Roscommon and Ross-shire strengthen cultural links

A successful joint production of *Voices from the Famished Lands* by the Roscommon Drama Group and *Highland Heritage* was staged in Dingwall's National Hotel last weekend.

Fourteen members of the Roscommon Drama Group including narrators, singers, musicians and back stage staff made the long trip to bring their poetry, recitations, stories, songs and music of the great famine of 1845 which also hit the Highlands.

Links between the two counties was first promoted by Feis Rois, the Gaelic music learning movement and various artistic exchanges have followed. Tommy Murray's group have performed their famine tribute show around twenty times, recently, for Irish President Mary McAleese and also in the USA. Saturday in Dingwall was a Scottish first. Around thirty-five people attended the joint performance, which added songs and stories of the Great Highland Famine researched and presented by local historian, Rob Gibson.

Earlier in the day Irish musicians including Frank Kelly, accordion, Elizabeth Wynne, flute and Irene Guckian, a former all-Ireland fiddle champion, boned up on Scots Strathspey thanks to

Dingwall fiddler, Leslie Currie. Ethnomusicologist, Mairi MacArthur, contributed famine rhymes from Iona.

In the evening narrations, poems and stories were presented by Cynthia Clampett, Tommy Murray and Rob Gibson. Scottish National Mod Medal winning Gaelic singer, Fiona MacKenzie, Dingwall and piper and whistle player, Lizbeth Collie from Muir of Ord joined the Irish players, tenor Michael Kelly and award winning singer Aileen O'Connor to provide memorable and by turns lively and poignant musical tributes.

The tragedy of a million Irish deaths through famine and a million and a half through emigration in the late 1840s dwarfs the Scottish experience. However many of the same racist attitudes of the government and landlords towards the West Highland's cottars and crofters was an echo of the Irish peasants' plight. Only the Scottish Free Church, urban charity, the Quakers and a few enlightened lairds tried to combat a crisis, which in essence is repeated on TV screens today from other locations, like Africa to East Timor.

A donation to the World Development Movement, Highland Branch is one fitting outcome of Saturday's show. Future joint ideas are being plotted as the Ross-shire - Roscommon friendships grows. Contact: Rob Gibson Tel 01349.830388

Plaids & Bandanas

song links from scots drovers to wild west cowboys
by Ceilidh Ménage

The show *Plaids & Bandanas* was written by Rob Gibson in association with Tom Bryan and performed for the Highland Festival in June 1998. Ceilidh Ménage present the airs of the drovers and cowboys connecting Celtic Scotland to the American West. Songs about rustling and driving cattle and sheep form an unbroken link from the warring Celtic clans to cowboys on a spree in Wild West trail towns.

This collection, arranged by Ceilidh Ménage, ranges from traditional airs to modern songs and tunes. While *Plaids & Bandanas* pays tribute to the drovers and cowboys and brings to life the vigour and

excitement of the times, many songs also capture the sadness of an era when many left their native land to search for work in western USA or Canada, sometimes to become ranch hands.

Contact: Ceilidh Ménage, c/o Rob Gibson, Tir nan Oran, 8 Culcairn Road, Evanton, Ross-Shire, IV16 9YT, Alba/Scotland.

Tel: +44(0) 1349 830388
Fax: +44(0) 1349 830599

E-mail: robgibson@sol.co.uk

HIGHLAND GREEN ELECTED NATIONAL SPEAKER

Eleanor Scott, from Evanton, Ross-shire, was elected Principal Speaker of the Scottish Green Party at its Annual Conference held in Edinburgh at the weekend. A record attendance of members welcomed Green parliamentarians from Ireland and England to support the buoyant mood, thanks to the election of Green MSP, Robin Harper as a Lothian list member with six per cent of the first proportional vote in the Scottish Parliament elections in May 1999.

Eleanor Scott, a community paediatrician in the Highlands, led the Green list for the area at the Scottish Parliament polls. She has helped raise the profile of the party by trenchant argument and campaigning. She chaired the business session at the Leith Conference, which ranged over campaigning and electoral opportunities stemming from increased membership and credibility on the national and international scene.

The international session of the conference heard of Green influence in Ireland from TD Trevor Sargent and from London MEP Jean Lambert, who applauded the increasing and very Green

concern in Europe for backing local employment projects in a world dominated by trans-national companies. The Greens have made an important alliance with the European Free Alliance group which includes two SNP, two Plaid Cymru, two Flemish nationalists, and four members from Euzkadi, Galicia, and Andalusia. This makes the combined group the fourth largest in the Euro Parliament and the fact that it also contains two Greens from England and two from the Irish Republic it gives a strong voice to islands of the North Atlantic as a radical environmental and decentralist group in Europe.

Said Eleanor Scott, "Given that Greens are in four government coalitions in the European Union and now the fourth largest group in the European Parliament the pace of environmentally - based opportunity quickens." The likely election of further Green MSPs will build the Independence coalition in Scotland and strengthen Scottish links with other peoples in the EU.

RG

Letter

A charaid,

As the author of the article "The Missing Link" about the lack of Gaelic secondary provision, I would like to make it clear to Carn readers that I am in no way connected with and in no way endorse the contents of the article on the following page "A Parent's Perspective on the Gaelic Struggle" by Louise NicLeod which also dealt with the subject of Gaelic secondary education. While this said much with which I agree regarding Gaelic as a secondary school subject, the article attacked the campaign for an all-Gaelic primary school in Edinburgh and made a number of statements about Edinburgh Gaelic activists, which I consider to be both inaccurate and offensive. I feel that a Gaelic school is necessary in Edinburgh to enable an expansion in the numbers of children in Gaelic medium education and to take Gaelic out of the ghetto where it currently finds itself. The principal of separate Gaelic schools for towns such as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Inverness is supported by the vast majority of Gaelic speakers and supporters (including learners like myself) both in Edinburgh and nationally.

Ie deagh dhurachd,
Alasdair MacCaluim



PERSECUTED GAELIC ACTIVISTS

More than forty years ago Eileen and Trefor Beaseley refused to pay their local rates until they received a bill in Welsh from Llanelli Rural District Council. They stood firmly by their principles and their language even though they almost lost their home as a result. The Beaseleys won the fight at the end of the day and their struggle was a great inspiration to the Welsh language movement.

Unbelievably, a local council in Scotland is doing the very same thing — right now, at the end of 1999. Highland Council has imposed a heavy fine on Mac Aoidh and Roy Wentworth, who have done outstanding work for Gaelic and who live in Geàrrloch, Wester Ross. Mac Aoidh and Roy have paid all the council tax due — every penny of it — but they are not willing to complete an English-language tax form.

Highland Council recently launched a bilingual policy in which they claim to be working to secure and strengthen the position of Gaelic in the area. As such it is disgraceful that they insist on persecuting the Wentworths in this way.

Even if we are forty years behind, we must follow the Welsh path. Every pressure must be brought to bear on Highland Council until they cancel this outrageous fine and until they distribute bilingual forms, as they should.

Write to: David Green, Convener [tel (01463) 702000] and to Alan Geddes, Director of Finance [tel (01463) 702301], The Highland Council, Glenurquart Road, Inbhir Nis IV3 5NX.

E-mail: webmaster@highland.gov.uk

Brude mac Maelcon

ARCHIE MACDOUGALL

1927 to 1999

Fighter for land and
Scottish Independence.

Archie MacDougall died on 31st October aged seventy two within a few days of the fifty second anniversary of the Knoydart Land Raid with which he will be forever linked. He was brought up in the Knoydart peninsula in the west Highlands and after a happy youth and apprenticeship as an gardener followed that vocation. The estate was owned by Lord Brocket from 1934 to 1953 who was a guest of Hitler in 1938 and fellow traveller with the Nazis who nevertheless had his estate returned to him after the war.

The post war euphoria under the new Labour government was dashed when estate workers plans to increase crofting in the area drawn up with the help of the local priest Father MacPherson clashed with Brocket's shooting interests and were dismissed by the Scottish Office. Some of the local men planned a land raid and in November 1948 and staked claims in a well publicised campaign. A claim was staked for Archie who was on National Service with the Royal Artillery in North Wales. He had it withdrawn for fear of falling foul of military discipline. Brocket's interim interdict and subsequent government sponsored, Cameron enquiry refused the land raiders settlement plans.

By 1952 Archie and other raiders had been dismissed the estate and the native population left or died out in those bitter years. He was interviewed on the fortieth anniversary of the Land Raid and expressed hopes that a permanent marker would commemorate their efforts as one inappropriate Knoydart laird followed another. The three year campaign to find a few inches of ground to build a cairn led to Archie unveiling the plaque at Inverie in 1991.

He wrote a book about *Knoydart - the last Scottish land raid* published in 1993 and answered regular calls for media interviews as the Knoydart saga reached its dénouement. He remained a staunch believer in an independent Scotland restoring the land to the people and was delighted at the community buy-out earlier this year. Unfortunately an earlier stroke and hospitalisation prevented Archie from joining the celebrations for the estate's hand-over in March.

In the words of a former Knoydart estate manager who knew them well, Archie MacDougall was like the land raiders whose flame he kept alive "a very sound, solid, good Scotsman".

Rob Gibson

FLOWERS OF SCOTLAND

Of course we welcome the assembly in Alba but not as a terminus. As long as it is seen as a stepping stone to independence, a refuelling station on the path to freedom it can only be to the good.

But, and there is a 'but', if it seen in the context of the regionalisation of the island it will only bring fruit with difficulty: if Alba is just another Yorkshire say, or a West Midlands, a Home Counties, a Greater London then an assembly might be merely a cementing of the country into a re-invented United Kingdom.

That particular aspect of the question was the cause of an unpleasant parting of the ways between our quondam Cathaoirleach, Pádraig Ó Conchúir and Irish branch members (among others). Pádraig espoused English regionalisation thinking perhaps that any break up of England could only benefit the Celtic countries annexed by England. Others, myself included, argued (1) that however much regionalisation was a good thing for the English it was none of our business, and (2) Local government being extended and improved in Britain could easily, if espoused by us, detract from our basic claims for the insular Celtic countries and in so doing weaken them, both by involving them more and more into an interconnected system of local government and by affording the imperialists the rhetorical advantage of pointing to reform in regional democracy.

The dividing line may appear tenuous: to us it was fundamental and has left residual worries about the short-term affects on the demand for independence. That demand was watered down apparently by Plaid Cymru being quoted as not seeking separation and independence for Cymru. And in Scotland the opening of parliament there left many uneasy.

The oath (to whom?) being administered in English only (even if taken in Gaelic by one representative) was no good anyway. A more worrying manifestation was the exclusion of children (one child even) from Catholic schools from the ceremonies connected with the inauguration.

Obviously change can be slow – TCD in Dublin was obviously like St. Andrews in Alba an English University. That is no longer so in Dublin – St. Andrews will follow in time. Change must be envisaged if it is to happen – the surly boycott of TCD by acceptors of Archbishop McQuaid's writ (a man of mixed confessional background himself) certainly delayed its assimilation into Ireland.

Is there a danger of a reverse boycott (a mental exclusion even) in Scotland as regards the Irish segment of their population. I think there may well be: I recall with regret the lack of acceptance of one delegate from Alba to earlier League meetings because his surname so obviously marked him of Irish lineage: if we were guilty how much more the danger with those of narrower focus.

Professor H.J. Paton's book *The Claim of Scotland* (Allen + Unwin, 1968) may not

have been as seminal as he himself hoped it would be (observations on this point welcome) but the book is of relevance in many ways still and is a quite useful tool in addressing the question of upwards of a million Irish in the make-up of modern Scotland (the same number, perhaps, of Scots live outside their own country)! The former figure may be an exaggeration but that it loomed large in the thinking is obvious in Paton's eloquent book.

There he wrote of Scottish depopulation being concealed by the fact that "The native stock has been steadily replaced by immigrants from Ireland", an "invasion... (which) has been going on for a long time." He said the 1st main invasion ("now a matter of past history") was the "import (of) cheap manual labour from Ireland" in the 19th century "when Scotland was pioneering new industries". The 2nd and "perhaps more serious" invasion "occurred especially between the Two World Wars... It is still going on, although it has diminished in recent years and may diminish still more in the future", (ibid).

He goes on to echo and reveal stereotypical reactions in Scotland to the Irish:

"It is hard to write on this topic without laying oneself open to the customary jibes at Scottish narrowness and intolerance; but this is no reason why the broad facts of the situation should be ignored. In Glasgow a third of the inhabitants are said to be Irish or of Irish descent; and anyone who visits almost any Scottish town can confirm that they have spread over the whole country. The fear or hope is sometimes expressed that further immigration, coupled with a high birthrate, will in time reduce the Scots to being a minority in their own country." Is he reflecting an intellectual underpinning of the crude racism of the Glasgow Rangers supporter?

"Although these fears and hopes may be exaggerated, few reasonable men, and certainly few reasonable Scotsmen, will regard it as an unmixed blessing that an unusually homogeneous country should be split up into two nations. Yet if the native stock is doomed to decline, Scotland may be considered fortunate in so far as the Irish invaders belong to a race not wholly alien to her own. Provided their numbers were not too great, there would be some hope of their becoming assimilated in the course of time – there are already signs of their being affected by some of the traditional Scottish ideals. Some of them have shown themselves men of ability, and they have strengthened Scotland in the field of sport.

Whatever may be hoped for in the future, the mass immigration of men and women with a lower standard of living was not an unmixed blessing to Scotland – especially at a time when she was already crippled by unemployment. At least in the early stages the Irish sometimes failed to display the more sober virtues cherished by the Scots: law-abidingness, for example, has not always been their most outstanding

characteristic. In the course of time they tend, some of them, to become rootless, especially if they abandon their religion."

He writes of the "two kinds of Irish invader – the Orange and the Green", the former "came in far fewer numbers and were assimilated without difficulty – many of them were of Scottish descent. And he says "the double invasion meant that the more robust Irish methods of religious controversy were introduced as substitutes for the traditional Scottish practice of theological argument (of the type so seeringly portrayed in the film *Making Waves*, perhaps – PÓS). The clash between the two kinds of invader sometimes led to disorder... and the effects of this bad tradition continue even today."

Other references of the stereotypical kinds include "all (criminals) had Irish names", voting rights to citizens of another country, undercutting wages, welfare fiddles. (There is a belief held in Scotland that Irish immigration in search of public assistance was not unorganised), school segregation – all arguments which depend "on the relative numbers involved."

He continues in a more Éirenic view:

A flow of immigrants may enrich a country. The flow becomes an evil only when it is excessive in quantity; and what is, or is not, excessive may be hard to determine. Yet an inflow may be considered excessive when it becomes too great to be assimilated so that where we had one homogeneous nation we find ourselves with two that are very different. Something like this is what has happened in Scotland. On the other hand, Scotland was fortunate so far as her peaceful invaders were of a gifted stock akin to her own. If we peer into the remote future, it may seem not unreasonable to hope that in the course of time a new and perhaps richer nationality might emerge; it might combine Irish imagination with Scottish logic. This would be more likely to happen if the two races were able to meet openly in an Edinburgh Parliament and to co-operate, even if not without friction, in trying to settle the affairs of Scotland at present so mishandled from outside.

The exclusion of Catholic (a.k.a. Irish in this context) children from the opening ceremony reflects the failure to seriously address the question of the part of the Irish in the making of the Scotland of the future irrespective of whether it occurred by inadvertence (unpardonable and culpable ignorance) or by design (an unacceptable gesture of non-welcome, a latent repatriationism).

Maybe it is time to take Paton seriously and begin seriously to solve this too often inarticulated problem. And maybe too we in the League should offer our good offices to assist in seeking solutions and avoiding greater problems and deeper antagonisms soon in the life of what we hope will be a Parliament for a free Scotland.

P. Ó Snodaigh

breizh

Gouezelva Ráth Cairn o vrasaat

En unan eus hon niverennoù diwezhañ, an niverenn 99 evit bout resis, em boa roet keloù eus youl un toullad iwerzhonegerien, Pobal Life, da grouiñ ur vourc'hadenn pe da vihanañ ur c'harter iwerzhonek e Leamhcan/Lucan. Ar gêriadenn-mañ zo hiziv ur fabourz eus Dulenn war hent ar c'hornôg. Ne glever ket mui komz eus ar steuñv-se, gouzout a reer avat ne voe ket kavet a-walc'h a brenerien evit an 20 ti a oa da vezañ miret evit e gas da wir. Ne oa roet nemet tri miz dezho evit ober o mennozh, pezh a oa kalz re nebeut.

Spi am eus ne c'hoarvezo ket evel-se gant ur steuñv all ez eur krog d'e seveniñ e Ráth Cairn, e-lec'h ez eus ur gouezelva bihan abaoe 1935, 50 km er gwalarn da Zulenn. Di e oa bet degaset, war atiz De Valera, un toullad mat a gouerien vihan eus Konamara, ha rannet etrezo un domani bras a oa bet kemeret gant ar Stad. Ur c'hemm bras e oa evito, boas ma oant ouzh gwelldvaou garv, meinek ha geunie, gant ar mor bras dirazo, dont da chom e-kreiz douaroù plaen, argoadek met strujus kontelezh Mid/Meath. Da zoujañ a oa, pa ne oant ket gwall niverus, e vije kollet o yezh ganto en un endro saoznek. Deuet ar vugale d'an oad da labourat ez ae un darn vat anezho da Zulenn pe tramor da glask fred. Met abaoe un nebeut bloavezhioù ez eus kemm, a-drugarez d'ar strivadoù graet dreist-holl gant Pádraig Mac Donncha. War e intrudu e voe krouet ur gevelour, savet un Ti-an-Holl ennañ ur sal vras ma vez tu da zañsal ha da aozañ emvodoù, koulz hag un ostaleri, savet ivez ur chapel ma vez oferennet en iwerzhoneg ha nevez'zo ur skol eil derez hag a zegemer bugale eus an toullad skolioù kentañ derez holliwerzhonek. Ar re yaouank a ya d'ar skol-veur e Dulenn a zistro da vevañ e Ráth Cairn mar gallont. Ul labouradeg a ro fred da 100 den met n'eus nemet 8 anezho eus ar barrez, pezh a c'hoari a-enep an iwerzhoneg. 700 den zo bremañ o chom e Ráth Cairn. N'eo ket a-walc'h evit reiñ un diazez start d'ar yezh. Setu perak e klask ar Gevelour abaoe 15 vloaz lakaat iwerzhonegerien all da zont da annezhañ eno. Daou vloaz'zo e teuas a-benn da brenañ un takad douar bras a-walc'h evit dek ti d'ur priz dereat-tre, ha prenerien zo bet kavet evito. An ti kentañ e oad kroget d'e sevel e derou Eost hag un eil e miz

Gwengolo. C'hoant he deus bremañ ar Gevelour da brenañ un takad all, rak danvez prenerien zo war ar roll. Ar gounideg en doa gwerzhet dezhi a-raok a berc'henn 60 hektar, met n'en deus ket c'hoant d'ober marc'had adarre. Ar gouerien a zalc'h d'o douar p'o devez arc'hant a-walc'h...

A. Heusaff

Summary

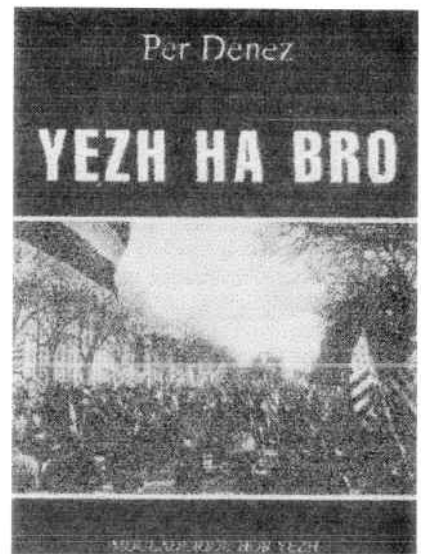
A small Gaeltacht was established in Ráth Cairn, 50 km to the NW of Dublin, in the thirties, when families from Connemara were settled there. Thanks to a cooperative which provided it with amenities for improving their social life, it has maintained itself as an Irish-speaking community, though with some difficulties. It has recently acquired a site on which ten houses are being built for a fresh influx of Irish-speakers. It is hoped that more land can be acquired for an extension of the scheme.

* The above article was written by Alan some months before his death.

Ar Bed Keltiek

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YEZH HA BRO

gant Per Denez. 14.8 x 21. 166p.
1998. Mouladurioù Hor Yezh.

Ul levr nevez, gant pennadoù Per Denez, a zo bet embannet gant Mouladurioù Hor Yezh. Ennañ e kaver pennadoù embannet etre 1949 ha 1966 e meur a gelc'hgelaouenn, dreist-holl en *Al Liamm* hag en *Hor Yezh*, gant ur brezegenn ivez diwar-benn Roparz Hemon displeget e Dulenn d'ar 15 a viz Mezheven 1990, en ar vodadeg "*Comóradh ar Roparz Hemon*" aozet gant skourr Iwerzhon ar C'hendalc'h Keltiek hag embannet gant *Coiscéim*.

El levr-mañ e kaver c'hwezek pennad, pennadoù-studi diwar-benn "*Gwalarn*", "*Skol Ober*", "*Hor Yezh*", tud evel *Roparz Hemon*, *Tangi Malmanche*, *Brendan Behan*, *Roger Casement* ha pennadoù-stourm rak n'eo ket *Per Denez* nemet ur c'helenner hag ur skrivagnerer, ur stourmer eo ivez ha tennañ a ra ivez ar pennadoù da Vreizh, d'ar yezh, ken tost d'e galon, ha d'he dazont, d'an dud vunut pe anavezet o deus graet "a rumm da rumm, daoust da bep tra, ez eo bet hag e vo dalc'het didor "chadenn ar yezh", d'ar brezhoneg hag ar skol.

Pouezus eo lenn e bennadoù. Bez' e c'heller c'hoazh tennañ kentelioù diouzh ar pennadoù-se hiziv. Plijout a rafe din menegiñ amañ arroud berr e rakskrid : "goulenn a ran an hevelep doujañs evit yezh ar re a ra eus ar brezhoneg benveg o buhez - ur vuhez bevet e kêr, gant prederioù ha kudennoù hor c'hantved, ur yezh hag a vo ivez yezh o bugale pa vint deut d'an oad-gour, pellik en tu all d'ar bloavezh 2000, hag e-pad hiroc'h amzer c'hoazh. Dav eo diwall na ve kollet tamm eus ar brezhoneg hengounel. Met dav eo kompren e vo krouet, e vez krouet bremañ, muioc'h a c'heriaoueg eget n'eus bet graet morse. Hag e vezo kementad ar "gerioù nevez" ul lodenn brasoc'h-brasañ eus ar brezhoneg en implij. E-giz-se an hini eo e chomo hor yezh bev en ur bed bev". Embannet gant : Mouladurioù Hor Yezh, Tereza Desbordes, 1, Plasenn Charles-Peguy, 29260 Lesneven, Breizh (via France).

In Honour of Roparz Hemon

*An interview with
G. Kervella of the theatre
group Ar Vro Bagan*

What conclusions can be drawn from the works and life of Roparz Hemon? Ar Vro Bagan has staged the show 'Meurlarjez' again to honour Hemon who did a lot to help the Bretons look outwards because he believed that 'there is not a single country in the world that cannot teach us a lesson'.

Ar Vro Bagan have performed Hemon's plays some seven times already and decided to do something different this time: 'Meurlarjez' which is made up of different passages from plays Hemon wrote, interspersed with his ideas on theatre, literature, culture and politics. Everything is interrelated in R. Hemon's work and life. In the field of theatre he tried to work on people's minds, the goals were to help people to develop a higher and deeper way of thinking.

He was influenced by Irish and Welsh writers such as Synge and Roberts.

R. Hemon was not strictly a nationalist - he was an internationalist. He was opposed to seeing Brittany retiring within itself, he was in favour of going beyond the borders created by the French state out into the rest of the world. He was opposed to English, German and French imperialism.

In the 'Meurlarjez' show for example, a passage from his play 'Roparz Hemon' deals with an Irishman who is accused of acting against the UK, defending Ireland with the help of France. The character tells us that by acting the way he did he was not trying to get a new King, but to get rid of the old one and be free. This was Hemon's way of declaring his own thinking on nationalism.

The most important thing for Hemon was the future of the Breton language. He would consider everything done to promote the language as good. His contribution to Breton literature and theatre was huge. He gradually came to the conclusion that it would be the people and not the intellectuals who would save the language. Ar Vro Bagan aims to encourage the language through theatre.

S.G.



Goulc'han Kervella
Courtesy of Bremañ {11/99}

Breton Autonomists Jailed Again ...

On the 28th September, nine tons of dynamite, 5800 detonators and 11 Km's of cable were stolen in the village of Plevin (22-BZH). The very next day after the robbery the police accused Breton and Basque autonomists (**ARB and ETA**), stating that the robbery was politically motivated and it could only have been carried out by well-informed professionals.

Three Basques, in possession of 2.5 tons of dynamite were arrested near Pau (S.W./Fr.) shortly afterwards and 700KG of dynamite was found in Segllan (56- BZH) on the 30th September. Within two weeks of the robbery 11 men were arrested - five Basques and six Bretons. Six are accused of 'criminal association with a terrorist organisation'. "The Basque - Breton complicity" theory was taken up by the media and fears grew that the nightmare and repression of 1992 might start again. The idea of co-operation between the **ARB** and **ETA** seems inconceivable.

Last July the ARB said that they wanted to go in a new direction and organise attacks on symbolic targets. Since then they have shown their strength by attacks in Belfort (cf.: The Minister of Home Affairs) and Cintegabelle (cf.: Prime Minister). ETA, on the other hand, has been involved in a peace process since September 1998, until recently.

Four of the Bretons, in jail in Paris, are politically committed to the Breton movement: Denez Riou and Alan Sole are respectively, Manager and President of **Combat Breton**: Charlie Grall and Bertrand Grimault are journalists with **Breizh - Info**. The above four are all members of

EMGANN (= fight). Hugues Richard and Richard Lefaucheur, the other two arrested, are less well-known.

Since the attack on Belfort Town Hall members of **Emgann** have been under police surveillance. Like IRA/Sinn Féin the French media continually makes reference to **ARB/Emgann**. Gael Roblin, PRO for Emgann, said that this was a misconception and that... 'It's true, we have never condemned ARB's actions and we will never do it. We fight just like others'. Michel Herjean of Skoazell Vreizh, (cf.: help prisoner's families) said: "The French State is upset to see the increase in the teaching of Breton in schools. That is very worrying for the State power".

Unity and Solidarity

At the time of the robbery Jaques Chirac, (French President) was in Madrid 'to develop a strong relationship between France and Spain' He stated that the State services were 'efficient against terrorism' Nevertheless, those services let two Basques go near Pau (S.W./Fr.) and it took them 15 days to find a lorry belonging to Titanite in Bordeaux.

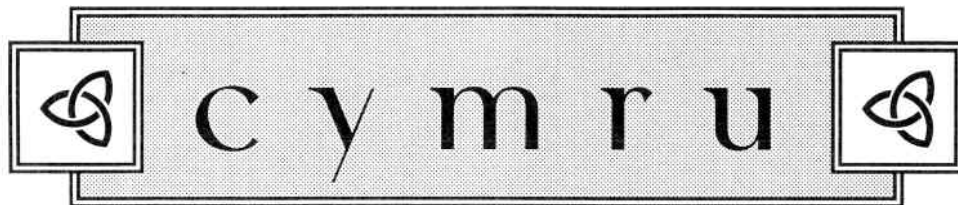
Police evidence against the Bretons consists of photographs of the arrested Bretons coming out of a public house in Lorient in the company of the Basques. Charlie Grall, the accused journalist has admitted that he knows the Basques, but argues that this is part of his job. He has been trying to set up an interview with an official speaker for ETA for the past eight months. He stated that 'the Judge, L. le Vert, has nothing against me in her files' He is not allowed to leave Finistere and has to report to the police station every week to register.



Charlie Grall
Courtesy of Bremañ

For Charlie Gall it is time to find a political way to get new rights. 'For twenty years we have gained nothing. In some areas we have even lost power. The ARB uses violence, but it is not for fun. They risk their own lives for Brittany. Nevertheless, even some Bretons argue that new projects and propositions to reorganise our society should be developed, otherwise violence may become stronger in Brittany.

SG



Y We – Maes Nesaf y Gad?

Yr ydym i gyd wedi clywed am y rhyngwrwyd a sut y mae'n mynd i newid y byd. Yn barod yr ydym yn gallu prynu nwyddau yn rhatach nag y byddem yn talu mewn siopau lleol, ond ym mha iaith yr ydym am wneud hynny? Y barn cyffredin yw mai Saesneg yw iaith y rhyngwrwyd, wel dyna farn Mr Dave Shaw (Wi'n siwr mai David yw e ond wedi'r cwbl rydym ni i gyd yn ffrindiau ar y rhyngwrwyd, onid ydym?) pan atebodd gwestiwn gennyf paham nad yw gwefan BT, un o'r cwmnïau sy â 'pholisi iaith', yn ddwyieithog, ei ateb oedd

'We did actively consider providing alternative languages such as Welsh on the service. However as English is the predominant language of the internet and because PhoneNetUK is also available to users outside of the UK we decided to launch the service with only an English version.'

Chwarae teg iddo yr oedd yn deall mai Saesneg fydd pawb yn ei siarad er gwaethaf y ffaith ei fod yn amlwg mai'r Gymraeg yr oeddwn innau'n ei defnyddio ar y rhyngwrwyd!

Y gwir amdani yw bod y rhyngwrwyd yn her newydd i siaradwyr i ieithoedd llai eu defnydd. Gall cwmnïau fod â pholisïau iaith ar gyfer ein gwledydd ni a dehongli'r rhyngwrwyd fel rhywbeth byd eang nad yw'n berthnasol inni – ond y mae yr un mor berthnasol inni ag ydyw i un rhywun arall a dylem fynnu yr un driniaeth arni ag y darperir i ddefnyddwyr ieithoedd mwy o ran nifer siaradwyr, sef mynediad llawn at y gwasanaethau yn ein hieithoedd ni!

I weld enghraifft wael o ddwyieithrwydd ar y rhyngwrwyd a'r rhagdybiaeth mai Saesneg fydd yr iaith a ddefnyddir dylem edrych ar selfyllfa Iwerddon (mar Éireannach is oth liom é seo a admháil ach ní raibh mé in ann cúpla focal Gaeilge a aimsiú ar láithreán Rialtas na hÉireann cé gur teanga oifigiúil i an Ghacilge) dim ond ychydig o eiriau Gwyddeleg sy ar wefan swyddogol Llywodraeth Iwerddon er mai hi yw iaith swyddogol y wlad – ond, wrth gwrs, Saesneg yw iaith y rhyngwrwyd yn ôl BT (ac y mae'n amlwg bod Llywodraeth Iwerddon wedi derbyn cyngor BT neu gorff tebyg).

I fynd yn ôl at British Telecom – British

nid English Telecom, oni ddylem gofio bod y gair British a'r gair Cymro yn gyfystyr tan yr ail ganrif ar bymtheg yn Saesneg? Beth bynnag yw'r ffordd y mae'r cwmni yn dehongli hanes y gair British ni allant dderbyn yr iaith a gyfeirwyd ati fel British (sef y Gymraeg) tan ddiwedd y ddeunawfed ganrif fel iaith ddilys ar gyfer gwefan y cwmni. Yn ei farn nis oes na sut le â Chaerdydd – doeddwn i ddim hyd yn oed yn gallu dod o hyd i Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg yng Nghaerdydd (efallai y dylai'r bwrdd feddwl am hyn a cheisio darbwyllo British Telecom fod Caerdydd yn bodoli).

O ganlyniad i hyn i gyd a pharidwrwyd cwmnïau, a chryff eraill i anwybyddu'r Gymraeg y mae Cell Caerdydd yn mynd i ddechrau plismona (er, mewn gwirionedd, byddwn yn fwy o guerillas ieithyddol) gwefannau ar y rhyngwrwyd. Os hoffech chi gyrryd rhan yn y frwydr newydd holl byswig hon, beth am anfon ebost ataf i?

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WALES IN BRIEF

Unfortunate events in London have not helped the development of Welsh politics. The forced resignation of Ron Davies as Secretary of State and prospective Assembly leader after a well-reported incident on Clapham Common was much regretted in Wales. Davies's enthusiasm for devolution - he had said that devolution is not an event but a process - contrasted with successor Alun Michael's readiness to comply with the wishes of Tony Blair. An incident in a street in London has now resulted in the resignation of the Welsh Tory leader Rod Richards, and his replacement by Englishman Nick Bourne. Welsh-speaking Richards, a Thatcherite on economic and civil matters, was a favourite target for opponents because of his outspoken style. Bourne, appearing to be more moderate on the surface, may be one of the most anti-Welsh members in the

Assembly, and while many nationalists may be glad of the fall of Richards, this incident could turn out to be a cause for regret.

Plaid Cymru has adopted Eilian Williams from Caergybi/Holyhead to stand for the Ynys Môn seat in Westminster next time. The seat has been held by Plaid's Ieuan Wyn Jones since 1987, but having been elected for Ynys Môn to the National Assembly, Mr Jones is standing down from Westminster. Plaid's two other Westminster MP's who are now also AC's, Dafydd Wigley (Caernarfon) and Cynog Dafis (MP for Ceredigion, AC for Mid & West), will also step down from Westminster and the search for alternative candidates is on. It is not yet decided whether the three members will wait until the next Westminster General Election or whether there will be bi-elections, but it is expected that Plaid will do the same as Labour who have four members in both Cardiff and London, and who will all be stepping down from Westminster in favour of the Assembly.

It is a well-kept secret that the Post Office in Wales produces Welsh airmail stickers for use on letters to go overseas. Instead of the standard "Airmail /Par avion" they state "Post awyr /Par avion". They should be available free of charge but it seems that very few post-offices in Wales bother to stock them. Readers in Wales are recommended to try their local post office, demanding that they obtain some if not in stock.

The Super Furry Animals have announced that they will be releasing their next album in Welsh. This Welsh-speaking group, who started off as a group who performed in Welsh, have attracted some criticism for turning to performing in English for a wider audience. After producing albums in English, the songs on their next album, entitled "Mwng" ("mane"), will be in Welsh, but it will still be launched onto the Anglo-American pop scene and is expected to be no less popular with their fans.

RapT

CELTIC LEAGUE INTERNET SITE

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ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Wales's first elected assembly for centuries is settling down to use its limited powers to run Wales. Labour, as the largest party, form the government with Alun Michael as First Secretary (Prime Minister), though they have no majority. Plaid Cymru, the second party, have taken the role of a 'constructive opposition', supporting Labour's policies after trying to influence them where Plaid disagree and achieving an agreed compromise. A series of meetings between Alun Michael and Dafydd Wigley has been held to this end.

The new experience of Welsh government and the result of our General Election in May, yielding no overall majority, have produced interesting challenges for nationalists. There was no question of Plaid, the Tories and the Liberal Democrats being able to join to form a government. The right-wing Tory group of ex-anti-devolutionists are unapproachable, and the Liberal Democrats, led by the arrogant Englishman Mike German, have said that "they will not work with Plaid Cymru because they are separatists". So this left Plaid with the choice of either standing alone in opposition while Labour joined with the Lib. Dems. to form a solid unionist administration, as has happened in Scotland, or alternatively supporting a minority Labour government with the reward of some influence over policy.

The difficulty of working in partnership with political opponents is that public criticism of their policies needs to be

restrained if the partnership is to work. This leaves open the possibility of attack for being "soft opposition". The Tories have even called Plaid "poodles of Labour", while they, ranting but powerless, are the "real" opposition. While the relationship between Plaid and Labour in the Assembly cannot be compared to that between Welsh Labour and their masters in London, such reactions show the need, from a nationalist point of view, for the leaders of Plaid to maintain a balance in compromising.

With Alun Michael becoming leader of the National Assembly, Tony Blair has appointed as a new Secretary of State for Wales, Paul Murphy, the un-Welsh, probably anti-Welsh, right-wing MP for Torfaen. Murphy's experience as a minister in the Northern Ireland Office is not likely to have increased his sympathy for Celts. One of his first declarations was to say that devolution was not going to go any further. (The contrast with Ron Davies's "not an event but a process" could not be greater). The Labour Party in Wales subsequently held an investigation into the losing of ground to Plaid in 1999 elections, and has concluded that they need stop being seen as puppets of London. Alun Michael has even made a "devolution is a process"-type declaration similar to that of Ron Davies. The confrontation between the Assembly and Murphy is yet to come, but such a concessionary line is the result of pressure from Plaid. Thus Plaid do not need total power to be able to further the cause of Wales.

Robat ap Tomos

Plaid in the European Parliament

For the first time Plaid Cymru have members in the European parliament, the two members being Jill Evans and Eurig Wyn. The Plaid members have joined the new grouping the Green/European Free Alliance, which will be the fourth strongest group in the Parliament. This new grouping has arisen as a result of the aligning of the European Free Alliance with the Greens. The former group includes nationalists and regionalists from the Basque Country, Andalucia and Galicia as well as Cymru and Alba. Working together with the Greens will help them become more familiar with implementing the politics of sustainability which will become increasingly important next century, while the Greens will become more familiar with the differences between the nationalism of groups representing peoples who seek more autonomy and the imperialist nationalism of the large nation states.

This is by no means the first time Plaid Cymru has found itself co-operating with supporters of green issues. Plaid have a long record of supporting sustainable energy developments and integrated transport plans, and in Ceredigion an alliance with the Green Party led to Plaid gaining the Westminster seat from the Liberal Democrats in the state General Election of 1992.

Nationalists targeted In New Bill

Nationalists in Scotland and Wales could be arrested according to new legislation. Scottish and Welsh nationalists, peace campaigners, animal right's activists and anti-abortion protesters will be subjected to the same laws as in Ireland under the new bill. When the Bill becomes law, the police will have the power to arrest without a specific offence in mind, question them for up to seven days without charge and deny them access to a lawyer for up to 48 hours.

The Government plans to broaden its present meaning of terrorism from acts of violence related to Northern Ireland politics to include all forms of domestic and international terrorism. The definition will, for the first time, cover violence against property along with people. This may include the destruction of crops or attacks on laboratories and abattoirs.

Many believe that there is no need for such "draconian" measures, giving the police greater powers and harsher punishments to so called *politically motivated* offences.

In a Home Office white paper in December 1998, the Government declared its intention to extend terrorism laws, stating: "*In the last 25 years, the main domestic terrorist threat in the UK has come from militant animal right's activists and, to a lesser extent, from Scottish and Welsh nationalist extremists.*"

The Bill is anticipated to adopt the meaning of terrorism used by the FBI in the United States, which states that terrorism, is '*the use of serious violence against persons or property, or the threat to use such violence to intimidate or coerce the government, the public or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends.*'

This creates serious worries about the definition of terrorism and to what extent such a Bill can be interpreted and abused. If the public is unhappy about the status quo, surely they should have a right to voice their apprehension. Do people no longer have the right to question authority? Whatever happened to Democracy?



Independent Scots read the
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Cás na Gaeilge sna Scoileanna Caitlicí sa Bhreatain

Gabhaim buíochas do lucht Charn as seans a tabhairt dom cúpla focail a scríobh chun cás na Gaeilge sna scoileanna anseo i Sasana a léiriú. Ag an am seo anuraidh, d'fhógair an bheirt Aire Airgeadais, an tAire Blunkett agus an tAire Ó Máirtín go bhféadfadh scoláirí an Ghaeilge á fhoghlaím mar ábhar scoile GCSE ó Meán Fómhair 2000 ar aghaidh. De réir mo fheasa, níl scoláire ar bith sa bhreis don GCSE 2000 d'ainneoin an ráitis seo. Is fíor go mbeidh leaids a fhréastalaíonn ar mo rangsa tar éis scoile ag cur isteach ar na scrúdaithe i 2000 ach níl an Scoil sásta an Ghaeilge a chur ar fáil ar an gCuraclam dóibh. Cé gur de chúla na nGael seasca faoin gcéad de na scoláirí sna Scoileanna Caitliceacha i dTuaisceart Londain, mar shampla, níl fonn ar na scoileanna siúd an Ghaeilge a sholáthar dóibh. Níl na hacmhainn acu ó thaobh chúrsaí airgid, eolais, múinteoireachta nó suime de an seans a chur ar fáil nó níl an toil acu oidhreacht na nGael a aithint.

Dúirt Príomhoide amháin liom gur as Chonamara a thuistí féin (ar nós neart de na scoláirí) ach níor léirigh sé féin tuiscint ar bhfiúntas na teanga. Ach ní raibh sé glan i gcoinne na teanga – níor smaoinigh sé riamh ar a chúla agus ghlac sé le tuairimí lucht labhartha an Bhéarla a chreideann nach fiú teanga ar bith ach amháin iad san a bhaineann le na tíortha láidre, ar nós Fraincis agus Gearmáinis. Cé gur minic a deireann ábhar oidí gur chuir siad neart ama ann ag foghlaim Fraincise nuair ab í an Ghaeilge a bhíodh de dhíth orthu, ní féidir nó ní theastaíonn óna scoileanna an tuairim sin a ghlacadh. Is annamh a labhraíonn lucht labhartha an Bhéarla Fraincís tar éis na scoile – duine nó dhó a théann go dtí an Eoraip, b'fhéidir – ach tá an dearcadh dúr go fóill ann. Ní fiú Fraincís do na hÉireannaigh atá ag iarraidh filleadh go hÉireann, go mórmhór lucht na Gaeltachta. An féidir gearán go bhfuil an iomarca gan Gaeilge tar éis filleadh agus lonnú sna Gaeltachtaí nuair nach labhraíonn baill an Rialtais Gaeilge iad féin? Cuirfeadh sé náire ort nach labhraíonn Feisirí na Dála Gaeilge – is deacair iad a ghlacadh mar Éireannaigh nuair a thagann siad anseo.

Is í an Ghaeilge teanga den dara grád de réir Liosta na dTeangacha Scoile anseo. Is ar liosta 'B' atá sí. Is é sin gur teanga imircigh í ("Teanga Phobail") agus go gcaithfear rogha a dhéanamh idir í agus teanga eile. Ní féidir an Ghaeilge a ligint isteach i measc na teangacha ar an 'A' liosta – teangacha na dtíortha iar-impiriúla. Oibríonn an córas seo don lucht a labhraíonn a dteanga féin mar príomh-theanga. Ní labhraíonn na páistí as cúlra na hAifrice nó an Ind srl. a dteangacha féin ach oiread le muintir Chonamara cé go labhraíonn a dtuistí iad eatarthu féin – arís cosúil le muintir na Gaeltachta. Ar an ábhar go labhraítear a dteanga féin fiú sna tíortha is boichte, admhaíonn lucht na Breataine go gcaithfidh sí a bheith ar fáil do pháistí den dara ghlúin cibé teanga a labhraíonn siad féin i Sasana.

Arís, is í easpa labhairt na Gaeilge i measc na 'hÚdaráis' in Éirinn an chúis ba mhó le droch-chás agus easpa stádaí na Gaeilge anseo. Dúradh liomsa gur féidir le na hÉireannaigh a dteanga féin a labhairt nuair a theastaíonn uathu ach nach dteastaíonn uathu bheith neamhspleách go fóill! Ndáiríre, is beag an difríocht idir na daoine Gorma agus na hÉireannaigh ó dtaobh cúrsaí teangacha de – d'fhulaingíomar ó thaobh na staire de, theip orainn deis bheatha a fháil sa bhaile, thámgam ag lorg oibre, labhraíonn ár bpáistí Béarla mar príomh-theanga agus ní thoil leis an Rialtais Dúchasach bheith freagrach as; Ach ní naithnítear lucht na hAifrice mar Shasanaigh. Is minic a deireann siad gur Breтанаigh ("British" m.s. ón lucht a chur na Sasanaigh faoi chois) iad ach ní chuirtear riamh teideal "Sasanaigh" orthu. A mhalairt ar fad ag na hÉireannaigh – ní athnítear iad mar British ach uaireanta athnítear iad mar Sasanaigh. Athníonn na hÉireannaigh iad féin i measc tíortha na hEorpa – ms na tíortha iar-impiriúla. Chomh fada agus a dhiúltaíonn na hÉireannaigh ó Dheas a Stair agus an Ghaeilge, oibríonn an córas ar son leasa na tíortha láidre impiriúla agus ní fiú gearáin faoi dhroch-iompar na Sasanaigh. Muna bhfuil meas ag na hÉireannaigh orthu féin, cad ina thaobh go mbeadh meas ag dream ar bith eile rompu?

Scríobh litir le do thoil chuig na hÚdaráis

in Éirinn agus sa Bhreatain ag lorg Oibrí Ghaeilge nó Timirí lán-aimseartha a bheadh fostaithe, go háirithe sna Lár-Ionad Éireannaigh anseo chun dul i mbun múinteoireachta agus chun scéim Ghaeilge sna scoileanna a chur i bhfeidhm i gceart.

Is múinteoir Ghaeilge i Sasana mé ag múineadh Ghaeilge as mo stuaim fhéin – aon áit gur féidir liom rang a reachtáil. Íocann mo chúrsaí múinteoireachta £100 in aghaidh na seachtaine dom as táillí na bpáistí, daoine fásta nó ionaid – níl leas sóisialta ar fáil dom go fóill. Nach ceart náire a bheith ar Rialtas na hÉireann go bhfuilimid ag fulaingt ar an ngannchuid anseo céad bliain go leith tar éis an Ghorta Mhóir?

Mairéad Holt

Summary

This article deals with the lack of provision for the teaching of the Irish language in England, it is still only taught outside the curriculum. The negative attitude amongst many immigrants is not surprising considering the hypocritical attitude of the Irish State and those in power. The author, who teaches voluntary Irish classes, asks for readers to write to the Irish and British authorities seeking funding for full time Irish language officers to teach and promote Irish in the Irish Centres and in the school system.



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The first meeting of CAER (Education Society of the European Regions) to be held outside Wales took place in October in Dublin and was organised with the assistance of Gaelscoileanna. Some of the delegates who attended the Sat. morning session are pictured above, from left, Aodán Ó Laoire, (Irish Language Officer, Cork Corporation), Cathal Ó Luain (Gaelscoileanna), Phil Kelly, (Manx Language Officer, Mannin) and Tony Scott Warren (Jersey). (Photo, courtesy of Colm Ó Tórna). This was the first meeting attended by delegates from Mannin and Jersey. Lectures were given on the position of the Irish and Welsh language schools and on developments in the teaching of Manx. The use of new technology and possibilities for further expansion in this area in primary and second level schools in Wales and Ireland was outlined and discussed. A new cooperative venture between schools in Ireland, Wales, Norway and Galicia was announced.

Low Flying Hazard 'Potentially Dangerous'

The Irish government has expressed its concern in correspondence to the Celtic League about the hazard caused by military low flying near British nuclear plants.

The Celtic League had written to the Irish and Manx governments following an incident, on November 28, near the Torness nuclear power station when an RAF Tornado jet came within seconds of crashing on the plant.

The Celtic League also cited the dangers posed by the siting of air exercise ranges, such as those in the North Irish sea and training bases such as that at the Valley in Anglesey, close to nuclear power plants.

In a letter from the Taoiseach's Office the Irish government say that they: 'already have grave concerns about the operation of the British nuclear industry, and the additional risks posed by hazardous flying close to these facilities are potentially very serious.'

Meanwhile the MOD are still tight lipped about the incident and have not as yet responded to an enquiry from the League asking what steps will be taken to improve safety.

J. B. M

IRISH LANGUAGE NEWS

- After intense lobbying by Gaelscoileanna and the parents over many months recognition was finally granted by the Dept. of Education to the all-Irish school in Mainistir na Corann, Co.Cork.
- The heads of the promised Irish Language Right's Bill will not be published until autumn 2000. This means that the stated intent of the Minister of State for the Gaeltacht, Éamon Ó Cuív, to have the Bill enacted in 2000 is unlikely to be achieved.
- During the elections for Údarás na Gaeltachta calls were made for that body to be given planning powers to enable it to protect the Gaeltacht from schemes deleterious to the language. However, the Minister for Environment and Local Government, Noel Dempsey, ruled out making any provision for this in the new Planning Bill. He did however introduce an amendment, which states that local authorities should take into account "the

protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht including the promotion of the Irish Language as the community language where there is a Gaeltacht area in the area of the development plan". While welcoming this as step forward in the context of no protection previously existing for the Irish Language in planning legislation Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge said this was not sufficient to ensure a correct structure for Irish or the Gaeltacht.

- The provisions of the Broadcasting Bill (put to the Dáil in November) with regard to Irish Language Broadcasting and TG4 (the renamed Telefís na Gaeilge) were described as *extremely bad* by Ciarán Ó Feinneadha. Ciarán was Chairman of the Feachtas Náisiúnta Telefise, whose campaign over many years eventually led to the establishment of TnaG and he served on the first board of that body He stated that TG4 is only required to broadcast news and current affairs in Irish and

even then only 'primarily in Irish'. He feared the station would become 'cultural station' broadcasting mostly in English. Nowhere in the legislation is the Gaeltacht mentioned, although it was mentioned twice in the original terms of reference of TnaG. Why, he asked, was there no emphasis on providing programmes in Irish and a service for the Irish language community and the Gaeltacht?

- The appointments to the Irish Language part of the new North South Foundation for Irish and Ulster Scots contained a few surprises. There were eight nominations made by Northern parties and eight from the Republic. From the North Iontaobhas Ultach (Ulster Trust) have two places of the six from the SDLP and the UUP. Sinn Féin nominated a Gaeloiliúint worker, Gearóid Mac Siarcais from Belfast and Cionnaith Ó Súilleabháin from Cork (to the surprise of many in the North apparently, why, for an All-Ireland party?). The main new names of any note from the Republic were Liam Ó Cuinneagáin, Oideas Gael and Jacqueline Ní Fhearghusa from Gaelscoileanna.

NORTHERN AGREEMENT —

PROGRESS, BUT YET ANOTHER CONDITION

The review of the Good Friday agreement initiated following the boycott of the Northern Assembly session (to elect the Executive) by the Ulster Unionist Party earlier in the year was completed in early Nov. The tactic of removing the process from the North, having closed sessions with no media contact, minimising speculation and ensuring no leaks took place seemed to facilitate a final positive outcome. In his report US Senator George Mitchell stressed the parties commitment to the implementation of the Good Friday Agreement in the context of three principles agreed:

- an inclusive Executive exercising devolved powers
- decommissioning of all paramilitary arms by May 2000
- decommissioning to be carried out in a manner determined by the Independent International Commissioning on Decommission (IICD)

Senator Mitchell welcomed the IICD assessment and said he shared its conclusion that: *"decommissioning is by definition a voluntary act and cannot be imposed. To bring decommissioning about the IICD will need the co-operation and support of the political parties, using all the influence they have, together with the wholehearted commitment of paramilitary organisations. While decommissioning is an essential element of the Agreement, the context in which it can be achieved is the overall implementation of the Agreement. All participants have a collective responsibility in this regard."*

David Trimble, leader of the UUP, seems to have ignored the emphasis here in the way he went about getting an endorsement from the Ulster Unionist Council for the outcome of the review. The motion, which was put and accepted by them, included a guarantee from Trimble that he would resign from any Executive set up if decommissioning had not commenced by February 2000.

Of course there was no talk of this in the review and the Agreement itself envisaged decommissioning by May 2000 with progress made on all elements of the Agreement in the meantime, the original schedule for example saw an Executive and Cross Border institutions set up in Oct '98. Now after 18 months of stalling by Trimble on all implementation measures he has set his own unilateral deadline of two months on the largely symbolic issue of decommissioning! If he is gambling on getting this gesture when progress on major issues such as the implementation of the Patten report on reform of the RUC are

blocked he is taking a dangerous gamble indeed.

Nevertheless, with acceptance of the review outcome the two governments moved quickly on other issues. In late November the Northern Assembly appointed Ministers to the Executive in line with the party allocations determined by representation in the Assembly. There were some surprises in the way the appointments fell and various predictions did not materialise. The one most commented on was that of Martin McGuinness as Minister for Education, (already in some of the Unionist heartland's there have been protests involving schoolchildren, organised it is suspected by DUP supporters). A Ministry which many had thought Sinn Féin or the SDLP would seek, that of Culture, Arts and Leisure, went instead to the UUP's Michael McGimpsey. He now becomes responsible for Irish language policy in the North (as well for promotion of the dialect of English called Ulster Scots). While Dr. Ian Paisley's DUP Ministers accepted their appointments they will refuse to sit on the Executive.

In December other elements were put in place. Power was formally devolved to the



Martin McGuinness

Northern Assembly and Executive ending twenty-five years of direct rule from Westminster. The Taoiseach signed a declaration giving effect to the revised Articles 2 and 3 of the Republic's Constitution. The North-South Ministerial Council and the Cross-Border Implementation Bodies were initiated (Inland Waterways, Food Safety, Trade and Business Development, Special EU Programmes, Irish Language and Ulster Scots, and Aquaculture and Marine). Finally, a week before Christmas, the first meeting of the British Irish Council was held. This brought together representatives of the Irish and British governments, the Northern Assembly, the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly, the Isle of

Man, Guernsey and Jersey for the first time.

This latter body it may be noted is consultative only and will only meet twice a year but is seen as a Unionist counterweight to the development of the North South bodies. While any body which brings representatives of Celtic countries together, albeit with Westminster dominant, might have some possibilities for development (particularly as the Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly hopefully move towards independence), let us be quite clear that such a body is not seen in any sense as a prototype inter Celtic one. Suggestions of some type of a 'Britannic' confederation were made and rejected very firmly nearly two decades ago as being fatally flawed in omitting Brittany (and where is Kernow now?) and unnecessarily including England whose long term policies are still to dominate her smaller neighbours. This is still the case today. Devolution has only been granted in the end of the day to maintain the Kingdom united. In this context a far more positive development is the establishment of strong bilateral links such as could be foreshadowed by the recent establishment of Irish Consulates in Edinburgh and Cardiff.



Army puts itself above the Law

The Celtic League have accused the British Army of putting themselves above the law in relation to the case of the two Scottish guardsmen, Mark Fisher and James Wright, convicted of murdering Belfast man Peter McBride.

After their early release from custody an Army Board found that the two men could remain in the army on the grounds that serving personnel sentenced to periods in custody could avoid dismissal from the service if there existed 'exceptional circumstances'.

However, in the High Court, Mr. Justice Kerr described the decision as 'flawed' and subsequently the original decision was quashed. The MOD have since confirmed, in November, that the case would be subject to further review by Army Board members who had no involvement in the previous decision.

At the time the Celtic League wrote to the MOD pointing out that the relevant section of Queen's Regulations did not allow the appointment of multiple panels and accused the MOD of perverting the regulations.

The League has now asked the UK government's senior Law Officer why the MOD believes they can set themselves above the Law.

J.B.Moffatt

Kelles... Deaw Vatearn!

Breaz leas dro than dewetha deaw vatearn a Kernow ew dre vee angye Hywel suyes gen Ricat. Thera nye riddia en moye vel edn daryvas dre vee Howel a vee fethes genz an matearn Sousnack Athelstan, ken boaz an Kernowian bannes tha tewe west an Tamar, ha drewa Ricat reeg e suya, ew coves en mean beath en Plas Penlee. An credgians ma ew dew tha theaw viscomerians.

En Covath Sousnack rag an vlethan 918 theras nye riddia: "*an vatearnath en Kimbra, Hywel Clydog had Idwal han deez Kimbrack oll reeg wheelas eve (Eddy) vel arleth*". Mar tene nye ha madra an screffow Kimbrack rag an kethe oozma, theras nye tesky dreeg rowlia Hywel he e vrodar Clydog, mibbian Cadell, en bar orlewan Kimbra. En 920 Clydog ap Cadell a verwas, ha Hywel reeg sindga an laze tha e hunnen en ednack. Pereeg Idwal merwall en 942, Hywel a drailias whathe moye gallogeek arta, a comeras pohar vel matearn Gwenez ha'n noor-west a Kimbra.

Eddy a verwas en 924. Bedn 927, an matearn Athelstan o pednzhivick, ha theras nye riddia en Daralla Sousnack, "*kenever teer en ennisma a vee dreis dadn e rowl eve, kenza Hywel, matearn Kembra an Orlewan...*" Suya hebma theras ruster lean pub matearn liha, ha ethewa obma reeg dallath an miscomerians dro than gevevan Gernuack. Drevan o Kernow meneges a termen tha orrol vel 'Kimbra West' e vee deshaves en cabm dreeg Hywel doaz a Gernow, ha ny en deda athor an bar west a Kimbra, henev Cerdigion ha Gwenez.

Polytack Hywel a vee skientek, he e hugeth laze reeg treegas crownick, ha geres en crees genz an Sausen. Ma e hanow a tisquethas gen tytyll 'is-vatearn' en sertayne chaturs Sousnack, hag e reeg cawas compoza an lahes Kimbrack, ha bis en moaz war pryeryngath en 928 heb owne a theffolans veeth thort an Sausen. Eve a verwas en 949, "*pedn ha laude an Brittez oll*" (949: 'A Howel Da vab Cadell vrenhin, Pen a molyant yr holl Vrytanyeit a vu varw').

Hebma ew an kessam Hywel po Howel ew cabm gredges tha voaz dewetha matearn Kernow. Weer, ma an hanow *Hywel* deskidnia moye vel eneth en screffow Kimbrack, buz pub trevath ma an lydniath stirries, ha na theath onen veeth nothans athor Kernow. Nagew tabm veeth an case dro Kernow nekeves et an daralla Kimbrack

na en screffow avare an lecan Kimbrack; en gweer en taa ma angye menegas leas gweith an teer nye ha'n dewetha matearn gweer nye, Doniert, reeg gawas e ankow en 876 thort bethy. Gwethes aweath en screffow Kimbrack ma record an vatearnath Kernuack en ooz Geraint, buz nag iggans compla Howel na Hywel der reason sempill dro hebma an kessam Hywel a Cerdigion ha Gwenez en *Kimbra West* Kimbrack, ny *Kimbra West* Kernow. Na vee edn Matearn Hywel a Gernow!

An nessa matearn ew kelles than heynes Kernuack thew Ricat. En Plas Penlee ma edn growz pedn-roze reeg saval kenz en telhar marhas Penzans. War kein an poss ma stull cawas screef a leb ma an leall gerriow kennkies, buz pelha ages hedna ma sertayne allow stoppia Macalister thort riddia an gerriow 'Regis ricati crux' (Crowz an Matearn Ricat) en 1929. Nagew drigge an growz nan gerriow devethes moye tewethack na kelles thea daryvas Macalister. Nag eze comples gear veeth a gerriow an parma gan A.G. Langdon* et e lever *Crowzow Coath Kernuack*, screffes en 1890, a vee dres mar leas blethan an lever cumpas, wos drigava madra per glose an mean ha mens o screffes adro thothea.

En ooz ma nag eze meneges traveeth war an gerriow besyma gen an A'hro Charles Thomas, a leb ma e auctorite ha e wovenek erwyr dres slumias. En deda, na vee an screef biscath crefheis gen kene deskadger heynes na archaeologack, thort leb nye a dale suppoga drewa dew moye tha fantad an ymaginacion a Macalister avel than wreanath. Ma markes aweath gen Thomas pothew termen an growz thort an 11vas cansblethan, dro tha 1050, ha kevrennek gen manar an Lever an Deeth Breaz a Alverton, na alga leall matearn an termen ma boaz sconies na geres meza records an heynes. Seweth! Na vee beska edn Matearn Ricat a Gernow noniel!

Ma hebma an leall gwra dro than dewetha deaw 'vatearn' nye, buz wos dralgava boaz ahas rag an lenner, na dale dotha boaz cothes. Per thiougel nye a vee matearnath o leall records hag affirmes, buz na vee Howel na Ricat part nongy.

* Betha why avizies: Na dale meskegy A.G. (Andrew) Langdon ha A.G. (Arthur) Langdon. Ma gwreis genz a niel ha e gila govennek pednzhivick war heynes an crowzow Kernuack, buz

ma an theaw debarres gen leas blethan.

Richard Gendall

Lost... Two Kings!

Précis: A general delusion has persisted in popular belief that the last two kings of Cornwall were Hywel, apparently mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, and Ricat, apparently commemorated on a memorial now at Penlee House. Because 'West Wales' was a term applied both to Cornwall and to the western part of Wales, it has been wrongly assumed that they Hywel mentioned in the chronicle was King of Cornwall at the time of the conquest by Athelstan. No mention was ever made of such a Cornish king in the king lists of the period, but on the other hand the independent Welsh records as well as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle give much detail about the Welsh Hywel (who lived and died at exactly the dates claimed for a Cornish 'Hywel'). There was no Hywel King of Cornwall!

The 11th century cross to one Ricat now at Penlee House was purported by Macalister to refer to him as king. There is however no sign of such an inscription, nor was it mentioned by Langdon in 1890 when any inscription would have been clearer, nor can Charles Thomas today find any trace of such an inscription; furthermore, the cross is identified with the important Domesday Manor of Alverton, and any Cornish King of that time would certainly not have escaped mention in records. Alas! There was no King Ricat of Cornwall either!

Our last attested king was Doniert, who died in 876, and whose well marked memorial stands by the road near St. Clere

Some notes on Dr Ken George's *Gerlyver Kenewek Kemmyn*

Nicholas J. A. Williams has produced a paper, which looks at the validity of the database of traditional Cornish texts from which Dr George, the creator of Kenewek Kemmyn, worked.

He argues that: 'Dr George's authentication codes in his *Gerlyver Kenewek Kemmyn* (1993) suggest that the computer corpus and program used were unreliable. The dictionary frequently misrepresents the number of times words occur, the texts and periods in which they appear and indeed often asserts that words are not attested at all when they are common.'

Copies of the paper can be obtained, free of charge, from: Nicholas Williams, Department of Modern Irish, University College, Dublin 4, Ireland.

Golok War Studh Kernow

Nowydh devedhys o'ma dhiworth Kuntelles Vlydhenek an Gesva. Pell lowr yw aban skrifis vy rag **Carn** mes ogas lowr ov vy dhe gres an movyans may hallav vy ri derivas. Pyth eus dhe weles y'n rann a vywnans Kernow a omwra an 'dasvywnans keltek'? Yn unn fordh y hyllyn ni gwellhe ow cher. Nans yw pell ny veu kemmys ober na kemmys lowena gwrys dre vayn an taves kernewek: Lyvrow pals a dhiskwedhir war bub testenn, y'ga mysk istori ha kals bardhonieth. Adar henna, ha tra nowydh rag Kernow, tri po peswar gwerthi a wra displetya ha profya dhe'n bobel ha'n les ha'n downder an pyth a wrer: Kanow ha menestrouthi *awenys* der an hengov a hol patron sewen an bagasow yn Breten Vyghan hag Iwerdhon. Nessa henedh a omgemmeras displegyans (ha displetyans) korv donsow desedhys ha restrys ugens blydhen alemma. Donsoryon yowynk *Tan ha Dowr* re dhiskwedhas ass yw bywek an korv ma, arag pobel Iwerdhon hag Amerika.

Kalessa yw menowgh terri dre anwodhvos (ha fowt hwans dyski) an *media*: gwell yw gansa, drefenn kals moy es, pesya ow kwertha dhyn an paradyhys Amerikanek! Ha sedhi a wra heb aga merkya obereth y'n yeth. Tyvi a wra devnydh an taves awos oll an kedrynn adro dhe lytherenieth. Nyns yw res bos henna meur a vern pan besyas an taves *kewsys* gans an moyha-niver heb nameur trelva. Soweth unn furv a gernewek a veu profyes a'y wosa na yllir y gonvedhes an gernewegoryon usi genen ni seulabrys. (Kemmysk koynt yw a eghenn gernewek 'diwedhes' ha Sowsnek a'n oes Victoria!)

Y'n bys erbysiethek, ober a fyll dhe'n re yowynk, a dal hwath (kepar ha Jowan Chi'n hordh) lavurya pell ow hwilas hwel dhe wul. Hedhyw yn jydh ny fyll dhyn pobel rag astiveri an koll — an re eus gansa pygans lowr dhe dhiank a'n difeythtir abervedh y'n sitys Pow Sows!

Gallas, dell hevel, bys vinytha, an hwelyow sten, hag yma an diogyon ha'n byskadoryon keffrys yn esow. Parys yw peub dhe gollenki plontyans an gwask a dheghow, ow tewlel an fowt war 'Europa'.

Yn mysk an bagasow a dus kolonnek usi owth omladh rag gwitha yn fyw spyrys gwir Kernow, govynn a wrer 'Ple'ma an fog'? Gwrys yw gansa obereth veur, rag ensampel dew gerdh, onan bys yn Loundres ha'y gila dhe Geresk. rag kovhe darvosow a vern yn istori an wlas:

Adar henna, Dalleth movyans politek nowydh a sywyas terri fydh dre berghenn Krofti Deghow ha'n difyk a dhiffres a-barth Loundres.

Diskwedhyansow sorr an Gernowyon a

hwarva war Bons Tamar. Ny wodhyn ni na hwath oll hemma mar kwra dhe'n bobel aswonn wostiwedh na dheur Kernow dhe'gan rewlysi unn favenn goek!

Yma re ow synsi a'n partiow koth, re erell ow kwaytyas neb merkyl dhiworth 'Senedh an Stennoryon'. Moy a dus a veu dynnys y'n gaskyrgh dhe gemmeres aga le y'n diskwedhyansow ma...

Onan hag oll! yw lavar koth Kernow, (moy yn govenek ages gwirvos-eghan!). Kuntelles kemmyn Mebyon Kernow a synsir dhe'n 4a a Vis Hedra; geryow da ha fur a dheu yn mes a'n tu na: y fydh dhe les gweles yw a moy a vern hedhyw yn jydh dhe bobel a vynno gweles 'istori' rag Kernow y'n termyn a dheu.

Dhe wir, yma dyllas parys ow kortos Kernowyon gonisogeth hag yn politegieth mar kyllir aga skokkya.

Julyan Holmes

Précis

Just back from the AGM in my home town, I thought I would briefly describe Cornish revival as I see it today. The general economic decline has not been halted yet alone reversed! Continued massive emigration, to England and overseas, is combined with an ever-increasing tide of 'refugees' from the deserts of English inner-cities.

Action groups have been set up, reacting to special issues. One of them, naturally, the betrayal of our last tin-mine by its owner (and the government's total lack of concern). Others are dedicated to reminding the Cornish and the rest of Britain about great events in our national history.

There are people out there with the knowledge and policies; the difficulty is in forging a unity of purpose. We shall see if some of those awakened to political action by local issues, will show themselves at the Mebyon Kernow annual meeting

CELTIC CONGRESS

An Kuntelles Keltek veath zenzes en Kernow hevlana, the Bude an 24a tereba an 29vez Ebrel (termen Pask). Rag pella derivadow pellgows tha Denise Chubb war (01209) 842394.

The year Celtic Congress will be held in Kernow this year, in Bude from the 24th to the 29th April. For further details call +44 1209 842394.

Lowender Festival

A reduction was noticed in the amount of Cornish used in the Lowender Festival, held in Porth Perran every October, this year compared with last year. This festival, attended by hundreds of people, many of whom come from outside Cornwall, is a good opportunity to give a public profile to the language and activists must put pressure on the organizers to ensure that the introductions to as many events as possible are done bilingually. There is room to increase the amount of Kernewek used on literature associated with the festival as well

Sonyow Kernewek

A chart of the sounds of Cornish, according to the Kernewek Kemmyn theory, has been produced, consisting of an example of one word containing each phoneme together with attractive pictures and entitled 'Sonyow Kernewek'. Drawn up by Philip Knight, it is intended to publish the chart as an A3 poster and as a tea-cloth, and there will be an accompanying cassette. While not all speakers agree with the Kemmyn method of pronouncing Cornish, this chart sets out the elements of this system particularly clearly and thus will contribute to a general understanding of the different ideas about the pronunciation of the language.

Gonisogeth Lemmyn

The radio station Pirate FM (not actually a pirate station!) has stopped broadcasting the news in Cornish. Their news program in Cornish, called 'Gonisogeth Lemmyn' with Matthew Clarke, was popular and a campaign for its restoration has been started. At the time of writing Pirate FM had not clarified the position. Further pressure can be applied by writing to: Joseph Swain, Manager, Radio Pirate FM, Studhyo Carn Brea, Vor Wilson, Redruth, TR15 3XX, Kernow.

Cornish Bible

The translation of the Bible into Cornish is continuing. The latest books to be published by Kesva an Taves in Kernewek Kemmyn are the Epistle to the Hebrews translated by Graham Sandercock, the Book of Esther by Philip Knight, the Letter to the Romans and the three Letters of John all by Wella Brown, and the Epistles to the Galatians and to Philemon and the Letter of Jude all by Julyan Davey.

Robat ap Tomos



Y COMMEEYS CELTIAGH AS Y COHAGLYM CELTIAGH

Ta baase trimsagh Alan Heusaff cur orrym smooïnaghtyn mychione y Commeeys Celtiagh as y Cohaglym Celtiagh as gleashaghtyn Celtiagh elley. Va mee er veeiteil rish Alan roish shen, agh va rieu cooinaghtyn aym jeh'n tra haink mee ny whail ayns Divlyn ayns 1966. Va shen lieh-cheead blein lurg Irree Magh 1916 as va'n ard-valley imneagh dy liooar erreish da Pillyr Nelson goll er sheidey seose.

(Ec y traa shen, cha row Radio Vannin lesh reilys Vannin as va arraneyn myr 'Up went Nelson in old Dublin' ry-chlashtyn er y radio, cred eh ny dyn.) Va Alan as mish goaill ayns ayns chaglym jeh sheshaght haink rish as hie magh ass tappee dy liooar - Commeeys yn Aeglagh Celtiagh. Hug Alan leaght feer anaasagh mychione shennaghys y Vritaan as y vea echeysyn hene Loayr eh mychione yn agh va ny Frangee cur gagh red Britaanagh fo chosh as yn agh ren en scapail veih'n vaase ec kione y nah chaggey mooar. Ec y traa shen as rish ymmodde bleantyn lurg shen va'n reilys Frangagh geiyrt orroosyn va 'co-obbraghey' lesh ny Germaanee. Shimmey Frangagh ren co-obbraghey dyn yss da sleih elley ren deyrey sleih nagh ren co-obbraghey er chor erbee.

Goll rish Britaanee elley, ren Alan scapail gys Nerin. Red nagh nhione da monney sleih nish, ren sleih ayns ollooscoillyn Bretagh cooney lesh Britaanee scapail veih baase sy Rank. As va kuse jeh ny Bretnee shen nyn olteynyn jeh'n Cohaglym Celtiagh, sheshaght ta gra dy vel ee 'neupholitickagh'. Quaagh dy liooar, shen y fa dy dug Alan Heusaff y Commeeys Celtiagh er bun ayns ny bleantyn tree feed: cha row y Cohaglym Celtiagh gra 'politickagh' rish hene as v'eh cooie sheshaght noa y chur er bun veagh dellal rish cooishyn Celtiagh dy jeeragh as dy politickagh.

Ta mish hene smooïnaghtyn dy vel dy chooilley nhee politickagh. Cha nod oo shaghney politickaght. Agh ta mee kianlt lesh y Cohaglym Celtiagh, 'sheshaght neupholitickagh', rish ny smoo na daeed blein. Cre'n fa? Er y fa dy vel y Cohaglym politickagh er agh croutagh. Er lhiam nagh vod oo gra dy vel oo laccal coadey as cur er e hoshiaght ny cultuorin Celtiagh gyn y ve politickagh. Cho leah's t'ou gra dy vel oo currit da chengey Cheltiagh erbee, shimmey peiagh ta smooïnaghtyn dy vel shen ny red slane politickagh. S'cooin

lhiam y skeel mychione yn inneen jeh aspick ayns Mannin paart dy vleeantyn er dy henney. Va'n inneen shoh goll dys brastyl Gaelgagh as hooar peiagh ennagh magh dy row yn ennym eck recortysst ayns pabyryn 'follit' ayns ard-stashoon ny meoiryn-shee. Ben ghaueagh v'ayn my v'ee gynsaghey Gaelg!

Lhisagh ny sheshaghtyn Celtiagh gobbraghey ry-cheilley ny smoo. Ta'n chooid smoo jeh ny sheshaghtyn shoh goll er y raad oc hene. Eddyry t'ad almoragh mychione sheshaghtyn Celtiagh elley, er nonney s'cummei lhiu dy vel sheshaghtyn elley ayn. Agh, ga dy bare dooin feddyn magh foddey ny smoo mychione ooilley ny sheshaghtyn shoh, veagh eh ny varran fardailagh dy phrowal dy chur un sheshaght foawragh er bun, veagh goll er stiurey veih'n vean.

Keaad blein er dy henney, v'eh feer fassanagh dy ve 'Celtiagh' (myr t'eh nish). Va sleih berchagh as pooaral loayrt dy niartal mychione eddyr-Cheltiaghys. Ayns Mannin, va sleih doaieagh ass towse goaill ayn mooar sy ghleashaght Cheltiagh. S'liklee nagh row meoiryn-shee imneagh freayll arrey er lheid y sleih shen. Agh eisht haink y chid chaggey mooar as Irree Magh 1916 ayns Nerin. Cha row eddyr-Cheltiaghys fassanagh arragh as va sleih ayns Mannin (as cheeraghyn elley fo Hostyn) lhiggey er nagh row Nerin ayn. Er agh ennagh, hannee y Cohaglym Celtiagh fo raad feiy ny bleantyn. Neayr's y traa ta fys ayns er, she shenn sleih ta goaill ayns y Cohaglym son y chooid smoo. Son shickryrs, ta sleih aeg goaill arrane as kiaulley ec ny cohaglymyn bleaney, agh she shenn sleih ta stiurey y Cohaglym Celtiagh - sleih ta dy mennick gaccan nagh vod ad cleayney feallagh aeg stiagh. (Jean y red cheddin cheet er y Chommeys Celtiagh?)

Er y gherid, ta banglane Albinagh y Cohaglym Celtiagh er chur magh treealtysyn dy yannoo y Cohaglym ny smoo breeoll as 'profeshoonagh' liorish cur er bun ard-oik as pointeil fir-oik veagh geddyn faill. Agh s'doillee troggal argid cour shen. Myr shen, ta'n Cohaglym tannaghtyn myr sorch dy chlub ry-hoi shenn chaarjyn. Agh cha nod oo gra dy vel shen ny red scammyltagh ayns eash tra ta drogh-yantee ayns colughtyn eddyrashoonagh kiarail geddyn rey rish reddyn leaghar ayns bea sheelnaue. As ta'n

Cohaglym lowal da sleih lhiggey er dy vel reddyn politickagh 'neupholitickagh'.

Son shickryrs, lhisagh y Commeeys as y Cohaglym co-obbraghey. Ayns Mannin, ta shen taghyrt hannah er aghyn beggey. Foddee dy beagh co-obbraghey oikoil ny s'doillee: ta Manninee dy liooar er ngoll ass shillee er y skian jesh jeh'n pholitickaght as kyndagh rish shen t'ad smooïnaghtyn dy vel Ard-Scrudeyr y Chommeys goll rish sorch dy youyl! Bentyn rish ny cheeraghyn elley, cha nel fys ec olteynyn ennagh jeh'n Cohaglym dy vel y Commeeys ayn (as gyn ourys, cha nel fys ec olteynyn ennagh jeh'n Chommeys dy vel y Cohaglym ayn). Son y traa t'ayn, she cubbyl quaagh t'ayn: shenn ven seyr ta laccal dy ve cooyrtoil, ta goll er y scooyr dy follit nish as reesht, as stuggey breeoil ta gaase ny shinney.

Brian Stowell

Summary

After Alan Heusaff's sad death, it is particularly relevant to say that co-operation and information interchange is needed between the myriad Celtic societies, especially between the Celtic League and the Celtic Congress.

Closer Links

Moves to create formal parliamentary links between the Manx and Irish governments came a step closer in October when a delegation of Manx politicians were guests of the Irish government.

Irish parliament's Speaker, Seamus Pattison, was asked by Brenda Cannell MHK if he would consider a formal parliamentary relationship in order to speak with unity on matters of mutual interest - like Sellafeld.

Mr Lowey, MLC, commented that building a close working relationship was important, especially given the formation of the Council of the Isles, formed as a result of the Irish peace process.

Peter Karran, MHK said, 'We need friends outside the UK and this sort of link with our Celtic brothers is one way of getting our voice heard.' He also said that they had been received with more sincerity than they would have been 'with the UK lot'.

CJK

Autumn 1999 marked the 25th anniversary of the commencement of Manx traditional music sessions at the Central bar in Peel. As in other parts of the Celtic world Manx was undergoing a revival in various aspects of its traditions, particularly in the realm of language, music and dance.

The Manx music sessions at the Central developed from the playing of popular folk, and until 1977 the informal gathering of musicians of varying numbers played under the loose umbrella name of *Celtic Tradition*. In 1977 a conscious step was made to jettison the popular folk repertoire and to concentrate solely on Manx traditional material under the umbrella name of *Bwoie Doal* 'blind boy' (from Tom Kermode of Bradda, traditional fiddle player and main contributor to the Clague Collection). The process had been gradual. In 1975 photocopies of the Clague ms. traditional music collection, housed in the Manx Museum library, began circulating among musicians and each week new tunes were learned and played. The material found in this and other extant ms. or printed sources at the time were to be regarded as the repository of 'Manx' material, even though the material itself is heterogeneous, with many tunes finding parallels in the music traditions of the surrounding countries.

At that time the playing of Irish tunes was much in vogue in Manx among many Manx musicians. However, at the Central a conscious decision and effort was made to concentrate only on Manx material, and this policy was enforced by general agreement with Stalinesque fervour. The reasoning was simple. Manx music had not been played for many a year and was thus in a weak position when set against a thriving Irish tradition. If Manx music was not played at the Central no one else would play it.

The introduction of Manx tunes, as I say, was gradual, and I well remember the Saturday evening around 1977 when we got through the evening playing only Manx material. There was a feeling of considerable satisfaction all round, that we had achieved a significant milestone in the promotion of Manx music. In the years that followed the ms. or (earlier) printed material began to appear in published form which made it readily available to a wider public.

However, there was one problem. We had no sound-recorded examples of the playing of Manx traditional music available to us, only descriptions in 17-19th century commentaries. In consequence there was a certain licence in interpretation which in due course led to disagreement. The performance at the Central was felt by some to be lack-lustre, at times 'funereal' in delivery, with almost each tune being thrashed out *ad nauseam*, with a pause for a smoke in between. There was little or no session etiquette (a facet of tradition death), and anyone playing tunes not in house style would be over-played. The notion of

Manx Traditional Music 25 Years On

playing tunes in sets, in accordance with what we now know of the earlier (genuine) tradition from documentary sources, had to wait until the early 1990s.

Throughout the 1980s the sessions, nevertheless, kept going, and in 1989 decamped to the Whitehouse, also in Peel, their present venue. At the start of the 1990s a fresh look at the material was made. Tunes regarded as incomplete in the available collections were completed with a respective A or B part in a manner that accorded with the tune's structure. In addition, there appeared a welter of new tunes within the traditional format, particularly from younger musicians, which enhanced the repertoire considerably. At the same time the documentary material was once again reviewed, which led to fresh interpretation and to the introduction of playing tunes of like structure (i.e. jigs, reels, hornpipes, etc.) in sets at a more robust speed, thus enhancing the whole performance. This approach, however, found little favour with some of the old guard, which led once more to disagreement and the springing up for a while of new sessions at other venues.

Today a number of groups of young musicians has sprung up, playing Manx music in their own way which may or may not have anything to do with the revived tradition of the 1970s or that of the old tradition-bearers. It is more geared to public performance than to genuine session playing, in consequence of which only a small number of tunes are (well) practised and played. This has resulted in a restricted wider repertoire essential for session performance.

In comparison, say, with the playing of Irish traditional music, which has its own momentum and etiquette, whether the session is in Ireland, England, or in Timbaktu, the Manx traditional music scene, 25 years on, is still fragmentary, with its various expressions. This in turn had led to an emergence of prima donnas as well as solo performers. There is little or no etiquette still at session performance, and the Peel session has allowed itself of late to be open to non-Manx music in a manner that would not have been tolerated 2-25 years ago.

In spite of everything the sessions at Peel have survived, and it can be said that practically every senior musician who plays Manx traditional music today has at one time or other gone 'through the mill' of *Bwoie Doal*. This in itself is a tremendous achievement for the Peel session.

Long may it continue.

SyC

OFFSHORE ASPECTS

The image of the offshore financial and services world is probably, at least, slightly tainted in the perception of most people. The offshore world offers a wide variety of services which involve a largely legitimate tax avoidance so that capital gains can be rolled over in making investments and also some income tax saved, e.g. an insurance investment bond linking a life assurance policy to investments has proved a popular vehicle. This type of arrangement is widely used in the Isle of Man where insurance/investment companies such as Clerical Medical and Eagle Star International are strongly represented.

The old-fashioned way of "managing" an offshore company through the use of nominee directors in a "no tax" country such as Andorra or Sark (sometimes referred to as "the South Lark") is rapidly disappearing. Under the UK Labour Government a review of the British low tax islands (Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man) was undertaken. You will realise that many representatives of that government, both in opposition and in power have stated that these *havens* will be *closed down* added to which European harmonisation and tax captive initiatives are in the pipeline in the very near future.

From the viewpoint, not only of those islands, but also of the Irish Republic itself, legitimate tax incentives and availability of offshore vehicles for trade and investment have not only contributed to but have been

at the forefront of economic growth. It is doubtful whether the Irish Republic would have boomed at all but for the combination of its educated workforce combined with a 10% tax on manufacturing and financial activities in the Republic. In the relocation or location of new operations tax is often the most important factor.

The Isle of Man now very much depends economically on its tax based industries and these include not only those in the financial sector but also much smaller scale manufacturing, marketing and, more recently, e-commerce activities. Against this background the Manx government has come to recognise that it must support legitimate tax based activities not only to prosper but also to survive. In short it must be prepared for complete independence from the UK if the UK were to try to impose its own tax regime.

The Isle of Man government must also carefully and fairly address the major social issue of soaring house prices readily caused by the expansion of the financial sector and consider how it is to bring an average house within the realm of the average family.

However, one must add that misuse of offshore vehicles continues as is demonstrated by the connection of a Manx corporate service provider to the US/Russian government loan money laundry scandal. The service provider is claiming it had no knowledge of the *laundry* aspect and this begs the question whether the new "know your customer" rules will be effective in practice.

P. Galway

celtica

LEONARD PELTIER - A Man Fighting for Freedom

Our own struggle for recognition and equality of our Celtic people is familiarly shared by many other native cultures. Leonard Peltier, a Native American, has captured the hearts of many all over the world.

Leonard Peltier has been unjustly detained in prison by the United States' government for 23 years, where he has been beaten, framed and maltreated, but he remains an unbroken man.

Critical evidence establishing his innocence was withheld from the defence and witnesses were intimidated into giving false testimonies against him. Amnesty International has recognised him as a political prisoner, and demanded his immediate and unconditional release. Human Right's organisations worldwide recognise Leonard Peltier as the symbol of Indigenous Rights. The UN and many other bodies have passed resolutions in support of his freedom. Detained for 23 years, with poor health, he deserves his immediate freedom from this cruel and arbitrary miscarriage of justice. Leonard Peltier's real reason for being imprisoned is his defiance of the government and his enduring battle for equal rights.

In a new book entitled *Prison Writings: My Life Is My Sun Dance* (N.Y. St. Martins Press, 1999), he writes, "After Gramps died of pneumonia when I was eight, life became really hard for us. My grandmother was left alone. She spoke hardly any English, had almost no income, and was trying to raise three small kids - me, my sister, and our cousin Pauline. I tried stacking the table with my slingshot; coming up with an occasional squirrel or maybe a small bird mostly Gamma used them to flavour the otherwise vegetarian soup. I never could seem to catch a rabbit with my slingshot, like the big fat ones Gramps had gotten now and then with his single shot .22 for Gamma's beloved rabbit stew.

Given the cold North Dakota winters, hunger became a really big problem for us. We had no bread, no milk, hardly anything else. I thought that gnawing ache in my belly was just the way I was supposed to feel. One day in the fall of 1953, a big black government car came and took us kids away to the Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding school in Wahpetan, North Dakota. I remember Gamma weeping in

the doorway as she watched them take us off. We had no suitcases, just bundles. First thing after we got there, they cut off our long hair, stripped us naked then doused us with powdered DDT. I thought I was going to die. That place, I can tell you, was very, very strict. It was more like a reformatory than a school. You were whacked on the butt with a yardstick for the smallest infraction, even if you so much as looked someone in the eye."

Leonard Peltier was punished for speaking his native tongue and was continually beaten because he refused to become a white American. Leonard Peltier is known among his clan as *Gwarth-ee-lass* (He Leads the People) his life and his case have become international symbols of the enormous injustice faced by Indians in the United States of America. Leonard Peltier should be free, his only real crime was to be born a Native American.

Breton - Celebrities Sign up for Charter

Joseph Martray and Yves Rocher launched an appeal directed at Breton celebrities to register their support for the signing of the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages after Jacques Chirac's resistance to implement the Charter, which was signed by the French government in May 1999.

The main goal of the initiative was to demonstrate to the different political lobbies in Paris that support for the Breton language was not only confined to those involved in the political field - the struggle was going forward not backwards!

Well-known personalities from the world of business, science, journalism, catering and artists in show business signed up to show that they were proud of their Breton roots and in particular their own language.

Some 92 people responded and still more names are being added to the list. Martray and Rocher will take their appeal to Congress (Parliament and Senate) to challenge the French government's disregard of democracy.

Courtesy *Armor* Nov. 1999

Another Housing Crisis Looming?

House prices are once again rising dramatically. Demand is greatest in price ranges up to £150,000. There is little doubt that pressure will grow for the planning authority to release more land, not least of all by developers and estate agents.

David Creane of Cowley Groves estate agents, in an article entitled *Property: 'A Renaissance Coming'*, sees the market 'consistently improving', advising those contemplating house buying for the first time to 'take the plunge' now. Creane blames an increasingly prosperous economy combined with the 'seemingly never ending and critically low supply of properties' for the demand and consequent high inflation. The article is careful to point out that 'the split between off Island and local purchasers is changing, traditionally 70/30 per cent favouring the local market.'

It also regrets the 'planning authority's restrictive measures prevent first time buyers getting on that 'all important first rung of the property ladder.'

Local opposition to extend existing towns and villages continues, but as the crisis grows it will become increasingly difficult for planners to turn down development applications. The Manx Energy and Natural Resources Society has recommended that a solution would be to create a new energy efficient town at Newtown, South of Douglas.

The housing crisis may be solved by loss of more countryside but the real crisis will be the mismatch between the present state of the infrastructure and population growth that is linked with economic expansion.

For some the standard of living will rise, but the pay off is a lowering of quality of life for all

CJK

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THE WORK OF THE LEAGUE GOES ON

In my tribute at the graveside of Alan Heusaff I gave a commitment that the work that he and others had started would go on. Alan had a high profile in the Celtic League and this is evidenced by the number of tributes that have flowed in and been printed in magazines right across the Celtic diaspora.

However, as well as Alan, over these last two years we have lost many others who I would describe as the "foot soldiers" of the Celtic League. People who worked quietly and diligently for both the Celtic League and for a number of other organisations promoting democracy and social justice for the Celtic peoples.

In Mannin, in October 1998, we lost Jack Irving a true stalwart and pillar of both the inter Celtic movement and the nationalist movement. Jack, a quiet but consistent

worker for the Celtic cause, is sorely missed.

In Cornwall, in March this year, we lost Blanche Green. Wife of long-standing League General Council member and former Treasurer, Roy Green, Blanche contributed enormously to the work of the League in Cornwall. She was also a capable orator, as I observed at a Celtic League AGM in Kernow, when detecting outside interference in the affairs of the Cornish branch she 'verbally lashed' the offending party.

The work of the Celtic League can and must go on in Alan's memory and also as a testament to all those others who have given their time and commitment to our ideals.

J.B.Moffatt
General Secretary

What kind of Government denies that a people exist?

The UK government is refusing to protect the Cornish people under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, by denying the people of Cornwall constitute a 'racial group'. As a consequence, the Cornish are threatened with effective assimilation, our culture swamped and obliterated by an all-pervading 'Englishness', a process which is actively encouraged by Government policies. Inclusion in the Convention would enshrine in law the right to maintain and sustain our culture, a right we are denied by the actions of the current London-based Government.

- Do you object to the UK Government's treatment of the Cornish?

- Do you think that an attack on one Celtic people is an attack on all the Celtic peoples?

If so, please write registering your complaint to:

Ms Nicola Markes-Goerlach, Council of Europe, Directorate of Human Rights, Minorities Unit, F-67075, Strasbourg-Cedex, France.

All evidence received will be cited when the Council of Europe considers the compliance of signatories to the Convention in 2000.

Membership and Subscriptions

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; 100FF or US\$20.00 (US funds, cheques drawn on a US bank). Europe Stg.£10 outside Europe Stg.£13.00 airmail.

For information about the Celtic League contact secretaries:

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ÉIRE c/o, 33 Céide na Grianóige, Ráth Cúil, Co. Átha Cliath.

KERNOW c/o General Secretary, 11 Hilltop View, Farmhill, Braddan, Mannin.

MANNIN Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenfaba Road, Peel. Tel: UK (0) 1624 843869.

ENGLAND BRANCH Florence Kenna, 72 Compton Street, London, EC1V 0BN.

USA Margaret Sexton, c/o P.O. Box 20153, Dag Hammarskjöld Postal Centre, New York, NY 10017.

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Original photographs must be forwarded.

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