

INTRODUCTION

Gary Manchec-German & Maxim Fomin

The volume presents a selection of articles that were originally presented at the 9th International Colloquium of the Learned Association *Societas Celto-Slavica* held at the Quimper campus of the University of Western Brittany between 23–24 June 2018. Volume 12, which will include a second complement of articles, will be published next year. Following the *modus operandi* established at the previous colloquia of the *Societas* in Dubrovnik and Heidelberg, the conference itself was preceded by a workshop on the Typology of Breton held between 21–22 June 2018. It was the first time that international specialists gathered to discuss this important topic.

This was also the first Celto-Slavica colloquium that has ever been organised in Brittany which, in many respects, is the least known and represented member of the Celtic language community, despite the fact that, aside from Wales, it counts the largest number of native speakers of any other Celtic country. Sadly, however, the majority of these speakers are over 70 years of age and the social, cultural and linguistic dynamics are such that the future of the language is seriously in question. Nevertheless, the fact that so many international scholars travelled from so far to attend these events demonstrated their commitment and solidarity for their colleagues here in Brittany and for this we sincerely thank them.

The colloquium was opened by Prof. Nicolas Bernard, Director of the University of Western Brittany's Quimper campus (*Pôle universitaire Pierre-Jakez Hélias*) and Prof. Emer. Séamus Mac Mathúna (Ulster University), President of the *Societas*, who warmly welcomed the participants. The Chair of the colloquium, Prof. Emer. Gary Manchec-German (Centre for Breton and Celtic Studies, University of Western Brittany, Brest) followed up on this point by offering his sincere thanks to the 21 speakers from around the world, all leading scholars in their respective fields, and as well as the numerous participants, many of whom had registered for both events. All had overcome many hurdles to get to Quimper in the midst of a crippling nation-wide strike during which rail and air travel was severely hindered.

Our thanks are due to Steve Hewitt (UNESCO), one of the world's foremost specialists of Breton grammar and typology, for having accepted the invitation to organize the workshop which attracted many leading Breton and international scholars in the field.

This year's theme for the Celto-Slavica colloquium was 'Celtic Languages and Cultures in Contact' designed as a follow-up to a workshop organized by Prof. Emer. Hildegard L. C. Tristram within the framework of the 13th International

Congress of Celtic Studies held in Bonn between 26–27 July 2007.¹ For this reason, it was decided that the colloquium itself should be dedicated to Prof. H. L. C. Tristram, a staunch supporter of Celto-Slavica since the inception of the Societas in 2005, in recognition of her contribution to Celtic Studies. Prof. Manchec-German read a short message by Prof. Tristram *in absentia* in which she wished the speakers and participants a very fruitful and successful colloquium.

Suffice it to say that the theme of the colloquium is the title of the University of Western Brittany at Brest newly-founded MA in Celtic Studies which now attracts students from France and abroad. The two-year post-graduate programme is one of the few in the world that offers courses in all the major Celtic languages and literatures, medieval and modern. This initiative has developed an especially close academic partnership with Ulster University, but also has intimate bonds with the University College Dublin and the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

This volume begins with two articles on Brittany’s distant past. The first is authored by Prof. Emer. Patrick Galliou and is entitled ‘Between East and West, Armorica and the European Bronze and Iron Ages’ in which he argues that the Armorican peninsula, far from being a *cul de sac* on the westernmost periphery of Europe was fully involved during the Bronze and Iron ages in the cultural mutations occurring in western and continental communities which resulted in the development of new technological and artistic expressions. He presents numerous examples demonstrating the veracity of these affirmations.

This is followed by Prof. Emer. Jean Le Dù’s article entitled, ‘The Celtic Element in Gallo-Romance Dialect Areas’. The author contests a doctrine which was blown out of proportion during the course of the 19th and early 20th century, namely, the hypothesis of a Germanic superstrate in the development of the French language. The author affirms that this view largely occluded the possibility of a native Gaulish substratum in French. Relying on modern geolinguistics, he compares ALF (*Atlas Linguistique de la France*) maps with Breton ones, using the data recorded in Le Roux’s *Atlas Linguistique de la Basse-Bretagne* and Le Dù’s *Nouvel Atlas Linguistique de la Basse-Bretagne* and demonstrates that several of these maps reveal the presence of ALF data whose origin is clearly Celtic and not Germanic. He concludes that the *Atlas Linguarum Europae* and the *Atlas Linguistique Roman* have shown that borders between languages and even language families “are not waterproof”.

Tragically, this contribution represents Prof. Le Dù’s very last article. He unexpectedly passed away on the morning of May 6, 2020. As a tribute to Jean’s ground-breaking research in Breton and Celtic studies, the volume editors and

1. Tristram, H. L. C., 2007, *The Celtic languages in contact: Papers from the workshop within the framework of the XIII International congress of Celtic studies, Bonn, 26–27 July 2007*, Potsdam: Potsdam University Press. Less than one week before the present volume was sent to the publishers, we learnt of Hildegard’s tragic death, too late to present an obituary. It will thus appear in the next volume.

members of the editorial board of the journal, including Prof. Séamus Mac Mathúna, Prof. Tatyana Mikhailova and Prof. Dafydd Johnston, decided that it should be dedicated to his memory. We enclose his obituary at the end of this volume.

The next two contributions are dedicated to the Celtic countries relationship to the sea. The first contribution is by Dr Maxim Fomin on ‘Name-Avoidance and Circumlocutory Terms in Modern Irish and Scottish Maritime Memorates’ in which the author analyses intangible aspects of the maritime heritage, in particular, stories of the sea, collected in Ireland and Scotland, in the late 19th and 20th centuries. The author draws from the experience of Ulster University research project ‘Stories of the Sea: A Typological Study of Maritime Memorates in Modern Irish and Scottish Gaelic Folklore Traditions’, funded by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council, and aims to add to previous published studies on this subject.

This is followed by Prof. Yann Riou’s paper entitled ‘Nautical Toponymy and Fieldwork in Léon, Northwest Brittany’ in which he presents the history of collecting maritime toponyms in Brittany. In particular, the author presents the methodologies and results of massive, in-depth fieldwork undertaken by The Onomastic School of Léon along the Léon coast (north-western Brittany). Since the 1980s the participants have collected over 20,000 toponyms from well over a thousand informants. He stresses the fragility of these names many of which are preserved only in the memories of the rapidly vanishing last generation of Breton-speakers who made their livings on the sea or its related domains. The collection is unprecedented in scientific, anthropological and linguistic terms.

The next contribution was co-authored by Dr Elena Parina and Lara Geinitz concerned with the study of ‘*Val i may ysgrifenedig*: Derivatives with Suffix *-edig* in Three Early Modern Welsh Texts’. In their analysis of the translations from English into Welsh, known as *Gesta Romanorum*, *Marchog Crwydrad* and *Perl mewn Adfyd*, they study trends in the usage of *edig*-derivatives. This suffix has been equated with past passive suffix in some grammars and the derivatives with it show several specific features during the history of Welsh. The 16th century examples are studied in comparison to the earlier 14th century data from *Llyfr yr Ancr*. A special focus is on correspondence with English originals: it appears that in the 16th century texts more adjectives are being translated by *edig*-derivatives than in the earlier sample, where the correspondence to Latin past participles prevails.

The final paper by Prof. Dr. Bernhard Maier looks at the beginnings of Celtic Studies in Ireland, Switzerland, France and Germany. ‘Celtic Correspondences: Letters from Whitley Stokes to Adolphe Pictet and from Henri d’Arbois de Jubainville to Ernst Windisch’ studies epistolary exchanges between the Irish Celticist and lawyer, Whitley Stokes (1830–1909), and the Swiss specialist in ballistics and amateur linguist Adolph Pictet (1799–1875), on the one hand, and the German Celticist and Indologist, Ernst Windisch (1844–1918), and his French colleague Henri d’Arbois

de Jubainville (1827–1910), the first Professor of Celtic at the Collège de France and chief editor of the *Revue Celtique*, on the other. In particular, he demonstrates how the German and French scholars, who can be viewed among the founding fathers of Celtic Studies, shared a keen interest in the fabric of ancient civilisations and their reflection in literature. The author presents an overview of d'Arbois letters to his German colleague demonstrating how they reflect specific problems of research, the institutional setting of Celtic Studies around the turn of the century as well as the personality of the correspondents. The author concludes by addressing the question of the extent to which a comprehensive analysis and appraisal of as yet unpublished scholarly letters may contribute to not only a more profound understanding of the formation and early history of Celtic Studies, but also to an enhanced appreciation of its present situation.

Two major social events terminated the four-day event, the first was a conference dinner which took place at the Prieuré Restaurant located in the oldest neighbourhood of Quimper. As its name suggests, the restaurant is attached to the 10th century Locmaria Church constructed on the site of the original 1st century Roman town of Aquilonia along the River Odet. After a delicious and copious meal, the well-known Breton traditional singer, Brigitte Kloareg, led the participants in a good-spirited session of Breton and Celtic songs to which the Russian contingent present added even more life culminating in a truly Celto-Slavic celebration!

On Saturday morning, those participants who were able to stay took a tour bus to Locronan, the site where Saint Ronan of Ireland purportedly landed to convert the local inhabitants to Christianity. After a noon meal of crêpes and cidre, the group travelled on to Landevennec, the site of one of the oldest Brittonic abbeys in Brittany. Purportedly founded in the 5th century by the Cornish cleric, *Uuinuualoe* (Saint Gwenolé), the abbey was one of the most important ecclesiastical centres in all of Brittany throughout the Middle Ages. After a guided visit of the museum and abbey ruins, the participants returned to Quimper where we all parted ways.

This event would not have been possible without the hard work and financial assistance of several key players. Gary Manchec-German wishes to thank Isabelle Le Bal, of the city of Quimper, as well as the University of Western Brittany's Centre for Breton and Celtic Studies and its director Ronan Calvez along with the Pôle Pierre-Jakez Hélias administration for their generous contributions to this event.

Prof. Manchec-German offers special thanks to Mr David Lesvenan, Administrative Director, Pôle Pierre-Jakez Hélias, who tirelessly collaborated with him in coordinating the Breton Typology workshop and the Celto-Slavica Colloquium as well as in obtaining financial support to pay the participants' transportation costs around Quimper as well as subsidising their conference meals at the university restaurant and negotiating special rates at Apart'Hotel in Quimper. His diligent efforts and expertise were a vital key to the success of these events.

Finally, he thanks the student volunteers, Myrzinn Boucher-Durand and Claire Puget for having assisted and translated for participants throughout the four-day event. Both editors express their sincere gratitude to Dr Ksenia Kudenko for her assistance in preparing the colloquium programme and helping with different other matters. Our final thanks are due to all the participants and speakers at the colloquium whose contributions made it a very special and stimulating event.²

*University of Western Brittany's Centre for Breton and Celtic Research
Ulster University*

2. The following papers were also presented at the colloquium: Cameron Wachowich (Toronto) 'Orosius Insularis: Notes on the Transmission and Reception of the *Historiae adversus Paganos* in Ireland and England'; Oksana Dereza (Moscow) 'A Searchable Database of Old Irish Texts'; Tatiana Shingurova (Aberdeen) 'The Druid Mog Ruith and St Molaga: Two Heroes of Munster'; Dafydd Johnston (Aberystwyth) 'Some Examples of Calques from French into Middle Welsh'; Natalia Dolgorukova (Moscow) 'Tradition celtique dans le lai Chievrefueil de Marie de France'; Angelike H. Rüdiger (Bangor) 'The Druids and the Fairies: Searching for Wales' National Identity during the 18th and 19th Century'; Sabine Asmus and Eduard Werner (Leipzig) 'Aspect — a Linguistic Category in Insular Celtic and Slavic? The Case of Sorbian and Welsh'; Till Vogt (Leipzig) 'Breton and Lower Sorbian Word Order in Translations of the Gospel of Luke'; Ksenia Kudenko (Ulster) 'Possible Manuscript Source and Some Contextual Considerations for *Tochmarc Momera*'; Greg Darwin (Harvard) 'Scandinavian and Scottish Seals: Gaelic and Norse Tradition in the Scottish Multiforms of a Migratory Legend'; Nely van Seventer (Aberystwyth) 'Sibli Revisited: Textual Relationships between the Welsh Tiburtina in the Red and White Books, and Peniarth 14'; Sonja Schnabel (Marburg) 'How Did That End Up Here? — The Creative Work of Combining Motives in *An buhez sante Barba*'; Anna Muradova (Moscow) 'Breton-French Dictionary and Handbook: *Vocabulaire nouveau ou colloque français et breton* as a Testimony of the Colloquial Language'.

