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A LINK BETWEEN THE CELTIC NATIONS

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Cuimhnich air Cruadal
NAN DAOINE

After the Elections:
Pause to think

British Bombing
Mistake

The Irish in Scotland

The Militarisation of Cornwall

Irish Language News

CELTIC LEAGUE



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



ALBA

CUIMHNICH AIR CRUADAL NAN DAOINE . . .

Aros sona bh'againn thall
Airigh mhonaidh, innis bhò
Sgaoil ar sonas uainn air ball
Mar roinneas gaoth nam fhuar-bheann ceò.

Bruaillean cogadh anns an tìr
Faic an long a' togail sheòl
Cluinn an drum a' s fuaim nam pìob
Faic na suinn a' dol air bòrd!

Am measg nam mìltean a' dol timcheal air a' chidhe faisg air na bàtaichean agus a' dol air bòrd bha oighear grinn breacbhallaich a' bruidhinn ri cailleadh aosda liath. Bha e d'am b'ainm Thormoid agus bha e ann an deise chacadh (Khaki) an oifigich den chiad chogadh mhór. Bha aodach dubh na banntraich uimpe.

Phòg si e mar gun robh e na bhalachan òg fhathast.

"Thoir an aire ort fhéin, a mhic," arsa ise.
"Bhiodh t'athair cho moiteil gad fhaicinn a nis . . . agus thusa nad chaitean. . ."

"Mo ghaol ort, a Mhamaidh."

"Chuala mi gun robh an cath Turcach uamhasach cruaidh," arsa ise.

Cha robh mórán tìde air fhàgail.

"Cuimhnich air cruadal nan daoine bhon d'fhàinig thu, a mhic . . . agus dèan ùrnaigh anns gach cruaidh-chàs, a mhic. . ."

Dhealaich iad agus bha na faclan aice a' dol na cheann mar sheilleanan air sgaoth. . .

Am measg na gainmhich, nan cuileag agus nam fuaim coimheach a dh'fhuiling e sa Mheadhan-Ear feadh nam mìos dona a bha ri teachd, bha Murchaidh Thormoid daonnan a' smaoineachadh air a' dhùthaich aige fhéin agus cor na Gàidhlig.

Bha an cath Turcach uamhasach nimheil. Bha an cogadh cho fhiadhaich bhon a bha an Impireachd Thurcach a' dol leis an t-sruth. Thuig na saighdearan Turcach sin gu math agus bha eagail orra. Mar sin chòmhraig iad gu fhiadhaich agus mhurt iad prìosanaich a' chogaidh gu tric.

'S ann ann am Meadhan-Ear, anns an Iraq, air an abhainn Tigris a thachair an t-Albannach sa chiad turas ri Micheil Goff (no, mar a theireadh sinn sa Ghàidhlig Micheil Gobha). Gun teagamh bha Micheil na dheagh sgoilear agus bha e fileanta 'sa Choirneis. Bha e na mhaighstir-sgoile a' teagaisg 'sa Chuirn ron chogadh. Bha leabhar sa Choirneis daonnan leis gu h-àraidh dealbh-chluich mìorbhaileach Cornach. Bha e ag ionnsachadh

na Tuirceis cuideachd. Chan fhaca Murchaidh an Cornach uair sam bith nach robh e a' smogadh na phìob aige.

"Tha a' mhór-chuid den Iompaireachd Thurcach thairis air na h-Arabaich a tha fo ar-a-mach an aghaidh nan Turcach. Tuigidh na Turcaich gu math gum bheil iad ann an cunnart ro mhór," arsa Micheil.

"An robh na Turcaich daonnan fìadhaich ri daoine eile?" dh'fhaighnich an Gaidheal.

"Chan eil idir. Bha iad daonnan ro fhad-fhulangach a thaobh a h-uile creideamh san Iompaireachd aca."

Ach chan eil an t-Arm daonnan gun ghluasad agus air an aobhar sin thugadh an òrdugh a-mach don bhuidheann far an robh Murchadh Domhnallach agus Micheil Goff a dhol don bhaile Kut al Amara a tha na bhaile Arabach leith uiread baile Inbhir Nis, air an Abhainn Tigris ann an Iraq.



Shin pàirt den lobhta a-mach thairis air an t-sràid. Mar sin chunnaic iad na murtairean a' sior dlùthachadh riutha. . .

Duilich ri ràdh bha t-òrdugh a' stiùireadh a mhór chuid (65%) de na h-oifigeach agus nan saighdear do am bàs.

Cheannaich na Turcaich am baile Kut al Amara anns a' Ghibleinn 1916 agus mhurt iad a h-uile oifigeach is saighdeir a thachair orra anns an àite gan glachdadh mar phrìosanaich cogaidh.

Bha Goff a' smogadh na pìob aige agus bha Murchaidh Thormaid Domhnallach na sheasamh comhla ri a chuid dhaoine ann an seòmar falamh air an lobhta uachdarach. Shin pàirt den lobhta a-mach thairis air an t-sràid.

Mar sin chunnaic iad na murtairean a' sior dlùthachadh riutha.

B'iad nan saighdearan Turcach. Bha oifigear aca mu dhà fhichead bliadhna a dh'aois. Bha e lachdainn le stais (moustache) mhór dhubh fhiadhaich. Bha dag 'na laimh.

Chunnaic Murchadh, Goff agus na seachdnar saighdearan aca le oillt o'n uinneig uachdarach na bha a'dol seachad san t-sràid.

Ruitheadh an ceannard Turcach a steach do gach taigh. Nuair a thilleadh e dh'eigheadh e aireamh air choireigin. An sin ruitheadh grunn de shaighdearan Turcach a steach agus thilleadh iad a-mach a' slaodadh grunnan de na gillean againn.

Ann am prìobadh na sùla leag na Turcaich iad le gunnathan . . . agus bha na Turcaich a' sior dlùthachadh ri Murchadh, Goff agus an cuid dhaoine . . . a bha air chrith le oillt.

Dh'eadar-theangaich Goff na thuit an t-oifigeach Turcach nuair a thill e a-mach as gach taigh — aireamh nan truaghan ann — gu bhi air am murt!

Aon uair na bha na Turcaich a' slaodadh a-mach feadhainn eile, dh'eigh saighdear òg ('s ann à muinntir Polmont a bha e).

"A Thighearna . . . seo mo bhràthair . . . am fear ruadh. . ."

Chunnaic iad am fear ruadh nuair a thuit e leth-mharbh air a' chàrn de chuirp fuilich. Bha am fear ruadh air chrith fhathast . . . cha robh e marbh fhathast! An sin chuir an t-oifigear Turcach peilear 'na cheann gun iochd sam bith bhon dag aige.

"A Chaitean Mhic Dhòmhnuill dé ni sinn no bithidh sinn cho marbh ris cuideachd?"

Bha fallas air aodain an Domhnallaich bhric-bhallach. Cha robh fios aige, sa chiad dol a-mach de dhèanadh e, ach, grad chuir e an t-òrdugh seo a-mach:—

Dèan ùrnaigh, dèan ùrnaigh a h-uile mac mathar. Seas ann an cearcall. Grom ar cinn. Deannaibh greim air làmhnan a chèile.

Dùinibh ar sùilean. Nuair a sguireas sibh a dh'ùrnaigh; abraibh AMEN agus tòisichidh an ath-fhear air ball. Nì sinn Ùrnaigh an Tighearna còmhla an ceann a h-uile treas ùrnaigh. Thèid am fear a bhrìsteas an t-òrdugh seo gu cùirt-shaighdeireil nuair a thilleas sinn. Tòisich a nisd. . . "Ar n-Athair. . ."

Rinn Murchaidh Thormoid gach ùrnaigh 'sa Ghàidhlig agus Goff 'sa Choirneis. Rinn an seachdnar eile ùrnaigh sa Bheurla seach an t-Uibhisteach a bha daonnan ri "Fàilte Muire" nuair a bha e ri ùrnaigh 'na aonar.

Thuig a h-uile duine gun robh teachdaire a' bhàis a' sior dlùthachadh ris. Chuala iad cas-cheumannan an Turcaich air an staidhre fhiodha.

Chuala iad a chas-cheumannan cho trom agus cho bras gun do thuig iad gun robh an t-oifigeach uamhasach feargach.

Ach bhon a bha iad uile fo smachd an Airm lean iad air ach thuig iad cuideachd nach robh cal eile ri dhèanamh.

Bha fuaim a chas-cheumannan aig an doras

a nisd.

Bha an naoinear a tòiseachadh ri Urnaigh an Tighearna maraon sa Ghàidhlig, sa Choinneis is sa Bheurla. . . . "Ar n-Athair . . . nuair a dh'fhosgail an dorus. Bha faileadh de "chordite" a' tighinn a-steach comhla ris . . . ach lean iad uile air an Urnaigh . . . "gu naoimhichear t-ainm. . . ."

Stad an Caipitean Turcach lachdann . . . "gun tigeadh do rioghachd" . . . chuala siad e a' tionndadh . . . "gun dèanar do thoil air an talamh. . . ." Chuala iad a chas-cheumannan a' teàrnadh na staidhre, ach bha difir mór ann . . . bha a chas-cheumannan a nisd cho iriosal mar gun robh e ann an eaglais . . . "mar a nithear air nèamh. . . ." Dhùin e an dorus gu sàmhach.

Air an t-sràid dh'eigh an ceannard ciar Turcach mar b'abhaist dha, ach bha mòran difir ann cuideachd.

Cha do dh'eigh e àireamh sam bith . . . "Falamh!" ghlaodh e. "Falamh! Chan eil duine a-staigh idir. . . . Rachamaid don ath-thaigh. . . ."

Chuala iad an Turcach a' ruith suas an staidhre fhiodh an ath-dhorus . . . thill e a dh-éigheach. . . . "Còig . . . còig."

Bha gearanan is guidheachan abhaistich nan truaghan ri chluinntinn . . . còig urchraichean . . . an sin, sàmhchair.

Cho-éighich an Caipitein breac-bhallach an fheadhainn eile Urnaigh an Tighearna a dèanamh trì uairean an deidh sin, gus an robh na Turcaich air falbh.

Bha an t-sràid dhustach theth a nis falamh ach na cuirp fhuiltich agus na cuileagan orra aig gach dorus ach aig an taigh aca fhéin.

Sin mar a ghairm Murchaidh Thormaid air an Tighearna ann an Kut al Amara. Thill e agus a chuid dhaoine dhachaidh gu sabhailte. . . . agus tha 'ogha (Màiri nighean Dhomhnuill Kut) a' fuireach air croit a seanair an diugh.

GILLEASBUIG MacMHUIRICH
Gilleasbuig Lachlainn 'Illeasbuig.

The writer first heard this dramatic account from his father who saw active service on the Turkish front in the First World War.

THE IRISH IN SCOTLAND AND THE SNP: A CELTIC PERSPECTIVE

by

P. J. MAC GIOLLA BHÁIN, B.A.

The Irish, since coming to Scotland in modern times, have formed Scotland's largest immigrant community. They are also culturally and ethnically Scotland's closest kith and kin. The Scottish nationality — as has already been stated¹ — is itself mainly Gaelic.

This links Scotland with Ireland in a relationship that is unique in both the countries experience.

Due to their experience at the hands of English imperialism the Irish came to industrial Scotland the most oppressed, abused peasantry in Europe. They came to Britain uncommitted to the Protestant work ethic of Victorian industry and thrift and uncommitted to society around them by either tradition or economic success.

They brought with them much of the Gaelic culture of their homeland and with it its inherent value system of kinship and solidarity that had been extinguished in much of lowland Scotland by the great engines of Anglicisation-industrialisation and reformation.

Perhaps because of these factors they provided industrial Scotland with its agitators and the working class in this country with a cutting edge of radicals and revolutionaries disproportionate to their number. This was true of all Britain's industrial cities where the Irish settled, but perhaps nowhere more so than Glasgow. MacLean's powerbase in "bolshhevik" Scotland was the Gorbals-central Glasgow's Irish ghetto of no mean city.

Today in the working class areas of Glasgow where there remains large concentrations of Irish people,² the graffiti is more redolent of the Ardoyne of New Lodge Road than to anything distinctly Scottish. The Irish in Glasgow have remained at the lower end of the socio-economic league and, as a self-conscious community, especially its youth, relatively alienated to the society around it.

This community, in the heart of urban Scotland, in the heart of labour's "heartland,

would seem to have many of the qualities that were outlined by David Bowie³ when looking to what type of support the SNP would have to attract and hold if independence from England was to be realised.

That they are also the Scot's nearest Celtic kith and kin would seem to guarantee that a party such as the SNP — out to break the connection with England and rend asunder the English dominated UK — would be commanding as much support from Glasgow's Irish community today as Mac Lean did in his day.

The situation, however, is quite the reverse. The Irish in Glasgow are not, it would appear, supporting the SNP in the manner outlined above.⁴

The main reason for this, I believe, is the perception of the SNP among the Irish in Glasgow, and the results for the Irish community in Scotland if the SNP were to be successful and establish an independent Scottish state.

The overwhelming answer given to the author for *not* supporting Scotland's claim for national independence by Irish people is remarkably uniform. "A separate Scotland would rapidly develop into another Ulster, a

Scottish parliament, another Stormont."

The author heard this argument during the devolutionary '70s and, unfortunately, hears it today with undiminished candour and conviction in the de-industrialising '80s among the Irish community.⁵

This was not always the case however; in the 1920s Red Clyde, and its Scottish Republican leader John Mac Lean, was heavily supported by the Irish of the Gorbals and the Lanarkshire coalfield.⁶

Mac Lean's plan was to imbue in the Scottish working class the politics that had been developed in Ireland by Edinburgh-born James Connolly;⁷ a synthesising of nationalism and communism based on the observation that capitalism and private property were English importations into Celtic Ireland, whose traditions had been essentially collectivist since antiquity.

Mac Lean's dream was, of course, never realised in his lifetime. His untimely death,⁸ saw the birth of the Northern Ireland Statelet following the British withdrawal from the 26 Counties after the Tan War.

Stormont's resign of terror was to end fifty years later amid the IRA blitz and the re-introduction of direct London rule which continues today.⁹

The campaign of the IRA that brought down Stormont had its origins in the ghetto emergencies of '68 and '69 when Catholic pogrom — a Belfast Protestant tradition — again threatened to rear its head.

"Liberal" Britain reeled in shock horror that such a system of religious apartheid could exist on their doorstep, within *their* state, in modern times. The shocked surprise was not, however, universal this side of the water. Nowhere on this island was the plight of the Bogsider or the resident of Ardoyne so instinctively understood than among the Irish in West Central Scotland. As tales of barely controllable B-Specials and viciously sectarian local government institutions flooded across the water, the scenario of an Edinburgh Stormont and a Strathclyde RUC could not have been more vivid for the Glasgow Irish contemplating a separate Scotland. If there were any doubters among the Irish community as to whether this would be the case they only had to look at the solidarity and kinship, not to mention material support, that was shown to the Loyalists in the North from Scottish Protestant organisations, particularly the Orange Lodges.

Unlike the 1920s however, there was no "HANDS OFF IRELAND" campaign run by Scottish separatists. The voice of Scotland, to the Irish in Scotland, appeared to be various shades of Loyalism, and therefore, various shades of anti-Irish racism. That nothing significant happened in the following ten years to change this perception of the Irish here did not do the devolutionists chances much good among the Irish — the author knows of no member of his extended family or friends of voting age in 1979 who voted for the assembly.

How can this community then, which appears to have many of the qualities and traditions necessary, if not vital, for the creation in Scotland of a solid separatist movement, be won over to the cause of Scotland?

Having gone through the available literature from the SNP I can find no mention of Ireland whatsoever. The SNP, it would appear, does not have a policy on the occupation of the six counties of N.E. Ireland by Britain. This could not be said of the other Celtic Nationalist party on this Island — Plaid Cymru.

Plaid Cymru is quite unambiguous in their support for a 32 county republic and self-determination for the entire island of Ireland free from British interference. Daffyd Ellis Thomas and other PC members have frequently been on pro-Irish platforms extending Celtic solidarity to the Irish.

I cannot however recall, or find evidence of any SNP spokesperson addressing the party's attention to the activities of the British State, and many Scottish troops, in the North of Ireland over the past 17 years.

This silence, or apparant silence, is taken as indicating acquiescence by the Irish community here in Scotland, to those activities. This belief among the Irish over here has been significant in denying traditional Labour votes defecting to the SNP. The silence has convinced many in the Irish community that the Scots are in fact merely a species of North Brit, fully participant in the Protestant consensus that the rebellious Irish must be controlled.¹⁰

This is indeed a travesty of Scottish history. That this country, whose national roots and cultural heritage are so firmly founded in the Irish kingdom of Dalriada. This country that shared with Ireland a common cultural heritage, a common language and common customs that were to remain intact across the narrow waters that separate the two countries for over 1200 years.

That modern Irish immigrants in Scotland have considered themselves immigrants at all is indicative of the direction of Scotland under English rule.

The Irish over here, in response to discrimination and exclusion from status and institutional power, reacted in classic immigrant fashion in a country where they shouldn't have felt foreign in the first place but did, and arguably, still do. In their politics, the Irish community when looking over the sea to the homeland were among the most republican and active of the Irish communities in Britain,¹¹ in the 1920s period. Today Glasgow has been the source of much support for the war in the North to eject the British.¹²

When concerned with their political allegiance in Scotland the Irish have, since Mac Leans time, supported the British Labour

party faithfully to such an extent the ranks of many CLP's in the West of Scotland contain Irish people disproportionate to their number in the country as a whole.

This political double standard practiced by the Irish here — i.e. on the one hand supporting the republican cause in Ireland, with its quite definitely revolutionary implications for the UK. On the other hand supporting the British Labour party at election time with its quite un-revolutionary attitude to the UK is indicative of both the problems at present and the potentialities for the future.

If the exciting potential is to be realised then action is required. The SNP must start to address itself to the entire range of issues that are involved in any analysis of Ireland and her British troubles.

The party has spokespeople on a plethora of subjects and issues it does not, however, appear to have one on Ireland.

This, I believe, in part explains the appalling ignorance of some, may I stress some, SNP members of quite rudimentary facts of Irish history.¹³

I am not, however, suggesting that the SNP in Strathclyde court the "Green vote" like some New York machine politician.

What is being urged is that if the SNP is to be the vehicle by which Scotland is delivered from English rule, then it must make itself aware of the fact that there is a common heritage and a common experience for Scotland and Ireland, both Celtic countries, dominated for centuries by English rule.

If this can be achieved then the input into the Scottish National movement would be capital. The Irish here with their vibrant separatist tradition still very much alive and their experience of militant class struggle in Scotland could be powerful allies of Scotland's cause.

The Labour party which has relied on the Irish vote for generations as bedrock support would find their safe seats and their councils scythed away from under them. The Labour party, the main guarantor of the British connection in Scotland, would be far more threatened by Scottish nationalism than at present.

Scotland would have taken a major step towards building a national liberation movement. A movement, capable of and dedicated to, prosecuting a successful struggle against the English connection.

REFERENCES

1. NLR 2, p. 5. "The Sense of Nationality in Scotland," by M. Mulholland.
2. In this article the definition of Irish nationality

murdering him for political reasons.

The circumstances of Willie McRae's death are bizarre. He was found in his car which had crashed in an upright position off a lonely road in Inverness-shire, and those who found his body, including a doctor, saw no pistol or cartridge cases in the vicinity and they assumed that his fatal injuries had resulted from the car crash.

It was several weeks after the death, when an investigative journalist discovered that Willie McRae had died as a result of a gunshot wound through the head, that the Crown Office (the State's colonial legal administrative body in Scotland) reluctantly revealed some of the details of what they were insisting

is that now generally accepted by Local Authorities with progressive multi-Cultural policies and Ethnic Minority Units, e.g. GLC, Birmingham etc. — it is "Anyone born in Ireland, with Parent(s) born in Ireland, Irish forebears or consider themselves to be Irish".

3. NLR 1, p. 2. "Elements of a Strategy for achieving Independence," by David Bowie. "... the SNP will need to build up a body of support that will remain solid during a period of considerable political turbulence. ..."

4. The main body of the author's evidence that prompted, in part, this article has been two-fold; his experience over several years in community affairs in Glasgow's Irish community. And on recent evidence of canvass returns from Irish areas in Glasgow's East End e.g. Barrowfield and Gallowgate.

5. In the organisations that would, arguably, count as the expression of the community's collective voice, e.g. IBRG, Conradh na Gaeilge, Comhaltas Ceolteoirí Éireann etc.

6. See *John MacLean* by Nan Milton, pp. 9, 128 and 129.

7. See *John MacLean* by Nan Milton, p. 129, states that Connolly was "... the moving spirit behind the secession of the Scottish branches of the SDF in 1903 to form the SLP and he is recorded as having been its first chairman." Also that MacLean: "... after the 1916 rising and his release from prison he had contacts with some members of the Scottish Divisional Board of the Irish Republican Brotherhood."

8. Mac Lean died 30th November 1923.

9. See Michael Farrell's *Northern Ireland: The Orange State*, (Pluto Press), also *Northern Ireland, Between Civil Rights and Civil War*, by O'Dowd, Rolston and Tomlinson and Eamonn McCann's *War in an Irish Town*.

10. This is, of course, exactly what the London propaganda agencies such as the BBC are continually stressing — that the Scots are indeed part of some British Race, British Nation.

11. See *The Irish in Britain* by Kevin O'Connor, pp. 41, 42. "By 1920 the IRA register in Glasgow numbered 4,000 recruits and the financial contribution from among the Scottish community was reckoned by De Valera to be in excess of funds from any other country, including Ireland."

12. The contemporary Irish effort in Scotland is still impressive for the War in the North. Glasgow marching Bands have pride of place in Belfast republican marches often numbering all the other bands put together. The IRA unit that attacked the Grand Hotel in Brighton allegedly operated out of Glasgow's South side for several years.

13. Again the evidence is anecdotal by the nature of things, a group of SNP members at Paisley last year from the East of Scotland seemed to place much credence in the idea that the Gael was foreign to not only most of Scotland but also to Northern Ireland and quoted from Ian Adamson's *The Cruithin — the ancient Kindred* (See Carn winter '85 for a review by Padraig Ó Snodaigh). From this point their view of Ireland and the Irish could only be described by this Irishman as — British!

McRAE SHOOTING — NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Ever since militant nationalist Willie McRae, 61, was found shot dead in his car on April 6th, 1985, there have been many who openly discounted the official verdict of "suicide" and others have publicly accused the State of



Willie McRae, R.I.P.

On the anniversary of Willie McRae's death the clandestine newspaper, "Saorsa", published by the Scottish National Liberation Army (SNLA), carried a statement revealing Willie McRae was an SNLA sympathiser and

le Frang MacThomais

Though not entirely run by "whizz kids", CnaG has an impressive professional approach to what it sees are the major areas

To date the Crown Office has failed to reply and will not comment on the allegations that Willie McRae was murdered by agents of the State.

D. LEADBETTER



From time to time I shall be looking in detail at some of the newly-fledged Gaelic-based bodies which have recently come into being as the result of needs in particular areas of Gaelic being identified, for instance CLI, the Gaelic Learners' body.

Such a meeting of European peoples at a non-governmental level opens up all sorts of comparisons and interesting links in our histories and experience. In the closing session the interests of the Celtic and Mediterranean peoples was seen as being closely tied to an ability to curb the overweening power of big states and to blow away the secrecy which surrounds their governments. The Conference concluded that a free European news service would be needed to keep up communications between us and others who found their identities and interests distorted by the media controlled in Washington, London, Paris and Madrid. The clouds from Chernobyl may hang over Europe but the future need not be so black if the peoples reassert their rights to self-government and open a new era of peaceful cooperation. Further details from: Rob Gibson, Tel: Dingwall 63270.

BREIZH

LEVRIOU

Hag hi brudet er bed holl e chom Bro Skos dianav a-walc'h d'ar Vretoned, "emskiantek" pe get, e-skoaz Iwerzhon pe Gembre. Dre m'emañ pell an eil vro diouzh eben emichañs, hag ivez dre m'eo disheñvel ar c'hudennoù en hon div vro. Abeg ha disoc'h an diouiziegezh-se eo n'eus ket kalz a dra da lenn e Breizh, e brezhoneg pe e galleg, diwar-benn Bro Skos. Deuet mat e vo neuze al levra a zo o paouez bezañ embannet gant Skol-Uhel ar Vro dindan an titl "L'Ecosse". A-ratozh ez eus bet pouezet er pennadoù berr ha sklaer a ya d'ober al levra-se war ar pezh a c'hell tostaat Bro Skos ouzh Breizh. Komzet e vez da skouer eus an darempred etre an div vro er Grennamzer. Komzet e vez ivez eus tu keltiek ar sevenadur skosat, ar pezh na vez ket graet peurliesañ el levrioù gallek pe saoznek diwar-benn Bro Skos (n'eus ket kalz Skosiz memes a soñj dezhe eo o bro ur vro geltiek). Deskin a raio ar Vretoned el levra-se ar pep reañ a zo da c'houzout diwar-benn istor ar vro, ar vuhez politikel, an ekonomiezh, ar sevenadur hengounel (sonerezh hag all), ar gouezeleg, al lennegezh, ...

An hini a c'hoanto gouzout muioc'h a-zivout ar gouezeleg (ha lenn traoù entanetoc'h eget pennad J. Le Dû!) a c'hell lenn pe adlenn ar pezh a oa bet skrivet gant Arzel Even e-barzh Istor ar Yezhoù Keltiek, pe pennadoù Per Denez a oa bet embannet war al Liamm gwechall (1953-1954). Daoust d'o oad e chom talvoudus ar skridoù-se.

D'an hini a garo, goude bezañ lennet pennadoù dedennus Bernard Sellin, mont donoc'h e studi ar vroadelezh hag ar vroadelouriezh skosat, ne vo ket ret lenn levrioù saoznek: ul levra gallek a zo, "L'Ecosse, une nation sans état". Kenkoulz

eo hag al levrioù saoznek gwellañ. Bloaz zo e oa bet embannet war Dalc'homp Soñj ur pennad diwar bluenn Jacques Lueruez a-zivout Strollad Broadel Bro Skos. Moarvat ne oan ket bet ma-unan o kaout c'hoant lenn e levra goude bezañ lennet e bennad. Ha talvezout a ra ar boan, daoust ma c'heller kavout hirik pennadoù zo, rak n'eo ket diwar c'horre en deus studiet an traoù. Div lodenn a zo el levra. An hini gentañ gouestlet d'ar gevredigezh skosat ha d'hec'h emskiant vroadel, un emskiant stummet gant an ensavadurioù a ra eus Bros Skos ur vro a-ziforc'h (justis, deskadurezh, iliz, ...); hag an eil d'ar vroadelouriezh, penaos e vez eztaolet an emskiant-se er vuhez politikel, dre an SNP dreist-holl. En un doare sirius eo graet al labour, gant un den a gar hag a glask kompren Bro Skos.

Traoù dedennus a c'hoarvez er mare-mañ e Bro Skos, ken war dachenn ar yezh ha war an dachenn bolitikel. Er bloavezhioù tremenet ez eus bet krouet un toullad aozadurioù gouezelek nevez, ha frouezhus eo bet o labour betekhen; warlene, e miz Gouere 1985, e voe dalc'het ur Vodadeg vroadel evit termeniñ ur politikerezh a-berzh Stad evit ar gouezeleg, ha dont a reas di ar Sekretour-Stad evit Bro Skos. War an dachenn bolitikel e seblant emañ ar Strollad broadel oc'h adaptout nerzh ha fiziañs ennañ e-unan. Dudius e vo disoc'h ar mouezhiadegoù lec'hel e miz Mae.

O mad a raio ar Vretoned eus an daou levra-se eta.

I. KADORED

Summary: Two books in French about Scotland are briefly reviewed here: "L'Ecosse" published by the Breton Cultural Institute, a collection of articles of which one deals with the relations between Scotland and Brittany in the Middle Ages, and "L'Ecosse, Nation sans Etat, by J. Lueruez, which gives a good account of Scotland's nationhood as well as Scottish nationalism today.

PÂQUES 1916: LA RÉVOLUTION IRLANDAISE

This is the title of a special, well-illustrated issue of the Breton history magazine DALC'HOMP SONJ published as a contribution to the 70th anniversary of the Rising in Dublin. 1916 provides the focus for a collection of 16 articles dealing with the developments in the political, social, linguistic and military fields which led from 1880 onwards to the setting up of the Irish State. Dalc'homp Soñj is to be warmly congratulated for having secured the cooperation of ten well-known Irish historians and leading figures of the language movement. Their names are guarantees of the quality of the information. A journalist and lecturer who is well acquainted with what has been published about that phase of Irish history echoed the admiration expressed by several people when he showed them a copy. He said that no such collection of articles on the subject had been published before and that several of the photos included, depicting events of the struggle for independence, are hardly to be found in print elsewhere. Those who are not familiar with those events will find it most rewarding to have all these aspects covered in the 68 pages.

Six Bretons have contributed articles. One of them concerns the repercussions which the Irish struggle had on the Breton national movement — a rather critical view is taken there! In Ireland too, some people have asked whether 1916 and the struggle to establish statehood were justified: that question is answered affirmatively. I don't agree with R. Faligot's conclusion in "L'échec d'un putsch. As Col. E. Ó Néill shows, 1916 did not fail in its objective — and it was not a putsch!

But get a copy, send 45 Francs plus 9.50FF (postage) to Dalc'homp Soñj, 36 rue E. Zola, 56100 An Oriant/Lorient, Brittany.

THE ASSOCIATION OF PARENTS OF BILINGUAL SCHOOL CHILDREN (APEEB) met in Roazhon/Rennes on 12/4/86 to review the situation regarding the teaching of Breton in the State schools.

Primary level. They expressed satisfaction with the way the language is taught in the four (!) existing bilingual schools (St. Riwal, Lannuon, Pondivi, Roazhon — one in each of the départements of "Region Bretagne — why is there none in Loire-Atlantique ?). Results show clearly that Breton is no longer the language of the slow learners, a "badge of shame" — on the contrary, it is more and more a medium for good progress in education.

The authorities have promised, for the 1986/87 school year:

a) to open a new bilingual class in the

Rostrenen nursery school;

b) to further develop the Roazhon school by allowing it to have 3 teachers and 4 levels (preparatory to intermediate). APEEB asks that the same measure should apply to the other three schools, and that new classes be opened in Roazhon (nursery level), St. Nikolaz-ar-Pelem, Landerne, Lann-er-Stêr, where there is a strong demand. They insist that the authorities should concern themselves more with the provision of teaching materials and the preparation of curricula

In addition to these *experimental* schools (how long is this stage to last ?) there are itinerant teachers who go around *giving the children a taste of the language* (be careful, don't poison their mind ...!).

A large number of parents' demands remain unsatisfied. APEEB requests the number of such teachers to be doubled in each

département by September next.

Regarding the *Secondary schools*, APEEB is worried to find no mention of the "regional languages" in a Department of Education publication containing information on programmes for colleges and institutions, except a few lines in connection with time-tables. Is this not an indication that the State's intention, last proclaimed in 1925, remains unchanged: "Let the Breton language disappear"?

APEEB protests against this omission which ignores the desire of a considerable number of people, in Upper as well as in Lower Brittany to have their children learning Breton, as they have understood its importance for a well-balanced and rational education.

From a statement by APEEB, BP2507, 35035 Roazhon-Cedex.

DAN AR BRAS, BARD OF BRITTANY

In Brittany music is as much part of every day life as it is in Ireland. Indeed, the fame of the Breton culture owes much to its music, and the Breton people cling to it as to a last hope in times of despair.

It was the indisputable talent of Alan Stivell which launched the music of Brittany onto the stage and now, he is probably more famous than any musician of "France". He is not recognised there as a "French" musician, much of his lyrics being in Breton or in English (some are also in Gaelic). For this reason he has not in the French media the acceptance he deserves.

But among Stivell's fellow musicians one who is as talented as himself, although in a quite different style, is DAN AR BRAS. He is an extremely gifted musician, being able to play the guitar as well as the bag-pipe and a lot of other instruments.

One of his best work is a kind of a Rock symphony called "DOUAR NEVEZ". A real master piece.

The story it tells, based on an old Breton legend, takes place in the town of KER-IZ, which is supposed to have been located off the West coast of Brittany, in the "Baie des trépassés", (Bay of the deceased).

KER-IZ was a rich and proud fortified city, surrounded by the sea and protected from it by a system of dykes. There reigned Gradlon, a good and wise old King. His daughter was Dahut (some say Ahes) a maiden of great beauty and intelligence.



LOIRE: ATLANTIQUE IS PART OF BRITTANY

An opinion poll carried out by a research centre in Nantes indicates that 63.5% of the people of Loire-Atlantique want to have this département included in the administrative "Region Brittany". The percentage was highest (81.7%) among workers and employees, lowest (42%) among farmers and professional people; it was surprisingly higher South of the Loire, than North of it.

The results published last January, are all the more encouraging that a persistent campaign backed with public money has been waged over the past 10-15 years to impress on the people of the area that they were not Bretons. French officials have repeatedly answered requests from the partisans of reunification with the rest of Brittany by saying that if the people want it, they will act accordingly. What are they waiting for now?

Almost every night, sumptuous feasts and balls were held in the town of KER-IZ. Dahut loved dancing and was the heart and soul of all entertainments.

But Saint Gwenolé, an advisor to the King, disapproved of her. He told Gradlon to fear the punishment of God if this state of things did not end.

The Saint was not obeyed. One night, while the whole town was busy in wild merry making, the dyke collapsed and KER-IZ was destroyed. Most of its inhabitants were drowned in the flood. However, Gradlon was able to escape on his white horse to the nearest shore of Douarnenez. His endeavours to save Dahut were vain and she was changed into a mermaid. So, with her, the tradition went back underwater (as in other places it went underground) to wait for more tolerant times.

Dan ar Bras expresses this well known legend with great sensitivity and masterful talent. Most of his musical themes are of a pure traditional vein, yet the work sounds extremely modern, thanks to the intelligent use of the electric guitar and other electronic instruments, mixed skillfully with Scottish bag-pipe, Irish tin whistle and a good piano.

Dan ar Bras successfully avoided too strict a traditional style, yet he did not fall into Jazz, Classic or heavy Rock music. The result is a subtle neo-traditional style where the use of various electric sounds does not overshadow the Celtic genius. His music flows naturally and smoothly, and is as acceptable and pleasurable to the adepts of Rock as it is to the fans of traditional.

One wishes that Dan ar Bras would produce more work of this kind, and that the world would recognise him for what he is, a very good musician and composer, indeed, one of the most talented bards of Brittany.

BRITT DU FOURNET

BRETON IN THE MEDIA

Television programmes in Breton were all regrouped last February in one Sunday broadcast: Chadenn ar Vro. They had been blamed for causing viewers to switch over to other channels. Since then however, viewing on weekdays has not increased whereas more and more people are looking at 'Chadenn ar Vro'. 11% of the FR3-Brittany viewers watch it. On average 300 of them send in cards in answer to quiz programmes in Breton.

R.B.O. (Radio Bretagne Ouest) used to have 9 hours a week in Breton, and 21 hours (a misprint ??) of mixed Breton and French. Now, it is 11 hours a week in Breton, and 2½ hours bilingual. (There were complaints that "Breton" could mean a lot of music without words!). Also 11% of the station's 450,000 listeners get these programmes. On average 30,000 regularly listen to news in Breton.

Which is all far from enough. The director of the Breton programmes, Youenn Gwernig, wants daily broadcasts on both radio and TV. One reason why more Breton speakers don't listen to R.B.O. is that they are not familiar with the standardized forms of Breton (they were not taught to write or read it) and there are not enough means to make programmes in the various dialects.

Erwan ar C'hoadig, editor of EMGANN (organ of the similarly named organisation which stands for Breton national liberation) was taken to court by the French minister of the Interior, for having published words deemed injurious for the reputation of a police officer. The paper was fined 3 million Francs on March 5. Undoubtedly the aim is to silence a group which does not mince its words.



Erwan ar C'hoadig (right) with his solicitor Yann Choucq at his trial (photo courtesy Breman).

HEAVY FINES (5000 Frs each) were imposed on two members of Stourm ar Brezhoneg, i.e. Patrig Herve and Gwenole Bihanig, (see CARN 53) for defacing road signs bearing only Frenchified forms of place names in the vicinity of An Oriant/Lorient. There was surprise at the severity of this sentence since the French authorities conceded

last Summer that sign posts should be bilingual; and the judge had appeared sympathetic towards the defendants who were allowed to speak Breton in court. Well, the law has not been changed, nor have any significant number of road signs. S. ar B. says its campaign will continue.

AFTER THE ELECTIONS: PAUSE TO THINK

I should like here to draw some lessons for Brittany from the results of the elections of March 16th last. Remember that there were simultaneous elections by universal suffrage to the French "national" assembly and to the regional councils. As expected the groups which stood for some form of autonomy for Brittany fared badly, and quite badly. None of their candidates came anywhere near winning a seat and all their lists fell quite short of the 5% of the votes required to redeem deposits. But briefly, the official Region-Bretagne — B-4 — is now represented by 34 leftists (of which 4 are Communists and 30 Socialists) and 47 rightists (24 Giscardians, 13 Gaullists-Chiracians, 2 Le pens and 8 "Diverse"), all firmly anchored in the French party system.

As the Esperanto periodical ETNISMO puts it, political ethnism played no significant part in the contest. That is the way the government wanted it. The numbers of votes given to candidates of ethnic minority groups (47,000 in Alsace, 3,800 in B-4, 2,500 in Occitania, 5,000 each in N. Catalonia and the N. Basque Country, 10,000 in Corsica) to the Paris legislative assembly were nowhere sufficient to get them a seat. For the regional elections they were considerably higher but it was not much consolation! In Brittany, Kember Breizh/Convergence Bretonne, which was backed by, among other leftists, the Union Démocratique Bretonne, the Breton branches of the Parti Socialiste Unifié and Skol an Emsav, was the only pro-autonomy grouping to present lists in the five departments. They used the label "Vivre et Décider en Bretagne" (Living and Deciding in Brittany), the acronyms VDB being reminiscent of UDB. Coordination-Bretagne which had been the first to try and bring together the various Breton organisations had given up when it became clear that it would not be supported by the UDB and Skol an Emsav, so finally P.O.B.L. (the Party for the Organisation of Brittany) went forward allied with ecologists but only in Ile-et-Vilaine (Rennes area). Their list, called Démocratie Bretonne and headed by Yann Fouere, expressly advocated self-government.

It appears that VDB managed better to mobilise militant support than D.B. The highest vote they got in absolute terms was in Finistère (9,258 or 1.97%) but percentage-wise it was better in Côtes-du-Nord (7,729 or 2.39%).

Next came Morbihan where they got 6,672 votes (2.02%) and Loire-Atlantique (5,868 or 1.01%). In Ile-et-Vilaine only 1,500 (0.38%) voted for them, and 2,052 (0.52%) for Démocratie Bretonne; these particularly low figures may well be explained by the division between the two autonomist groups leading to abstention by many Breton-minded voters, and possibly by the presence of a regionalist list headed by Prof. Philippneau.

In all then some 32,000 Bretons cast a vote for some form of self-government. The average VDB percentage was 1.51%. Almost 25% of the registered voters abstained or spoiled their vote. I am assured that many who are strongly committed to the "Breton idea" belonged to that category, being disgusted by the failure

to give priority to matters held in common by the different organisations. There is no doubt that unity around a common denominator would have rallied many sympathisers who take an apathetic attitude when they see the "autonomists" wasting their chances.

FRENCH RULE O.K.!

Neither the UDB nor POBL try to excuse their defeat solely by blaming it on the rules which governed the elections and which were designed to safeguard French centralism. Of course holding the general election on the same day as the regional ones made it certain that they would be dominated by central French issues, above all by the question whether there would be a pro- or an anti-Mitterand majority in the "national" assembly. Proportional representation based on the highest average of votes given to the candidates of each list worked also against minority groups. The media, acting on official directives, played their part by practically excluding the "ethnic" candidates from election broadcasts (Démocratie Bretonne got 1 hour on radio, and 10 minutes on television). But even the local French party candidates were obliged to leave the stage to the big shots. Those who had ideas different from the centralists' as to what the regional councils might or should do got no opportunity to air them in front of the armchair-bound electorate. There was no debate about the development of or planning for the regions. The majority of the French citizens either does not know or does not care, for example, that the Paris-Ile de France region, which occupies 2.2% of the State territory with 18.5% of its population, gets more than 50% of the total money allocated to the regional budgets. France is first and foremost Paris. Decentralisation how are you!

A NEW DEPARTURE?

It seems now to be well realised by the editors of the Breton political monthlies that they must not expect the French government to be so democratic as to facilitate those seeking to bring some of the powers of decision down to the level of the regions. Centralism will remain unless the ethnic groups which want to live makes it really hard to resist their demands.

I hope that following their debacle the Breton organisations will ask questions about the course they have taken hitherto. There are

signs that the need for a reorganisation of the Breton forces is understood at least by some in positions of influence. But will the right answers be given? Have the Breton autonomists any strategy at all?

In an editorial of *Le Peuple Breton* signed UDB, a double difficulty is seen as revealed by the elections: the difficulty for "a different Left" to exist side by side with the French Socialist Party; and the difficulty for a specifically Breton force to make any electoral impact. "There is no question of the need to give our ideas political expression but only of how to present them at this time." Two objectives: strengthen the party and seek cooperation on the ground with "the forces gathered in the various convergences bretonnes".

In the same issue G. Le Hen addresses himself more thoroughly to the difficulties. I am glad that he shares some of the points I made in an appeal which I sent to the UDB and to others (involved in POBL or previously in the Coordination-Bretagne attempt): discouragement of active members by the failure to show progress; strengthening of French resistance to the Breton demands, including those for our language and culture. He wonders how to explain such electoral results when there is widespread awareness among the workers that they should have employment in their home country, vigour in the cultural movement, a majority in Loire-Atlantique wanting to be re-united with the rest of Brittany. "We tend to devote more attention to discussing ideas than to political activity. Hence the splits, expulsions, resignations, leaving us in a weakened position." Democratic political action, which aims at acceding to positions where ideas can be translated into concrete achievements, requires a responsible and coherent programme, convincing people of its worth and winning elections. Years of persevering efficient work, not three weeks of electioneering, are required. To be credible in the eyes of the voters, there must be unity, durable unity; admitting individual differences of view but agreeing to subordinate them to the essential. The writer appeals to all those who came together during the recent campaign to pursue their efforts towards a real union, with a view to being ready for action, a year before the next contest (the "European" Parliament elections, 1989. If France, like other EEC countries, were bound to organise it on a regional basis . . .). That would mean: a) having secured financial means for the campaign; b) defined the programme and the main themes of propaganda; c) recruited and trained members so as to be present everywhere. Finally, Le Hen ventures to suggest that a large union might imply the disappearance of existing parties but cautions that before scuttling the UDB, which represents a considerable experience, one must be sure that the new structure would be strong and more efficient. Which is all rather sensible. But does it go far enough?

I don't think that the two articles referred to above tackle the problem of reorganising the Breton forces in a sufficiently radical way. The UDB and other left-oriented organisations represent only part of these forces.

Continued in CARN 55.

RECOGNISE BRETON AS A LIVING LANGUAGE

Alarmed by the Education authorities threat to do away in secondary schools with the teaching of all living languages except English (and French of course!), a measure which would first of all affect the very precarious position of Breton, the Union of Breton Language Teachers have launched a petition asking that a) the students be enabled to choose between various living languages, as before; b) that Breton be recognised as a First-Category Living Language, so as to strengthen its status.

Please support this demand. Write for copies of the form to U.G.V., 21 rue des Tribunaux, 56000 Gwened/Vannes, or simply write out the two demands and send them to above address, with indication of names, addresses, occupations.

THANKS

On behalf of the members of STOURM AR BREZHONEG and especially of those of us who have been prosecuted, I wish to thank all the readers of CARN who responded to the Celtic League Appeal and wrote to French Ambassadors expressing their support for our action.

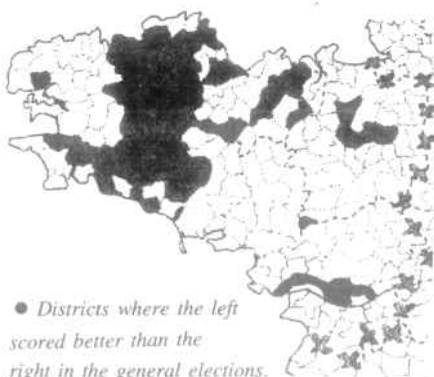
Like all governments, the French Government is worried about what foreigners think of its policies, as shows for example the answer of the French Ambassador in Dublin to the Manx Branch of Celtic League.

Up to now the French authorities assurances that bilingual road signs would be "allowed" have not been acted upon. The STOURM AR BREZHONEG campaign is therefore going on, and will do so as long as needed.

External support from Celtic countries and from other parts of the world will remain important in the future and will still be needed to get prosecutions stopped and to get those assurances and promises put into action. But, with your help, we can win!

Thank you.

IWAN KADORED



● Districts where the left scored better than the right in the general elections.

LES NATIONALISTES BRETONS DE 1939 À 1945

by Bertrand Frelaut

The author of this book is a history teacher in Gwened/Vannes who has previously published books and articles dealing with the history and the art of the Gwened area. Here he develops a thesis devoted in 1970 to *L'Heure Bretonne*, the weekly organ of the Breton National Party from 1940 to 1944.

Among other works covering that phase of our national movement, though with a wider scope, three deserve particular mention: *Breiz Atao* by O. Mordrel (1973), *La Bretagne Écartelée* by Y. Fouere (1962) and *Le Mouvement Breton de Breiz Atao* by A. Deniel (late seventies?). Mordrel (see Carn 52) was with Debauvais the leading figure in the development of Breton nationalism from 1919 to 1940. His first-hand account is unrivalled but as a source of history it must be read critically as he frequently gives himself credit for positive aspects while blaming others for what went wrong. When strong personalities are involved, conflicts and animosities often interfere with the pursuit of common aims. Yann Fouere worked on the regionalist level but he is well informed about the nationalists' policies: his book deals with the period from 1938 to 1948 and provides a detailed account of the post-war repression in addition to extensive coverage of the different positions held by moderate nationalists and separatists. I would only question his interpretation of the Germans' attitude towards the Breton demands: the fact is that, from 1940 to 1944, they did more than tolerate the development of the Breton National Party, but of course no State, least of all powerful ones, acts towards small nations from altruistic motives. Each side sought its advantage.

As for A. Deniel, he is an outsider, leftist, sympathetic to the Breton claims, who directed his research to the evolution of the regionalist and nationalist ideas and policies between 1919 and 1944 but also brings some light to bear on the files of the French police and on German Archives relating to Brittany. He departs from the historian's objectivity when dealing with the positions taken by Debauvais and in particular by Lainé during the war.

Whatever B. Frelaut thinks of the stand taken by them, and other leading figures towards both Berlin and Vichy, he scrupulously refrains from expressing it, unless his reference to opportunism may be construed as implying censure. If he quotes so frequently Mordrel, it is not due to any bias in his favour (as I understand is the case in H. Boterf's "*La Bretagne dans la guerre*") but to the fact that in addition to the wealth of detail in the book "*Breiz Atao*" he got answers to his queries from the author. Others, by which he probably means particularly R. Delaporte and C. Lainé, ignored his requests. The former may prefer to keep silent for fear of stirring up old passions. The latter had experienced so much vilification from all sorts of writers that he

had resolved not to entrust to any stranger what he might have to say: he advised actually to write and publish oneself, it would then be more difficult to be misrepresented. Frelaut is at least objective in that he presents facts and documents from various sides (nothing has transpired from official French sources) and leaves it to the readers to form their own judgement.

But it is easy to see that his sympathies lean towards the moderates. In documenting the split which occurred in the autumn of 1943 among the nationalists, of which two had already been assassinated by the French Resistance, he reproduces a text of 3 pages in which Delaporte (who in December 1940 had replaced Debauvais and Mordrel at the head of the National Party and now, distancing himself from the Germans, protested that he only wanted France to recognise our rights) accused Lainé of lies and insults. The evidence for this does not appear in that text, nor is it borne really by the short quotations of statements by Lainé. For the reader to appreciate the arguments, Frelaut could have quoted from the new *Breiz Atao* published by the extremists or from "*La Bretagne Écartelée*" the points made by Lainé in support of his uncompromising pro-German stand.

These reservations do no detract from the value of this book as a good synopsis of the conditions under which the Breton National Party operated during the war. Frelaut comes close to the right interpretation of the German's attitude towards the Bretons, one of caution dictated by the need to preserve Vichy's collaboration with their war effort. He gives in short chapters a clean picture of the national party built up by Delaporte and his associates: its organisation, its numerical importance, the geographical distribution of its branches the themes of its propaganda, the circulation of its weekly, its staffing, its policy (including the extent to which — whether for tactical reasons or out of conviction remains debatable — it echoes national-socialist or fascist ideology), its attitude towards the Vichy government. A few chapters concern the Bezen Perrot, of which the history has yet to be written. The fact is brought out that the cause of a Breton Brittany had genuine friends in Germany but they were to be found in Wehrmacht and cultural or academic circles, and some of them were opponents of Hitler. Thankfully Frelaut leaves no doubt that the actors of what he describes as a drama in three parts were all animated by a concern for the future of Brittany as a nation and their aim was a Breton state.

A. HEUSAFF

CYMRU

CYFRIFIAD Y WYDDELEG 1981

Cyhoeddwyd Cyfrol 6 Cyfrifiad Iwerddon sydd yn ymdrin a'r iaith genedhlaethol, yn gynharach eleni. Mae'n rhaid cofio, wrth ddarllen y ffigurau, y berthynas agos rhwng nifer y siaradwyr a'r nifer o bobl ifaif yn yr ysgolion ac sydd newydd gadael yr ysgol. Yn y 26 sir y tueddiad ars 1926 yw:

	1926	1936	1946	1961	1971	1981
Siaradwyr Gwyddeleg	540,802	666,601	588,725	716,420	789,429	1,018,413
Poblogaeth di-Wyddeg	2,261,650	2,140,324	2,182,932	1,919,393	1,998,019	2,208,054
Poblogaeth dros 3 oed	2,802,451	2,806,925	2,635,818	2,635,818	2,787,448	3,226,467
Canran y siaradwyr	19.3%	23.7%	27.2%	27.2%	28.3%	31.6%

Rhwng 1971 a 1981 gwelwyd patrymau tebyg ym mhob grwp oedran o dan 20 oed. Roedd cynnyddcym cymhedrol yng gh nghanran y siaradwyr yn y grwp oed 20-254 oed. Gwelwyd cynnydd yn y nifer siaradwyr yn y grwpiau 35-44 oed a 44-54 oed ym 1981 wrth gymharu eu cymharu a'r un bobl ym 1971 — h.y. 25-35 Oed a 35-44 oed. Efallall Efallai mai natur y cwestin sy'n gyfrifol am y cynnydd, neu fewnfudo i'r grwpiau, oed hyn, a dylanwad plant ysgol ar eu rhieni. Yn y grwpiau 55-64 oed a thros 65 oed, gwelir tueddiad naturiol.

Grwp-oed	Siaradwyr yr iaith		Canran (%)	
	1971	1981	1971	1981
3-4	6,850	6,700	5.5	4.9
5-9	87,631	97,058	27.6	27.8
10-14	151,147	173,516	50.6	20.8
15-19	137,820	166,549	51.3	51.0
20-24	79,632	110,561	37.0	40.0
25-34	93,327	156,760	29.4	32.8
35-44	82,006	108,091	27.2	30.0
45-54	74,807	85,184	23.4	28.3
55-64	42,442	66,209	14.7	22.9
65+	31,767	47,785	9.6	13.0
Cyfanswm	789,439	1,018,413	28.3	31.6

Allan o'r 1,018,413 o siaradwyr, r'oedd 40% mewn ysgol, coleg neu brifysgol. Lefel addysg y gweddill oedd; yg ysgol gynradd, 14%; ysgoluwchradd, 23%; ysgol grefft 8% ysgol uwchradd a chreffft 6% a phrifysgol neu goleg, 10%. Allan o'r 910,700 aelwyd breifat yn Iwerddon, roedd gan 42% o leiaf un person oedd yn medru'r Wyddeleg. Yn y mwyafrif o aelwydydd gyda siaradwyr yr iaith ynddynt, roedd hefyd poblhet fedru'r iaith yn trigo ynddynt.

Gellir prynu copiau o'r adroddiad am £2.00 (heb gynnwys cludiant) oddiwrth Swyddfa Cyhoeddi'r Llywodraeth, Ty Sun Alliance, Stryd Molesworth, Dulyn 2.

CLIVE JAMES

(A run-down of the 1981 Census on Irish speakers in the 26 counties of Ireland).

THE OXFORD COMPANION TO THE LITERATURE OF WALES

Compiled and edited by Meic Stephens. 682 pages. Published by the Oxford University Press, February 1986. ISBN 0 19 211586 3. Price Stg\$17.50 net in U.K.

Meic Stephens is the well-known Literature

Director of the Welsh Arts Council. He is a poet and has edited many other works connected with Wales, literature and arts, in particular an Anthology of Anglo-Welsh poetry. Ten years ago he published "Linguistic Minorities in Western Europe", a study of the interaction of culture and politics in sixteen States in which he dealt separately with all the minorities' linguistic situations, problems and achievements.

Here he has produced an encyclopaedia of Welsh literature, history and cultural life ranging from Arthurian times to the present

day. The book contains 3,000 entries on literature in Welsh and English; we have not only the biographies of the Welsh writers. But also elucidations about their most famous works, (for instance, an entry under "Gweledigaethu y Bardd Cwsc") and detailed notes about books and periodicals but many other items concerning historical figures, events, movements and institutions (with mentions of the literary works of which they are the subjects). There are also entries on the poetic genres, on myths, legends and folklore, on places with literary associations. The headings are in alphabetical order. The book will therefore be most useful as a work of reference to ordinary readers coming across names such as Taliesin or Iolo Morgannwg, Annwn or Rhiannon; or to students wishing to find out more about the Gogynfeirdd or Edward Lhuyd, or to journalists wishing to check their information about Saunders Lewis. It is quite appropriately named a Companion, as you will be able to profit from its erudition whenever you have a few moments to spare.

There is, for those who are well acquainted with the language, also a version in Cymraeg. "Cyddmaith i Lenyddiaeth Cymru" published by the University of Wales Press and available at the same price. Both versions were commissioned by Yr Academi Gymreig/The Welsh Academy and published with financial assistance from the Welsh Arts Council and the Arts Council of Great Britain.

A.H.

PEN Y BERTH RALLY

On the 6th September of this year, the Saunders Lewis Commemorative Committee will hold a National Rally at Pen y Berth to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 'Burning of the Bombing School' in 1936 by prominent members of the Welsh Nationalist Party, namely Saunders Lewis, Ronerant Lewis Valentine and D. J. Williams. During the Rally a memorial to 'The Three' will be unveiled by relatives. Thanks to the kind permission of the owner of the site, Mr. Owen Owens, plans for the construction of the memorial are well in hand. Discussions with the well-known sculptor, Jonah Hones, regarding the design also on schedule.

The Committee has launched an appeal to help fund the Rally. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fund should send contributions to the Treasurer, R. Glyn Jones at Cartrefle, Pontllyfn. Caernarfon. Gwynedd. Official collection forms are also available.

PWYLLSOR COFFA SAUNDERS LEWIS

WALES IN THE WORLD

a) Welsh are losing out

Welsh speakers are losing out in the battle for top jobs in Welsh-speaking areas according to recent research. Previously unpublished census data shows that Welsh speakers are under-represented in the top socio-economic groups (e.g. by 29% in employed professional workers) and over-represented in all the lower socio-economic groups. Branch factories for example, typically employ immigrants in the higher-level managerial and professional posts with "cheap" local proletarian labour. Similarly nationalised services such as the health authorities and water authority import large numbers of key workers. These problems partly reflect a clear failing in the education system and the careers advice service.

b) Staff to get Welsh classes

East Dyfed Health Authority has drafted in a Scotsman to help teach its workers Welsh. A lecturer in sociology at University College Swansea has developed a course based on word association. Dyfed County Council has launched a crash 100 hour lunchtime training course aimed at officials who are in regular contact with the general public but whose Welsh is not up to standard. The course is aimed at "middle of the road Welsh speakers" with some ability in the language but who are neither fluent nor proficient at the technical level. The classes will meet for 10 consecutive weeks, three days each week for 2½ hours and finish with a 3 day residential weekend. While both provisions are laudable, why have the authorities waited for 12 years since they were set up?

c) No Welsh on Euro-passports

The new wine coloured European Community passport which is being introduced next year will carry text in Irish, Greek, English, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian,

Portuguese and Spanish. Despite representations by Conservative M.E.P. for Kent West, Mr. Ben Patterson, the E.E.C. have refused to include Welsh on the list. Apparently the English Home Office made no attempt to have it included!

d) Post Office abolishes Wales

The English Post Office is to abolish its "Wales and the Marches" postal region and remove administration of much of the principality's postal service to England. The letter service will be administered from Manchester, counter services from Birmingham, and parcels from London. A further deterioration in services is expected.

e) Auto-translations bid

Scientists at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, are hoping to develop a machine raw translating of documents to and from Welsh if they can find £250,000 worth of backing. Human translators would then convert this raw material into a readable version.

f) Government grants for Welsh

The Welsh Office have announced the following grant aid for Welsh language associated bodies for 1986/87:

Welsh Books Council.....	£380,000
National Eisteddfod.....	£250,000
Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin (nursery schools).....	£245,000
Urdd (Welsh League of Youth).....	£80,000
*Young Farmers Clubs.....	£5,000
*Welsh Schools Basketball Association.....	£5,000
*Welsh Scout Council.....	??????

*To assist publishing and bilingualism.

g) Eisteddfod Survey

Thanks to surveys at last years National Eisteddfod at Rhyl and the previous one at Llanbedr pont Steffan more is known about who attends our national festival. In 1984 half the crowd came from the host country and in 1985 two-thirds were from North Wales. Such proof shows why the Eisteddfod has to keep travelling. About 30% of attenders stay for the entire week. Thursday is the most popular day, followed by Tuesday and the final Saturday. About half of visitors travelled in each day with the other half staying at least one night.

h) Welsh medium teaching in the University of Wales

The Board for Welsh Medium Teaching has published its report for 1984/85. The main problems arose from the refusal of the University Grants Commission to fund further Welsh medium lectureship. Already four temporary posts have been terminated. There were 19 full-time staff appointed to teach through Welsh at Aberystwyth, 16 at Bangor and 2 at Cardiff. However, other staff do take further teaching in Welsh, including those in the Department of Welsh. The subject taught at all levels and the total number of students in each college were:

Aberystwyth

Education.....	90
Drama.....	46
History.....	28
Welsh History.....	22
Philosophy.....	3
French.....	8
Geography.....	8
Religious Studies.....	9
Music.....	17
Politics.....	15

Bangor

Education.....	47
Drama.....	25
History.....	11
Welsh History.....	14
Biblical Studies.....	22
Theology.....	7
Music.....	10
Sociology.....	39

Cardiff

Home Economics.....	12
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Lampeter

History.....	1
Philosophy.....	1
Religious Studies.....	10
Archaeology.....	2

There are forty students pursuing external degrees through the medium of Welsh from Aberystwyth. First year students were taking the following courses: Education (5), Religious Studies (2), Music (1), Drama (4), Welsh (7), Welsh History (6), Breton (3). Each first year student takes three subjects. At Aberystwyth these external degrees and all Welsh-medium teaching is the responsibility of a new faculty of Welsh-Medium Studies.

AR SONER, organ of Bodadeg ar Sonerien, the Breton Pipers' Association, bimonthly. Information about pipe band music, Breton and Celtic music in general (scores, texts of songs, record and cassette reviews, bibliography, news of the association). Annual subscription 120Fr. (no Eurocheques), to 13 rue Montcalm, F.29000 Kemper.

NINNAU — The Good News newspaper. The North American Welsh Newspaper will keep you informed monthly of the many activities in the Welsh community in North America.

One year subscription \$10.00 (US) or equivalent. Cheque to:

NINNAU PUBLICATION,
11 Post Terrace,
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920, USA.



Eisteddfod Crown

ÉIRE

LIOSTA LEASAINMNEACHA ÓN BHREATAIN BHIG

Tagann formhór sloinnte na mBreathnach ó leaganacha Béarla d'ainmneacha, mar shampla, **Davies** ó **David**, **Evans** ó **Evan**, agus **Jones** ó **John**. Bíonn s ginideach an Bhéarla ar dheireadh na bhfocal de ghnáth.

Níl mórán ilghnéitheachta ins na sloinnte mar atá a fhios ag gach aon duine a lorg uimhreacha ghutháin in eolaí sa Bhreatain Bhig.

Tháinig leasainmneacha isteach go coitianta ar fuaid na Breataine Bige chun an deacracht a sháru. Cé nár chuala i dtaobh **Dai Central Eating**?

Tá liosta thíos de leasainmneacha i Llandudoch i nDyfed ó bhlianta luath an chéid seo agus níos déanaí. Fear atá ina chónaí sa cheantar seo, thug sé an liosta dhom ach dúirt sé liom gurbh fhearr leis nach luafainn a ainm toisc go bhfuil cuid des na daoine ar a liosta beo fós. Mar gheall ar an gcúis chéanna níor thug sé na hainmneacha cearta ná na sloinnte le hais na leasainmneacha.

Cífeair go bhfuil cuid des na leasainmneacha i mBreathnais agus an chuid eile i mBéarla. Scríobhas an liosta mar atá sé cé go bhfuil dearmaid lítrithe éigin ann.

Thugas na leaganacha cearta agus a mbrí i nGaeilge i lúbíní do chuid des na leasainmneacha agus cuid des na hainmneacha agus sloinnte taobh leo.

Dai Rhoshill (logainm is ea Rhoshill)
Twm Wanen (Tom = Tomás. Is chwannen = dreancaid an leagan ceart ar wanen).
Davis y Bont (Dafis y Bont. Pont = droichead)
Twm Pencwm (b'é Pen-cwm ainm a bhaile)
Tom Rallt (Thomas Griffiths, Yr Allt)
Dai Rallt (Dafydd, deartháir Thomas Griffiths)
Tailwr bach y Cwm (Teilwr bach y Cwm = Táilliúr beag an Choim)
Winkle
Woodbine Willie
Johnny Aberayron (Aberaeron go ceart, ainm baile cois fharraige idir Aberystwyth agus Aberteifi atá i n-aice le Llandudoch)
Willie Bech
Washi Mawr (Washington Thomas. Mawr = mór)
Washi Bach (mac Washi Mawr. Bach = beag)
Martha Geir (= Márta na gCearc)
Martha Fald (Ffald go ceart)
Griffi Dal
Jack y Ddol
Johnnie Mashwn (is focal mashwn go mbaintear feidhm as go minic i n-áit saer meini = saor cloiche)
Albert Mashwn
Daniel Bach (bach = beag)
Will Swank
Will Punch (Will Pwnsh. Tá a dheartháir Victor Pwnsh agus a dheirfiúr Dora Pwnsh beo fós)
Will Wap
Will Pobman (Wil Bob Man. Bob man = gach áit)
Will Bach y Gwr (Gŵr = fear)
Enoch y Scoldi (Enoch Evans yr Ysgoldy. Ysgoldy = tigh na scoile. B'é Enoch Evans

árdmháistir ceann desna scoileanna sa sráidbhaile)
Mari Bowler
Johnny Sheenan
Pechadur (= Peacach)
Shenientyn
Mari Faggots (dheineadh sí feolfhagóid)
Leisa Balfor
John Brill
Bench Batch (is é Bensch an leagan gearr ar Benjamin)
Bench yr Engine
Benchi Sarn
Hitler
Mussolini
Catch y Penny
Cost of Living
Tommy Alltfach (sráid sa sráidbhaile is ea Allt Fach = Coill Bheag)
Dai Mate
Jack Bolen
Harry Bwmpier
Offi (Theophilus Edwards)
Bois yr Annie (Buachaillí ó long darb ainm Annie)
Captain Lloyd
Tom Matches
Dai Bwtch
Fussy Dick
Griffi Mulin
Sydney Bwch
Martha Bonc
George y Gors
Dai Bobby
Dai Ting a Lin
Bullet
Johnny Wlk
Scolbs
Iago
Tinker
Cuckoo

Snooks

Jack y Bib (y bib = an píopa)

Jim Fortune

Spud

Sam Swilt (swilt = scilling. Bhearradh sé gruaig ar scilling fadó)

Sam Buck

Jack y'r Adar (Jac yr Adar go ceart, is é sin Seáinín na nÉan)

Martha Cakes

Jones y Schoolin (y sgwlyn = y prifathro = an ardmháistir)

Freddie Buns

Fish Tail

Captain Crechi (crechydd = corr éis. Tá an -dd sa bhfocal so balbh go minic)

Captain Dwble

Davi'r Angel (Dafy'r Angel nó Dafydd yr Angel. Bhí tigh tabhairne a thugtaí The Angel ar i Llandudoch tráth)

Dai bach y trad (= Dáibhí beag na gcos. Bhí a chosa míchumtha)

Sara Frit (Ffrit go ceart. Fuaimnfear f i mBreathnais mar bh i nGaeilge agus ff i mBreathnais mar f i nGaeilge. Ffrit = suarach)

Cadno (= sionnach)

Sari

Three Musketeers

Johnny Baboon

Johnnie Bow Bow

Eddie Dad (Tá deartháir aige, Tom Dad. B'é Dad leasainm a n-athar.)

Ann Screch (sgrech = scréach)

Benchi Tair Llath (Benshi Tair Llath = Beiniaimin Trí Slat)

Stephen y Ferry (ba le Stephen Morgan tráth an tábhairne "The Ferry")

Jack Leisa

Mari Cwrt

Dai Right

Sers

Dai Wylt (Dáibhí Fiáin)

Will y Vagal

Martha Bunt

Jim Pap

Bencha Jockey (Ben = Bensch = Bensha = Benshi)

Bensha Teilwr (= Beiniaimin an Táilliúr)

Johnny Tait

Bencha Tait

Will y Felin (= Liam an Mhuilinn)

Dai Spragg

Dai Bach y Lone

Leisa Scadan (Leisa Sgadan go ceart = Eilís na Scadán. Chuireadh sí scadáin ar shalann)

Leisa Menyn (= Eilís na hIme)

Leisa Boops

Ben y Ship (D'oibríodh sé sa Ship, tábhairne i nAberteifi)

Twm go with

Betsi Miss

Broken Down

Jim Joppa

Donk

Swan

Tom Pilot

John Bronsythi
 John Slow Motion
 Maggie Jemima
 Davi Netpool (Dafydd Thomas, Tábhairne an Netpool nó an Teifi Inn)
 Mighty Grocer
 Will Clocswr (= Liam Déantoir Bróg Maide)
 Shanko
 Gof (= Gabha)
 Alun Baba
 Albert Stamps
 Polly John
 Perry Penally (B'é Penally ainm a thigh)

Doctor Bowen
 Womba
 Champion
 Billy Bach (= Liam Beag)
 Dai Mawr (= Dáibhí Mór. Dai = Dafy = Dafydd)
 Dai Fanso
 Becca
 Billia
 Spurgeon Bach (ba seanmóirí é)
 Jack Bach
 Morris y Post (= Muiris an Phoist)
 Lizzie Post

Queen of Sheeba
 Bingo Queen
 Dan Dincwd (B'é Dincwd ainm a bhaile)
 Poof
 Jack y Voel (Jac y Foel go ceart)
 Father Will
 Will Penuel
 Leslie Boop
 Cwrc

Tuigim gur saineolaí ar leasainmeacha Mikael Madeg. Seo tuilleadh colais dó.

MERFYN PHILLIPS

ARD-FHEIS CHONRADH NA GAEILGE

This year's Árd-fheis of Conradh na Gaeilge was held in the Conradh's hall in Limerick with the social occasions in a near-by hotel.

There were over 200 delegates from all over the country. Baile Átha Cliath, where the organisation is presently very weak was, accordingly, poorly represented. It was also very noticeable that there was a very considerable preponderance of middle-aged delegates. While their presence was no way a negative indication in itself, at the same time, in a country where half the population is said to be under 25 years of age, the small sprinkling of younger people left some a little disturbed.

This was the first Árd-fheis with Uachtarán (President) Íte Ní Chionnaith in the chair, the first woman since 1893 to hold that position.

The new Uachtarán chaired the Árd-fheis extremely competently and was very much in control of and involved in the proceedings.

Íte is a young Dublin lecturer in Irish in the state's foremost school of journalism. She has been a member of the Conradh since 1968 and is very familiar with its many facets and internal workings.

Another cáilín who has come to the fore is Nóirín Ní Chonghaile as rúnaí of the Oireachtas. Nóirín has worked for the

Oireachtas since the mid-seventies so she should know the ropes pretty well by now. Nóirín hails from Caorán in the Conamara Gaeltacht. She is married and has two children.

There were 40 resolutions before the Árd-fheis representing a wide spectrum of the delegates interests and concerns. One which called for a return of the dignity to St. Patrick's Day and its being made a major Gaelic occasion was of particular interest and seen to be of considerable importance.

The motions and debates reflected in the main the thinking within the Conradh on its four major campaigns in respect of Irish in Education, a Bill of Rights for Irish-speakers, Irish on radio and television and the Gaeltacht.

A booklet presenting the Conradh's policy on the Gaeltacht, revised and up-dated, largely the work of Bríd Heusaff, chairperson of the Conradh's sub-committee for Gaeltacht matters, was made available. Appropriately the first motion for debate at the Árd-fheis directing the incoming executive to appoint an organiser to work in the Gaeltacht areas was approved without opposition.

In her address to the Árd-fheis, Íte Ní Chionnaith criticised the lack of policy on the part of the Dublin government with regard to the restoration of Irish. "What one sees most," she said, "is a backing away from Irish, or just complete ignoring of it."

"The Irish-speaker is often treated as a trouble maker, or as an odd or quarrelsome person. Or else as a lunatic — a madman. It is seldom that State employees treat the use of the language as a natural and normal occurrence."

"I believe," she claimed, "it is no exaggeration to say that the government, state institutions, semi-state bodies, and our national broadcasting service are operating against the Irish language."

No soft talk there.

Despite the negative and hostile attitude of the State the ordinary people were displaying a most favourable and positive approach to the language.

"Who could have believed 15 years ago that by 1986 about 50 all-Irish national schools and 160 pre-school groups would be operating outside the Gaeltacht?"

Raidió-Teilifís Éireann came in for its ritual and totally justified condemnation.

"The failure to provide programmes in Irish for children and young people, almost one million in number, whether they were from the Gaeltacht, from Irish speaking households or schools, or those who are learning Irish at school is a scandal."

A seminar on the 1916 Easter Rising on its 70th anniversary was an unusual feature of this year's Árd-fheis, with excellent contributions by Maincín Seoighe, Donnchadh Ó Súilleabháin and Professor Tomás Ó Néill.

The idea of the delegates breaking up into groups again was a feature not seen for a long time. These groups of twenty or so brought a mix of delegates together to speak in a more informal manner of the work in which branches are involved. This led to some worthwhile exchanging of experiences.

The social side of the Árd-fheis was very satisfactory with a host of fine singers, largely from Munster.

It could be said that it was a successful Árd-fheis and its not too solemn or formal atmosphere did not take from its work-like or serious nature.

But where are all those under twenty-fives?

It was decided, on the invitation of Craobh Cholm Cille, Derry, to hold next year's Árd-fheis in that troubled city. That could be very interesting.

PÁDRAIG Ó CLÉIRIGH

SIOBHÁN AGUS SEÁN LE SOC



SEACHTAIN NA GAELGE (Irish Language Week)

Early in its history Conradh na Gaeilge established the Dublin parade which is still an institution on St. Patrick's day. The parade, now vulgarly debased, originally was intended to put two aspirations before the people: the restoration of the Irish language and the revival of native industry, including the buying of Irish made goods. Seachtain na Gaeilge developed around St. Patrick's day but had in fact languished until Ciarán Ó Feinneadha revived it in the later seventies. He also established its present general format.

This year's "Seachtain" ran for ten days and comprised thirteen events. It was officially opened by the Ard-mhéara of Dublin City, Séamas Ó Tonnaigh in Club Chonradh na Gaeilge where many of the Seachtain's best attended events took place, including a sean-nós singing and set-dance session, question time, a darts competition and the presentation of Gradam na Seachtaine. This is an affair in which two individuals are honoured for their service to the language.

This year the honours were bestowed on Pádraig Ó Duibhir, a "young veteran" who has been involved in Ógras and Conradh na Gaeilge already for many years and to Fiachra Ó Dubhthaigh a veteran Irish teacher, lecturer, writer and editor, with a rare grasp of the complexities of Irish syntax and who is always on hand with advice and instruction.

Outside the Club there were various events such as a history work-shop, a cautionary talk on the Governments' Local Radio Bill, the presentation of three short plays, a hike up the mountains, an evening of poetry and music and a symposium-cum-entertainment for non-Irish speakers.

Perhaps the most worthwhile and entertaining event was the history work-shop devoted to the poetry of the late seventeenth century poet Dáibhidh Ó Bruadair. The poet, Mícheál Ó hAirtneide read Ó Bruadair's poems in the original Irish and actor, Jim Fitzgerald, presented a dramatic reading of the same Ó hAirtneide's translations into English of the original poems. Music was provided by Liam Brady. The whole performance was highly professional and enormously impressed the audience.

Attendances at events outside "An Club" were not always as large as one might have hoped. The decision to hold the Seachtain was made only a month before the event and regrettably very few were involved in its organisation. Despite this, each event in itself was of high quality. Part of the problem was a lack of very intensive publicity which time did not allow and perhaps the fact that the Seachtain has lost its novelty. To our great shame only one turned up to hear a lecture on the recently re-opened music-room in the National Museum, which holds, for instance,



Seán Ó Dálaigh, Chairman, Club an Chonradh, presenting Gradam na Seachtaine to Fiachra Ó Dubhthaigh.

the harp of the great composer Toirealach Ó Cearúlláin (1670-1738).

Again, another event of the week, "The Hidden Dublin" where representatives of many of the organisations involved in Gaelic culture in the city were each to speak briefly on an aspect of the hidden?-Gaelic ethos in the capital. Five talks were delivered and interspersed throughout these was music, song and dancing, all of a very high order. Alas, only four members of an audience turned up, two of whom left halfway through (it's not known why) and two of whom were the parents of one of the dancers.

However, the last item of the week: an evening of poetry recitations and music was a decided success. Five poets duly performed and "Cogar" contributed the music. This took place in the Fleet tavern. "Faol Léigear" a book of poetry by Deaglán Collinge was launched on this occasion by its publishers "Coiscéim".

Cumann Gaelach Thamhlachta, proudly independent out there at the foot of the mountains had their own Seachtain, the highlights of which were a sponsored race and a dinnéir-chéilí.

Next year's Seachtain na Gaeilge, if any, will have to be preceded by a lot of hard-thinking; in fact the thinking has already begun.

A ten-day week is a long time in Irish.

PÁDRAIG Ó CLÉIRIGH

PEN PAL

Mick Clifford, aged 29, member of the C.L., wishing to learn Irish and improve his knowledge of the history and culture of the Celtic peoples. Serving a life sentence. Would like to correspond. Address: G38639, C Wing, H.M.P., 5 Love Lane, West Yorkshire, WF2 9AG, England.

A Dutch member of the C.L., chief librarian, would like in the near future to find a self-supporting situation (not necessarily library work) in Brittany or Ireland. Contact A. Heusaff.

Peadar O'Donnell

Peadar O'Donnell, the veteran socialist, republican and writer died this May. He was born on a five acre farm in Donegal. His first trade was teaching. Later he met Gallacher and Shinwell the radical trade unionists in Glasgow and returned to Ireland to work as a trade union organiser.

Taking the Republican side in the Civil War, he gives a vivid picture of his subsequent term in Mountjoy jail in his book, "The Gates Flew Open".

From Colonel Maurice Moore he got the idea of withholding the payment of the Land Annuities to Britain. These were payments to compensate the British government for buying out the landlords under the land acts. Eamon de Valera implemented this idea in the thirties.

When a left versus right split occurred in Sinn Féin, O'Donnell was one of the minority who left to form the short-lived Republican Congress of 1934.

His primary role was that of agrarian agitator and he aspired to unite the small farmer and urban worker. Herein he failed.

O'Donnell was a writer of considerable standing and his books span a period of fifty years. He was also one-time editor of the literary magazine "The Bell" and, the republican paper "An Phoblacht".

The small farmer and fisherman figure significantly in his novels and while his social thinking is reflected in his writing it never intrudes as propaganda.

His non-fictional work, "There will be Another Day" reflects his hopes for the future and he believed to the end that one day the whole capitalist structure would be pulled down.

Although he could speak Irish he never participated in the language movement and was very critical of some Gaelic Leaguers who shed tears for the dwindling Gaeltacht but not for its miserable social conditions.

It can be said that a mighty man has left our midst.

KERNOW

THE MILITARISATION OF CORNWALL: Part 1

In April Cornwall was subjected to a sound not heard since 1939-45, the drone of planes on their way to bomb people in another country. This time it was American bombers on their way to Libya. Both MK and the Celtic League joined the universal local condemnation of this act, drawing attention to the use of Cornish airspace. However, this was only the logical extension of a long term process. Almost by stealth Cornwall has been steadily militarised over the last 35 years. There's been no public debate, no democratic consultation of the Cornish people in this process.

With an aggressive American foreign policy being apparently conducted on the lines of a Rambo re-run the Libyan episode made people suddenly aware of the ever present proximity of nuclear annihilation.

But this militarisation has had other consequences for the Cornish people as well as the obvious effect of threatening to reduce large chunks of Cornwall to radioactive dust in the event of the unthinkable. Hopefully a serious debate can now ensue in Cornwall about the presence of these military bases. But first the facts. What do we have here? The accompanying map shows the location of the main military hardware.

(1) *Culdrose* — naval air station
In 1943 750 acres of land near Helston at the entrance to the Lizard peninsula were taken

for an airfield. After the War in 1947 this became a naval air fighter school, but by 1953 it has taken on its present role as an anti-submarine base. Since then the base has steadily grown until now it is the largest naval air station in the UK and the biggest helicopter base in Europe with 3500 forces personnel at the last count.

There are four front line squadrons, each of 10 Sea King helicopters, based at Culdrose. These are engaged in anti-submarine operations from naval carriers or auxiliaries. Culdrose is the home base — maintaining and repairing the helicopters and traing the air crews. Last year these four squadrons were joined by another of Sea Kings fitted with airborne early warning equipment. As well as these there are four helicopter training squadrons and one training squadron using Jetstream planes. Of course the real anti-submarine role of the helicopters is mystified and obscured by media concentration on the smallest of the squadrons — 771 Squadron — which is involved in air-sea rescue. But this is a minor part of the activity of the base, which was incidentally alerted to help fish any of the US F1-11s — in trouble on their return from Libya — from out of the Atlantic. This suggests British military involvement in that action was hardly totally passive.

Culdrose has seen considerable building developments in the past decade, developments which have resulted in a rash of new buildings and roads and the closure of a public road through the base. None of these are ever challenged by the planning authorities. By 1991 the base will be home to a new generation of helicopters — the EH101 which, at 15 tons, are 50% heavier (and 50% noisier?) than the present Sea Kings. Meanwhile, there are plans for gun and anti-aircraft missile defences as preparations are made for a real war.

(2) *St. Mawgan* — RAF

Like Culdrose St. Mawgan was originally a Second World War airfield, built in 1940. It covers a massive 1200 acres and has a runway nearly two miles long. The base is home to 1500 forces personnel and 42 Squadron — with 11 Nimrod MarkII reconnaissance and anti-submarine planes. Cornwall clearly has a crucial role in the growing military interest in anti-submarine warfare. Of course if it is true that the Americans are actively pursuing a first strike nuclear capability then it becomes imperative that Soviet subs are pinpointed and destroyed as they remain the main deterrent to a first strike. This may explain the expansion of St. Mawgan and Culdrose.

The Nimrods are highly sophisticated planes which can carry among other things nuclear depth charges, an interesting point as since 1965 there has reputedly been nuclear depth charges stored at the US Navy Aviations Weapons Facility which shares this base. The nukes, if that is what they are, are guarded by a company of US marines. CND have claimed it is one of five American nuclear storage areas in the UK.

St. Mawgan is also undergoing a major modernisation. This is designed to 'harden' its defences and includes a new £9 million fuel dump and the possibility of Rapier anti-aircraft missile defences.

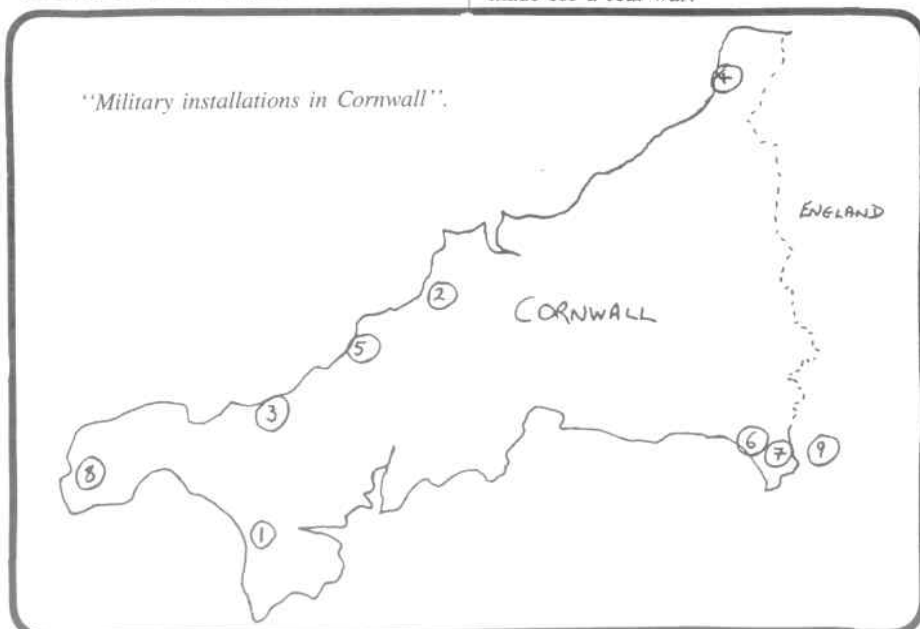
(3) *RAF Portreath*

1000 acres of the cliffs at Nancekuke were commandeered in the 1940s and the local farmers thrown off to make room for an airfield. When the war was over the farmers did not get their land back, but during the 50s the site was converted into a chemical warfare plant. To great local relief this was closed down in the late '70s but the land remained under military occupation. The RAF were then back in control. Since then a £20 million NATO financed radar base has been built and is due to become fully operational next year. This is supposed to 'plug a gap' in the radar defences of the Western Seaboard and is a response to the Soviet 'Backfire' bomber. About 120 RAF personnel are based here.

(4) *Morwenstow signals station*

Begun in 1972 Morwenstow is an out-station of GCHQ Cheltenham. For years no one in Cornwall was told anything of the nature of this base with its five dish aerials. But a few years ago an American author revealed that it was used by US intelligence to eavesdrop on peace campaigners. Apparently it spies on transatlantic communications which are fed back to Cheltenham. CND claim it was built and partly financed by the CIA. Recently the Government declared an embargo on all development within a mile of the base.

(5) *Penhale* — Army training camp



(6) *Tregantle* — an old coastal fort with firing ranges used for occasional Army training.

(7) *HMS Raleigh*

This is a shore based navy training centre. Nearby Fishgard was closed in the late '70s — a rare example of military contraction.

As well as these facilities there are various unexplained radio communications transmitters in Cornwall — reputed by Duncan Campbell (War Plan UK) to be part of the military communications network. It was perhaps significant that in a civil defence exercise a couple of years ago one 'Soviet target' for nuclear attack was in an unexplained area near St. Just at the very Western tip of Cornwall. There is a radio transmitter near here. (8) And just across the border at Plymouth there is one of the UK's major naval dockyards — including a refitting yard for nuclear submarines. (9) The effects of this spill-over into East Cornwall.

In the next Carn we will look at the various effects of this growing militarism on life in Cornwall; environmental, political, social and cultural.

B. DEACON

PENSEYTHEN KERNEWEK 1986 — AN ASSESSMENT

The annual Cornish weekend organised by Cowethas An Yeth Kernewek was held at Carworgie Manor, St. Columb Major on April 11-13 and was a great success. It was the first such Cornish weekend I had attended but it was instructing to be able to compare this weekend with several Welsh learners' weekends I have attended, organised by Cymdeithas Yr Iaith Gymraeg.

In the first place, the Cornish weekend was much larger than the weekends organised by CYIG's Learners' Group. The largest of these (generally held in the Urdd Centres of Glanllyn and Llangrannog) has had 110 participants, whilst the Cornish one had over 70 people staying on site and several dozen more coming to lessons each day, whilst the more formal concert on the Saturday night was attended by 250 people and more. There was therefore a difference in character and emphasis about the weekends. The Welsh weekends were specifically learner-orientated and the vast majority of participants had been learning for one or two years. The Cornish weekend was aimed at both learners and fluent speakers.

I was surprised initially at the high proportion of fairly fluent speakers of Cornish at the weekend (perhaps as high as 50%). This enabled a virtual beginner (like me) to pick up very quickly the sounds and structures of the spoken language, both from informal conversations and from formal events, perhaps more quickly than with the higher

LOCAL ELECTION

Only one of the six Cornish District Councils went to the polls this year — Penwith in the far west. Of the 11 seats being fought two were contested by MK in their strongest area, the town of Penzance. The CNP put up no candidates.

Sitting District and Cornwall Councillor Colin Lawry easily held on to Penzance Central in a straight fight with a Tory. Although Colin's vote increased by over 200 since he was involved in an identical contest in 1982 so did the Tory vote. Thus the percentage split remained the same, 57-43 to MK.

In Penzance East MK's Jeremy Drew came second in a three way contest and narrowed the gap between himself and the Tory winner from 236 votes in 1984 to 136 this time. In a straight fight MK would probably win this ward, having beaten Labour in '83, Liberals in '84 and this time an SDP candidate. The 36% won by MK here was a good result in the face of SDP intervention and will probably convince MK that their 'community politics' approach is the right strategy.

proportion of learners at the Welsh weekends.

Another great difference between the Welsh and Cornish weekends was the great number of children of primary school age attending classes in Carworgie. On the one hand, this was good for breaking down the barriers between adults and younger learners, but at the same time restricted the way in which the language could be taught to adults, the language and grammar which could be used. This was certainly a problem area which should be looked at for next time.

This leads on to another important topic, the standard and techniques of the teachers. Given two important limitations, the presence of children and adults in the same class, and the limited time and resources available, the styles and effectiveness of the teaching did vary a great deal. A good idea which has been adopted by Grwp y Dysgwyr, Cymdeithas Yr Iaith is to hold a weekend course to give some element of training for language teachers, to provide the basic skills.

For me, the weekend went by far too quickly! An intensive course would do wonders for the language, especially for those people who find it hard to converse in the language every day. Here a second look must be taken at the idea of a summer school in Cornish, something which used to happen during the 1960's and early 1970's. The increase in interest, numbers and materials makes such an idea a much more viable proposition now. Mention must be made of Brian Webb's new book for 1st Year learners, *Dres An Vledhen*, which greatly extends the range of material for this level.

To conclude, I would like to put forward the idea of a weekend course to train teachers and tutors of Cornish so that as much expertise and professionalism as possible can be brought into the teaching of the language.

DAVID FEAR

TIN: STILL WAITING

Two Carns ago I wrote that by the time that people read the piece the Cornish tin mines would either have gone under or been reprieved. Six months later the situation is unchanged. At the time of writing one mine — Gaevor — has laid off all but those miners necessary to keep the pumps going and undertaken essential maintenance. In April the not unexpected news broke that Rio Tinto Zinc was giving the miners at the other mines — Wheal Pendarves, South Crofty and Wheal Jane — 90 days notice of redundancy. If the mines close around 1,500 will lose their jobs to add to an unemployment rate already over 20% and rising.

Meanwhile hopes rest on decisions made in London. RTZ and Gaevor have between them asked for about £50 million to keep the mines going for 3 years or so to see if the price rises again. While Thatcher's Government was prepared to put up an equal sum to bale out their chums in City tin broking circles no-one is putting more than even money on the chance of them doing the same for Cornish communities.

Whatever happens what is most depressing about the whole issue is the fact that the miners themselves and the local communities are mere pawns. The important decisions are being taken hundreds of miles away from Cornwall — in London by the Government or in RTZ offices by anonymous managers. The Cornish will pay the price (some redundancies are inevitable even if Government coughs up), Government and multi-nationals make the decisions. Suggestions of at least a show of resistance such as a march on London put forward by MK local Councillor Neil Plummer are rejected by other councillors who seem to prefer to just wait and see while sending off begging letters. Of course these people, many of them London party hacks, are quite used to letting the English make all their decisions for them.

In the 19th century Cornish miners were the victims of the chaos of the free market. They are now the victims of the same chaos made worse by profiteering financial manipulations over the last few years. The moral is plain — our resources must be placed in the hands of the Cornish themselves and the profits gained in good years used for the long term benefit of local communities not disappear into the pockets of international investors. If decisions are made to close mines or factories those decisions have to be democratically made by the communities involved and not imposed on us by English politicians or multi-national company bureaucracies.

B. DEACON

CELTIC LEAGUE BADGE featuring the Celtic Knot represented on the front page of Carn. Available from A. Heusaff for IR£0.70 incl. postage and wrapping.

MANNIN

AAVIOGHEY CHENGAGHYN

Hooar mee y lioar shen "The languages of Britain" liorish Glanville Price y laa elley. Va'n lioar shoh currit magh ayns coodagh creoi ayns 1984 as ayns coodagh bog sy vlein 1985. Ta Glanville Price yn olloo jeh chengaghyn Romanagh ayns Ollooscoill Aberystwyth as ta'n graih echey er chengaghyn ry akin sy lioar shoh.

Va beggan imnea orrym tra honnick mee ennym y lioar, agh sy roie-raa ta'n ughtar soilshaghey magh dy vel eh jannoo ymyd jeh'n ockle "Britain" as eh screeu mychione ny chengaghyn ta (ny va) goll er loayrt ayns ny h-ardjyn jeh ny ellany shoh ta fo'n smaght jeh'n chrooin Ghoaldagh (crooin Hostyn). Kyndagh rish shen, ta'n Olloo Price screeu mychione Yernish ayns Nerin twoaie agh cha nee ayns Poblaght ny hErin! Agh ec yn un cheayrt t'eh cur cooinaghtyn orrin dy row Yernish goll er loayrt keayrt dy row ayns ardyn ennagh sy Ghoal Vooar.

Agh jarrood ny cooishyn shen, she lioar foaysagh t'ayn. Ta peeishyn, mooar as beg, ry lhaih mysh chengaghyn dy lioar: Goalish (British), Pictish, Yernish, Gailck Albinagh, Gailck, Bretinagh, Cornish, Cumbric, Ladjyn, Baarle, Baarle Albinagh, Loghlynish, Frangish as Romanish. Myr ta'n ughtar gra, she marrooder yn Baarle.

Myr Manninagh, dy dooghyssagh ren mee lhaih y pheeish mychione y Gailck hoshiaght. Ta'n olloo screeu dy kenjal mysh yn chengey ain. Ta red ny ghaa ayn nagh row fakinit aym roie, myr sampleyr y screeuyn liorish J. J. Kneen as eh screeu mysh ny deiney loayrt Gailck ry cheillec ec y Droghad Kierroo ayns Doolish ec y jerrey jeh'n cheead shoh chaie. Ta'n Olloo Price soiaaghey mooar dy lioar jeh'n Gailck er y fa dy row recortysyn jeant jeh ny loareyderyn dooghyssagh sjerree. T'eh gra dy dooar y Gailck baase ayns 1974 marish Ned Maddrell. Er lhiam pene nagh vel eh feeu tuittym magh mysh y chooish shoh. Myr scoillar, foddee dy nhegin da Glanville Price gra y lheid. Agh vel ny scoillaryn

Hewnish gra yn un red mysh Hewnish ta er ve aa-vioghit?

Cha nel monney fys aym er Cornish, agh gyn ourys hug yn Olloo Price ferg er Cornee dy lioar tra honnick ad y stoo va screeut echey mychione y chengey oc! T'eh gra "Cornish" rish y chenn chengey as "Cornic" rish y chengey "aa-vioghey". T'eh gra peeishyn mooarey jeh'n agh-screeu, y fockley magh as eer y grammeys "crooit" — er lhimme jeh ny focklyn crooit! Y grammeys crooit, shen y red s'messey, t'eh smooiinaghtyn. Myr shen, cha nee Cornish firrinagh t'ayn, as cha nod eh ve, er y fa nagh geayll peiagh erbee ta bio Cornish firrinagh goll er loayrt.

Ny Cornee boghtey! Gyn ourys ta ooilley ny reddyn ta'n olloo gra slane kiart. Agh sleih ta dy debejagh shirrey eiraght caillit, cha jean ad cur monney geill da'n lheid. Firrinagh ny foalsey, nee ad goll er, croo as dreamal. Tra ta'n doghan er jeet ort, cha nod oo scapail voish.

Ta'n lioar shoh er yeeaghyn dou cre cho aighoil as ta shinyn ny Manninee er agh ennagh. Cre'n atchim v'eh, coayl y chengey. Agh nagh yindyssagh yn obbyr va jeant ocsyn ren recortyssey ny loareyderyn dooghyssagh ain as ad sauil reddyn nagh vod ny Cornee agh dreamal mychione.

Red ta beggan aitt mysh y chooish shoh: ta'n Olloo Price gra, ta mee credjal, dy row y Gailck "chiart" ec Ned Maddrell as ny loareyderyn dooghyssagh s'jerree agh cha nel recortysyn jeu, ta'n olloo gra, ny undin fondagh dauesyn ta laccal gysaghey Gailck. Foddee dy jinnagh yn olloo gra "far-Gailck" (ny "neo-Manx" ny "Mannish") rish y sorch dy hengey ta shinyn loayrt nish. Teh beggan quaagh dy vel y chooid smoo jin ta laccal aavioghey Gailck cur oashley da ny loareyderyn dooghyssagh sjerree agh cha nel shin cur monney geill da'n Gailck oc! Sheilys dy lhisagh shin sturey coorse meanagh eddyr Gailck y Vible as Gailck y chenn sleih, eddyr "croo" as "aavioghey".

In writing about Cornish, Glanville Price highlights some of the problems of language revival. Possibly he is too hard on the Cornish revivalists.

BRIAN MAC STOYLL

ETNISMO

Esperanto magazine, 12 pages every 4 months, devoted to spreading information about the problems, struggles and achievements of ethnical groups in Europe and other parts of the world, with particular attention to their languages. Published by the Internacia Komitato por Etnaj Liberecoj, of which the present is Uwe J. Moritz, other members being an Italian, a Canadian, a Walloon and a Fleming. Annual Subscription DM 12.00 to U. J. Moritz, Im Roemerfeld 44, D-5180 Eschweiler, F.R.G. Postgiro account Nr 2326 12-306 Giro center Hannover.



ISLE OF MAN CONSTABULARY
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE
DOUGLAS
ISLE OF MAN

Our ref. 10/80 /FD 86/51

Your ref.

30th April 1986.

ORDER

PROMOTION

1. Vacancies in supervisory ranks will be filled by officers who have successfully appeared before a Promotion Board.
2. Officers may apply to appear before a Board when vacancies are advertised and will be asked to forward a C.V. including the reasons why they feel they should be promoted and the qualifications that they have for the rank applied for. The Chief Constable will call for a confidential report from the applicant's supervising officers.
3. Constables applying for promotion will normally have passed the Sergeants and Inspectors examinations but may be restrained until they have ten years service, either solely in the rank of Man Constable or accumulatively with service from other forces. Exceptions to this time limit will be considered.
4. All applications will be noted and those who are called for interview will, where possible, be given two weeks notice of their Board date and time, in order to prepare themselves fully.
5. Those appearing before a Board should be expected to answer general duty questions; be conversant with Standing Orders and problems concerning modern policing both in the Isle of Man and in the United Kingdom.
6. Having been successful before a Board, a promoted officer will hold the rank on a temporary basis receiving the pay and performing the full duties of that rank. Subject to a satisfactory probationary period, the appointment will be confirmed after twelve months.
7. Should an officer be unsuccessful on any occasion, a written notification from the Board will be sent to him/her. Lack of success will not preclude further application.

[Signature]

Chief Constable

*'New Broom' Chief Constable
introduces Promotion Board.*

POLICE COVER-UP?

Mann's Police Force, which has been the subject of several scandals in recent years, is once more the subject of public scrutiny.

Following a domestic disturbance at Ramsey, a young officer of the Northern Division has been suspended from duty. His case has been referred to the Island's Attorney General, and may lead to criminal proceedings being taken. The incident, within the limits of contempt legislation, has been properly reported in the press. Disturbingly however, in the investigations into the incident by the

Island's C.I.D., officers seem to have overstepped their authority. Celtic League (Mannin), understands that uniformed officers, from Northern Division, have lodged complaints about the attitudes adopted by the C.I.D. during the enquiry. The complaints are almost certain to lead to a cover-up by the Forces hierarchy.

The investigation of the Northern men's complaints about C.I.D. behaviour, will almost certainly prove a test of credibility for the Island's new Police Chief, Robin Oake.

Oake assumed office in March, having previously served with the U.K. Manchester Police. It's fair to say, the situation the force at present faces, is inherited from the previous chief officer. Our information is, that considerable division exists within the Constabulary, and this is at its most pronounced, in relations between C.I.D. and junior "beat" officers. Although Oake has publicly proclaimed on the "good morale" of the force, he is reputed to be examining ways of introducing a fairer promotions system.

J. B. MOFFATT

MACTULLAGH VANNIN REVIEW

Over the last few years, a fresh approach has been taken by a number of musicians to the presentation of Manks music. Until now there has not been a representative recording of the way in which it is developing.

There are two groups at the moment, who lead the field. They both for some time, have been developing their own styles, each taking a slightly different approach. The musicians of Mactullagh Vannin (Manks Echo) have brought with them, a number of influences into their performances: ornamentation based on Irish models, jazz/rock rhythms and adapting instruments to their own purposes, the way that other contemporary groups have done elsewhere.

Their arrangements of tunes are polished and well-executed technically and in Manks terms they are a breath of fresh air in an atmosphere which has been stale for too long. They exhibit in this recording, one of the many directions in which our native music can be re-interpreted. Not only that, but they show sufficient understanding of the idiom to be able to create new tunes in the same vein.

It is rather a tragedy that recent recordings of our music have been either entirely vocal or instrumental alone, and never the twain have met, so far as now. On this recording there is variety of instrumentation and pace enough, so that it is well-balanced in that direction. A song or two would have made it even more interesting to the Goidelic speakers and a more rounded example of what we have here, musically.

I think that this is the best recording of Manks music to have appeared in recent years and I expect that it will be a challenge to others to do more and provide a much needed boost to national consciousness.

COLIN Y JERREE

Recorded in Onchan, Mann.

12 tracks available on cassette only, from mid-May.

Any inquiries to Mactullagh Vannin, 15 Highfield Crescent, Onchan, Mann.

FRITLAG

Quarterly magazine in Manks Gaelic. 25p per issue or £1.00 for one year's subscription (Mannin). Apply: 24 Princes Street, Douglas.

MANKS GAELIC "wise sayings" for hand colouring available from the Mannin Branch secretary, proceeds to the Mannin branch. Designer, Colin y Jerree.

6 designs in all. Complete sets (foolscap) suitable for guache, £1.50 plus 30p postage. Complete sets (A4 on card) suitable for water colour, £3.00 plus 50p postage. Individual designs 25p and 50p each respectively, plus postage.

Hand coloured prints may be ordered at a cost of £2.00 extra per print.

CELTIC CONGRESS 1986

The Manks branch organised a well balanced programme for delegates attending the International Celtic Congress, held in Mann. Two morning sessions covered the theme "Heritage". Morwenna Jenkin should be congratulated for very ably standing in for the Bretons at very short notice. There was ample opportunity to take excursions to places of interest and a Manks Gaelic church service was held in St. Germain's Cathedral. Evenings were given over to entertainment and Friday morning was devoted to the International A.G.M. which I attended as an observer.

Judging from the secretaries' reports at the A.G.M. I felt cohesion of activities between the individual branches could be improved. The cancellation of last year's Congress in Brittany, caused some consternation, particularly as there had been no news from the Breton branch. This meeting received a message from the Bretons to say they were unable to attend because of the high cost of getting to Mann and there was consequently no report from them. Only two branches made mention of support for Stourm ar Brezhoneg, perhaps because of the non-political nature of their constitution, some branches felt they could not openly give strength to the Breton struggle. Like it or not, the language question, particularly for the Bretons has been made a political matter by imperial governments.

It appeared that there were to be no resolutions from conference, but two emergency resolutions were put to the meeting. The first from Cornwall: that a telegram be sent to the Westminster government, deploring the imminent closure of the Geevor mine (it was due to shut down that very day) and demanding government support to keep it open. The second emergency resolution from the International Celtic Congress was: that a letter should be sent, demanding the immediate closure of the Sellafield reprocessing plant. Both resolutions were carried.

C.J.K.



SECOND NED MADRELL MEMORIAL LECTURE

When a language has been pronounced dead as often as Manks has, it is as well for those who speak it to seek a second opinion. This made the Post-Graduate Medical Centre in Douglas an appropriate place for the lecture given by Robert Thomson, M.A., B.Litt., "Change or Decay".

We were quickly informed that in a strictly technical sense we must regard Manks as a dead language. The last generation to have received it in the natural way must have been born around 1870. This did not mean that it needed ever to pass to the last stage of a lost language. Latin, he assured us, persisted for many centuries after technically being dead.

The main part of his lecture consisted of examining the ways in which Manks has developed since its separation from Irish and Scots. It is well known that Manks has been evolving rapidly over the past four centuries and he examined the changes under the headings of Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Vocabulary. It has often been said that, "Manks is English dressed up in Gaelic". It is clear from Robert Thomson's case that this is far too simple a way of looking at it. Many of the changes that Manks exhibits had happened, or were under way, long before the English language had any chance to be a major influence for change.

He drew a careful distinction between the organic changes which happen in any healthy language and those which tend to occur when a population becomes bi-lingual. Many of the differences observable in Manks are discernible because so little literature exists which is not a translation from some other language. There is always a tendency for translators to drift away from native idioms and the editors of the texts for the Bible did much to fix changes which were already happening and even, it is suspected, to urge some changes on the language in order to standardise the various texts. There is little evidence for suspecting that these differences were present in the speech of the time to any large extent.

In conclusion, he said that any differences observed in the speech of the last few native speakers, were likely to have occurred long before their learning of the language. Their transmission of Manks, in its final living state, was faithful to the way that they received it. It was not corrupted by English in their lifetime. In any case, this corruption, if this is the way we choose to describe it, is not extensive. As the transmission of Manks is in the hands of the present generation, we have now an opportunity to discuss the form in which it should be passed on to future generations.

COLIN Y JERREE

BRITISH MILITARY BOMBING MISTAKE

There has been considerable controversy in Mann, following the latest incident at the Jurby Sea Bombing Range. The range is operated for N.A.T.O. by the Royal Air Force, and is situated in a sea area off the North West Coast. In the recent incident on the 29th April, 1986, a military aircraft, during night operations, dropped a parachute flare, which landed near farm buildings at Jurby. The land owner, at first refused to hand over the burnt out pyrotechnic, but subsequently was forced to, following R.A.F. pressure. R.A.F. personnel at the range, maintain the weapon was dropped off-shore, and drifted in, due to the prevailing winds — however, Met. Office records of wind direction, cast doubt on this claim. The weapon was almost certainly carelessly discharged over the land.

Had it have hit a farm building, there is absolutely no doubt that a serious fire would have occurred. The flares, at 50 lbs (burnt-out) weight, are shaped like fire-extinguishers, and are packed with a phosphorous based compound.

The base at Jurby has also been the cause of controversy following revelations that F1-11's from U.S. bases in Britain used it for simulated operations, prior to the attack on Libya. Mannin Branch of the League has lodged a protest with the U.K., U.S. and Manx Governments about the incident.

In the past twenty years, there has been a continuous series of incidents involving the N.A.T.O. installation. Aircraft have crashed, bombs have been dropped on shore and in one recent incident, a young fisherman suffered facial injuries.

A full scale debate on the issue will take place in Tynwald shortly; in the meantime, Mannin Branch intends to step-up its campaign against the operation of this intolerable nuisance off our North West Coast!

J. B. MOFFATT

HERITAGE

The Manx Heritage Foundation has so far produced two issues of its monthly review, "Heritage". No. 1 announced the arrival of Heritage Year, assuring readers that it is not to be a spending-spree exemplified by Millennium and Year of Sport.

Tax payers in general, will be relieved that they will not be burdened with a comparable bill. Cultural groups and societies have necessarily always taken the "Do it yourself" approach and naturally hoped that at last there would be some small recognition of their efforts and worth, with some tangible help that would be of lasting benefit. The Mannin



Derek Cleator, Manx farmer, whose farm was bombed by military aircraft 29/4/86.

branch put forward an excellent case to the Foundation for the purchase of audio-video equipment, (see The Advancement of Manx Gaelic — Carn 49) beginning negotiations in June 1984. The Heritage committee agreed in principle (mid '85) to obtain a suitable machine that could be loaned out to organisations with worthwhile projects. So far we have heard nothing and the League member who went to a great deal of trouble to prepare and present the case and would have taken responsibility for the language project, has withdrawn commitment; having, understandably, lost faith that the M.H.F. has neither the means nor the will to see the thing through.

Meanwhile the League welcomes Manx Radio's initiative to provide a foundation course in Gaelic, which will consist of 12, twenty minute lessons, backed up by cassettes and teaching booklets. This is being prepared by Brian Mac Stoyll for the Autumn programme schedule.

Ron Stewart (Organiser of the 5th Celtic Film and Television Festival) noticed the glaring inaccuracy of this entry, reproduced, from the Guinness Book of Records. He has set the record straight with the compilers and we are grateful to him for that.

MEC VANNIN NEWS

Mec Vannin, as an organisation, was recently invited to join in the formation of an "Isle of Man" branch of the "United Nations Association of Gt. Britain & N. Ireland". The M.V. Executive, declined the invitation. In view of our commitment to the establishment of an independent Manx Republic, affiliation to any U.K. based organisation would be out of the question. In our reply, we doubted the wisdom of establishing such an "I.O.M. branch", which by inference, would incorporate Mannin directly in with the affairs of the U.K. and would confer a legitimacy, on what we regard as the British Government's continuing executive control of Mannin; in breach of the stated U.N. Articles on de-colonisation. The Executive also questioned Mannin's qualification to affiliate, considering the lack of legislation for the principle of sex equality and the Manx Government's failure to reinstate the right of individual petition to the Court of Human Rights.

CELTICA

SCRIF-CELT — A RETROSPECT

Scrif-Celt, the Celtic Languages Book Fair, organised by the London Branch of the Celtic League, has once again proved a success. Held over two days, Friday, April 4, and Saturday, April 5, at the London Welsh Centre, the fair has again been self-funding and shown a small profit towards financing next year's event. Scrif-Celt is the biggest and most ambitious event ever undertaken by the Celtic League.

In spite of attendance from the general public being marginally down compared with last year, the major success has been in the feedback from attending publishers who have once again been able to meet fellow Celtic language publishers to discuss projects and the problems which are common to all six nations. It must, of course, be remembered that Scrif-Celt is a *Book Fair* not simply a glorified book shop and its main purpose is to draw Celtic language publishers together to talk business.

In his opening address at Scrif-Celt '86 chairman, historian and novelist Peter Berresford Ellis, said he was pleased to note the return of so many supporters of Scrif-Celt '85 and delighted to see several new supporters. "In 1985 Scrif-Celt made its first tentative steps as the first-ever exhibition and conference on contemporary writing and publishing in the Celtic languages. It is now established as *the* Celtic Languages Book Fair. The fact that such a function was sorely needed in the Celtic world was demonstrated by the tremendous response which has greeted the efforts of the organising committee."

Publicity

The disappointing aspect to Scrif-Celt this year was the lack of press and media coverage compared to last year. In 1985 the publicity achieved on the international stage was extremely gratifying. Coverage on television, radio and in the general press, as well as literary magazines and journals, was widespread. From the *Soviet Literary Gazette*, *Izvestia* and "Novosti" to Greek Radio, and numerous European newspapers ranging from Poland to Switzerland and Norway to France, interest was varied and surprising. Journals from both North and South America also carried stories as, indeed, did the English press and media did. In addition, of course, there was widespread coverage in all the Celtic countries.

This year, in spite of the distribution to the press and media of 500 press releases and programme booklets, there was little publicity. This, no doubt, accounted for the drop in attendance figures although posters to 300 London libraries and 24 Welsh chapels, which serve as centres of Welsh culture in London, were distributed along with circulars and posters to scores of Celtic cultural societies. According to Séamas Ó Coileáin: "It is certain that the GLC Irish Book Fair, held only three weeks earlier, had taken the



Participants at Scrif-Celt '86.

wind out of our "sales" and on Saturday we clashed with the Grand National, the most popular horse race of the year." But that was unavoidable; an important aspect of Scrif-Celt was its coincidence with the London Book Fair, the second biggest European international book fair, enabling our participants to make contacts with "the world of publishing come to London". Many did just that. Some of those who came only to sell books went away a little disappointed but those who realised that Scrif-Celt is a trade fair expressed their satisfaction."

"The display of books was truly amazing: one estimate put it at four thousand individual titles, and the beautiful artwork of Courtney Davis together with a small craft stand by Celtic Community Crafts added variety and colour to what was already impressive. Several publishers sent copies of newspapers, magazines and books to be displayed and sold on an extended Celtic League stand.

"An interesting exhibit was a new vocabulary-building game called 'Focal Fun', made by CRO Teo., a co-operative in the An Rinn Gaeltacht. Pádraig Ó Conchúir had pointed out a report about it in *Anois* only two weeks before Scrif-Celt. I wrote to them suggesting that they send a sample and it arrived the following week.

"The game is simple enough; there are a thousand cards with an Irish word on one side and its English equivalent on the other. The player takes a card and translates the word. If correct, he places a coloured peg in a hole on the board. An element of luck is brought into the game with dice, and the cards are in three colours, representing three grades of competence in Irish. This means that a lecturer can play against a fairly proficient speaker, each using the appropriate grade of cards. There are plans to introduce two higher grades and to add more cards with everyday sayings. The game has, therefore, the competitive element with a handicap system, and a combination of skill and luck. And it could be adapted to any bilingual situation.

"After showing it around at Scrif-Celt I received positive responses from the Scots, Bretons and the Welsh who were interested in developing their own versions.

"This is what Scrif-Celt is all about!

"Although it cannot be claimed that Scrif-Celt '86 was an unqualified success, it was another brick towards the building of Scrif-Celt into one of the most important events in the Celtic world."

Lectures and entertainment

This year Scrif-Celt appealed for sponsors to help fund cultural events in addition to the main Book Fair and drew up a programme of poetry readings and lectures. In this Bord

na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge and the *Irish Times* came forward with a total of IR£250 towards the cost of supporting such a programme. It was held on the Saturday afternoon and commenced with the Welsh poet and short story writer, R. Geraht Jones, also current chairman of the Welsh Academy, talking about his work and reading a selection of his poems on pan-Celtic themes. It was a highly evocative as well as an informing talk.

Wella Brown, of Kesva an Tavas Kernewek, and author of *A Grammar of Modern Cornish*, gave a reading from *Bewnans Meriasek*, the Life of St. Meriasek, one of the Cornish medieval miracle plays. Leslie y Quirk, the chairman of Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (Manx Gaelic Society) enthralled the audience with a series of anecdotes in Manx in true *seanchai* style.

The programme wound up with a sparkling and brilliant performance by the Irish poet Gabriel Rosenstock who spoke of his view of Irish poetry and read from some of the poems

in his collection *Migmars*, published by Ababúna. Before reading each poem he gave a brief explanation in English. Rosenstock is not only one of Ireland's leading poets but one of Europe's. He is also editor of *An Droichead* and *Mahogany Gaspie*. There are plans to publish his Scrif-Celt lecture and *Carn* readers will be informed. It is a brilliantly perceptive view of the Irish language and cultural attitudes in addition to being a valuable contribution to international poetry.

The two days were also punctuated by several interludes of traditional Irish music thanks to Tom Sheerin and his group "Persons Unknown". Refreshments, including a buffet luncheon, were organised by Micheal Ó Laoire with the help of Lizzie Ó Laoire, Dorothy Berresford Ellis and Tricia Date. The catering side of things managed to show a modest profit this year to the great relief of those still haunted by the '85 catering disaster.

The Future?

It has already been decided by a meeting of the organising committee that Scrif-Celt '87 will also be held in London with more time and emphasis given in those areas which were shown to be weak. It is hoped that more sponsorship appeals will bring forth a better response so that the organising can spend more on promotion and publicity as well as funding talks by the leading writers in the Celtic languages. The aim is to make Scrif-Celt bigger and better.

In closing this report a special thanks must go to the organising committee of Scrif-Celt '86 and to the volunteer helpers of the London branch who turned out on Friday and Saturday, April 4 and 5, to act as stewards receptionists, odd job men and women, stand attendants, tea and coffee ladies.

A limited number of programme booklets are still available. The price is STG£1 plus 31p postage per book. Cheques payable to Scrif-Celt and sent to: Séamas Ó Coileáin, G42 Du Cane Court, London SW17 7JR, England.

PARTICIPANTS

Although at first glance it looks as if the actual number of participating publishers is down on last year, many publishers decided to go under "umbrella" representation. Kuzul ar Brezhoneg, the Breton Language Council, for

example, were representing ten major Breton publishers, while An Comann Leabhraichean (Scottish Gaelic Books Council) and Cyngor Llyfrau Cymraeg (Welsh Books Council) were also representing many publishers. Stand by stand those represented were:



Stand Nos.

1. The Celtic League (also representing)
 - Fritlag (Mannin)
 - Constables (London)
 - Focal Fun CPR Teo., Baile na nGall, An Rinn, Éire.
 - Linguaphone
 - Scottish Academic Press

ALBA

2. An Comann Leabhraichean (Scottish Gaelic Books Council)
3. John Donald Ltd.

BREIZH

4. Skol Uhel ar Vro (Breton Cultural Institute)
5. Kuzul ar Brezhoneg (Breton Language Council)
6. An Here
7. Editions Brud Nevez

CYMRU

8. Cyngor Llyfrau Cymraeg (Welsh Books Council)
9. Anrhydeddus Cymdeithas y Cymmrodorion
10. Gwasg Gomer

ÉIRE

11. Cumann na Scribhean nGaedhilge (Irish Texts Society)
12. Four Provinces Bookshop also representing
 - Áis — Irish Books Distribution
 - Anois
13. Acadamh Ríoga hÉireann (Royal Irish Academy)
14. An Clóchomhar Teo.
15. An Droichead/The Bridge

KERNOW

16. Kesva an Tavas Kernewek (Cornish Language Board)
- Cowethas an Yeth Kernewek (Cornish Language Fellowship)
- Dalleth
17. Dyllansow Truran (also representing Lodonek Press)
18. Kernewek Dre Lyther

MANNIN

19. Yn Cheshaght Ghailckagh (Manx Gaelic Society)

OTHERS

20. Ventura Publishing
21. Spirit of Celtic
22. Celtic Community Crafts (Hammersmith)
23. Cambridge Medieval Celtic Studies

THE DERAILMENT OF OUR CELTIC HERITAGE

It was, surprisingly, a non-Celt who called the public's attention to the savagery which Celtic countries suffered under the Beeching Axe. Sir John Betjeman, when a boy, found his interest in the countryside, old churches and railways actively encouraged by his school-masters whose

Head was "Skipper" Lynam, a life-long devotee of the Celtic tradition and a highly respected figure in the Isle of Man and on the West Coast of Scotland.

As Vice-President of the Railway Development Society, John Betjeman had every reason for denouncing the Beeching Plan which destroyed the entire rail system in that part of Britain he loved so well. But he stressed that Cornwall was not alone in being victimised. Apart from the Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth line, every cross-country route had been torn out of Wales, and the removal of 82 miles of railway between Bangor and Carmarthen destroyed the very popular North/South Wales connecting link.

Scotland was treated equally ruthlessly, and this all the more surprising because the Prime Minister who allowed Marples to proceed with the Beeching cuts was none other than Harold MacMillan, who claimed Scots ancestry. Both the Highlands and Lowlands were stripped of vitally important rail routes, one disgraceful closure being the valuable freight, tourist and diversionary Waverley route between Edinburgh and Carlisle. As soon as this line was closed, vast quantities of heavy goods were forced on to the roads, resulting in a fresh clamour for more Motorways, which suited the Marples Road-building firm very well indeed. Fortunately, Sir Alec Douglas Home (a truer Celt than MacMillan) took over just in time to

save 233 miles of railway North of Inverness, but most of the damage to Scotland's economy had already been done.

Even the most fervent admirers of Westminster and Whitehall are obliged to admit that the Marples/Beeching cuts inflicted a devastating blow on the three Celtic countries of Scotland, Wales and Cornwall. The railway is the most efficient form of long-distance transport for both goods and passengers, and since these three countries are considerably more than 100 miles from the large commercial centres and conurbations in England, they obviously need an adequate rail network. The railway is also the most environmentally acceptable form of transport for all distances, and if we are to save Britain from being turned into a tarmac and concrete desert of dual carriageways, under-passes, fly-overs, roundabouts and multi-storey car parks, polluted by noisy, death-dealing juggernauts, then we have to maintain our rail system. Only in this way can our Celtic heritage be protected for the benefit of future generations.

Towards the end of 1983 a revival of rail in our three countries seemed likely. In Wales, one of the eight excellent narrow-gauge lines, the Ffestiniog, had succeeded in linking, after a 20-year lapse, the North Wales and the Cambrian Coast lines. In Scotland and Cornwall, the British Rail Board agreed to de-centralise their rail networks. These moves were immediately successful. Cornish Railways, under their dynamic and popular Manager, Arthur Eplett, reporting a 22% increase in traffic. Suddenly, disaster struck. Mr. Eplett retired prematurely, Cornish Railways were to be disbanded and everything transferred to a Manager in Plymouth. What caused this catastrophe?

One main contributory factor is the sheer bloody-mindedness of Cornish Local Authorities where rail transport is concerned. Especially the Cornwall County Council, who devote all their money to the building of more and more and bigger and bigger roads. Their criminal spoilation of Cornwall's once-beautiful countryside has desecrated hundreds of acres of our best landscape and destroyed thousands of trees and woodlands by indiscriminate felling. When British Rail, because of Government "cuts", announced that they would have to reduce to single track, the main line between Probus and Burngallow, we asked the County Council to consider this as one of Cornwall's main roads, and make some contribution towards the cost, as other local authorities do. They flatly refused to help in any way, yet continued to spend large sums in promoting the Okehampton By-Pass.

Wales and Scotland are much better served by their Councils. The Craven Arms-Swansea line has been saved by £144,000 from local Welsh Councils and the Gwynedd County Council subsidies some Llandudno trains. One Scottish Council donates £28,000,000 annually, to local railways, and the Highlands and Islands Development Board funds Scottish Rail so munificently that Scotland's railways are never likely to suffer the same fate as Cornwall's.

It is said we get the County Councillors we deserve. Surely we in Cornwall can't be as bad as all that?

JOHN FINLAYSON

UNIONIST POSITIONS — A COMMENT

I read with interest P. Ó Snodaigh's article in Carn 52 of Unionist attempts to foster their claims in our country by the cultivation of the 'Cruithin myth'. As a contribution to the debate I offer the following.

Two thousand years ago these islands were occupied by Celtic speaking peoples. How long these had been here is a much disputed point but need not concern us at the present. At that time Great Britain was occupied by Brythonic speaking Celts (or P Celts). Some of these British Celts had spilled over into Ireland. The late T. F. Ó Rahilly drew a distinction between what he termed the Erain (or Firbolg) who he believed were ultimately of Belgic stock, and a people whom he called Cruithin. In addition Ó Rahilly identified the Laigin (also known as Galioin or Donnainn) and the Gaels. While the identification is not certain, the Laigin seem to have been Gauls.

Thus three of the four Celtic peoples identified in Ireland were 'P' Celtic, Gallo-Britons, and the fourth the Gaels.

As is fairly well known Ó Rahilly believed that the Gaels were the most recent arrivals. This however is highly unlikely since, as Myles Dillon (R.I.P.) pointed out, Gaelic is an older form of Celtic than Gallo-Brythonic and therefore must have been present in Ireland before the arrival of the 'P' Celts. With the late Nora Chadwick, Dillon suggested that the 'P' Celts had settled the coastal areas of Ireland very much as in the same way the Irish settled the west coast of Britain in the early historic period. (Which is an allusion to the settlement of Argyle, Galloway, Gwynedd and Dyfed.)

In all likelihood then we are dealing with British Celts (and perhaps Gauls as well) establishing themselves as an aristocracy over Gaelic Irish. The rise to power of the Gaelic Connachta and Eoghanachta in the north and south of Ireland respectively destroyed this hegemony. In the north the apparently British Ulaid were, after their overthrow, confined to two small kingdoms on the north-east coast: Dal-Riada in north Antrim and the Dal Fiatach in Down. It was, of course, from the former of these that the Scots began the settlement of northern Britain. Thus the Gaelicisation of Alba was begun by a people whose rulers were Gaelicised Britons.

Wedge between the Dal-Riada and the Dal-Fiatach was a third kingdom: Dal nAriadni. These people were regarded by the Gaels as Cruithin — which is simply the Gaelic rendering of Britons. Thus the 'Picts' of north-east Scotland were known to the Irish as the Cruithin or Britons. At this point I must stress that the Picts were not a pre-Celtic people as is still popularly believed. The distinction between them and the Celts of southern Britain was largely a result of the Roman occupation. By building their two walls across the country — partitioning it — the Romans were able to cultivate differences and build these up out of proportion (sounds

familiar, doesn't it?). In time 'Britons' became a name associated with those living within the Empire while 'Picts', an imperialist nickname, became applied to the unconquered Britons of the north.

To return to the Cruithin of Ireland. These people can be seen as a colony from Celtic Britain. As with the Laigin, who retained a tradition of their Gaulish origin, the Cruithin too resisted attempts by the Gaelic genealogists to turn them into honorary Gaels. Unlike the Dal Riada, the Cruithin took no part in the colonisation of northern Britain in the fifth and following centuries. They remained behind in Ireland and by the eighth century had become absorbed by the Gaels. In short the unionist population is in no way related to these Cruithin for the simple reason that they never left Ireland.

The Gaelic Dal-Riada went on to Gaelicise Northern Britain, as is well known, but at the same time other Gaelic settlements were made in Galloway. From here, as W. F. H. Nicolaisen has shown in his *Scottish Place Names*, the language spread over Strathclyde, being reinforced in the later stages by Gaels coming in from Argyle and Arran across the Firth of Clyde.

The Plantation of Ulster in the seventeenth century involved two groups. An English group who occupied mid-Ulster; and a Scots group who occupied the north east. These Scots were, for the most part Gaelic speakers from Argyle, Ayrshire and Galloway — areas Gaelicised between the fifth and tenth centuries. If the Orangemen have a claim in Ireland it is surely as descendants of Gaels who left Ireland between those centuries. Their claim is thus based on their being part of the Irish nation. If they repudiate those links — and they do — then they cannot use those self same links to bolster their claims.

Beyond this one is reminded that the Gaels who left Ireland in the fifth century were small in numbers and that the language spread via the process of culture creep from the small core areas in Argyle and Galloway. Genetically they formed only a small part of the total population who came to speak their language. It was these Gaelicised British Celts from south west Scotland who 'returned' in the seventeenth century. In reality they were not returning — for the simple reason that the bulk of their ancestors had never set foot in Ireland.

I for one am prepared to recognise these people as heirs to Gaeldom — but only if they are prepared to do the same.

KEVIN COLLINS

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NORD FRIESLAND, Zeitschrift fuer Kultur, Politik und Wirtschaft, published mainly in German by the Nordfriisk Instituut, Aasterstr. 63, D-2257 Bredstedt/Braist, N.F., FRG. Quarterly. Annual Subscription DM16.00 to Sparkasse Nordfriesland Husum, Nr 31 161. In Nr 74, two contributions of more general interest: "Europa und seine Kleinsprachen: einige positive Entwicklungen der jungsten Vergangenheit" and "Europ-Initiative fuer ein Volksgruppenrecht: fuef Fragen an die Europa-Abgeordneten".

Flag Presented to Canadian Museum

An Irish tricolour flag was purchased and formally presented to the Ridgeway Battlefield Museum, Ontario, Canada, by the London Branch of the Celtic League early this year.

The Ridgeway Battlefield Museum was opened ten years ago to commemorate the Battle of Ridgeway, June 2, 1866, when Fenian troops fought against British troops and drove them from the field at bayonet-point. Ridgeway was one of the few pitched battles between the British and members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood from which the Irish emerged victorious. The battle was one of several engagements which occurred during the Fenian invasion of Canada, then the provinces of British North America, during 1866.

In 1866 an army of 25,000 men began to gather along the border of the United States and the provinces of British North America. They were veterans of both belligerent armies in the recently ended war between the states; war-skilled soldiers of the Union Army's Irish Brigade and Irish Legion and the numerous Irish regiments of the Confederate Army. The aim of the Fenian army, commanded by former US Major-General 'Fighting Tom' Sweeny, originally from Co. Cork, was to establish an Irish Republic-in-Exile on the soil of British North America to use either as a base to strike at England or a bargaining counter in an effort to achieve the freedom of Ireland.

Colonel John O'Neill, acting brigadier, led the first Fenian regiments across the Niagara River during the early hours of June 1, 1866. His troops consisted of the 7th, 13th, 17th and 18th Regiments of what was called the IRA (the first time the initials were ever used) plus two independent companies under a Captain Haggerty. The next day O'Neill encountered a British column under Colonel Alfred Booker, consisting of the 2nd 'Queen's Own', 13th Battalion and the York and Caledonia Rifle Companies. Both sides were evenly matched but O'Neill proved the better strategist.

While the victory went to the Fenians, the campaign, in its entirety, went wrong and the Irish withdrew.

Historian and author, Peter Berresford Ellis, a London Branch member, presented the Irish tricolour to the battlefield museum which is housed in an old wooden farmhouse that stood on the battlefield during the fighting. It was owned by the Teal family and the current curators are descendants of that family — Margaret and Wilfred Teal.

Peter Berresford Ellis has written on the battle and the Fenian plan to invade Canada and next year will see publication of his novel *The Rising of the Moon* (Methuen London Ltd.) which uses the battle of Ridgeway as a background.

'Canada became a Dominion a year after the attempted Irish invasion,' said Mr.

Berresford Ellis, 'and the impetus to unite the provinces of British North America into one dominion came directly from the invasion. It was therefore an important event in Canadian history.'

'The London Branch of the Celtic League has decided to present the tricolour, the flag which Colonel Owen Starr, commanding the 17th Regiment recruited in Louisville, Kentucky, raised above Fort Erie, as a gesture of goodwill, recognising the historic importance of that event and as a symbol of understanding and peace between the Irish and Canadian peoples.'

In accepting the flag for the Ridgeway Battlefield Museum, Mrs. Margaret E. Teal, said: 'Where the Irish flag was once raised as an act of war, may it now be raised at our little museum as an act of reconciliation and peace. Please express our appreciation to the London Branch of the Celtic League.'

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CELTIC FILM AND TELEVISION FESTIVAL

All the finest aspects of the Celtic Film and Television Festival surfaced at this year's awards ceremony at Newcastle, Co. Down.

At the finale of perhaps the best organised of all the seven events so far an unassuming film from Northern Ireland, made on a peppercorn £6,000 budget triumphed over a clutch of glossy prestige television productions.

The choice of the "Best Man" as best film, was no mere jury whim. After its first untrumpeted screening to delegates word swept around the festival's HQ that this raw, sometimes realistic and humorous work, was likely to pick up a prize.

A fiction feature, the "Best Man" was scripted and directed by Joe Mahon and produced by Denis Bradley for a small Derry production unit, the Northlands centre, focussed on a hard-drinking, amiable but congenitally irresponsible bachelor and his effects on his mates. It cut across ideological and sectarian barriers to win general plaudits — and unanimous support from a jury ranging across the whole spectrum of cinema, from the chairman Alexander Walker, Ulsterman and London Standard film critic to Ireland's veteran "maverick" director Bob Quinn.

From the festival's opening seminar onwards the "Best Man" provided a healthy springboard for discussion.

Wales' outspoken independent director Karl Francis predictably fired a shot or two across BBC Wales bows, even though his own film Ms. Rhymney Valley made for the company, proved a hot (and correct) tip for the best documentary prize.

The festival proved though a rewarding event for BBC Wales who captured the Spirit of the Festival award with "Penyberth", a drama — documentary about the three Welsh Nationalists who deliberately burned down an RAF bombing school in Wales in the 30's. "Passing Glory", a bleak comedy about Communist party internecine squabbling after the death of a Glasgow member, won the "Starting Out" category a rare success at this festival for a National Film School student. Gillies McKinnon — and "Enka" made by Richard Pawelko for Cardiff's Teliesyn company won a special video prize.

All the signs are that the progress made initially in Cardiff in 1984 in terms of both organisation and involvement, and built on in Northern Ireland can be consolidated in Inverness next year. By then the Celtic TV and film festival may face more competition in the Celtic countries, with Wales planning an even more ambitious festival of its own to build on a pilot event at Cardiff's Chapter Arts centre earlier this year.

BEST EVER PAN-CELTIC CONFERENCE

There was hardly a dull moment at the American Branch's 13th Annual Pan-Celtic Conference held in New York on 3 May 1986. May who attended described it as the best they had seen.

The afternoon session was devoted to lectures and opened with a talk by Madeleine Tokach on historical Celtic costumes. This was followed by Eileen Campbell Gordon's lecture (and display) on Celtic artifacts and jewellery. The Life of Margaret Anne Cusack was the subject of a video presentation and talk by Brendan Fey. Next Stephen Paul de Villo dealt with the relatively little known history of the Isle of Man. Liam Ó Caiside then presented a screening of the Irish film "The Kinkisha", produced by Tom McArdle. Finally, Peter Gilmore closed the afternoon's events with a talk on the lesser known aspects of the work of Robert Burns.

Other features of the Conference included a display room of books, photographs etc. and an evening of Celtic music and song.

Great congratulations were extended to Elizabeth Anne Fitzpatrick, who in her first term as Conference Organizer produced a success which many will consider an exemplar for conferences to come. Thanks must also be extended to the staff of friends and volunteers who helped make the Conference the event it was.

STEPHEN PAUL DE VILLO

A.G.M. NOTICE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on October 10th - 12th at the Scottish National Party Rooms, 16 North St. Andrews Street, Edinburgh. The dates and venue have been fixed to coincide with the holding of the 'Mod' (10th - 17th October).

Please contact your Branch Secretary or Mrs. M. Denovan (addr. on page 24), the Alba Secretary, if you wish to arrange accommodation.

GALICIAN MUSICIANS



In a letter in English signed by its three main officers, an Association of Galician Pipers in Argentina have requested the Celtic League to help them in getting in touch with musicians in the Celtic countries interested, like themselves, in developing the Celtic musical tradition. They have undertaken to study and revitalise their own traditional music. They are not satisfied with the low standards displayed by too many Galician groups in Buenos Aires, contributing as they do "to create a false image of what Galician really is". They believe they must adapt traditional forms to the present, in a word: evolve. They have a group called "Poitin", playing the bodhran, the fiddle, the harp, as well as a new type of gaita. Their motto is in Irish: *Ar run an ceol Ceilteach* (= our commitment is to Celtic music), as well as Galician tunes they perform also Breton, Irish and Scottish ones. But they find little support from the Irish and Scots in Buenos Aires who care little for their national culture. If anyone among our readers is interested in learning more about them and perhaps learning from them, please write to "Real Asociazon, Celtiga de Gaiteros Galiegos, Casilla de Correo 66, Suc. 30 Coghlan, (1430) Capital Federal, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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 Cabrai, Baile Átha Cliath 7.

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Ian Williams, 6 Rose Row, Redruth.

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

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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 B. J. Moffatt, 24 St. Germain's Place, Peel, Isle of Man.

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

Our next deadline for Carn 55 will be 4th August, 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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FOR A CELTIC FUTURE

A tribute to Alan Heusaff

330 pages

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