

carn

A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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CELTIC LEAGUE



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



ALBA

NA POLAICH AGUS NA h-ALBANNAICH

“Oideas na Cloinne
Searmon san Eaglais
Is an Litreachas againn
— trì rudan a shàbhail ar cànan”
(Seanfhacal Pòlach)

Dh'fhaighnich Gordon Wilson a tha 'na bhall Pàrlamaid sa Phàrtaidh Nàiseanta ann an Dun Dé do Sheoras Younger (a bha 'na Rùnaire na Stàite gu 10.1.86) an robh a 'na *Cholonial Governor* air Alba no mar Sheanailear Jaruzelski (a cheannsaich na Pòlaich air sgath na Ruisia).

“Mata”, fhreagair Seoras, gu modhail, “B'fheàrr leam a bhi 'nam *Cholonial Governor*. Oir b'fheàrr leam an ad aige, bhon a tha i comhdaichte le itean. Chan eil ach speuclairean dubha air an t-Seanailear!”

Seo agad deagh fhealla-dhà; ach cha robh Gordon coir cho “slack” idir, bhon a tha co-cheangal mòr eadar fealla-dhà agus da-riribh an seo. Oir tha cor nam Pòlaich agus nan Albannaich uamhasach coltach ri chèile m.e. tha iad le chèile air an ceannsaichadh. Ach an deidh sin tha difir mòr eatorra cuideachd.

Ged a tha sinn ceart gu leoir nuair a chanas sinn, “Na Pòlaich bochd!” Ach tha sinne ann an Alba fada nas bochda na na Pòlaich; fada nas miosa, gun teagamh sam bith!

Eadar 1772, 1793 agus 1795 chaidh Poland (A' Phòlainn) air a pairteachadh agus fo riaghladh eadar an fheadhainn a bha a' bruidhinn sa Ghearmailteis de Phrussia agus de Austria (Ostair) san airde an iar agus an fheadhainn eile a bha a' bruidhinn cànan na Ruisia san airde an ear. Ach fhuair a' Phòlainn a saorsa ann an 1918 bhon a chaill a' Ghearmailt agus an Ostair a' Chiad Cogadh Mòr — agus chaidh an Ruisia leis an t-sruth taing do'n ar-a-mach aice ann an 1917.

Ged a bha a' Phòlainn ceannsaichte gu tur eadar 1795 agus 1918 cha do chaill na Pòlainnich an cuid cànan. Air an aobhar sin, nuair a dh'fhosgail iad an co-thionail no a' phàrlamaid aca ann an 1918, cha robh ach aon chànan cèdaichte innte — a' Phòileis a-mhàin.

Mur eil sinn a' dearbhadh do gach neach ann an Alba gum bheil cànan againne cuideachd, nuair a fhosgaileas iad an co-thionail na a' phàrlamaid Albannach air Cnoc Calltuinn, Dun Eideann bithidh a' Bheurla ga rìghleadh.

Eadar 1795 agus 1918, taing don obair mhath a rinn na fìor-Phòlainnich mhair a' Phòileis beò anns gach cèarn den Phòlainn ged a bha i uamhasach tana ann an iomadh àite gu h-àraidh san ionad Pomerania san àirde tuath. Aig an aon àm chraobhsagail iad gun robh ach aon chànan aig a h-uile Pòlainneach agus chreid an sluagh Pòlach sin. Feumaidh sinn a bhi teagasg a h-uile Albannach gur h-e ar cànan an aon chànan Albannach agus a bheil iad ag aontachadh leis a

sin. Chan eil e feumail mòran a radha oir tha na Gàidheil glic a' nochdadh mar thà leis na gnìomharan aca gum bheil ar cànan 's ar ceòl a' buntainn ri Alba gu leir. Abair gum bheil mòran againn ri dhèanamh gus am bi ar teanga Albannach cho slàn ris a' Phòileis.

Tha strì mhór againn a cheannsaichadh an inntinn aig a h-uile neach feadh Alba gu leir. Air mhodh eile tha “public relations operation” ro mhór a dhith oirnn. Nuair a buidhinneachas sinn bithidh buaidh mhór againn, gun teagamh sam bith, oir tha propaganda a thaobh na Beurla de gach seòrsa ro neartmhor.

Ach tillidh sinn don Phòlainn. Eadar 1939 agus 1945 bha a' Phòlainn air a pairteachadh agus fo riaghladh eadar an fheadhainn a bha a' bruidhinn sa Ghearmailteis san airde an iar agus an fheadhainn eile san airde an ear a' bruidhinn na Ruiseis. Mhurt na Nazi Gearmailtich ceithir muillion daoine anns a' Phòlainn ré nan còig Bliadhnaichean sin.

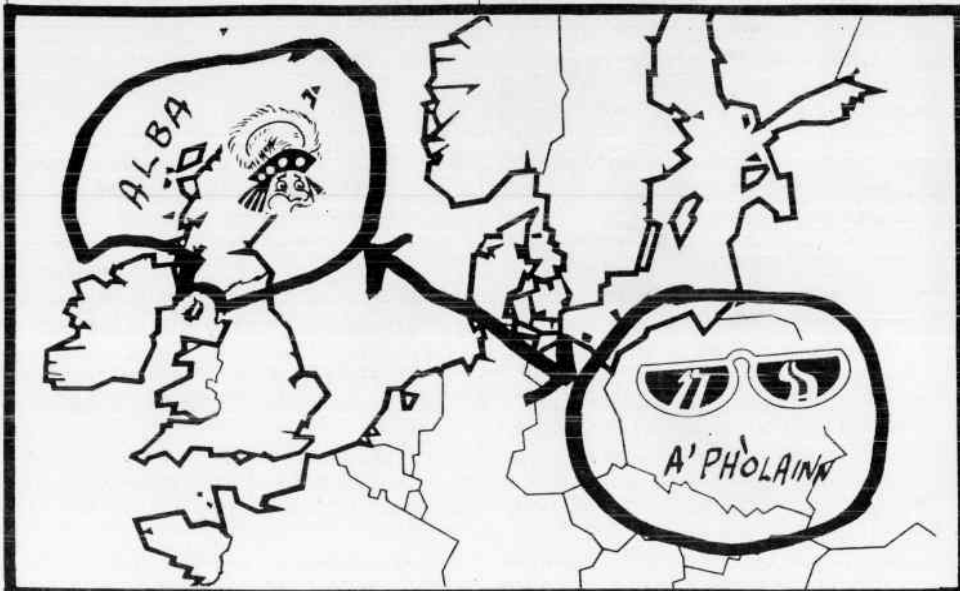
Ann an 1945 chaidh an Riaghaltas Phòlach air a aisgeadh don sluagh Pòlainneach ged a bha e fo smachd na Ruisia. Ach a dh'aindeoin 's i cainnt an Riaghaltas seo na Pòileis mar a bha i eadar 1918 agus 1939.

Car-son a tha a' Phòileis cho neartmhor a dh'aindeoin a h-uile cruaidh chas a ghiùlan feadh faisg air dà chiad bhliadhna gus an latha an diugh? Dh'aidich na Pòlainnich gum bheil trì aobharan air son sin. Sa chiad dol-a-mach, *Oideas na Cloinne* tre na Pòileis; san darna àite, *an Searmon san Eaglais* sa Phòileis agus san aobhar mu dheireadh, *an Litreachas* sa Phòileis; bithidh a' Phòlainn fada nas fheàrr na Alba gus am bith a' Ghàidhlig feadh na h-Alba gu leir cho làidir ris a' Phòileis sa Phòlainn an diugh.

1. A thaobh *Oideas na Cloinne*, chuala sinn agus chunnaic sinn sna phaipearan gum fosgailidh gharrasan oideachail sgoil a bhios a' teagasg tre na Gàidhlig ann an Inbhir Nis agus te eile ann an Glaschu. Bithidh iadsan na chiad sgoiltean Ghàidhlig ann an corr is ciad bliadhna nuair a mharbh iad a h-uile sgoil Ghàidhlig feadh na h-Alba gu leir, taing do Achd an Fhoghlaim 1872. Chuala sinn gum fosgail iad té eile ann am Port-rìgh ach de mu dheighinn Comhairle nan Eilean? Gun teagamh sam bith, nach eil iad nam brathadairean na Gàidhlig leis gach sgoil sna h-Eileanan an Iar a' teagasg tre na Beurla!

Mata, chan fhaigh sinn fois gus a bhith a h-uile sgoil is colaisde is oilthigh a' teagasg agus a' rannsachadh a h-uile cuspair sa Ghàidhlig, agus nuair a thigean an latha sona sin bithidh sinn cho fortanach ris na Pòlainnich na diugh a thaobh na cànan aca.

Na dì-chuimhnicheamaid lamh-an-uachdar fhaighinn cuideachd thairis air gach rud electronach (mar TV, reidio, video, computair, cassette, clar 7 cach) a tha a' briseadh a-steach oirnn sa Bheurla à America agus à Sasunn an diugh. Tionndaidh sinn iad gu Gàidhlig. Chan eil a' Phòileis air a bathadh fo'n dìle electronach Bheurla seo idir.



2. A nis, an Searmon san Eaglais; tha na Pòlaich fada nas fortanach bhon a tha pears' eaglais aca anns gach sgìre a' searmonachadh sa Phòileis. Tha obair mhór againn ri dhèanamh gus a bhi sinne cho sona a thaobh searmonachaidh sa Ghàidhlig feadh Alba gu leir! Chan eil na Pòlainnich cho fada air ais na Alba a thaobh an searmon sa Phòileis.

3. San àite mu dheireadh, a thaobh an Litreachas; thuir saighdear Pòlach ris an ùghdar 'sna làithean a dh'aom nach robh facal sa Phòileis na cheann ann an 1918 ged a bha e na Phòlainneach, oir thàinig e à Pomerania san àirde-tuath far an robh a' Phòileis caran tearc. Dh'ionnsaich e a' Phòileis. "Cha robh mi nam fhior-Phòlach gus a bha mi fileanta sa Phòileis",

arsa esan. Tha obair mhór againn ri dhèanamh gus an latha nuair a bhios a h-uile Albannach a' faireachadh mar sin a thaobh na Gàidhlig fhathast. Gidheadh tha nithean a dol am feabhas beagan is beagan a thaobh na Gàidhlig. Ged a tha gach seòrsa leabhair, bhardachd, orain, dealbh-chluich 7 cach (oifigeil agus ceannairceach) ri fhaighinn sa Phòileis an diugh bha e dìreach cho doirbh an Litreachas a leasachadh san naoitheamh linn deug a measg nam Pòlainneach is a tha e an diugh nar measg. Ach tha cul-taig againn a tha uamhasach deònach a bhi toirt cobhair don Litreachas againn. Thig an latha fhathast nuair a bhios ar Litreachas cho lionmhor ris an Litreachas sa Phòileis an diugh tha sinn a' creidsinn . . . agus cò an cul-taig seo

ach An Comann Leabhraichean, An Roinn Cheilteach, Oilthigh Ghlaschu, Glaschu G12 8QQ.

Leis a sin, nach eil Alba caran nas bochda na a' Phòlainn?

Ged a tha Alba is a' Phòlainn le cheile cheannsaichte tha uiread againn ri dhèanamh gus am bi sinne co-ionann ris a' Phòlainn bhochd.

Gilleasbuig MacMhuirich
Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig.

One hears, quite properly "Poor Poland", but, on essentials, is Scotland not in a worse state? The evidence would suggest so.

ON THE GAELIC FRONT

le Frang MacThomais

In the last issue of 'Carn' I promised to say something about the new remit of An Comann Gaidhealach, now that its overall responsibility for Gaelic has been divided between itself and CnaG (Comann na Gàidhlig). With CnaG looking after the educational aspects of the language, An Comann has been left to concern itself with the Arts in Gaelic, to try to create a developmental environment for artistic talent of all kinds in the Gaelic world.

Verily, this is a tough nut to crack, so tough in fact that An Comann has not as yet produced a properly defined document indicating its own potential in this field and what its policies are to be. Indeed, knowing that its remit was "Gaelic arts", and having known this for nearly two years, it has not yet appointed on to its staff an Arts Development Officer, an appointment one would have thought a prerequisite for the formation of a policy document.

Be that as it may, it is as well at this point to try to define "Gaelic Arts", simply because of the need to establish some recognisable point of reference. In the past "Gaelic" and "arts" have not been regarded as natural bedfellows, with Gaelic being more associated with traditional forms of artistic expression, and "arts" suggesting the more sophisticated development of these forms into levels which require the talents of the professional for their expression and interpretation.

If one takes a simplistic approach, 'Gaelic Arts' would mean the creation of a recognised artistic environment, sufficiently layered to take account of all aspects from the traditional to the highly developed, with the Gaelic language and its culture being an all-pervasive and cohesive element in each stratum. Further, this environment should have an influential impact on the general artistic life of Scotland. There would be little point in the creation of a Gaelic artistic ghetto, thereby denying the Scottish ethos of an element without which Scottish life and letters would hardly be 'national'.

So it is that An Comann Gaidhealach has volunteered to enter an arena where the ecom-

batants are unrecognisable and largely unknown. If the organisation of the National Mod is one aspect of the "arts" then An Comann is well qualified to organise annual Feis, with the emphasis on traditional manifestations of culture: singing, dancing, piping, the clarsach, and aspects of literature such as poetry and drama.

But much more is needed. Gaelic music, for instance, has hardly attracted the same level of professional attention that Irish music has done in Éire. There are no* fully qualified professional musicians in Scotland derived from the Gaelic-speaking areas. This is most painfully obvious at National Mods, where music adjudicators, particularly for choral competitions, are English monoglots.

This is not to suggest that some Scottish composers have ignored the wealth of inspiration available within the corpus of Gaelic music. A few have looked to this area and produced work for the piano, choirs and orchestra.

The visual arts have been the main concern of artists not directly associated with the Gaelic culture. Though one recent innovation has been Simon Fraser who has embodied in oils the Gaelic words of poet Aonghas MacNeacail. But this is an exception to the norm.

Any linguistic culture only becomes worth its salt when it has developed and aspired to sophisticated planes. To say this is not to negate the worth of traditional aspects of the culture, but that national and international recognition comes only when the holders of artistic talents, who must also be native Gaels, aspire to enter the current areas of the arts.

No doubt all this will come in due season, but only if An Comann demonstrates its ability to come to terms with its new arts remit. Very few working inside An Comann, either as staff or as volunteers have sufficient background and experience of the arts. This is why the appointment of an arts development officer is long overdue and the appointment must be made very soon if An Comann is to gain any credibility from such organisations as the Scottish Arts Council, which body holds many of the purse strings.

While in Gaelic, literature holds its head high, there are areas like film, television, music, inter alia, where much work is needed to be done, which work must be identified by a clear-cut statement of policy.

As I have said, nearly two years have passed since An Comann took on its new role. Can it cope with it? Chi sinn!

*The one exception is of course Anne Lorne Gillies.

SCOTLAND — DEPRESSED AND OPPRESSED

According to an SNP activist interviewed in a recent BBC Scotland political survey, Scotland in recent years has been depressed by Labour and oppressed by a vicious Tory government. However by February 1986, a string of local government by-election wins for SNP candidates against all the British parties has, at long last, been reflected in the opinion polls which put SNP at around 17%, which equals the vote achieved in the disaster of 1979 and falls short of the polls in late 1981 which stood at 21% in the pre-Malvinas era.

The full implications of Tory rule for the last six years has finally taken the governing party to the bottom of the polls at 15% below the SNP, Alliance and Labour in Scotland. There have been resignations from the party by individual members and even threats of various associations disaffiliating — this was triggered by the piecemeal destruction of Scottish Steel, by the closure of Gartcosh works planned for March this year and the promises to reform the rates, the local property tax and replace it, ahead of the next election and ahead of English reform with a thinly disguised poll tax. George Younger pledged this unprecedented reform separate from England and he has now been "elevated" to the Ministry of Defence to leave his successor as Scots Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind to see the change through. It will cost the rich less and is a very regressive fixed charge tax. Local Income Tax is favoured by SNP and Alliance and some Labour voices are belatedly joining the call.

But reactions to Tory misrule from Tory voters is as nothing compared to the combined opposition which on current polls is likely to take 85% of the Scots vote. Ravenscraig Steel Works is only guaranteed 3 years life; the Clyde shipyards are passed by once again for submarine orders; the Health Service is starved of cash and Local Authorities forced by the most centralist legislation ever passed to cut back on services to suit Tory public spending reductions. Home helps, social workers, housing starts, renovations, and above all the 18 month long Scottish teachers' campaign for an Independent

Pay Review, all of these lie at the door of a government which cares little for the areas which never vote Tory.

1986 sees a crucial electoral test for Labour defending the majority of Regional Councils in the lowlands and the Tories defending Grampian and Tayside and Lothain. In the North and Borders Independent Councils tend to be the worst of both worlds, neither strong nor decisive. Stirling and Edinburgh District councils went along part of the road to defy the Tories and then caved in. Resistance to central government can bring personal bankruptcy and debarrment from civic duties so it is all the more necessary for the cross party campaigns for a Scottish Assembly to get through the message that a Scots Parliament could protect Scots from English Tory policies. While the Westland affair has confirmed that the Tories have much to hide in their cavalier parliamentary dictatorship, the sale of public services to fund the dole and the arms race is being called "the politics of the pawn shop". British Telecom, and now British Gas to be followed by the sale of the Water Authorities and British Leyland has destroyed the remnants of a British industrial base and confirmed the arguments that Scots and Welsh have so far put in vain, that Thatcher is happy to make London an off-shore Hong Kong to manipulate the money markets and keep the huge unemployed queues fed on pie in the sky.

The Scottish focus sees our oil revenues poured into the London Treasury while we struggle to keep any industrial base to call "Scottish" industry. While a Scottish revival is beginning to show at the polls we are in the throes of being sucked into the plutonium economy against our needs or will. The green light for a reprocessing plant at Dounreay, Caithness, only requires the Scottish Secretary's signature once a troublesome local enquiry takes its course this Spring. Meanwhile each week news of cancer links with nuclear installations increases. Clusters of Leukaemia cases crop up close to Atomic Power and Military Nuclear Stations. Dangerous leaks of contaminated water and clouds of plutonium sprays are a constant reminder that the frontiers of nuclear knowledge are being pushed back at the cost of long-term human suffering. Protest Groups in Orkney, Caithness and Easter Ross, not to mention the rest of Scotland and Norway are backed by the SNP and some Labour and Liberal local politicians. The SDP MPs in Caithness and Ross-shire pandy to local opinion around Thorso where support is high in order to keep some work in a one industry town.

Political observers remember the national outrage in the mid 70s over incresing sales of Scottish land to foreign owners and to the threatened dumping of nuclear waste in the Galloway Hills; the Dounreay issue has that complexion and there is likely to be opposition to any transportation of spent fuel by land, sea or air long after the Tories decide to back it. The only cloud on their horizon is the possibility of the even more pro-nuclear French government setting up the reprocessing and Fast Breeder reactors side by side in some unsuspecting national minority area of France.

Further developments on the military nuclear front concerns the erection of a 12 mile long underground, low frequency, aerial to help communicate with nuclear subs. This project, which requires no planning permission is about

to be built around the Loch Garry Hills, in Lochaber. US sources how links with cancer in low frequency waves and various sites in the USA have been tried and abandoned. Scotland is once again to be called on to mount guard as the front line for US military confrontation with the USSR; a confrontation which added to our unnecessary civil nuclear role makes us target number one in a world nuclear war.

ROB GIBSON

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JOHN DUNCAN EXHIBITION



John Duncan, RSA, RSW 1866-1945. *Tristan and Isolde*. Tempera on canvas.

The City of Edinburgh Art Centre exhibited from January 11th to Feb. 22nd this year the work of the Scottish artist John Duncan and this provided a long overdue opportunity to see the work of this neglected and undervalued painter and draughtsman. Quite a few of the exhibits are stored in Edinburgh and one at least "The Taking of Excalibur" was on show during last year's Festival. Many are in private collections but at least seven or eight belong to Dundee Art Gallery.

John Duncan was born in Dundee in 1866 and studied at the Dundee School of Art and for short periods in Antwerp and Dusseldorf. He was a close friend of Patrick Geddes the townplanner and sociologist and lynch-pin of the Celtic Renaissance in Scotland at the turn of the century. In "For a Celtic Future", pp. 58-59 we read of this collaboration and particularly of the encouragement Geddes gave the painter to pursue and develop the themes he had chosen — most from Celtic mythology — its dramas — its drmatism-personae and the beliefs behind them all. Duncan was well aware of the painters and movements on the continent especially France at that time who were also going back to Celtic roots but he in no way shared the "fin de siècle" decadence of most of them. His work — paintings and drawings are for the most part

refined and controlled and of breathtaking beauty. When we look at "The Riders of the Sidhe" we are back in the country of Thomas the Rhymer — but perhaps the frisson down the spine was due to the bitter weather outside. If so what better antidote than "The Coming of Bride" — she in all her beauty complete with her attendants, blossoms and babes — a truly Celtic Primavera. A visit to Italy had enabled him to wonder at first hand on the work of Botticelli and Fra Angelico.

He was very interested in the different techniques of his craft and used many. For his drawings he used chalk, crayon pencil, pastel or a combination with most effective results. His imaginative head studies of "Deirdre", "Cuchulainn", "Ossian", "Head of a Celtic God", are examples. A small study of "The Children of Lir" is in pencil and watercolour and a larger one in tempera which he favoured himself and which in "Tristan and Isolde" for example gives such a feast of colour and texture.

Like so many other "revival" people he was a teacher and took pleasure in passing on what he had learned to others. Also he saw art not as something in isolation but as an important part of life which was why he could work so fruitfully with Patrick Geddes on such ventures as illustrations for the magazine "Evergreen" for

which he did "Anima Celtica".

We must be thankful that there is now a renewed interest in Duncan and his work and Edward Gage the art critic of the "Scotsman" did quite an appreciative piece on the exhibition in that paper on 3/2/86. However he does write: "we are troubled how a superior intellect could believe in fairies" — Is it not the case that Duncan's vision of truth and beauty and good is represented by symbols which will take some effort on the viewers part if they are not to be seen as just "the wee folk". The note in the catalogue for "The Riders of the Sidhe" reads: "The Riders are setting forth in a ritualistic procession carrying symbols of their faith and power. The symbols are those of Celtic tradition: the first rider (left) carries the symbol of intelligence, the tree of life and the knowledge of good and evil; the second rider holds the cup of abundance and healing; the third holds the sword of the will on its active side and the fourth, the crystal of the will on its passive side." It might be that more people are troubled that so many of today's superior intellects believe in science.

Outside the exhibition itself some of Duncan's work may be seen in various places. He did

stained glass work of very high quality — the "Creation" window in North Morningside Church, Edinburgh, the Coat's Memorial Window in Paisley Abbey in the west of Scotland and in collaboration with Patrick Geddes he did a series of twelve paintings for the University Hall Common Room of Ramsey Lodge in Edinburgh (High St.).

A book entitled "Scottish Painting — 1837-1939" was published in 1976 by Studio Vista — (a division of Cassell and Collier MacMillan). This is an excellent book in many ways and certainly "scotches" for all time the idea that Scotland makes a poor showing in the visual arts. However if we are puzzled as to why it has taken so long for Duncan's work to be saved from oblivion here are a few facts to ponder. The author of the above work, William Hardie has little to say about Duncan and that only in a chapter on Art Nouveau etc. quote "but his work, (another artist called Mackie) and that of the others (those who worked on the illustrations for "Evergreen") later becomes humdrum, unless one has a special taste for the elaborate KITSCH — of Duncan's 'Riders of the Sidhe' and many works like it. . . ." Well of course art is subjective and that is just one

person's view. This person however is also or was at the time the book came out, the Deputy Director of Dundee Art Gallery and visiting lecturer at the University. Of the items in the exhibition seven came from Dundee where they must be kept in the vaults. Ironical that the city which produced such an artist doesn't even know it has done so and revels in its fame for — "jam, jute and journalism".

The illustrations in the catalogue are in black and white but it is worth having at £1.20. City of Edinburgh Art Centre, 2 Market St., Edinburgh. The exhibition will move to Dundee Art Galleries, Albert Square, Dundee, 8th March-16th April, 1986.

There is no word of it going anywhere else but why not see what can be done! It was organised by Ian O'Riordan presumably obtainable at the Gallery addresses given.

There is an article on him "Memories of Donnachaidh" in "The Scots Magazine", Vol. 88, No. 3.

"John Duncan, A Scottish Symbolist" was published by Bourne Fine Art, 4 Dundas St., Edinburgh CH3. It was their catalogue for an exhibition of Duncan in 1983.

M. DENOVAN

MANX GAELIC — FORUM

The two speakers at the Gaelic Forum, organized by the Mannin branch, were Dr. Robert Thompson. M.A. B.Litt., and Mr. Charles Cain. M.H.K. The subject of the Forum was the "Report of the Select Committee on the Greater Use of Manx Gaelic".

Mr. Cain M.H.K. first tabled the Resolution to Tynwald in December 1984 for increased use of Manx Gaelic by all agencies of Government and Boards of Tynwald so far as they are practically able. As a result of the motion Mr. Cain chaired a Select Committee which asked for evidence from all Government Boards and interested parties. The Resolution was passed almost a year later. The Select Committee decided to publish all the evidence submitted and Mr. Cain went into its detail and recommendations. It is clear that there is much public and governmental good-will towards the language but it must not be forgotten that the Government has added the condition that there must be sufficient demand from the public to justify any changes, which puts the ball back in our court. The words "so far as they are practically able", could easily be interpreted, "if it costs us anything" no!

One practical step has been taken to avoid inconsistencies in the Gaelic to be used by public and private bodies and individuals (we are all well aware of the TA THIE AIN type translations on neatly painted house signs). A voluntary advisory body — Coonseil ny Gaelgey, has been set up to deal with translating English into Manx. Robert Thompson, the second speaker, is a member of this body, together with other undisputed experts of the language. Coonseil ny Gaelgey has advertised its existence, to encourage and actively support greater use of Gaelic. Mr. Thompson looked forward to the language being seen in hitherto unknown areas over the coming months, thanks to Mr. Cain's initiative.

C.J.K.

DEATH OF OLIER MORDREL

Olier Mordrel, one of the Breton nationalist leaders of the interwar period, died last Autumn aged 84. He joined the team which published Breiz Atao in 1919 and soon became its editor. A brilliant writer, he and F. Debauvais introduced a vibrant spirit in the Breton movement and developed a solid doctrine which challenged the regionalists' combination of attachment to the "old traditions" and "love of the small homeland" with loyalty to France as the "grande patrie". They founded the Breton autonomy party which in 1931 declared itself a national party. As war approached, this party became increasingly separatist and its militants were harassed and prosecuted. In a determined bid to make Brittany independent of France Mordrel joined Debauvais in seeking German support: they escaped to Germany on the eve of the war. In his book "Breiz Atao — histoire et actualité du nationalisme breton" (557 pages) Mordrel tells of support from officers of the Abwehr but of opposition to their proposals by Ribbentrop and Abetz. He had to give up his prominent part in the reconstituted national party in December 1940. Later he relaunched his quarterly STUR, first published in 1933: in this "revue d'idées bretonne" he had, independently of the party proposed a mixture of Celticism and national-socialism as a philosophy for the national movement. This brought opposition from Catholics and leftists. In 1945, he managed to avoid arrest by taking refuge in Germany, Italy and finally Argentina where he stayed until 1968. We owe to his detention in an American camp in Ancons a remarkable poem in Breton "An nos o skedinn": he had acquired a solid knowledge of

the language but went to extremes in excluding French borrowings. He was however much more at home in French. In the pre-war STUR he published a series of "Poemes Brythons" which are vividly inspired by the drama he was living — one concerning the fate of Casement, whose example the "Breiz Ataos" wanted to emulate, is extremely moving: "Je suis le grand félon". In Argentina Mordrel devoted himself to philological studies; Hor Yezh has published his proposals for adapting the store of Old Breton words gathered by L. Fleuriot to modern use. Back in Brittany in the early seventies he aspired to play again a prominent part in the Breton struggle but his past made him unwelcome to a generation working under the constant watch of the Résistance censors, even to those not committed to leftist positions. He concentrated then on theoretical writing (in French), hoping to convince his compatriots that they were going the wrong way in following the "progressist fashion" by publishing La Voie Bretonne and L'Idée Bretonne. In his book "Le Mythe de l'Hexagone" (Picollec, 1981) he drew a masterly picture of how changeable the frontiers of the French State had been until this very century and advocated trying to win the French people to a new conception of their state based on the regions. He had protested before returning to Brittany that he had never been a separatist, thereby opportunistically but uselessly lowering his flag. He was already criticised for his capricious behaviour in political matters when he concluded an amazing pact with Jacques Doriot, the French collaborationist, early in 1945! What was the point! Still, like him or not — and he could antagonise people by his arrogance — one has to hand it to him: he worked in his own way for a Breton Brittany. Breiz Atao marked in its days a revolutionary turn in our history and Mordrel's name cannot be disassociated from it.

ALAN HEUSAFF

BREIZH

BRO-SKOS A ZIFENNO AR STADOÙ UNANET

Ma sav bec'h etre ar Stadoù Unanet hag Unaniezh ar Soviedoù e vo arveret aerborzh Stornoway gant an Amerikaned evit dilestrañ soudarded, armoù ha rikoù all en hent, pelloc'h, war-du ar "c'hoariva oberiadennoù". Setu a zo anataet goude d'un arbennigour a'r c'hudennoù — emzifenn bout lakaet e zorn war un diell eus un emglev kuzh etre London ha Washington sinet e 1983. Lezet e vefe eno pep frankiz gant an Amerikaned: de ober d'an drevourien labourat evito ha pourvezañ dezho boued, danvez-losk ha dafar all; an ospitalioù a rankfe reiñ plas da gentañ da c'holoazidi-brezel. N'o defe Skosiz netra da lavarout.

Menezioù greunvaen evit delezioù-skingomz Ministrerezh Emzifenn Breizh-Veur en deus roet da c'houzout e miz Here diwezhañ e vefe arnodet ur genreizhad kehenterezh nevez etre an tir ha listri-spluj e Forest Gleann Garaidh nepell diouzh Fort William; enstaliat e vo eno un treuzkaser gant un hed-gwagenn hir-dreistgoñvor anvet ELF (extra low frequency). Tennañ a ray splot eus ar menezioù greunvaen: war-bouez ar seurt maen e c'haller treuzkas arhentoù (kemennoù) pell-pell betek listri-spluj o kantren izeloc'h eget 400 troatad en donvor.

Daou dreuzkaser bras evel-se zo bet enstaliat e Michigan hag e Wisconsin hag e reont, evit delezioù, gant funioù metal dezho 80 km hed douaret e menezioù. E Gleann Garaidh e vefe delezioù, gant funioù metal dezho 80 km hed splujlistri da gefridi bannañ fuzeennoù nukleel e klask ar Stadoù-Unanet tu da ziogelaat an darempred dre skingomz etre ar re-se hag an tir hep ma vent dizoloet gant enebourien.

Perzh ELF eo bezañ gouest da dreantiñ meur a ganttroatad dour — ha skorn. Evit bout an efedusañ en defe ezhomm ELF eus un delez kalz hiroc'h eget 200 km. Enebet-groñs e vez ouzh seurt mennad gant difennerien an amva. Ret e voe da Reagan ha Weinberger stourm e-pad 27 vloaz kent d'o merdeadurezh-vrezel bezañ aotreet da ledañ o funioù en div stad am eus meneget. Da vihanañ e voe avelat an afer a-ouez d'an holl. E Breizh-Veur eo dre zegouezh ez eo bet gouezet e oad gant ar steuñvad-se e Gleann Garaidh: un amiral amerikan eo a laoskas ar c'had da redek. E Ti ar Gumun n'eus bet rannet grik. Pas ur ger d'ar vamm ar rouanez! Demokratiezh ne dalvez ket evit an Emzifenn?

Arhentoù ELF a vez klevet, darbennet evit komz resis, en dourioù kalz donoc'h eget ar reoù VLF hag a zo koulskoude izel-kenañ o zalmerezh. VLF a vez implijet bremañ. Gant

ELF ne vefe ket ret d'al lestr-spluj sachañ war e lerc'h un delez war-neuñv tost da c'horre an dour, gallout a rafe mont buan ha degemer skingasadennoù don e-barzh an dour. Da soñj pennoù'zo eus ar Verdeadurezh amerikan e c'hallfe an delezioù-degmer VLF bezañ dizoloet gant loarigelloù pe kirri-nij ar Soviedoù ha ma ouefe ar re-mañ pelec'h emañ an delezioù e ouefent ivez pelec'h tizhout al listri-spluj. Bannoù ar goulou pe radar n'hallont ket mont don en dour, setu ne vefe ket diskoachet an delezioù ELF; gouest e vefe ar re-mañ koulskoude da dapout kemennoù skingaset dezho eus an tir, o lavarout dezho peseurt nerzhioù enebour a vije en ardremez ha war be du darc'hav warno.

Morlu splujlistri Breizh-Veur (Polaris) n'hall ket implij ELF. Ret eo d'al listri-se chom tost d'ar gorre ha mont difonn rak ret e vez dezho chom a-sav evit bannañ o fuzeennoù. Met arnodoù Gleann Garaidh zo mat evit an Amerikaned. . . .

Arbennigourien all a lavar n'eus riskl ebet e c'hallfe Soviediz dizoleiñ an delezioù-degmer VLF araok 10 vloaz ac'hanamañ. N'eo ket evit difenn Breizh-Veur e ve ezhomm eus ELF kement hag evit argadiñ. Hañval eo e vez kaset muioc'h-mui a listri-spluj da furchal dindan gwiskad skorn ar Meurvor Arktek. Setu ur c'hoari gwall arvarus mar deo gwir, rak anat eo e welo Soviediz eno e klasker gwanaat o galloud da zasskeiñ ma vefent taget. Un treuzkaser arnodel eo e tle bezañ hini Gleann Garaidh. Abenn 1988 e vo tennet kentel eus an arnodoù. Gwellet e vo neuze hag eñ e talvez sevel unan oberiadennel. Marteze n'eo ket e Gleann Garaidh met tu bennak e Bro-Skos e vefe surmat peogwir e vo ezhomm eus menezioù greunvaen evit ar genreizhad-delez d'e lakaat da vont en-dro.

Setu un enor evit Uheldiriz. Talvout a ray o bro evit distrujañ splujlistri soviedat. Met neuze e vint ivez e barr roll al lec'hioù a vo buket warno bannadelloù nukleel ar re-se.

Difficult words:

amva — *environment*; arhent — *signal*; arveret — *used*; kehenterezh — *communication*; loarigell — *satellite*; oberiadennel — *operational*; talmerezh — *frequency*; trevour — *civilian*.

Summary: *Stornoway Airport is being developed for use by the USA in case of war. In Glengary Forest in the Highlands an experiment is to be carried out during the next two years designed to test the use of granite mountains for the transmission of Extra Low Frequency signals which would enable nuclear submarines to stay deep in the water and fire their missiles without being detected.*

(from the West Highland
Free Press, 29-11-'85)

A. HEUSAFF

ELECTIONS: DIM PROSPECTS

A month before the March regional elections which coincide with general elections in France a successful outcome for the parties which stand for Breton self-government of some sort is much in doubt. The powerful French media will work full blast to direct all voters' attention to the contest between the French parties. Their candidates to the Rennes Assembly will benefit from that publicity. Thus eclipsed it is obvious that the Breton groups, which after all share objectives, stood to gain from uniting on as wide a platform as possible. Barred from access to the media, lacking money, they could improve their appeal by agreeing on a simple, easily understood programme. Already last Summer some of them formed a Coordination — Bretagne committee presided by the generally respected Per Denez. But others for whom social issues count as much as (or more than) overall nationalist aims accepted coalition only with "progressists" (leftists, ecologists, etc.) and eventually came together under the label "Kember Breizh" (Convergence). The UDB which at first took part only as observers in meetings on the two sides seems to have tried to bring them together. Of course compromise had to be reached on programme formulation and the nomination of the candidates to head each of the four (!) 'listes départementales'. Was there not enough readiness to give-and-take, did some leftists refuse to have anything to do with rightists and vice-versa, what about personalities? Only in Morbihan had agreement been reached by February 1 to present a common list, which includes Alan Stivell's prestigious name. There was still hope in Finistère and Cotes-du-Nord. In Ille-et-Vilaine, Yann Fouere who has worked indefatigably for Brittany since the early thirties but seems to be non-grata in leftist quarters headed an independent 'Démocratie Bretonne' list.

The Regional assemblies will be almost powerless, they cannot decide on social issues. It would thus surely have been better to concentrate on getting representation in Rennes for Brittany as a nation, for the Bretons as a people in their own right. The French lump all "autonomists" together no matter how much they differ. If they are absent in this assembly, they will all be discredited and it will be easier for the Paris government to go on stalling on demands such as those of DIWAN and Stourm ar Brezhoneg. The loss of deposits will be nothing compared to the damage done to the Breton cause in general.

ALAN HEUSAFF

DIWAN CONFERENCE IN LANDERNE

The four-days conference on bilingualism organised by DIWAN in Landerne at the beginning of November deserves a longer report than the piece published in CARN 52 (p. 7). Among its five hundred participants were people involved in the struggle for the restoration of their language not only in Brittany but also in other small countries. There were also specialists who came to share the results of their investigations of the sociological, psychological and educational aspects of bilingual situations, and officials concerned with education policies. Representatives of the autonomous governments of Catalonia and the Basque Country made particularly welcome contributions.

Per Denez (Rennes University's Celtic Department) pilloried the French authorities for their attitude towards lesser spoken languages. In no other European country are all the established teachers directly nominated by the State. He rejected the idea that Breton had been willingly abandoned by its speakers and gave examples of the kind of pressures exerted by government officials, school inspectors and teachers for the past 150 years to bring about a language change. The oppression continues today in an underhand manner. No open war, but school programmes* are remodelled, rules regarding exams are manipulated so as to discourage learners. In spite of the degree and the CAPES now allowed, many students find it impossible to include Breton in their study. In fact we have regressed.

Per wondered whether the regional elections will make for an improvement. The language associations will have to work hard on those elected to get them to untie the purse strings. He drew a comparison between France and Greece, the latter being even more intolerant in its denial of the existence of minorities within its state borders. Dr. Ivo Peeters told the meeting that a secret agreement was made in the early seventies according to which France would back Greece's application for EEC membership in return for an undertaking always to support her in educational and cultural policies.

Prof. J. Kress who heads a psychiatry department in a hospital attached to the Brest university threw light on the process of deculturation. An Alsatian with German as his mother tongue, he suffered in his youth from the same kind of "education" as described by P. Denez. He spoke of the "extraordinary magnitude of the language problem in France. . . . Almost half the population changed language over a century or so. . . ." He spoke of fetishism in reference to French. Bretons thought they would be rid of their personal problems by changing over to it. A whole generation lived under the illusion that a new type of people (des êtres nouveaux) would evolve thanks to a "transparent language which would be free from the impulses of their subconscious mind." In his view, when speaking in French the Bretons experience even more than the Alsacians a great difficulty whenever they want to express their emotions or feelings. There is a flattening in their expression, a perplexity in all that relates to the body, to intimacy. And that applies as well to those Bretons who don't speak their ancestral language. These problems persist long after the loss of a language.

Klaus Gerth, adviser to the Rector of the Lille Academy, reported about the bilingual schools established in Northern France for immigrants' children. Their teachers are of the same

nationality as the pupils and depend for their pay on their State of origin. The native Flemish speakers are not catered for by these schools, all sorts of excuses were given by the speaker. France takes a liberal view of the teaching of Flemish/Dutch and German so long as it is not in Flanders 'Westhoek or in Alsace and Lorraine! There the steamroller has a job to finish!

Mr. Cormerais, deputy academy inspector in Ille-et-Vilaine in charge of the experimental bilingual classes of which ten at the most have been set up since 1982 (see CARN 46) in Brittany gave lame answers to charges brought against that scheme by one of the teachers. He denied they had been introduced in order to kill Diwan.

Mikael Madeg drew lessons from the investigation he has carried out among 70 families. He had gathered information regarding the attitudes of some 200 children who are being brought up in Breton. The results are published in Breton in a book which should be of great help to parents. Mikael stressed that they must carefully think about the matter even before having children. Once the decision is taken they must firmly adhere to it and use only Breton with the children. Any wavering will bring confusion. They must devote the greatest attention to their children and create at home a Breton environment strong and attractive enough to counteract the adverse French influence outside.

There were many other speakers. All the contributions to this most important debate will be published by SKOL UHEL AR VRO (Institut Culturel de Bretagne, 3 Contour de la Motte, 35031 Rennes-Cedex). Video films, one in Breton, one in French, and one in English if there is a demand, will be produced by DIWAN, BP22, 29214 Lanniliz using the same material.

The conference was very well organised and attended, and local editions of the "regional press" gave it a good coverage, it was not given the publicity it deserved in the rest of Brittany (perhaps it would have opened the mind of too many people. . . .) Apart from Radio Bretagne Occidentale (which is kind of bilingual) it was practically ignored by the media. FR3-Brittany (TV) attributed to Rector Mallet (higher education officer) words which meant the contrary of what he said. . . . Le Monde had a report under the belittling heading: 'L'Europe des Dialectes'. This typical attitude was aptly described by one speaker as "parisian provincialism".

JORJ ABHERVE GWEGEN,
JACQUES TOUZE,
MIKAEL MADEG

(ed. by A.H.)

BOOK REVIEW

LA BRETAGNE AVANT NOMINOE by Jean Jacques Prado. 298 pp. Price 170 Ffrs., available from Yves Floc'h, Imprimerie de la Manutention, Mayenne, France.

This book requires a detailed review, but as I have only had time for a quick reading this review is necessarily short. It is for anyone interested in the origins of the Breton people, a most exciting work of research, clear, alert, humorous, irreverent, fully Breton in outlook. Prado knocks down the commonly accepted view according to which an almost deserted peninsula was repopulated by massive immigration from across the Channel between the 5th and 7th centuries, which caused its name to change to Brittany, this "colony" becoming united only after Noinoe had given a crushing rebuff to the French in 845. This theory, he says, rests on hostile Gallo-Roman chronicles or lives of Saints written centuries after the events they refer to, in both case favorable to the Franks' claim to sovereignty over Brittany. Prado on the contrary relies on contemporary evidence, corroborated by archaeology (coins and roads) and asserts that Brittonic peoples have occupied both sides of the Channel long before the time of Caesar and that the Romans' control was brief and as far as Western Brittany is concerned practically absent. But he deals first with the prehistoric and protohistoric periods, stating that the megalithic civilisation originated around 5000 BC in Brittany (revised carbon datings) and that it extended its influence far and wide towards Mediterranean countries (Bob Quinn will be interested, but it was a movement South-and Eastwards!) This book will undoubtedly provoke reactions from other historians, many trying to hold to their "ex oriente lux" positions. Prado emits hypotheses as he goes, sometimes they seem too assured, but he urges students to pursue investigations along those lines, irrespective of academic taboos and prejudices. His claim to a rigorous scientific approach is backed in any case by constant quotations from sources and bibliographic references to the latest research.

A.H.

DALC'HOMP SONJ (36 rue E. Zola, 56100 An Oriant/Lorient) is soon to publish a special issue in French devoted to Ireland's struggle for independence during the first quarter of this century. It will consist of a dozen contributions by prominent Irish historians and leading workers in the Irish language movement. Subscription Brittany/France 55 FF; otherwise 70 FF.

BREMAN — monthly, 10 pages, in Breton, gives news of all aspects of the Breton struggle.

96 Francs/annum.

8 rue Hoche,
35000 Roazhon/Rennes.

WHAT FUTURE THE BRETON SCHOOLS?

IWAN KADORED

The Breton schools were in the news over Christmas as negotiations took place between representatives of DIWAN and the French ministry of education. Since the opening of its first kindergarten in 1977 DIWAN has campaigned for incorporation into the State system of education in order to alleviate its financial burden. More Breton schools are needed but the difficulties facing DIWAN are such now that the existing ones are in danger. Since their election in 1981 the French socialists have done nothing to answer the request for integration in a way that would safeguard the future of these as well as other language minority schools. With the approach of the March 1986 elections the government tried to quickly solve the problem, one way or the other.

Hunger strike. It took several months of negotiations and an eleven-day hunger strike in Kemper by Tangi Louarn whose children attend a Diwan school and Yann Erwan Haspot, a Diwan trainee teacher, to bring about an agreement on December 20, 1985. Support from various groups and associations throughout Brittany as well as in other countries was very important at that stage. The main difficulty arose from the Education Department's insistence on having French given equal time to Breton from the start while DIWAN maintained that the teaching should be predominantly in Breton in the first years if its aims were not to be defeated, a view supported by all educationists.² The French position is not an educational but a POLITICAL one. However it was left open to interpretation. The agreement would gradually bring the Breton and other minority schools into the "national" system. Over a period of 3 years 31 of the DIWAN teachers would become salaried State employees. This was made possible by appending the agreement to the Finance Bill voted in Parliament at the end of December. It obviated the need to enact a minority language bill which is anathema to the French unitarists. But it was still too much. Only a week later a group of right wing MPs referred the finance bill to the French Constitutional Council which declared it, well, unconstitutional! That agreement had no place in the Finance Bill!

Back to square one. If the agreement was to be implemented the government had to find the money some other way and thus to vote a bill for it. There was no question of that at the January session of the parliament, the last before the general election. The future of DIWAN may have a political priority for some of the Breton Socialist MPs, anxious to keep their seats but not for their masters in Paris. And once the election is over, whoever wins will not care.³

The financial difficulties thus remain as great as ever for DIWAN and will probably increase with the decision to open new schools.



250 people demonstrating in Kemper in support of the hunger strikers.

September 1986 will see the opening of the first secondary school. A group of teachers, under the name "War-raok atav!" (Always forward!) is already working on the preparation of textbooks. More than ever DIWAN must be helped!

NOTES:

1. A telegram of support for the hunger strikers was sent on behalf of the Irish branch of the Celtic League to President Mitterand. The Celtic League also addressed an appeal to its other branches, to readers of CARN and members of the FUEN to express solidarity with DIWAN and with Stourm ar Brezhoneg in its campaign for bilingual road signs. Herve ar Bihan and Iwan Kadored have asked us to convey on their, and on S. ar B.'s, behalf, their gratitude to all those who have written to the French ambassadors in answer to that call. Copies of such messages were reaching S. ar B. everyday.

2. The latest official proposals, on February 2, were: a) the text of the agreement to be maintained but b) the accent to be placed on creating public bilingual schools of the DIWAN type, not on "integrating" teachers; c) teachers to be required to pass the C.A.P. (certifying their competence as teachers) before being permanently appointed.

3. On December 23, the APEEB (association of the parents whose children attend the State's bilingual Breton schools) denounced the failure of the ministry of "national education" to organise the teaching of the "regional languages" on a serious basis. Examples: 700 of their children deprived of teachers in Ille-et-Vilaine in 1984-85; new regulations make no provision for tests in regional languages in secondary college examinations. The APEEB calls for the reorganisation of education on a regional basis: denationalise the "éducation nationale"!

BRETON IN COURT

Witnesses and defendants were allowed for the first time ever to speak Breton in court, when Patrig Herve, a teacher, 29, and Gwennole Bihanig, a student (19) went on trial in Lorient, accused of defacing French-only road signs. The judge said he knew Breton but an interpreter was used. Even the public prosecutor, a Frenchman, expressed sympathy for the cause of the Breton language, but he said it was by speaking it, not painting it on wood, that it would be kept alive. Who, asked a solicitor, had prevented it hitherto being spoken in public offices? Erwan ar C'hoadig, acting interpreter, was himself to appear in Court in Roazhon on 6/3/86, accused as spokesman for EMGANN of libelling the chief of the regional police in connection with the arrest and interrogation of people suspected of destroying an electricity transformer in August 1984.

Two department councils have now voted credits for (some) bilingual road signs. Stourm ar Brezhoneg are being vindicated.



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CYMRU

Y BYD CELTAIDD

Yr Eglwys Gatholig yn yr Alban: Mewn llythyr diweddar oddi wrth yr Esgob Catholig dros yr ardal Aeleg yn yr Alban, Datganwyd fod dim ond wyth lle ar ôl lle cynhelir yr offeren yn yr Aeleg:

yn Eilean Bharraidh (Barra):

Bagh-a-Chaisteil
Creag-a-Tuath
Bagh-a-Tuath
Eolaigearaidh

yn Uibhist a Deas (South Uist):

Eirisgeidh
Dalabrog
Bornish
Ard Choinnich

(List of parishes where Mass is said in Gàidhlig).

Cyrsiau Carlam yn yr Aeleg

Yng Nghymru mae'r syniad o gyrsiau carlam "Wpan" yn hen erbyn heddiw. Eleni ym mis Medi dechreuwyd 13 cwrs yn iaith Aeleg yr Alban. O Bedair gwrs yr wythnos am bedair wythnos, gyda'r pwyslais ar yr iaith lafar. Cynhaliwyd y cyrsiau yng Nghaeredin, Glasgw, Aberdeen, Dundee, Fife, Perthshire, Inverness, Oban, Fort William, Stornoway, Pastree (Skye), Iochdair (S.Uist) a Bowmore (Islay) o dan nawdd y mudiad newydd sy'n gyfrifol am hybu dysgu'r Aeleg i oedolion — C.L.I. — Coman Luchd-Ionsachaidh. Cyfeiriad C.L.I. yw 109 Sraid na h-Eaglaise, Inbhir Nis, IV1 1EY. Gellir dysgu'r Aeleg gartref, trwy ddefnyddio'r cwrs "Gaidhlig Bheo" gan y "National Extension College", 18 Brooklands Avenue, Caergrawnt, CB2 2 HN.

(Information on crash-courses in Gàidhlig).

YR IAITH GERNYWEG HEDDIW

Ni chynhaliwyd cyfrifiad o nifer siaradwyr yr iaith Gernyweg yn 1981, ond, yn sicr, mae mwy o bobl yn medru'r iaith, a mudiadau yn ymwneud â'r iaith nag ers canrifoedd. Dyna rai o'r gweithgareddau yn 1985:

ADDYSG — MEITHRIN

Bellach, 'does dim ysgolion meithrin o dan nawdd y grŵp 'Dalleth'. Heddiw mae'r grŵp yn ceisio hybu'r iaith yn yr ysgolion cynradd a chyddoeddi deunydd dysgu. Beth bynnag, mae un grŵp sy'n cyfarfod arforeau Sadwrn a hefyddefnyddir caneuon Cernyweg mewn rhai grwpiau meithrin.

Cyfrifiad yr Wyddeleg 1981

Cyhoeddwyd eisoes canlyniadau cyntaf cyfrifiad Iwerddon 1981 ynglŷn â'r iaith Wyddeleg. Wrth ddefnyddio ffugurau'r cyfrifiad, mae rhaid cofio'r gwahanol lefelau o Wybodaeth sy'n bosibl trwy ymateb i'r cwestiwn "A ydych chi'n siarad Gwyddeleg?"

Dros Iwerddon i gyd gwelwyd cynydd yn nifer y siaradwyr o 716,000 (27%), yn 1961, i 789,000 (28%) yn 1971, ac i 1,018,000 yn 1981. Roedd cynydd rhwng 1971 a 1981 ym mhob un o'r 26 swydd, a chynydd yn y canran ym mhob un ond dau. Y ddau oedd swyddau Galway a Donegal sy'n cynnwys y Gaeltachtaf mwyaf yn y Weriniaeth.

Wrth edrych ar oed y siaradwyr, gwelir rhai tueddiadau diddorol iawn. Roedd lleihad o 2% yn nifer y plant rhwng 3 a 4 oed sy'n siarad yr iaith frodorol yn naturiol (llai na 5% O'r holl grŵp-oed hon). Gwelir cynydd yn y nifer a'r canran ym mhob grŵp-oed arall gyda chynydd o 38% yn y grŵp 20-24 oed yn 1981 — h.y. pobl a dderbyniodd eu haddysg uwchradd a chodd yn ystod y degawd blaenorol. Hefyd, roedd cynydd mawr yn y grŵp 25-34 oed gyda 64% mwy o siaradwyr. Gyda thwf yn y nifer rhwng 55 a 64 oed a thros 65 oed o dros 50%, gwelir enghraifft o oedolion yn dysgu'r iaith heb

ddylanwad addysg ffurfiol. Ceir dosbarthiad y siaradwyr yn ôl grŵp-oed chanran ym 1981. (Tabl I).

Wrth gwrs, 'does dim byd yn y ffigurau sy'n rhoi darlun o ddefnydd a safon ieithyddol.

Yn y Gaeltachtaf lle siaredir yr iaith yn naturiol yn y cymunedau, gwelwyd cynydd yn nifer y siaradwyr yng Gaeltachtaf swyddau Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry a Waterford ond lleihad yn y nifer yn swyddau Mayo a Meath. Ym mhob swydd roedd lleihad ym mhoblogaeth y Gaeltacht a oedd yn medru siarad y Wyddeleg, yn arbennig yn y grŵp 3-4 oed. Y ffigurau ar gyfer y saith swydd gydag ardaloedd Gaeltacht oedd Tabl II:

Ystadegau moel, tebyg i atebion y cwestiynau ieithyddol ynglŷn â siarad yr Aeleg yn yr Alban a'r Gymraeg yng Nghymru, yw'r ffigurau uchod. Nf cheisir eu dadansoddi yn fanwl heb wybodaeth manwl o'r ardaloedd, au patrymau ieithyddol a'u hagweddau cymdeithasegol.

(The 1981 Census shows that the numbers of Irish speakers in the Cork, Kerry, Waterford and Donegal Gaeltachtaf have increased, while the numbers of speakers have fallen in the Mayo and Meath Gaeltachtaf).

CLIVE JAMES

TABL I

Grŵp-Oed	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54
%	4.9	27.8	50.8	51.0	40.0	32.8	30.0	28.2
Grŵp-Oed	55-64	65+						
%	22.9	13.0						

TABL II

Swydd	Nifer y siaradwyr		Canran y siaradwyr		Canran y grŵp 3a4 oed 1981
	1977	1981	1971	1981	
Cork	2,703	3,241	87	83	68
Donegal	18,321	19,209	83	79	61
Galway	17,698	19,819	88	80	53
Kerry	6,214	6,264	84	80	55
Mayo	9,270	8,457	73	67	31
Meath	500	493	58	55	9
Waterford	734	1,103	91	86	66
Cyfanswm	55,440	58,026	83	77	53

— GYNRADD

Dysgir yr iaith mewn chwech ysgol gynradd — Camborne, Saltash (2), Liskeard, Newquay a St. Ives. Fel arfer, mae'r gwersi yn cymryd lle yn ystod yr amser cinio neu fel 'clwb' ar ol yr ysgol.

— UWCHRADD

Cynhelir dosbarthau Cernyweg mewn pedwar ysgol uwchradd, eto ar ol yr ysgol, neu yn ystod amser cinio. Lleolir y pedwar ysgol yn Helston, St. Austell, Liskeard a Camborne.

— OEDOLION

Cynhelir tua ugain o ddosbarthiadau nos —

hanner o dan nawdd Adran Addysg y Cyngor Sir, a'r gweddil yn breifat. Mae tua 200 yn eu mynycechu. Yn ychwanego, mae tua 30 yn dysgu trwy gwrs gohebu.

ARHOLIADAU

Mae'n bosibl sefyll T.A.U. 'Mode 3' yn y Gernyweg, a chynhelir tair lefel o arholiad ao dan nawdd Gorsedd Cernyw. Ym 1988 bydd arholiad newydd ar gyfer y 'G.C.S.E.' newydd, ar gyfer disgyblion ysgol ac oedolion, mewn dosbarthiadau nos.

DARLLEDU

Cyhoeddwyd chwe rhaglen teledu ar gyfer dysgwyr gan 'Television South West'. Darlledwyd y gyfres ddwywaith ar 'T.S.W.' ac unwaith ar S4C. Ers pan ddechreuwyd darlledu gan 'Radio Cornwall' ym 1983, darlledwyd dwy gyfres o raglenni o dan y teitl 'First Steps in Cornish'. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r orsaf ar y cyd gyda Bwrdd yr Iaith Gernyweg yn paratocyfres mwy uchelgeisiol i'w darlledu ar gyfer yr arholiad GCSE newydd.

CREFYDD

'Does dim cofnod o ddefnyddio'r iaith mewn addoliad cyhoeddus rhwng 1667 a 1933. Ar ol canol y 1950au, gwelwyd mwy o wasanaethau. Ym 1975, sefydlwyd grŵp gan Esgob Truro i oruwchwylio gwasanaethau yn yriaith. Ym 1978, cyhoeddwyd 'LenlyverBer' gyda darllediadau o'r Hen Destament a'r Testament Newydd, ar gyfer ugain achlysur. Wedyn, ym 1980, cyhoeddwyd 'LyverPysadow Kernyn' gyda'r gwasanaethau boreol, yr hwyr, y cymun a rhai gweddïau. Hefyd, sefydlwyd cysylltiadau gydag eglwysi mewn gwledydd Celtaidd eraill, yn arbennig Llydaw. Dechreuwyd ar y gwaith o gyfieithu'r Beibl i'r iaith.

CYHOEDDI

Gellir cael rhestr o gyhoeddiadau yn yr iaith Gernyweg ac am Gernyw yn gyffredinol oddi wrth

—Dyllansow Trusan, Trewolsta, Trwrigie, Redruth, Cernyw.

—Lodernek Press Ltd., 17 Duke Street, Padstow, Cernyw.

—Bossiney Books, Land's End, St. Teath, Bodmin, Cernyw.

Yn y Gymraeg, gellir darllen y llyfr 'CrwydroCernyw' gan Harri Williams (Llyfrau'r Dryw) a 'Llawlyfr Cernyweg Canol' gan Henry Lewis (Cwasg Prifysgol Cymru). Am hanes yr iaith gellir prynu oddi wrth Dyllansow Trusan 'The Life of Cornish' gan C. Fudge, hyd a 1600. Am y cyfnod 1600 hyd 1800, cyhoeddwyd 'The Death of Cornish' gan P. S. Pool, a chyn bo hir bydd y gyfrol 'The Revival of Cornish' yn son am y cyfnod ar ol 1800. Ar gyfer dysgu'r iaith gartre, gellir prynu 'Kernewek Mar Flek', llyfrau 1 a 2 (gyda'r tapiau) oddi wrth Dyllansow Truran unwaith eto. Hefyd mae ar gael 'Cornish is Fun' gan R. Gerdall; cyhoeddwyd gan Y Lolfa.

Wrth gwrs, y ffordd gorau yw ynweld a Chernyw, yn arbennig yn y misoedd Mai a Mehefin. Gellir cael llyfr ar wyliau yng Nghernyw oddi wrth swyddfeydd teithio fel 'Teithiau Menai', Stryd Bangor, Caernarfon.

CLIVE JAMES

(The above article gives a rundown on the increased interest in the Cornish language in recent years, shown by the demand for classes at all levels of education. There has also been an increase in the use of Cornish in the areas of religion, broadcasting and publishing. A list of useful addresses is included for readers who wish to know more about Cornish).

in Cymraeg; and their average age was 144 years! The result: although many new and exciting contributions to drama in English were made by Welshmen between 1920 and 1970, they had to be performed in London, and at the moment "there is no worthwhile drama in Wales at all" (in English?) The Welsh Arts Council is greatly to blame for this. It holds a monopoly of grants and bursaries in this field. The Welsh Dramatists Network calls for a parliamentary enquiry into the state of arts in Wales and, pending publication of its findings, for a freeze on W.A.C. grants. It proposes a detailed plan for Welsh drama which will ensure that Welsh writers and artists get the fair deal they deserve in their own country. Dedwydd Jones was born in Dyfed, was appointed in 1971 Fellow in Drama to University College Cardiff, has lived in various other European countries before settling in Lausanne where he is the senior editor of the multi-lingual international literary review "2 Plus 2". His plays, numbering about 30, have been staged in many countries. Let us mention "Owen Glyndwr" about Wales' national hero, "Bard" about Twm O'r Nant, the 18th century father of Welsh drama, "The Drummer", a contemporary documentary anti-royalist epic about John Jenkins (who spent ten years in jail!); the latest about Iolo Morgannwg is nearly finished. The book (138 pp.) is published by Bozo (ISBN 2-88209-000-5) London WC1N 3XX. Price Stg£7.95.

A.H.

NEWS OF WALES

WELSH HOUSING SCANDAL

Wales has some of the worst housing in Europe. Housing in Germany and Holland was better 15 years ago and even Sicily has more homes with inside toilets and baths than South-East Wales. Welsh Counties hold the "top five" positions in an all-Britain league of housing deprivation. Mid-Glamorgan comes top, followed by Powys, Dyfed, West Glamorgan and Gwynedd. Gwent comes in at number seven. Only South Glamorgan and Clwyd are outside the "worst ten". In Germany in 1972, 92% of all homes had inside toilets. Holland's figure in 1973 was 95%. In Rhondda today only 82% of homes have inside toilets. Figures also show that 95% of people in rural Sicily had inside toilets in 1971. The Cynon Valley alone needs more than £100m. for housing improvements and the borough council say that nearly 50% of the private houses in the valley are unfit for habitation.

PROPER LANGUAGE BILL

The Welsh Language Society and Plaid Cymru have recently put forward their ideas for a new language act which would be promoted as a Private Members Bill. Among the proposals are:

- accused people in court could insist that the Bench, judge and jury are Welsh speaking.
- it would be illegal to refuse any document or cheque in Welsh.
- car learners to be able to display 'D' plates (for dysgwyr).
- any individual could demand Welsh of governmental and statutory boards.
- all public signs to be in Welsh within three years.
- the state of the Welsh language would be a valid reason for refusing planning permission.
- planning permission would be needed before changing a house to a second home.
- education through Welsh would be available in all areas.
- employers could claim correspondence in Welsh from their employers.
- a language ombudsman would be appointed to insure statutory provisions were obeyed with tribunals to deal with complaints.

EDUCATION NEWS

One of the few advantages to Wales from the present Conservative colonial administration in London is the ready availability of reports by "her Majesty's" Inspectors of Education into all levels of education in Wales. In a recent report on Llanrhaeadr-yn-Mochnant a County Primary School on the Powys-Clwyd border, the school received a favourable assessment. The village is traditionally thought of as one in a thoroughly Welsh speaking area. However of the 62 children in the three teacher school only 15 come from Welsh speaking homes. In contrast to a recent report on teaching of Welsh in the Ystradgynlais area of Powys, teaching of Welsh as first and second language in this school appears to be satisfactory.

Another survey shows the growth of Welsh medium education in Wales' capital city — Cardiff. Four schools were studied. Out of Ysgol Gynradd Brystaf few new primary schools have emerged in the last four years:

FOR A WELSH NATIONAL THEATRE

During the past ten years or so, Dedwydd Jones has actively campaigned for a Welsh National Theatre, "a dignified, lively and honourable theatre in Wales". He makes a strong case for it in his "Black Book on the Welsh Theatre" which, first published in 1980, is now available in a revised 1985 edition. It consists of articles published in newspapers and theatre magazines, letters and radio talks. D. Jones writes in English and deals here with theatre in that language. He reveals a sorry state of affairs "in what passes as a theatrical Establishment in Wales". All the main theatres are controlled by non-Welshmen who have spent the subsidies of the Welsh Arts Council on "constructing million-pound complexes" and on administration but have totally failed to encourage the vitality of the indigenous culture — instead of performing Welsh plays of the past and giving a stage to Welsh playwrights and actors of the present, they have preferred imports and produced frequently works of A and O (secondary school) levels! Just one example: of 28 plays staged in the Mold theatre in 1976, 16 were by English writers, only ONE was Welsh — a translation and adaptation of a novel

School	Total Roll	National Welsh speakers	Non Welsh background
Coed y Gof	222	29%	71%
Melin Gnffydd	221	36%	65%
Y Wern	124	42%	58%
Bro Eirwg	136	25%	75%

The Inspectors were pleased with the work and standards achieved in teaching both Welsh and English. Welsh is the social language of the schools and is used on all occasions. From the time pupils are welcomed on their arrival in the morning until they leave at the end of the afternoon. A timely report on the work of Urdd Gobaith Cymru in Dyfed underlines one of the reasons why the current U.K. teachers' industrial

action has brought the foremost Celtic youth organisation to the very edge of a financial precipice. Since its inception in 1922 the movement's basic principles have been to serve Wales, fellow-men and Christ, with the Welsh language being used consistently in all activities. The branches in the three old counties within today's Dyfed and the membership are:

Branch	Ceredigion		Carmarthen		Pembroke	
	branches	members	branches	members	branches	members
Aelwydydd (11-25 yrs.)	25	617	11	231	8	204
Town club (12-14 yrs.)	1	18	—	—	—	—
Village groups (6-14 yrs.)	19	497	9	275	4	114
Primary schools	70	1,374	70	2,108	54	1,414
Secondary schools	8	896	19	1,845	8	484
Totals	123	3,402	109	4,459	74	2,216

Of the 306 branches of the Urdd in Dyfed, 194 are in primary schools and 35 in secondary schools. There are 32 village groups (adran pertref), one town club and 44 community based organisations (aelwydydd). Overall only 77 branches are neighbourhood based against 229 in schools. This demonstrates the extent to which the movement, which began as one rooted in the

community, has become to rely heavily on the support of the schools with four times the number of members in school groups as with community groups. In recent years there has been a pronounced decline in the number of members over 15 years old. School branches tend to concentrate almost entirely in preparing for competing in eisteddfodau.

'A Phonological History of Cornish', by Ken George: a review

For those with a spare £30 Ken George's PhD thesis provides a fascinating discussion of the sound system of the Cornish language, backed up by an impressive use of computer techniques. Unfortunately much of this work will remain inaccessible to most readers until Ken completes a more popular version, stripped of some of the linguistic complexities that in places make it more difficult to follow than a Chinese bus timetable.

Nevertheless, for the first time, an analysis of the sounds of Cornish at various historical periods has been constructed. In doing this Ken George has performed a considerable service to the Cornish language movement.

Yet the hot potato buried in the recesses of the thesis lies in the conclusions that flow from the analysis. Ken appears to be conducting a debate with the ghost of Late Cornish as he sets out to prove that "Late Cornish" — the Cornish spoken in the last days of the colloquial language in the 18th century — was affected by the English of the time. Fairly powerful evidence is marshalled to prove that the West Penwith dialect of English, one traditionally considered to be closest to the sounds of Cornish, does not in fact contain the sounds of even Late Cornish.

In contrast Ken reverts to a "real" Celtic language — that spoken in the 14th and 15th centuries. Here is the real McCoy — unsullied by the English heathens — with an intact vowel system. The argument then is bring the spelling of Modern Cornish into line with this sound system. Subsequently we can all proceed to learn to pronounce perfectly those Middle Cornish vowels so we can converse with a Cornish peasant from the Middle Ages if we should happen to bump into one.

But the conclusion of this thesis has interesting overtones. By going back to the safety Celtic period (and, incidentally, what about the hundreds of English loan words already incorporated into Cornish by that period) Ken is following a path well trodden by his predecessors in the Cornish Revival, albeit with more confidence of being right in the purely scientific sense. Increasing the complexity of the language, placing it in an irrecoverable "Celtic" past, imbuing it with the romantic prestige of time is all very well but it removes it even further from the experience of Cornish people since 1800, let alone in the 1980s.

The alternative argument in the Cornish movement places less emphasis on an unattainable Celtic purity and recognises that Cornish in its last phase was being affected by English. Let's not worry unduly about that but build modern spoken Cornish on the last stages of colloquial Cornish (the Cornish still reflected in many of the placenames in West Cornwall). Let's base our language on something recognisable to people in modern Cornish society and let's reforge the historical link between ourselves and the last speakers. For those who take this stance Ken George's work will be invaluable in providing us with a suggestion of the sound system of Late Cornish and a set of rules with which we can begin to really unify the language on the Cornish spoken in the most recent historical phase.



Speakers at the Lorient Conference about the future of the Breton language. (On the left André Lavanant, President of DIWAN). (By courtesy of BREMAN).

A well-attended conference which took place on January 19-22 in An Oriant showed that the Breton culture has an increasingly important part to play in the life of that city. It was organised by Emgler Bro an Oriant, an association created in November 1985 and grouping 10 cultural

associations in the area. Its president is J. Y. Le Touze, editor of the Breton history magazine Dalc'homp Sonj, ex-Celtic League branch secretary. The theme of the conference was twofold: "Brittany's economic role in Europe" — and "What place for the Breton language in present day society".

ÉIRE

COMHDHÁIL DIWAN — CÁ RAIBH NA HÉIREANNAIGH?

Comhdháil ffor idirnáisiúnta a bhí sa Chomhdháil ar an dátheangachas a chuireadh ar siúl ag *Diwan* i Landerne, mí Samhna seo caite. Briotánaigh a bhí sa chuid is mó de na daoine a ghlac páirt inti, ceart go leor, agus bhí an bhéim go háirithe ar an teanga Briotáinis, ach tháinig líon substaintiúil ó na tíortha Ceilteacha eile, agus tíortha Eorpacha eile. Tháinig roinnt eile fós ó thíortha lasmuigh den Eoraip; (ceann de na léachtanna is suimiúla ann ar na dfon-chúrsaí nua Araibise atá i bhfeidhm san Iosrael.)

Bhí plé ar gach ábhar a bhaineann leis an dátheangachas ann freisin. I measc na saineolaithe a tháinig go dtí Landerne chun léachtanna a thabhairt, bhí múinteoirí ó gach leibhéal den oideachas, siceolafthe agus sictheangeolaithe, irisceoirí, foilsitheoirí, oifigigh stáit, óna comhairleoirí áitiúla suas go dtí lucht choimisiúin an C.E.E. Ach ní hamháin chun éisteacht leis na saineolaithe a tháinig na céadta

daoine ann, go hairithe múinteoirí agus tuismitheoirí Diwan; bhí siad ann chun a gcuid tuairimí agus a gcuid taithí a roinnt, chun ceisteanna a chur, agus, uaireanta (i gcás cigire amháin go hairid!) chun gearán a dhéanamh agus cearta a éileamh.

B'ócaid í, tá mé cinnte, a thug muinín do ghluaiseacht Diwan; bhí siad inann taispeánt do rialtas na Fraince go bhfuil siad, d'ainneoin na deacrachta a dhéanann an rialtas sin don ghluaiseacht, i ndáiríre faoina gcuspóirí, agus go raibh a lán daoine eile, as tíortha eile san Eoraip, sásta taisteal go dtí Landerne chun a dtacaíocht a thabhairt dóibh. Bhí na himeachtaí cultúrtha, a bhí ar siúl sna tráthnónta, tabhachtach freisin (na festoû-noz agus leiriú corraitheach ealaíonta Strollad ar Vro Bagan de dhráma Tangi Malmanche, 'ar Baganiz') ní hamháin mar imeachtaí taitneamhacha iontu féin, ach chun taispeánt do na cuairteoirí go bhfuil ceoltóirí, drámadóirí agus aisteoirí den scoth sa Bhriotáin. Bhí taispeántas leabhar ann freisin agus d'admhaigh rannpháirteach amháin, as Val d'Aosta san Iodáil, dom, go raibh iontas air go raibh an méid sin foilsithe i mBriotáinis. Bheadh i bhfad níos mó iontais air, gan dabht, dhá mbeadh a fhios aige faoin méad atá foilsithe sna teangacha Ceilteacha eile!

Os rud é go raibh daoine ar nós Robert Mallet, Reachtaire Onóracha Acadamh Pháras, i láthair ag an gcomhdháil, feictear go bhfuil roinnt athruithe intinne ag teacht ar an rialtas maidir

le teanga na Briotáinise. Ach, ar eagla go mbeadh roinnt daoine i láthair ag iarraidh aibhéil a dhéanamh ar an 'dul chun cinn' atá déanta go dtí seo ag an mBriotáinis san oideachas, bhí an tOllamh Per Denez ann chun é a chur sa gcomhthéacs ceart! Sa léacht a thug sé ar an gcéad lá, thaispeáin sé gurb é rialtas na Fraince, trína chóras roláraithe, níos mó ná aon rialtas eile san Eoraip, is mó ansmacht ar na teangacha mionlaigh.

Tá mé féin fíor-bhuíoch do Bhord na Gaeilge agus don Chomhchoiste Réamhscolaíochta, a thug cabhair airgid dom chun freastail ar an gComhdháil. Ag an am céanna, is míchlú ar mhuintir na hÉireann é, dar liom, agus an oiread sin eagraíochtaí Gaeilge againn, agus Biúró na Teangacha Neamh-Fhorleathana suite i mBaile Átha Cliath (dream a bhí ag tabhairt cabhair airgid don chomhdháil), nach raibh sé indéanta ionadaíocht ceart a eagrú ón tír seo. Nuair a bhíonn cúrsa gnóthaí eachtracha i gceist, tá rialtas Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus a heagraíochtaí, fiú na cinn a thugann aire do chúrsaí Gaeilge, chomh neamhbháil do riachtanais na mionteangacha, fiú na teangacha Ceilteacha, agus atá rialtas na Fraince.

JANICE WILLIAMS

(The above is a personal reflection on the very successful Diwan Colloquium on Bilingualism, in which the Irish were conspicuous by their absence).

NEODRACHT — FREAGRA AN RIALTAIS

A Chara,

D'iarr Aire na Roinne orm freagra a chur ar do litir don 3ú Eanáir 1986 faoi dhá rún a leanas ag cruinniú cinn bliana ar chonartha Cheiltigh faoi neodracht na hÉireann.

Ar dtús, ba mhaith liom thú a chur ar do shuaimhneas gur é rún sonraithe an Rialtais ionad neodracht na hÉireann taobh amuigh de chomhaontais míleata a choinneáil. Istigh leis seo tá freagra ar cheist Dála den 1/12/1983 a thugann tuilleadh eolais ar ár bpolasáí faoi neodracht na tíre.

Maidir le polasáí neodrachta na hÉireann agus tíortha an Chomhphobail ag druidim le Aontas Eorpach a bhunú tig liom a dhearbhu go bhfuil tuiscint ag na ball-stáit eile do sheasamh na hÉireann agus go nglacann siad leis. Dá réir sin nuair a bhí an Conradh nua um Cómhar Polaitiúil a bheartú, socraíodh nach mbainfeadh cúrsaí cosanta lena chúram. Fágfar na cúrsaí sin faoi chúram Aontas Iarthair Eoraip (Western European Union) eagraíocht nach bhfuil aon rún ag Éirinn dul isteach inti.

Maidir leis an dara rún nótaigh an t-Aire le bá gur iarr an Conradh Ceilteach ar an Rialtas tacaíocht a thabhairt do neartú na ngaoilte

eacnamaíochta agus cultúrtha idir an tír seo agus na Náisiúin Cheiltigh eile.

Is mise le meas,

FRANK SHERIDAN

Rúnaí Príobháideach,

Oifig an Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha.

The above is a reply to a letter from the Irish Sec. communicating the C.L. A.G.M. resolutions on Neutrality and Closer Interceltic co-operation. On neutrality the Minister states that it is the Government's intention to preserve Irish neutrality outside a military alliance, while sympathy is expressed with strengthening of economic and cultural links with other Celtic countries.

(See however review and comments on p.13)

T.V. CAMPAIGNER JAILED

An t-Uas Niall Ó Murchadha, principal of Galway's all-Irish school, Scoil Iognáid was imprisoned in mid-Feb. for a month. He had refused to pay his television licence in protest at the lack of Irish language programmes on Irish television channels.

Conradh na Gaeilge mounted protest pickets at Mountjoy Jail and the G.P.O. in Dublin and called for his immediate release. It seems that with the overcrowded prisons a joyrider had to be released early to accommodate An t-Uas Ó Murchadha. He was transferred after some days to the open prison in Shelton Abbey, Arklow. The severity of the sentence for non-payment of a nominal fine is to be condemned. Similarly others fined recently have been given an alternative of 2 weeks in prison to a £50 fine.



This shop stocks a host of radical books and pamphlets all available on mail order. A comprehensive list of Irish books, including titles can be obtained from them at: 100 Whitechapel, Liverpool 1. (Well worth looking into!)

EEC POLITICAL UNION: MENACE TO IRISH NEUTRALITY AND INDEPENDENCE

by Anthony Coughlan

Published by the Irish Sovereignty Movement

"I have always found the word 'Europe' on the lips of those politicians who wanted something from the other powers which they dared not demand in their own names." — Bismarck.

In this pamphlet, Anthony Coughlan expresses his grave concern at the efforts within the Common Market to turn what was initially represented as being a body which was concerned with economics into a major political union. He views this development as a very serious threat to our neutrality and also, ultimately, to our very independence.

This political union would have common policies such as a common foreign policy, a common security policy, a common arms production and research and a common economic policy. It is intended that all member-states should be involved. Of the twelve states only Ireland and Denmark are neutral. It is noted that Ireland would be maintaining a purely formal military neutrality. The foremost protagonists of this plan are Irishman, Professor Dooe and the Italian Eurocommunist, Spinelli, but it is more than obvious that Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald is solidly behind them.

Dr. FitzGerald whilst in power has followed the type of common foreign policy that the Dooe Committee advocate such as the Common Market line on Iran; on Russia and Poland and on the Falkland-Malvinas Islands. In fact, it would appear that the European neutrals group don't view Ireland as being neutral at all.

Our neutrality is in danger of being ditched by this party without any consultation with the mere people of Ireland. The way in which the Government has failed to respond to calls for a referendum on neutrality is indicative of their indifference and indeed, possibly even of their contempt for the common people — a growing feature of world politics today.

But a genuine union of Europe might well be acceptable provided we are talking of all of historic Europe of thirty countries or so. The Common Market is in fact trying to reinforce the present division of Europe which emerged after the second World War and in fact is hankering back to the Cold War that followed it. It would seem that they wish to copper-fasten the existing divisions.

In Germany, the author writes, "the younger generation see the preoccupations of the EEC lobbyists as underpinning the partition of their country between two nuclear camps". The

young aspire to see the peaceful reunification of their country. Political Union would also erect barriers between the countries in Western Europe which don't belong to what is deliberately, but erroneously called the "European" Economic Community. What we are witnessing is the old and infamous Big Power game. But there is no grass roots' popular demand in Europe, or Ireland, for that matter, for political union.

Germany would like to call all the shots in this "European Political Union". It was the principal advocate of Spain and Portugal joining the Common Market. De Gaulle wrote of the Germans as trying to "acquire the overwhelming weight that will probably follow from its economic capacity; and, finally, achieve a situation in which its quarrels concerning its boundaries and its unification will be assumed by a powerful coalition".

The Common Market has been a threat to democracy from the beginning. It is by its very nature anti-democratic. In these times governments throughout the world are consulting their peoples less and less. (Typical of this is the Spanish government's desire to remain in N.A.T.O. while the people want to opt out of it.)

It is of interest in this context to read "In April this year the West German ambassador to Ireland was reported in the press as saying "if we want to build a political union in Europe foreign policy will have to be an integral part of this union".

In the light of this it is interesting to look back at the 1921 Treaty debate. Erskine Childers (sen.) pointed out, what is generally accepted, that the weakest point in the Treaty was Britain's retention of the ports. Without these we were firmly under the Crown as we could have no independent foreign policy.

"The following month," (May), writes the author, "former West German chancellor Willy Brandt gave an interview in which he said that he would like Ireland to make 'a full defence and military commitment to the E.E.C.' Brandt represented this view as being that of the German government as well. Are we being bullied into surrendering our ports again?

"A few weeks before this," the author writes, "Taoiseach Garret FitzGerald had said that the debate about Irish neutrality was being 'hyped up' (sic) by a few individuals and that he found it 'boring'. In view of Herr Brandt's clear statement of West German views it is hard to sustain the view that public anxiety about Irish neutrality is unjustified, as Dr. FitzGerald repeatedly assures us."

The author rightly rails the preface to the Dooe Committee's report for the balderdash it is, containing such high-falutin rubbish as "Europe being faced by 'challenges' from outside" and "Europe must recover faith in itself and launch itself on a new common venture, or "It must maintain the position of political independence which historically it has held in the world". Hasn't this type of "high-sounding" rhetoric got a sinister familiar ring to it?

From recent unwarranted declarations by Peter Barry and Jack Lynch about our readiness to defend a politically united 'Europe' one might think that every eligible man in Ireland was ready to rush to the barricades. They are uncomfortably reminiscent of John Redmond's similar declaration in the House of Commons at the outbreak of the First World War, a war that had nothing to do with us but cost 50,000 Irish lives.

Another ominous development within the Common Market is in the idea of phasing out the veto whereby a member state has the right of calling a halt to decisions of the Council of Ministers when it considers that its national interests are at stake. This is a safety device and specially vital to smaller states.

The author points out the very undemocratic nature of the whole set up. "Thus the super-bureaucrats of the E.E.C. Commission", he writes, "are not elected by or responsible as a collectivity to any elected assembly, so that any increase in their powers" (which they in fact seek) "would mean a lessening of democracy."

The Political Union will of course facilitate the free movement of goods and money, greatly desired by the supranational corporations, none of which are based in Ireland. Thus further damage will be done to the Irish economy. Is there, I wonder, any based in any Celtic country?

"The Irish people", writes the author, "approved joining the E.E.C. in 1973 on the basis that it was an economic community, bound by the principle of unanimity in major decision-taking. We should oppose the attempt to turn it into something quite different and align ourselves with those states which are similarly opposed."

In the late sixties Anthony Coughlan, in another pamphlet on the Common Market, prophesied a lot of what has come about since as described in this recent one. I'm not alone in feeling strongly that it is time he should go into print again saying (in so many words) "I told you so," although he is not one to indulge in such self-righteous-sounding phraseology.

In the meantime I recommend this excellent little book as vital reading for anyone concerned about the future of democracy for all us Celts. Molain go hard é.

It is available from the Irish Sovereignty Movement, 23 Bóthar Belgrave, Baile Átha Cliath 6, or An Siopa Leabhar, 6 Sráid Fhiarcair, Baile Átha Cliath 2. Pragas 50p.

PÁDRAIG Ó CLÉIRIGH

SUB EDITOR'S NOTE

The draft Single European Act was signed on 17th Feb. by the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Barry. It has to be ratified by the Dáil, and to come into effect will have to be ratified by all twelve national parliaments in the E.E.C. This Act is in fact the step to Political Union to which the above pamphlet refers. One of its main provisions is for increased use of majority voting in the Council of Ministers, i.e. the phasing out of the veto on matters of vital national interest referred to in the review above. It includes a new treaty on foreign policy which states "closer co-operation on the questions of European security would contribute in an essential way to the development of a European identity in external policy matters". Also the "Parties shall avoid any action or position which impairs their effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations or within international organisations" while "Nothing in this Title shall impede closer co-operation in the field of security... within the framework of the Western European Union or the Atlantic Alliance".

That the Irish Government should refute claims that such provisions erode national sovereignty and the policy of neutrality is obviously ridiculous. Only Ireland and Denmark are not members of the military alliances referred to. In Denmark, the erosion of sovereignty is a cause for much alarm and a national referendum is to be held on the issue while even a few other member states have not signed yet because of certain reservations. As stated in the final paragraph of the review above the whole basis on which the Irish people voted in 1973 is being changed. The progress by stealth to this kind of Union should be opposed and the very least the electorate is entitled to is another referendum on this issue.

NEW PARTY OF THE RIGHT

Regular readers of CARN will have heard previously of Mr. Desmond O'Malley, the Limerick T.D. (see "The O'Malley Business", Carn 49, Spring 1985) and of his differences with his party head, Mr. Charles Haughey, leader of the Fianna Fáil Opposition. Mr. O'Malley was eventually expelled in March of last year and was no sooner consigned to the political wilderness than rumours began to circulate of his intentions to form a new party. Eventually, last December, the new party was launched by Mr. O'Malley as the Progressive Democrats. Mr. O'Malley's first recruitment of a sitting T.D. was Ms. Mary Harney (also expelled from F.F.), a long standing critic of Mr. Haughey, and she was followed later by Mr. B. Molloy of Galway. The party held packed rallies in Cork and Dublin culminating with a

2,000 crowd in O'Malley's home constituency of Limerick. O'Malley initially stressed that the party was not merely an "anti-Charlie Haughey" party and that the organisation would be built from the ground up. All recruitment to date however has been dissident, passed over or disgruntled Fianna Fáilers. That the party is one of the right, if socially liberal, is all too clear from the evangelical style speeches of the leader and his adherents. Condemnation of too much State involvement in the economy and calls for greater assistance for the private sector have been accompanied by exhortations for restoration of the individual work ethic.

No policies have emerged to date; these are to await the full establishment of the party and will be drawn up as the organisation is expanded. So the multitudes who flock to O'Malley at present are rather like those who went to see the Emperor with no clothes!

Despite a lack of defections from Fine Gael, (the present major Government Coalition partner; the minor one being the Labour Party) the Progressive Democrats with their particular pitch may prove more of a threat to that party than to Fianna Fáil, particularly as Fine Gael's success in recent years has been largely due to its capture of the floating vote. The most recent opinion polls would in fact indicate this, with the following percentages being given in the Irish Times/MRBI Poll for current party support (excluding undecided) as against Nov. '85.

	Feb. '86	Nov. '85
Fianna Fáil	42 p.c.	51 p.c.
Progressive Democrats	25 p.c.	—
Fine Gael	23 p.c.	37 p.c.
Labour	4 p.c.	6 p.c.
Workers Party	3 p.c.	3 p.c.

Other results to emerge from the same poll showed that amongst P.D. supporters over 50% would favour Coalition with Fine Gael, 63%

would favour Coalition with Fianna Fáil under a leader other than Charles Haughey while only 8% would favour Coalition with a Haughey-led Fianna Fáil. P.D. support as might be expected would be strongest in the middle class with support there rising to 32%.

While figures such as the above obviously represent significant progress it is difficult to make any prediction from them to the possible number of seats to be gained by the P.D.'s in the next General Election due to the vagaries of the Proportional Representational System and the time factor of course. It is far too early to say whether the party will break political moulds in 26 county politics. Various parties have come and gone, and participated in Government even, before eventually disappearing — such were Clann na Poblachta, National Labour, and Clann na Talmhan — while some others had T.D.'s and very brief political lives. Most commentators seem to think the party might achieve 8 seats, however those same people were assuring us last October that Charles Haughey had a clear run up to and a virtual certain victory in the next Election! In the long run it would only seem to be a re-alignment of the forces on the Right.

And what of the Left? Trade Union activists, led by the third largest union have started a campaign for an All-Ireland Socialist Party. They are firmly convinced that the Labour Party no longer represents workers and is composed of mainly opportunist self-seeking politicians. They are not enamoured with the anti-national stance of the Workers Party and what they see as its too close adherence to Soviet policy. They had an inaugural meeting of some 50 dedicated and politically active trade unionists and hope to build slowly on that base. No doubt their rise will not be as spectacular as that of the P.D.'s but who is to say that their effect may not be more beneficial and enduring.

J. O'F.

"RURAL HOUSES IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND"

by Alan Gailey

John Donald Publishers, Edinburgh
£25 (UK).

The subject of this comprehensive and well-documented study could be said to belong more to the field of social history or ethnology than to architecture as such. The author stresses the fundamental difference between vernacular and formal architecture, where style and decoration take precedence over other considerations: the form of the vernacular house directly reflects the surrounding physical and cultural environment, and most obviously, perhaps, the economic circumstances of the householder. Although many of these factors have changed, during the past century in particular, with increasing dependence on materials and skills from outside the immediate locality, the modern rural house still makes a cultural statement in its form and decoration — whether consciously or

unconsciously.

The author concentrates on the history of constructional methods, the various materials used, and the evolution of the interior layout, but relates these aspects to the broader historical context, and thus the account rarely becomes purely technical; there are chapters also on "The House and Society" and "The Relationship between Irish and British Vernacular Housing". Some of the photographs accompanying the text provide an interesting historical record in themselves, many dating from the late 19th century.

The book deals only with the northern third of the island, where detailed fieldwork has been carried out on the subject since the 1940s, first by Estyn Evans of Queen's University and some of his students, and then, from the late 1950s onwards, by the Ulster Folk Museum, where the author himself is a keeper. It is pointed out, however, that vernacular architecture in Northern Ireland did not develop in isolation from the rest of the island. Evidently there were great differences between the type of house to be found in the more prosperous colonised regions in Eastern Ulster and that in the poorer mountainous or western coastal areas, where the population was predominantly native Irish — but such distinctions

would have been apparent in different parts of southern Ireland also.

Little research on vernacular architecture has been carried out in the Republic, unfortunately, apart from the work of Caoimhin O Danachair of the Irish Folklore Commission. A lot of detailed fieldwork remains to be done, and measures to protect and conserve vernacular buildings, like those which have been enacted in Northern Ireland and Britain, are also needed. But first, one would wish that more attention were drawn here in the Republic to our vernacular architectural heritage, in order to cultivate the public's appreciation of its qualities and value in cultural terms — the current taste for ostentatious pastiches of Spanish villas or Georgian mansions, which are in general completely out of sympathy with their surroundings, is regrettable evidence that such appreciation is greatly lacking.

Readers may, incidentally, be interested to know that the same publishers have already issued "The Vernacular Architecture of Brittany" by G. Meiron Jones, and "The Rural Architecture of Scotland" by A. Fenton and B. Walker.

ÉADAIOIN HEUSAFF

KERNOW

DALLETH YN CAMBRON

Yma neppyth y'n bagas omma, yn Cambron, yn mes an semblant usyes an omsaf Kernow. Del hevelly dhym, war'n 'Deth Trevythyk' a'vu synsys war'n 20 ves mys-Ebrel 1985, neppyth a'wharfes; neppyth kepar hag arlydhy ow' mos war nans an veneth dhe geskewsel gans an bush a dus yn Stret Trelowarren.

Wel, may' tewhyllf'vy dhe'n 'neppyth', yn kensa le y'fu restrys stalla yn eglos Vethodyst, Stret Trelowarren, Cambron; kynth vu an stalla yn mes an sy y'n stret-na. Y'teth an bobel an voy dywysyk rak dhe whythra an dyspletyans ena yn un wovyn gans nerth mur a worthebow kepar ha: y'carsen'ny agan fleghes'ny dhe dhysky Kernewek, ytho, pyu a yll agan gweres? Pyth us ow wharfes yn tremyn-ma? Ple yllyn'ny dysky an yeth?

Orth an cuntellyans wosa y vos gelwys gans Sue Smith (dyscajores), Alan Sanders hag erel yn dewotty Baset, Pool, y'teth nyver a tyluyow nep a'ervyras dhe syns an kensa cuntellyans scoren noweth 'Dalleth'-orth an Fundyans Pengegon war'n de Sadorn yntra 3 ha 4.30 androwyth.

An Fundyans Pengegon a'brevys hep confort rak an tybyans nep a'dheth yn mes an dyscans



A thousand march through London in support of the Cornish Tin Industry. (29/1/1986).

ha wosa nebes termyn ny a'ervyras mos dhe'n chy tylu Moyle ha henna a'brevys an gwella tra. Yn wyr, rak kepar ha Dolly Pentreath, nans yu lyes bledhen, yma lemmyn le tythyak yn Cambron may 'prederyn'ny an 'Club Pengegon' a'vya an men fundyans gans an gweres a Gowethas an Yeth Cambron ynweth, omma y'n dre.

Yma tyller rak an dafar a 'Dalleth' yn kerghyn-ma an lyfryk 'Len ha Lyw' hag erel, mes an gwella tra us ow'tos yn rak, bos an

lywyans ha hyllynans gwres gans an fleghes yn club'ny hag yma an kefrys 'An Canker Seth' mes an tra may'whello gwaytyans dhe'n yeth arnoweth kepar ha Kernewek a'vya an jyn amontyor.

Wosa a'n deryvas-ma an worthebow — kewth gans an bobel a Gambron us ow'tos yn rak whath. Mes ny a'vyth orth an 'Deth Trevythyk' arta, hep mar, mes gans dyffrans bras.

ALAN SANDERS

THE DEBATE OVER CORNISH

Regular readers of Carn may have noticed that the spelling of recent Cornish language contributions seems to vary. This is not due to any shortcomings on the part of the typesetter or the inferior spelling capabilities of our Cornish contributors. It reflects a debate over the basis of modern Cornish that has emerged into the open over the past two or three years. This article will attempt to set out the background to this debate.

To many people — and most importantly to learners — Cornish is just Cornish. But it isn't quite that simple. There are three main types of Cornish vying for peoples attention in the mid 1980s. To understand why we're apparently spoilt for choice we must first understand the history of the language.

The high spot of Cornish was probably reached in the 14th, 15th and early 16th centuries. That period — known as Middle Cornish — has left us the main classical corpus of Cornish literature in various miracle plays. In contrast the Cornish spoken in the declining phase of the language — roughly from 1650 to 1800 — can be termed Late Cornish. While that later period only left us various written fragments rather than a literature it has obviously had a considerable effect on the Cornish in the environment — i.e. placenames and people's surnames.

In addition to Middle Cornish and Late Cornish there is Unified Cornish, the result of Morton Nance's adopting certain spelling rules for written Cornish in the 1920s and 1930s which have been accepted by the Cornish language establishment as the basis for modern Cornish. Unified Cornish rests, in its spelling system, on Middle Cornish but also borrowed forms peculiar to Late Cornish.

We now have three schools of thought, roughly corresponding to each type of Cornish — Middle, Late and Unified. Despite this even now it can probably be stated that the majority of Cornish speakers and learners are unaware of the debate and simply accept Unified Cornish as "Cornish". But in the more rarified wastes where Cornish scholars roam supporters of Unified Cornish have been fighting a losing battle and are now often wedded to the status quo not so much because of a positive attraction

to the virtues of Unified Cornish but because of an understandable concern over the consequences of change and an unwillingness to confront the mechanics of altering the spelling system.

Unified Cornish has been criticised on a number of levels. These include the point that it is not actually "unified" with anything or with itself. Morton Nance did not (possibly could not, given the state of linguistic science in his time) base Unified Cornish on a recognisable period of Cornish. Of course he cannot and should not be entirely blamed for this. In his lifetime Unified Cornish was a developing animal, changing as Morton Nance encountered new evidence. It was the timidity and lack of inquisitiveness of his later disciples that elevated Unified Cornish into an untouchable edifice, impervious to criticism and change.

As those gaining proficiency in Cornish inevitably returned to the original Cornish manuscripts they all too often discovered that Unified Cornish gave a less than useful guide to pronunciation (more important in Cornwall than elsewhere given the absence of native speakers and the importance of the written word to learners). Sometimes it came as a shock to find that relative fluency in Unified Cornish was no passport to understand what had been written in Cornish in its most recent phase.

More damningly certain critics point to the fact

that, in its 50 years of existence Unified Cornish has failed to produce a core of literature or a large body of speakers. The between 50-100 who can comfortably converse in Cornish (even if that Cornish bears little resemblance to any historically spoken Cornish and is all too often intoned in an English accent) is a poor return for half a century of effort. Yet the number of speakers has grown over the last ten years and even this modest rise has been sufficient to expose the inadequacies of Unified Cornish as a vehicle for the spoken word.

The principal advocate of re-unifying Cornish on its Middle phase is Ken George whose impressive researches into the sound system of the language have made it possible to reconstruct its pronunciation in the Middle and Late Cornish periods. The logic of a move towards Middle Cornish pronunciation is that the spelling has to be changed to accommodate those sound differences that Unified Cornish ignores and that speakers do not recreate — or only in a haphazard way. The advantage of basing Cornish on Middle Cornish would be that the language would relate to the period of the major Cornish literature and also that less change from the Unified Cornish spelling system would be required than proponents of Late Cornish are suggesting.

On the other hand the enthusiastic group of speakers who are advocating Late Cornish suggest that despite Ken George's researches we still cannot be absolutely certain about the sound system of Middle Cornish. It may be that the Cornish of the miracle plays was a formalised Cornish; more conservative, using more verb forms and more ritualised than the Cornish of the masses. (C.f. the present gap between spoken Welsh and formal written Welsh.)

Supporters of Late Cornish argue that we should aim to base modern Cornish on the Cornish of the latest speakers — to pick up the language where it was left off. This has certain proposed advantages. First, the sound system would be based on the West Cornish dialect of English — although it should be noted that this point is hotly contested by the Middle Cornish school who argue quite convincingly that the West Cornish dialect was a product of the period of the very latest phase of Cornish when it was being overwhelmed by an English sound system.

Second, the grammar and pronunciation of Late Cornish are easier to learn — there are less verbal forms, more use of auxiliaries and the sounds are familiar to speakers of Cornish English. And third, spoken Cornish would be closer to the Cornish that appears on signposts — at least in West Cornwall. (Try explaining to the natives of *Praze* that their village should really be spelt *Pras*!) It is thus rather easier to achieve a standard of spoken Cornish that sounds as if it is a living language and not an incantation of Ancient Greek.

It is definitely no more difficult to reconstruct the sound system of Late Cornish as it is to do the same task for Middle Cornish and we can probably be more confident that the gap between the written word and the spoken in 18th century Cornish was relatively small. (Although care must be taken to remember that the 18th century writers were basing their spelling on 18th century and not 20th century English.)

The argument over the influence of English on the language is a separate and emotive one. For those trying to base modern Cornish on Late

Cornish the English influence was unfortunate but cannot be wished away. As long as the basic grammatical structure remained recognisably Cornish — *which it did* — then, it is argued, we must accept the cards dealt to us by history. Those who criticise Late Cornish as being 'decayed' or 'rotten' rarely stop to investigate the value implication of these terms. It is plainly going too far to argue that Middle Cornish should be adopted in preference to Late Cornish just because it is 'more Celtic'. Is the colloquial speaker of modern Welsh or Breton, using a fair sprinkling of English or French words, less 'Celtic' than the person who has just learnt an academically acceptable Welsh or Breton? And in any case Middle Cornish itself had a vast stock of loan words from Middle English.

More fundamental shortcomings of Late Cornish are that its written remains are far more limited than Middle Cornish. There is thus less vocabulary and examples of grammar. (However, as this body of Late Cornish has never been published in its entirety there is actually far more than the more extreme supporters of Unified Cornish had always led us to believe.) Add to this the fact that there are no spelling conventions — even on the scale of the miracle plays — and the conclusion is that a major re-unification job is needed before Late Cornish can stand on its own feet. Late Cornish also involves much more movement away from Unified Cornish. Grammatical changes had occurred and constructions had been simplified. For example, *yth esof vy ow predery* (I am thinking) in Middle Cornish becomes *theram a perdery* in Late Cornish.

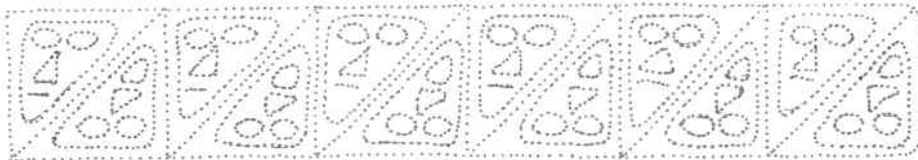
Despite these drawbacks I believe that Late

Cornish has one overwhelming factor on its side. It links the modern language movement with its historical roots in a more realistic fashion and in so doing also links spoken Cornish more closely to the majority of those fragments of the language that are part of modern Cornish culture — in our placenames and surnames. This is an important *political* advantage in the context of the wider cultural revival. Any opportunity to ground the language more firmly to common sense experience of Cornishness should be grasped even if Middle Cornish seems a "purer" road to follow.

Purer and more academically acceptable it may be but I personally do not relish the continued necessity of selling a medieval language. Unfortunately it must be admitted that this option may not trouble overmuch a Cornish movement which in the past has always exhibited a strong streak of Arthurian whimsy in preference to more recent events.

One way out of this impasse — and no-one seriously wants to see the Cornish movement split into two or even three warring factions — is to investigate the possibilities of a written standard Cornish based on Middle Cornish and a spoken Cornish based on Late Cornish or alternatively accept the right of these brands of Cornish to co-exist as equal dialects of Cornish. Whatever happens research is still needed in *all* phases of Cornish if the language is to progress. At least the current debate is a sign of life and heralds a welcome breath of fresh air after the stifling of questioning and the consequent exiling of critics that was a feature of the 1960s and 1970s.

BERNARD DEACON



CORNISH TIN — Solution Stalled

Amazingly, since reporting the collapse of the international tin price fixing cartel and the consequent threat to the future of the Cornish mining industry a full three months ago official trading in tin has still not restarted.

But unofficially tin is changing hands at around £5,300 a ton, at least £2,000 below the price needed to keep the mines open in the free market. While bankers and dealers manoeuvre to protect their investments communities in Cornwall, especially at St. Just near the Lands End, are teetering on the brink of an economic and social disaster.

Since December lobbying from Cornwall has increased in intensity and included a march in London of about 1,000 demonstrators (including 500 exiles) demanding a future for the tin industry. The trade unions have called for a short term intervention subsidy to cover the initial drop in tin prices and capital assistance for mines to improve their "efficiency". This has been echoed by mine managements. It has been pointed out that mining contributes £18 million in wages every year to the Cornish economy and probably indirectly employs 2,500 people on top

of the 1,500 miners who will be directly affected by closure.

Already some of the smaller tin streaming operations have gone into mothballs while they await developments while Geevor, the mine at St. Just most under threat, issued 90 day redundancy notices to its 300+ workforce before Christmas. These were subsequently withdrawn. In the meantime Geevor workers have been working an extra hour a day for no extra pay.

Having apparently had their arguments for a temporary subsidy accepted by a Commons select committee in London local mining interests remain optimistic that the price collapse can be survived. Others are less optimistic about the ability of select committees to swing the account book mentality of the current Government. Clearly the latter couldn't care twopence about the survival of a relatively small (in electoral terms) community on the periphery of the UK. Despite the embarrassing and hypocritical squirmings of the two local Tory MPs if a government subsidy appears it will be down to political developments in the corridors of power at Westminster and not here in

NEWS FROM CORNWALL

PAY FORCED DOWN

Recent figures from the Department of (Un)employment have reinforced what is widely known locally. Pay in Cornwall is around 30% less than the average in England — a gap that appears to be widening. Just 6 years ago the shortfall was said to be 25%. Recently the Celtic League was informed of an old peoples home in Cornwall that pays its care assistants £1.30 an hour for a 30 hour week spread over 5 days. At £39 before tax that's just £9 above the basic social security level. Old peoples homes have been one of the few growth industries of the 1980s, using Cornwall's environmental appeal to attract old people from England and invariably owned by English Tories.

FREEDOM OF THE AIR WAVES?

Some time ago BBC Radio Cornwall held a "discussion" on abortion. The three invited participants in this round table discussion were a member of SPUC (Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child), a Catholic priest and a spokesperson from the Cornwall for Life group (another anti-abortion pressure group). The (male) interviewer not surprisingly failed to put the case in favour of a woman's right to choose.

It would be interesting to know if this incredibly biased discussion was ever balanced by an interview with someone putting a pro-abortion viewpoint. This is only one of a number of instances of a disturbing lack of "balance" in Radio Cornwall programmes. A dossier is being compiled although it is difficult to find volunteers willing to subject themselves to the considerable ordeal of listening to Radio Cornwall for prolonged periods.

THAT FLAG AGAIN

After the furore in the East Cornish town of Liskeard over flying the Cornish flag (see Carn 52) the Cornwall Council decided to fly the St. Pirans flag with only one dissenter (a Labour councillor!) Unfortunately the Union Jack is still flying from the neighbouring flagpole but we remain hopeful that the day will dawn when this insult is removed.

Moving the resolution in favour of flying the flag Liberal (and ex-MK) councillor Paul Holmes was reported as saying "I am British and proud of it, I am a Royalist and proud of it and I am a Cornishman and proud of it — but I am a Cornish Briton"?!.

Yes, well — back in East Cornwall the natives, or should we say the settlers, are still restless. An attempt to get the St. Pirans flag flown at Caradon District HQ, again at Liskeard, was defeated after a heated debate.

LABOUR GOES NATIONALIST

A curious thing is happening to the Labour Party in Cornwall. It appears to be adopting the policies that were associated solely with MK in the 1960s. Early this year the South East Cornwall Labour Party proposed a University of Cornwall — first put forward by MK in the early '60s. Later it strongly opposed any administrative takeover of SE Cornwall by the English city of Plymouth and came out against the Euro-constituency of Cornwall and Plymouth. A pity the Labour Party didn't join MK's campaign against the latter. Still, better late than never.

MEBYON KERNOW CONFERENCE

MK held its 1985 National Conference in Truro at the end of the year. A new chairman (Pedyr Prior) and secretary (Colin Murley) were elected and some improvements were made to the party's organisational structure. The previous system of Constituency and District Committees was abolished and replaced by District Associations in which all members within a local government district may participate.

A number of policy resolutions were carried. These included demands that:

- Cornwall Education Authority employ suitably qualified "Cornish Studies" advisors and introduce Cornish Studies as part of their school curriculum.
- Cornwall Council declare Kernow a nuclear free zone.
- British Rail invests in the Cornish rail network and restores the concept of Cornish Railways and its management in Truro.
- Increased air time for Radio Cornwall and in-service training for Radio Cornwall staff on Cornish history, traditions, pronunciation of place names etc.
- All persons, organisations and institutions in Cornwall refrain from purchasing supplies or equipment, directly or indirectly, from South Africa.

In closing the Conference the new chairman said that important council elections would be held in Penwith in 1986 and MK's campaign for a Cornish European constituency would be entering a new phase with the introduction of a motion on the subject to the European Parliament. The party's major task was to demonstrate that it was the true political voice of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and to convince the Cornish people that only their efforts could bring real democracy to Cornwall.

(adapted from an MK press release).



"Cwethas An Yeth" Language Weekend.

Cornwall at the current level of struggle.

This is the real scandal of the mining industry. As they own mines in all parts of the world, including those areas where production has threatened the price stability of the tin market, Rio Tinto Zinc — who control the bulk of Cornish mining — will not be the major losers from the closure of Cornish mines and are totally unaccountable to the local communities affected.

As a press release from MK put it, "We insist that Cornish industry be run from within Cornwall by its workers — not from the financial bear pits of the world by wheelers and dealers whose sole aim is to make a fast buck, irrespective of the cost to Cornwall and the Cornish people."

B. DEACON



C.N.P.

Cornish Nationalist Party chairman, Dr. James Whetter, has written to Cornish leaders in the USA, Mr. Bruce Thomas, a president of the US Steel Corporation and Dr. Richard White, CNP organiser in North America, himself a descendant of a Cornish miner, alerting them to the present plight of the Cornish mining industry and urging them to encourage American support for the mines. He pointed out that while it employed 1,500 persons directly it had a major role in the economy and life of the region. The industry had a 2,000-year old history and the skills developed in it had led to technological advance world-wide.

J.C.W.

MANNIN

SOSTYN VOGHT

Ayns daan ard-ghoogh screut ec Yernagh keeadyn dy vleeantyn er dy henney, ta'n bard keayne mysh yn agh ta'n cheer echee as e cultoor goll er spooillee ec ny joarreeyn barraragh woish Sostyn. Ayns Nerin ec y traah shen, cha dod monney Yernee credjal dy row mieys erbee ry-gheddyn ayns Sostnagh erbee. Va'n bard jeeaghyn sy traah ry-heet as eh smooinghyn er red erskyn credjal: seihll fegooish Sostnee niartal. Screu y bard y linney shoh: "As eer ny Sostnee hene, foddee dy vow adsyn hene baase laa ennagh". Ta'n laa shen cheet nish, foddee, as ta shynyn, ny Celtiee woish ny h-ellanyn shoh, er-chee tuittym sheese marish ny Sostnee ayns commeeys quagh. Ta'n wheeyle vooar er chasey mygeayrt harrish keeadyn dy vleeantyn. Haink ny Sostnee as ny Normannee, hug ad ny Celtiee (as y theay Sostnagh) fo-chosh, varr ad cultooryn ny Celtiee, bunnys; as nish ta ny Sostnee hene goll sheese y liargagh. As t'eh jeeaghyn nagh nel niart ny spyrryd dy liooar ec ny Celtiee ellanagh dy scapail woish yn atchim shen. As y red smoo aitt: she America, cheer va crooit ec Sostyn son y chooid smoo, ta plooghey Sostyn er agh ennagh.

Haink ny smooinghyn shoh ayns my chione traah haink mee mychione traaght (essay) va screut

ec olloo Bretnagh enmysst J.R. Jones as eh screu mysh Bretnaghys as spyrryd y Thalloo Bretnagh. Ta'n olloo shoh screu mysh y pian jeh eebyrty. Agh t'eh gra dy vel red ayn ta kiart cho piandagh as eebyrty, red nagh vel caghlaait dy aashagh noadyr: ta's red shoh y fys dy vel y cheer ayd faagail uss. Cha nel uss faagail dy heer: ta dty heer faagail uss! Ta dty heer goll er jiole voyd as cheet dy ve lesh cheer elley as lesh ard-veenid elley.

Lhaih mee y stoo shoh ayns pabyr-naight Sostnagh, screut liorish earisheyr enmysst Neal Ascherson as eh smooinghyn er yn agh ta Sostyn goll sheese y liargagh nish.

Ayns ennym Yee, shione dooinyn, ny Celtiee, y smooinghyn shen: "ta my heer faagail mee". Ayns ny king ain, ta ram jeh'n Cheltiaghys faagit myr dreamal. Agh mygeayrt y mooen, ta'n seihll cheet dy ve ny smoo joarree gagh laa. Cha nel niart ain er.

Ta'n red cheddin cheet er ny Sostnee nish. Cha nel ad shickyr mysh reddyn syn agh v'ad keayrt dy row. Cha nel fys mie oc orroo hene. Ta ny Frangee as ny Germaanee as sleih elley coontey ny Sostnee (marish ny Celtiee ellanagh) y ve ny guillyn-drid jeh'n Europey nish. Ren lught-reill Hostyn coayl impiraght vooar as ta ram Sostnee as guillyn-drid Celtiagh foast dobberan mysh shen, ga dy vel ad lhiggey er dy vel yn impiraght shen jarroodit oc.

Ec y traah t'ayn, cha vodmayd goaill boggey

erbee mysh cooishyn politickagh ayns Sostyn ny ayns ny cheeraghyn Celtiagh. Ta drogh-spyrrydyn jannoo dy mie as bishaghey. Ayns Sostyn, ta sleih neu-feu croymmey sheese foast roish y Thooder mollaaghtagh. Ta'n sleih berchagh cheet dy ve ny smoo berchagh as ard-vooaralagh as ta'n sleih boght currit fo chosh gyn myghin. Ta guillyn-drid y BBC as ITV gobbraghey dy jeean dy skeailey ard-smooinghyn barbaragh jeh lught yn argid. Ayns Lunnin, ta theay Hostyn fakin y kialgeyrys as dellal cam ta goll er sy reiltys as ayns sheshaghtyn "ooasle" goll rish Banc Hostyn. Ayns Mannin, ta'n Phaggad- Vree creckit rish Americanagh va loccal jannoo thiollane eddyr Sostyn as y Rank.

Agh ny-yeih shen as ooillee, cha vodmayd cur seose. Ta obbyr ass towse ry-yannoo as shynyn aa-hroggal nyn gultooryn. Ta'n Thooder goll sheese y liargagh, bwooise da Jee, as ta'n SNP cheet dy ve ny stroshey reesht. Lhig dooin padjer y ghooill son ny Celtiee as ny Sostnee boghtey.

The continuing decline of England is discussed, along with its global effects on the insular Celts. Like it or not, English reaction has created a gloomy political scene. There are signs of hope, however, such as improved prospects in Scotland.

BRIAN MAC STOYLL

CHEAYLL MEE YN CORAA YEESEY GRA

Cheayll mee yn coraa Yeesey gra, tar hym as yiow oo fea.
Cur sheese dty chione y pheigh skee, sheese er my h'oghrish dy rea.
Haink mee ayns Jeesey treih dy-liooar, deinagh as lane skee.
Hooar mee ayns Jeesey boggey mooar, boayl aynsyn hooar mee shee.

Cheayll mee yn coraa Yeesey gra, ta mee cur bioys as graih.
Iu jeh'n ushtey pheigh paa', croym sheese as iu dty haaie.
Haink mee dys Jeesey as va mee giu, jeh farrane hug dou bea,
Hug shen jerrey er my phaays, my annym lhient lesh fea.

Cheayll mee yn coraa Yeesey gra, she soilshey'n theihll ta mee,
Jeeagh orrym pheigh, t'eh brishey'n laa, cur sollys ayns dty chree.
Yeeagh mee er Jeesey, ghow mee eh, son my rollage as ghrian.
Shooilym fo soilshey dys yn traah, neem cosney bea braght beayn.

co-chiaull

Gow my whing ort-hene, ynsee jeh shee, son my whing t'ee aashagh,
As my h'erraghyn neu-hrome, as my h'erraghyn neu-hrome.

COLIN Y JERREY

This is a free translation of the hymn "I Heard The Voice of Jesus Say," for gospel choir setting. It can also be sung, without repeats or refrain, to the traditional melody, "Moylley Gys Jee My Chaarjyn".



YN CHRUINNACHT

Yn Chruinnacht is approaching once again and will be staged at Rhumsaa (Ramsey) July 19-26 and preparations are in advance this year.

As usual, the emphasis is on the language, music, dance, arts and crafts of Mannin and our Celtic cousins. There will also be workshops and lectures throughout the week on the various aspects of our cultures as well as the many competitions and formal and informal concerts, displays, ceilis and sessions, the latter being what Yn Chruinnacht is renowned for, along with its very friendly atmosphere.

This year, there will be reduced rates available in some of the local hotels in the town and also a reduced fare for participants and visitors alike to Yn Chruinnacht on the Isle of Mann Steam Packet Co. Ltd.

Any inquiries will be most welcome from people wishing any information about the festival and accommodation etc., and to be addressed to: The Secretary, Scacafel, Milntown, Lezayre, Mannin (Isle of Mann).



**MEC
VANNIN**

CAMPAIGNS

Over the past year, Mec Vannin has had reasonable media coverage on Manks Radio and in the press. Some of the issues on which we have made statements, condemning and warning against were:

- Low pay and inadequate social legislation. The Manks Labour Party has done nothing to improve this situation.
- Attempts by Government to isolate and fetter Trades Unions.
- Failure to re-instate the right of individual petition to the European Court of Human Rights.
- We have opposed the call for a power cable link between Mann and another country. The Manks and Rushen Labour Parties are currently lobbying for this.
- Government cuts in education.
- Mec Vannin has reiterated the need for Government to (a) take a controlling interest in the Isle of Man Steam Packet, (b) nationalize the Linkspan at Douglas. The results of failure to do this are now all too obvious.

The past year has shown Government to be incompetent to deal with the biting effects of recession other than by predictable cuts in expenditure. We are pleased to note however adoption of greater use of Gaelic which we supported in our evidence. It is gratifying that at last Government is taking seriously another of our policies, and is attempting to secure 12 miles territorial waters and intends to obtain our own fisheries protection vessel.

L. WILLIAMSON



Mona Douglas, President of Yn Chruinnaght.



CELTIC CUSTOMS — A NEW BOOK FROM THE ISLE OF MAN

Just as elsewhere in our celtic countries, the Isle of Man saw a blossoming of interest in local history, folklore, song and music in the late 19th century. Between 1880 and 1900 a Manx Museum was opened, the Manx Natural History Society was founded, A. W. Moore's "Folklore of the Isle of Man" was published as was "Manx National Songs" and "Manx Ballads and Music".

Early in this period a man named E. Kermode began his recollections of traditional Manx customs and to research their relationships and connections with those recorded in the islands adjacent to ours.

Regrettably Kermode's manuscript — handwritten in a cloth-bound ledger — although substantial, was never completed and in recent years the book turned up as an item being sold by a descendant in a public auction in a Douglas salesroom.

The manuscript was bought by an antique and book dealer, Mr. Frank Quayle of Peel. After showing it to some friends and gaining their support and encouragement Mr. Quayle decided to publish the book and in 1985 — a century after E. Kermode wrote his introduction — the book was published in a 250 copy edition.

Celtic Customs is a handsome facsimile copy of the original mss., but modern advances in printing have been used to eradicate the ledger lines of the paper on which the original was written and to remove ink blots and smudges which occurred occasionally. All of which leaves us with a clean page upon which the handwriting is clear and concise.

The book begins with customs connected with the Manx calendar starting on the first of January, and going right through the year including moveable feasts and an addendum. That is followed by a section dealing with the customs associated with birth, marriage and death, and the final section deals with Manx lore and legend.

The footnotes are many and copious, often referring to both local and international journals such as "Notes and Queries" and the "Transactions of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland".

In many respects the book could be read to advantage alongside that of A. W. Moore because it expands and also throws new light on many of the subjects dealt with by him. For example, Kermode tells us that after the Oie'l Vuirrey (The Christmas Eve church service at which those peculiarly Manx songs the "carvals" were sung), it was the custom for the young beau to see his lady home whereupon he would be invited in to the house and her parents would retire to bed, leaving the couple to sit up all night courting. Another example is the old style of calculation of events, not by the days of the week or month but by their relationship to a Saint's day, a church festival or a time of some remarkable

occurrence. So Kermode quotes people as saying that some event happened "about Holland-tide" or "died at the latter end of the harvest" or "in the scarce year". Similar terms are not uncommon today, of course, you will still hear people talk of "the year of the snows" or "the year of the big spuds".

Parts of the book betray Kermode's own attitudes to some of the institutions of the day. "The board school of the present day", he tells us, "with its stern, prosy matter-of-fact lessons, in which the delightful tales which fired the imagination of our fathers are eradicated for the sake of science — has done much to destroy many a harmless "superstition" (or rather pastime) from the rustic calendar, and to dull the faculties of poetry and romance in the rising generation; but have offered little to young minds of an inviting character to supply its place".

Nor is the book without humour, although, perhaps it is unintentional. On St. Stephen's day, Kermode says, in addition to children, grown men would go from door to door around the houses with their wren bower — "Nor is it so easy to get rid of the importunities of these persons, a fact easier to understand when we know that they are usually individuals whose financial position is highly disorganised, and whose thirsty condition has long ago passed from the acute to the chronic stage".

"Celtic Customs" is a treasure-trove of much traditional custom and lore now sadly lost to us. It was written by a man about whom we know very little but who obviously had the utmost sympathy for, and knowledge of the themes he wrote about. Kermode seems to have been — like many of his contemporaries — an enthusiastic amateur, concerned with recording the customs of our island before it was too late. The only signs that he never finished his manuscript are in the occasional incomplete footnote, and now and then a blank half-page where one might assume he intended to return.

Few books relating to Manx customs are now available and our thanks must go to Mr. Frank Quayle for publishing this one which I can heartily recommend.

CELTIC CUSTOMS by E. Kermode, Hardback (250 mm x 175 mm) 377 pp. Price £15 plus p&p. From Frank Quayle, 5 Castle Street, Peel, Isle of Man.

JOHN KANEEN

THE NEW DAWN — A FREEDOM CHARTER FOR EMPLOYERS

For over two years now Mannin has been experiencing unprecedented industrial unrest as the Trade Union movement struggled to improve the lot of the Manx workforce. Led in the main by the T.W.G.U., the workers' demanded basic economic rights and the introduction of social legislation which is virtually non-existent in Manx law.

The well-sustained campaign gained widespread public support eventually forcing the Government into action. Initially the reaction appeared to be a step in the right direction; however, the enactment of a 'Contracts of Employment Act' soon proved to be a farce. Moreover, no moves were made to improve the pay conditions and the Manx workers remain the lowest paid in Western Europe. If anything the Governments' inaction on the economic front ensured that the campaign continued unabated.

By the summer of '85 the Government changed its tactics and began to wage economic and social war against the workers: Anti-Trade Union legislation is now under scrutiny and in January of this year it was announced that further cut-backs in public expenditure were necessary. No doubt the first to be hit by the cut-backs will be the jobs of the manual workers employed in the public services — or T+G members! On a more

sinister level there is strong evidence to suggest that the Government has indulged in psychological warfare.

One element of this warfare has been the playing of the "Divide and rule card"; in mid-January, Mr John Corrin, resigned as Secretary of the T.W.G.U., taking a number of members and friends with him to form the Manx Democratic Workers' Union (M.D.W.U.). The split was bitter with Mr Corrin accusing his ex-colleagues of being Trotskyists, manipulated by Militant Tendency forces in Liverpool. The T+G have of course denied any such connection and regard the M.D.W.U. as no more than a "government inspired union". Militant supporters have also strenuously denied interfering in Manx affairs and they have challenged Mr Corrin to produce evidence or publicly retract his accusations.

The need to implicate Militant as an evil force behind the Unions' campaign illustrates just how little the Government (and the Manx establishment generally) understands the mood of the Manx workers; the Manx establishment still refuses to acknowledge the swing to the left that has occurred on the Island since the emergence of the Manx Republican Socialist movement (Pobblaght Soshiallagh Vannin) some two years ago. In its literature this movement declared its intention of mobilising the 'sleeping' forces of socialism by infiltrating the Unions and any other body which could help to bring about the many changes needed to give dignity to the Manx workforce; the recent industrial unrest indicates just how successful the movement has been.

It is early days yet, but the M.D.W.U. has not gained anywhere near the following they had anticipated and their future remains bleak if their literature is anything to go by. The M.D.W.U. appeals to all so-called clear-thinking 'moderate' workers and employers alike. What they

announce as the 'New Dawn' in Trade Unionism is no more than a freedom charter for employers.

Two or three proposals taken from their discussion documents lends support to the above argument. Their aims are briefly:

- Close co-operation with Public and Private employers to boost the economic fortunes of the Island and to attract world-wide business people with their vast fortunes — no doubt made off the backs of workers in the Third World; the same type of employers that are responsible for the plight of Manx workers today.

- To break all links with the UK-based Unions which they see as undemocratic. Secret Postal Ballots will be the key to all decision making — surely an echo of the notorious Anti-Trade Union legislation introduced some years ago by the then British Trade Minister Tebbit.

- Their declared intention is to respectfully invite the Manx Government to "introduce a framework of legislation for the conduct of business which would also apply to Employers' Organisations."

- The right to withdraw labour would only occur after all avenues of negotiation have been exhausted (not an unreasonable aim on the surface) but they go on to say "This reasonable proposition... would give confidence and assurance to Employers". Who are this lot representing... the workers?

There is no doubt in this writer's mind that these men are no more than Government lackeys; they do not appear to understand the basic concepts of Trade Unionism. It is historical fact that workers' rights have only been won by struggle; they cannot be a by-product of Capitalism nor be achieved, as the M.D.W.U. suggests, by courtesy of the ruling elite.

PAT BRIDSON

MANX POSTAL AUTHORITY — GAELIC ADDRESSES

At a time when the House of Keys has accepted Tynwald's report of the Select Committee on the greater use of Manx Gaelic (Skeel y Ving Reiht Mychione Jannoo Tooille Ymmyd Jeh'n Ghaelg), I point out this envelope, addressed in Gaelic, which was sent through the post. Paradoxically, it is also marked with an official symbol of Manx Heritage Year.

The Manx Postal Authority, in its submission to the Select Committee says, and I quote, "It is therefore considered most important that the mail should be addressed and expressed in English". At the recent Celtic League Forum, held to consider how the Select Committee's recommendations might best be implemented; Charles Cain M.H.K. pointed out the glaring error of the Postal Authority's argument. Something like 80% of all place names in Mann are Gaelic and a further 15% Norse. If English only, were to be used for insular addresses, the postal service would be in utter chaos.

C.J.K.



Mr Brian Gregg
1, Strad ny Cheeblag
Rue ny hyshey

*English is official language of Post Office.
Use of any other language may cause delay
in delivery.*

CELTICA

THE IRON AGE REVISITED

Taking time off from political intrigue one day last September, London Branch went down to Butser Farm in Hampshire, to catch a glimpse of the daily life of our Iron Age ancestors. Described by the road sign as an Ancient Farm, it is an agricultural settlement in miniature, based on archaeological evidence dated around 300 BC.

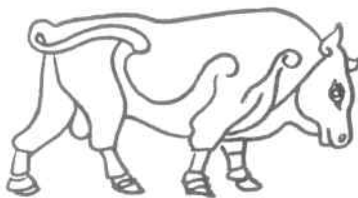
To the casual visitor it may seem to be nothing more than a reconstructed "native show village"; fickle the eye of the tourist! Small fields are divided into several plots where different kinds of grain crops compete with the weeds. Beans, peas, flax and the oil producing "Gold of Pleasure" are grown in other plots, again weed infested; does no-one care? There is a herb garden set out rather like a south facing English front garden. We quickly found the woad. Soay sheep, that dark, unruly, four-horned breed from St. Kilda graze in one small field, while over the wicker fence two bedraggled Western Highland cattle stand quietly ignoring us. A pair of Dexters from Kerry graze another field further away, and a Przewalski horse takes clumps of hand-picked grass from the two children in our party. Two goats, described as Old English, are tethered, one in the village area, another in the "industrial area", where a closely packed pile of logs stands ready to be turned into charcoal to fire the forge.

But it isn't just for show. It is an open air working model, a scientific laboratory, where archaeological evidence, and theories based on the evidence can be tested. The fields of grain have plots of Emmer, Spelt and Einkorn among others, the earliest known cultivated grasses, with a modern variety grown for comparison. The evidence for prehistoric cereals are the seed impressions which have been fired into pottery by chance. The range of varieties is surprising. And the protein value of the early wheats is about twice that of modern cereals. The ground is prepared with replica Iron Age tools, modelled on examples recovered from e.g., peat bogs in Denmark, and in the controlled experiments, is either manured or non-manured, autumn or spring sown, and so on. The weeds are allowed to proliferate as they would have done at the time, and the result is reminiscent of impressionist paintings, with scarlet poppies; purple thistles, yellow charlock, corn violets, etc. One interesting feature of the early cereals is that the ears mature at anything from one to six feet above the ground. Modern hybrids have been "programmed" to fruit at a constant height for the benefit of the combine harvester. So the lowest ears fruit under cover of the weeds; did Iron Age farmers bother to glean these? Nitrogen using wheat may have been rotated, or even inter-cropped with nitrogen fixing beans, and the weeds themselves, if hoed but left on the ground, could also have played a useful part in the cycle. So far, the soil has been steadily improving rather than deteriorating. Experiments show that good crops can be achieved even on poor ground, and on good ground the yield improves dramatically. Roman writers mention regular exports of wheat from South East Britain, and Butser has shown that whatever else, the Celts of that period were certainly not mere subsistence farmers.

The soapy sheep matches exactly in bone structure the remains of sheep found in Iron Age middens. Their wool is short, and has to be plucked rather than sheared in anticipation of a natural summer shedding. Its wool is normally a dull brown,

which would not have readily taken the bright dyes which the Celts traditionally favoured, but white patches occur, and selective breeding can produce a white enough sheep within a few generations. The soay gave rise to the Hebridean, the Manx Loghtan and the Shetland, which are also to be seen at Butser. These breeds make their appearance in the late Iron Age, and have to be sheared rather than plucked.

The Old English goat is nearest to the Iron Age variety. They were kept for milk, meat and of course the skin. No smith would be without goat-skin bellows. There are no pigs at Butser, although evidence suggests that they were kept and not just hunted — readers of Asterix the Gaul will know that the boar was hunted with gusto! They tried, but a cross between a red Tamworth and the European wild boar produced a powerful brute which was both very close to the Iron Age pig, and impossible to contain with normal fencing!



Iron Age cattle.

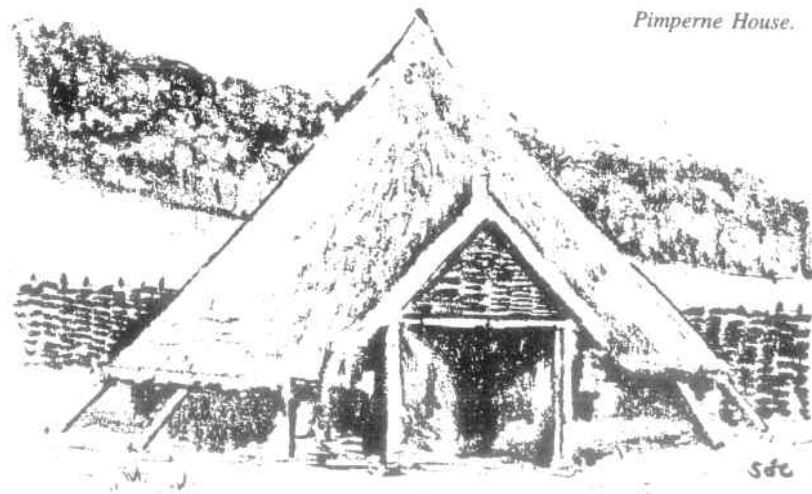
The Iron Age cattle were small, seemingly deliberately bred that way for earlier neolithic remains indicate a larger bone structure. No longer extant, its genes live on in the West Highland and the Dexter, both compact and possibly more easily manageable for pulling the ard (a forerunner to the plough), carts, etc., than a large variety. They were also used, of course, for milking, meat and for their hides.

The horse of the time was similar to the Exmoor pony and the central European Przewalski. Chickens and geese were kept, the greylag not only providing food, but could also have been useful as a security system, they make a din at the slightest disturbance at night.

It is considered by the research team that livestock could have been rotated in small fields rather than left to forage on the hillside. In experiments, sheep follow cattle, and then the field is left for a short period, the result is quickly growing grass, stimulated by the short cropping much as a lawn is stimulated by constant mowing. This rotation also keeps parasites down and could have fitted into the cycle of rotating crops, every field eventually being used for every purpose. The theory has yet to be proved applicable to the period under study.

The industrial area has a log built smithy based on the structures found at Halstatt, where the Iron Age "took off". We know that Celtic metal work of two thousand years ago was of such craftsmanship that it has, in the opinion of some experts, never been equalled. This suggests a long tradition, but Butser cannot afford to play around with gold and silver, and so the focus is on iron. Metal technology demands a higher working temperature than a wood fire can give. Charcoal not only provides that temperature, it can also sustain it. One wonders how the stages of discovery were worked through, as metal cannot be extracted without the special fuel being known. Perhaps a wood fire was covered with earth to put it out, but it continued to burn in the reducing atmosphere necessary to leave pure carbon, which is recombinable later in the open. It would have needed a neolithic Isaac Newton to put it all together.

The main feature of the village, an area in the centre of the farm enclosed by a ditch and a fence, is the Pimperne House. Based on evidence provided by a site at Pimperne in Dorset, it is a large round-house, much larger than the average semi-detached! About two hundred trees went into its construction. The thatched roof has no hole to let the smoke from the fire out; the smoke seeps through the straw, eliminating insects, and as it hangs in a cloud in the roof space, provides the opportunity for curing meat, hides or timber, which can easily be suspended on high. Apart from the fire in the centre, there is a clay dome-shaped oven used principally for baking bread, quern stones for grind-



Pimperne House.

ing grain into flour, and an upright loom, used for demonstrating weaving techniques. Everything works. The posts of the main wall will of course, gradually rot and sink into the ground, but it is estimated that this kind of structure could last for up to two hundred years.

Naturally, there were disappointments. Knowing the traditional craftsmanship of the Celts, the buildings described together with several other smaller structures were rather crudely constructed. The door posts of the large house would have been carved with beautiful intricate patterns, and where was the welcoming smell of the boar roasting on the spit! The non-technological side of the culture, music, story telling, etc., is not alluded to, and many activities, like hunting and fishing likewise are outside the parameters of the Butser Farm project. It does not give the complete picture.

It does however do what is intended, and shows clearly that the Celts of two thousand years ago were, to quote one of the information sheets, "highly civilised with a well organised and successful daily life". In an age when our ancestors are still written out of the history books, and the part they played in the founding of modern Europe largely ignored, any such study as Butser makes a relevant contribution towards our re-instatement. The project director, Dr. P. J. Reynolds, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A., has been involved in Iron Age archaeological projects for many years, and as he trudges in the driving rain, he can rest assured that his work is appreciated in circles other than the purely academic.

SÉAMAS Ó COILEÁIN

A NEW OR NOT-SO-NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

Last year (1985) the Kilkenny Shop in Dublin had trilingual Desk Diaries for sale. Incredibly enough the three languages were English, French and German, but not Irish. This current year, whether or not as a result of protest, the offensive "Insight" diary was not on sale. Available were a quadrilingual and a bilingual diary, both including Irish. Más maith is mithid!

Looking further at Irish printed diaries there appears to be a gap in that field. Two diaries printed in Irish are available in the Conradh na Gaeilge bookshop, a pocket diary and a larger one. Each page of the larger "Taibhse" diary has 7 days to the page and the opened diary spanning a fortnight would cover a little more than half a page of "Carn". In practice the space is adequate for an appointments diary or a memory jogger, but allows no scope for writing in any detail.

It can be safely assumed that not many League members either within or outside Ireland have very much opportunity to use their Irish. Familiarity with the language can be retained or improved by keeping a journal, as distinct from a diary. Without making it into a daily ritual it

is a useful routine to comment maybe once or twice a week on whatever has happened of consequence or of personal interest, during the previous few days. More likely than not that will entail looking up the odd word in De Bhaldraithe and ascertaining grammatical usage or suitable idioms. Once the desirability of this activity is accepted any available writing book would serve, each entry being duly dated. Nevertheless, a blank writer fails to provide the same psychological stimulus as a generously spaced desk diary, but its use would seem rather incongruous for a cinn lae i nGaeilge. Should I have failed to locate an Irish desk-diary/journal that is already available no doubt the publisher will draw attention to it in the next edition of "Carn". Otherwise, perhaps some enterprising or altruistic publisher will make one available for 1987?

These observations, in English, might well appear just as bizarre as the trilingual diary without Irish. However, while accepting the possibility that at this time thousands of Welsh people are writing at great length in Welsh in amply spaced Welsh desk-diaries, my impression is that the keeping of a journal, in the appropriate Celtic language is not very frequent. While in no way decrying the importance of the spoken language the habit of keeping a diary is worth encouraging among each of the 6 varieties of Celt. May Dónall Mac Amhláigh have to look to his laurels and Bail ó Dhia ar an obair!

PADRAIG Ó CONCHÚIR

NUCLEAR THREAT

The latest list of nuclear incidents and disclosures in relation to the Sellafield (Windscale) Nuclear Processing plant on the Cumbrian coast of the Irish Sea is as follows:

- January 24th: discharge of 400 kgs of uranium into the Irish Sea — report only required.
- February 5th: release of radioactive plutonium mist giving rise to amber alert. 70 employees detained for examination — claimed negative but it subsequently emerged 11 had been contaminated — one with equivalent of a year's allowable dose of radiation.
- February 13th: a fire at one of the dumps used by the plant causes an increase in atmospheric radiation.
- February 16th: revelation that official figures given to an independent inquiry into cancer levels in Sellafield area had greatly underestimated the amount of radioactive material discharged into the atmosphere in the early 1950s.
- Instead of 500 grams of uranium the estimated actual dose was closer to 20 kilograms or 40 times greater and all data in the inquiry report will now have to be revised in that light.
- February 18th: leak of 250 gallons of radioactive water. 50 employees screened, two contaminated.

The initial reaction from the Dublin Government was merely to arrange a meeting between Dept. of Energy officials and their British counterparts. By the time of the last

RESPONSE IS TOO LITTLE TOO LATE

accident the Taoiseach, Dr. FitzGerald was at least prepared to raise the matter at a meeting with Mrs. Thatcher. The British announcement that they had ordered an inquiry by 12 health and safety officials from the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (which will take three months to perform and possibly as long before it is issued) apparently satisfied the Irish Government. Presumably it also satisfied the Manx who had merely sent a polite message calling on the British Government to "take such steps as are necessary" to restore public confidence in the management of the plant.

Do these Governments wish to see an approaching cloud of radioactive dust or have their shores totally contaminated before they will call for the closure of this dangerous plant?

The Irish Medical Association is to set up a committee to investigate the health implications for Ireland of Sellafield and the Irish Medical Campaign for the Prevention of Nuclear War called on the Government to demand its immediate closure. Also a major symposium about the Health Risks of Radiation is planned for Ireland in April. Dr. N. Nowlan, Chief Executive of the Irish Nuclear Energy Board expressed fears of a major accident at the plant. Other sources expressed serious doubts about NEB's capacity to even monitor efficiently with its present level of funding and staffing. Opposition spokesmen have called for closure of the plant, including C.J. Haughey — what did he do about it when he was in office, was it raised when he discussed the "totality of relationships" with Thatcher? The European Parliament also called for the closure of

Sellafield but this is not expected to be followed by any prompt action. Nor indeed is any call for an EEC inspection force likely to be heeded as those governments which use nuclear energy for military purposes would certainly oppose it. And that link, as pointed out by the environmental organisation HOPE, would be the British reason for adamantly refusing to close Sellafield, no matter who demands it, and despite the horrific record of over 300 accidents at the plant since it opened in 1950.

The Nuclear Threat in the Irish Sea area comes not only unfortunately from Sellafield. On Friday 21st February 15 tons of radioactive carbon dioxide was released in an accident at the Trawsfynydd nuclear power plant in North Wales. Greenpeace and the Dublin-based National Co-Operative Council (NCC) have both drawn attention to the fact that a likely reason for fracturing of pipes was the earthquake which shook Ireland and Britain in 1984 — and reached 5½ on the Richter scale. This plant and the Wylfa plant (which contains the largest store of nuclear waste in Britain) are situated on either side of the Menai Straits, the epicentre of that earthquake. The NCC have called for closure of both plants and the scrapping of plans to replace them and calls for an immediate enquiry were made by Dafyd Ellis, Plaid Cymru M.P. In the wake of the recent incidents in the area Greenpeace has decided to send its largest ship, the *Sirius*, to the Irish Sea next month to monitor discharges from Sellafield and to determine just how far radioactive waste is carried around the surrounding shores.

PROJECT "BLAS KELTIEG" (A Taste of Celtic)

by Mikael Madeg

This project is of a 1 hour cassette, and accompanying booklet, intended to give listeners a recorded impression of what *all* the Celtic languages sound like.

"Major" Celtic languages will be allotted around 12 minutes, and Cornish and Manx about 5 minutes each, including different varieties of them, mainly traditional, but revivalist uses as well, when prevalent. On one side: Gaelic (Manx, Scottish, Irish); on the other: Brittonic (Cornish, Breton, Welsh). Each section will be divided into a number of short meaningful extracts of longer recordings, or of self-contained anecdotes in *unread*, genuine speech, averaging two minutes.

The *booklet* will contain a full transcription in the original language (large print, left pages), and translations (small print, right pages) in both Breton and English. Brief notes will be included about the position of the language nowadays, as well as about the 30 or so speakers.

Editorial *contributions* have to be twofold:

- as clearly recorded (or re-recorded) a *tape* (rather than cassette) of the items as possible. These will be re-recorded twice, so that clarity is of the utmost importance;
- a *written-out version*, word by word, of the tape, preferably typed, or very carefully written (nobody can be expected to know fluently *all* the Celtic languages and various spellings!).

Apart from (welcome) financial support, editorial help from organisations or diverse bodies outside Brittany would entitle them to a number of copies at cost price, or to exclusive distribution where all the help came from one body or individual.

All individual contributors will be offered cost price copies, unless financial help allows more generosity.

My credentials: I am a Breton language teacher and writer and an academic specialist on nicknames, with a long standing interest in other Celtic communities, a fair command of Welsh and a degree of fluency in Scottish Gaelic. My contribution to interceltic understanding includes:

- co-edition of a Welsh/Breton anthology of Breton poetry.
- extensive research on Welsh nicknames and book projects about them in both Welsh and Breton.
- research about S.Gaelic nicknames, on a commission from the Gaelic Books Council.
- a book in Breton of short stories from Scottish Gaelic.
- working at two books in Breton of short stories from the Welsh.

I launched a collection of 1-hour cassettes of Breton dialects, plus booklets, from my own, edited, tape recordings (3 of them

published- sea-weed uses in Leon, a study of premonition, a folk tale).

Here are the intended items for the project (other suggestions welcome).

ALBA: 1. extract from School of Scottish Studies Cassette "4" (Barra); 2. (item in) Islay Gaelic; 3. (from) Central Highlands; 4. Rosshire; 5. Lewis religious oratory; 6. extract from Radio News (Harris Gaelic).

BREIZH: 1. Treger breton; 2. Bro Vigou-denn; 3. Coastal Gwened; 4. Central "mountain" Kerne; 5. Leon religious oratory; 6. extract from radio news (Leon).

CYMRU: 1. Glamorgan (coal mines); 2. Carmarthenshire; 3. the North East; 4. Merionethshire; 5. extract from Radio News ("northern" Welsh); 6. extract from Saunders Lewis' conference "Tynged yr iaith".

ÉIRE: 1. Donegal; 2. Connemara; 3. Kerry; 4. Radio News (Dublin ?); 5. Second language speaker (Connemara flavour); 6. Ring; (alternatively) 6. Dublin or Northern "revivalist" speaker.

KERNOW: 1, 2, 3 (4) items in revived Cornish.

MANNIN: 1, 2 items from recordings of last native speakers. 3. bit of conversation in revived Manx.

In August 1985 I already had the following tapes: *Alba*: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. *Breizh*: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6. *Cymru*: 4, 5, 6. *Éire*: 5. *Kernow*: (all). *Mannin*: 1, 2. Looking forward to assistance for the other items.

All correspondence to:
Mikael Madeg
Kêredol,
F 29220 St. Tonan.

American Branch News

Amidst symbolic bonfires and warm fellowship, Celts from all over the New York area gathered at Manhattan's Irish Arts Center on the evening of 31 October. Beneath decorations designed by Celtic Calendar artist Geoffrey Davis, the celebrants renewed old acquaintances and made new ones while a large number of musicians enlivened the evening with their talents. The inauguration of the Celtic New Year began shortly before midnight with a speech by scholar Alexei Kondratiev that explained the traditions of Samhain and set the tone for the ceremonies that followed. As midnight fell, those present joined hands to sing Auld Lang Syne to the sound of the bagpipes.

The American Branch formally installed their newly elected officers as each officer heard his or her name read out and stood before the flags of the six nations with lighted candles. As the lights dimed, the names of noted Celts who had passed away in the previous year were read out, and all present lit candles from a central flame as they partook of traditional Samhain punch



American Branch Committee: Left to right are: S. Whelan, S. P. DeVillo, E. A. Fitzpatrick, A. Kondratiev and G. Moran. (By courtesy: W. Cassidy).

from the cauldron. The celebration ended at an indeterminate time the following morning, after great cheer and dancing.

The American Branch's new Branch Committee members are:

Elizabeth Anne Fitzpatrick...Branch Secretary
George Griffiths Moran....Branch Treasurer
Alexei Kondratiev.....Correspondence
Coordinator and Breton Chair
Stephen Paul DeVillo.....Media Director
and Welsh Chair
Peter Gilmore.....Scottish Chair

Kevin McEaney.....Irish Chair
Madeleine Tokach.....Cornish Chair
Stan Whelan.....Manx Chair

With such an auspicious beginning behind them, the new American Branch Committee looks forward to a successful and prosperous year for the Celtic League. Special thanks were extended to George Moran, Geoffrey Davis, and all those whose individual efforts combined to make the event a success.

STEPHEN PAUL DeVILLO

CAMPAIGN BY COMHDHÁIL

September 1985 saw the launch of one of Comhdháil na Gaeilge's campaigns — this one directed to elected representatives in local government.

A letter to the local representatives was accompanied by an outline of the steps which have been taken with regard to the Irish language in the educational system from 1920 onwards. As might be expected, not all of the steps taken have been positive, particularly in the last twenty years or so. An Comhdháil is the umbrella organisation for the Irish language organisations in Ireland and it appears to be the opinion of those organisations that officialdom is neglecting the language at a time when the great majority of the people are favourably disposed

to it.

The letter from An Comhdháil refers to a survey carried out by the Market Research Bureau of Ireland for the Irish National Teachers' Organisation. The survey showed that more than two-thirds of the public considered that the Gardaí, civil servants and judges should be able to conduct their business through Irish.

An Comhdháil asks all local representative to take steps to promote Irish in their local authority area and the letter in question lists steps which might be taken, at little cost, to promote the language. Full marks to An Comhdháil for such proposals. As the recession bites deep in Ireland and as unemployment increases, spending on the promotion of Irish would be considered low priority.

We will have to wait and see how seriously local representatives take their stated commitment to the language. So far, the response to this campaign would indicate that there is some hope!

FOR A CELTIC FUTURE

A tribute to Alan Heusaff

330 pages Price Stg £5.00

This collection of articles has been published in recognition of Alan's work as Secretary of the Celtic League for over 20 years.

A wide range of subjects and topics are covered on political and cultural matters.

Available from Branch Secretaries or direct from the Editor, Cathal Ó Luain, 33 Bóthar Bancroft, Tamhlacht, Co. Átha Cliath, Éire.

This book will be a must for all interested in Celtic affairs.

Postage & Packing:

IRE£1.80 (Stg area and Éire), IRE£2.60 (Surface mail, Breizh and rest of the world), IRE£6.30 (Air mail, Breizh and rest of the world).

CONFERENCE: The Celtic Peoples on the European Scene

The 9th Convention of the "Europe of Regions" Conference sponsored by the Fonden for International Forståelse (Foundation for International Understanding) will be concerned this year with the Celtic peoples. It will take place in Copenhagen from June 7 to 11. The provisional programme lists lectures on themes which are related fairly closely to the aims of the Celtic League, the difference being perhaps that we seek national recognition, not regional devolution. All the working sessions will be held in the Christiansborg Palace's Landstingssalen. The following titles will give a precise indication of the subjects to be dealt with: at 10.00 on Sunday, "the Celtic Peoples on the European Scene — their political resurgence as a contribution towards European democracy"; at 15.00, "Problems of self-government, national and regional freedom: the present development and situation in the Six Celtic countries, and Celtic traditions in Galicia"; on Monday at 9.00, a panel discussion: "Centralism, regionalism and democracy — resistance to centralism in modern Europe, in politics, economics and culture" (the panel representing a broad spectrum of regional origin,

views and experience gained from the struggle for decentralisation and autonomy); at 15.00 — "Four Stages in European regionalism" — from a Europe of States to a Europe of Regions? — 1. Ethno-nationalism; 2. Regional autonomist demands; 3. Constitutional decentralisation; 4. The European dimension. On Tuesday, there will be a "review of regional event in 1985/86, a summary of the Convention, plans for the 1987 Convention and a presentation of the new periodical REGIONAL CONTACT published jointly by the Forståelse (Copenhagen) and the International Institute for Nationality Rights and Regionalism (Munich). All the lectures will be followed by questions and discussions. As well as social aspects, e.g. a reception with buffet supper at the City Hall of Copenhagen offered by the Lord Mayor, Egon Weidekamp, who chairs the committee of the Conference "Europe of Regions", there will be exhibitions (daily life in Celtic societies, periodicals).

The Conference fee is Dkr. 700. Accommodation in twin bedded room, incl. meals and fee Dkr. 2700. Single room Dkr. 500. An optional excursion to Celtic areas is planned for June 12 to 19.

Further information from Mr. Folmer Wisti, director of the Conference, Tel. (45-1) 139418, Postbox 85, DK-1003, Copenhagen K.

The organisers are anxious to have the participation of as many people as possible from the Celtic countries. We in the Celtic League should certainly give them all the backing within our means. The General Secretary asks members intending to take part in the Convention to contact him as early as possible.

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: IRE£6, Stg£5, 60FF or US\$14. Postage outside Europe is by air mail.

For information about the Celtic League, applications for membership, subscriptions, etc. write to any of the following secretaries:

ALBA

Mairi Denovan, 2 Woodburn Place, Edinburgh 10.

BREIZH

Jorj Ab Herve-Gwegen, 9 Rue F. Blons, 29260 Plouzenel/Ploudaniel.

CYMRU

Merfyn Phillips, Parc y Ffrier, Llandudoch, Dyfed.

ÉIRE

Tomás Scott, 16 Páirc na Cabraí, Baile Átha Cliath 7.

KERNOW

Ian Williams, 6 Rose Row, Redruth.

MANNIN

Cristl Jerry, 6 Glenaba Road, Peel.

LONDON

Séamas Ó Coileáin, G.42 Du Cane Court, London SW17 7JR.

U.S.A.

Elizabeth Anne Fitzpatrick, P.O. Box 20153 Dag Hammarskjöld Postal Centre, New York, NY 10017.

INTERNATIONAL BRANCH

Alan Heusaff, 9 Br. Choc Sion, Dromehonrach, Áth Cliath 9, Éire.

When renewing please send cheques to same Branch as previously, or notify its secretary of any change.

The General Secretary of the Celtic League is J. B. Moffatt, 24 St. Germain's Place, Peel, Isle of Man.

The Editor is Ms. P. Bridson, 33 Bóthar Bancroft, Tamhlacht, B.Á.C. 24, Éire.

Our next deadline for Carn 54 will be 8th May 1986.

Materials sent for publication in CARN must relate to our aims, be clearly written; if in languages other than English articles should be marked to ease editing (bracket sentences/paragraphs which may be omitted in case of need to shorten).

I would like to thank all contributors for their articles. I must stress that there may be a delay in printing some articles; however, all material will be published IN TIME unless contributors are contacted by me, due to some difficulty.

PAT BRIDSON

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