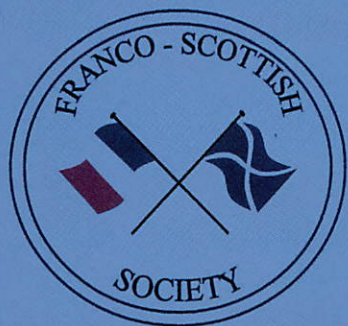


THE FRANCO-SCOTTISH SOCIETY



BULLETIN

2017 - 2018

THE FRANCO-SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND

2017-2018

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Cover: Rhododendrons at Arbuthnott House Gardens
(Photo by Andy Gordon, Aberdeen)

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Jacques Leruez (*AFE/Paris Branch*)
Sheila Lydvo (*St Andrews Branch*)
Ian MacLennan (*Glasgow Branch*)

Editor's Note

Chères lectrices, Chers lecteurs,

This 2017-2018 session has again been a very busy one for the Franco-Scottish Society both in its Branches and at the national level.

As you will see from the Branch Reports, a wide variety of talks on Franco-Scottish topics continues to be covered throughout the country. These have been given by external speakers or by members of the Society who offer to speak to their own or to another Branch. The « shared speaker » project with a *conférencier* invited from France is now a regular feature in February. Over the last couple of years and depending on the topic, different Branches have incorporated the event into their annual programme when possible. As well as talks, several Branches have organised different activities with a « French flavour », some in conjunction with other local societies or educational establishments.

The FSSS national projects continue, one with a change of name and funding: the *Lansdowne Prize*. This award for the highest achiever in Advanced Higher French is now entirely funded by the Society, the Lansdowne donation having run out. From and including the 2017-18 session, the prize has been renamed *The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland Prize*.

This year it was the turn of the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland to host the biennial French Exchange Visit. In June 2018 « *Edimbourg et les Borders* » provided nine well-filled days to renew old friendships and to create new ones with our sister branch *l'Association franco-écossaise*. We also remembered dear friends who are no longer with us. Many varied places and attractions were visited and convivial meals enjoyed in the course of which some interesting, familiar and unexpected intercultural anecdotes were exchanged.

Articles under the heading "French Connections", continue to cover a wide variety of topics. I have chosen them to allow for a balance in language and in thought-provoking content. Our Society welcomes all Francophiles, whatever their level of language or area of interest and I hope this issue will go some way in meeting their expectations.

As ever we are very grateful to contributors and members for articles and visuals, without which this Bulletin would not exist. This year I am also personally indebted to Janine Adamson, Geoff Hare and Tom Wight for their help and support in editing this issue.

(ACL)

BRANCH ACTIVITIES 2017– 2018

Aberdeen

Membership remains steady at 38 and talks are well attended. The 2017-18 season opened with a talk from Tom Wight on the subject of *La Reine Marguerite d'Ecosse*, followed in November by two representatives from the *French Film Festival* presenting the films coming to Aberdeen later that month. At the pre-Christmas meeting there had been a fun but challenging *quiz* devised by a member, Margaret Murray, followed by the traditional buffet. Annabel Stewart, Chair for the last six and a half years announced her intention to resign. She was presented with a gift in appreciation of all her hard work and dedication over the years. The January talk was given by Laurent Lesert, *Director of the Total French School, on his experience of education in Africa*. The February meeting was a *Members Night* with five presentations in French and English on members' experience in France. The March speaker, Odile Hughson, Edinburgh Branch, gave an illustrated talk in French on *L'histoire du châle et du motif dit de "paisley"*. Janine Adamson was a most welcome return speaker in April with her topic *Monet à Giverny*. The last speaker of the session was Elizabeth Baird, former National Secretary, who gave a very interesting talk on her association with the *European Cultural Route in the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson*. This was preceded by the Branch AGM, hosted as usual by Total, this year in their new premises at Westhill with a special welcome by their new Managing Director. The



annual May outing took members to Arbuthnott Estate to visit the historic house and to Catterline for lunch at the Creel Inn.

The Branch is saddened to record the death of Brenda Erlody after a long battle with cancer.

The 2018-19 session will see a change in the venue after the French School closes at the end of June. They have been offered a few classrooms at Albyn School which has kindly

offered to host FSS meetings free for the next academic session. The Head Teacher has been extremely cooperative and is very keen that the links between the English-speaking pupils and the French community should be fostered. He feels that the Franco-Scottish Society can help in this aim.

Alexander Gray Bequest: two Mackie Academy pupils received cheques to help them fund projects in Paris in the October break as part of their preparation for Advanced Higher French. Further cheques were also awarded to two Aberdeen University students; Naomi Henderson who is going to Tours for a year and Adam MacMaster who is going to Mulhouse in January following on from one term in Spain as part of his Joint Honours Degree. Francesca Silcock, a former student at Aboyne Academy now studying French and Spanish at Edinburgh University, also received a cheque.

Dumfries and Galloway

At its last AGM the Branch had decided, due to financial, time and geographic constraints to reduce the number of meetings with guest speakers to two in the autumn, two in the winter with possibly another in the spring plus the AGM.

At the first meeting in September the Branch heard a talk from one of its members Neil Taylor, a geologist who spoke on an asteroid strike in the *Limousin Region*. The November meeting welcomed Janine Adamson from Ayr to speak on *l'Auvergne à vol d'oiseau*. In February the Branch participated in the "shared speaker" project inviting Thierry Rechniewski with his talk on *Penmarc'h et quelques aspects du Pays Bigouden*. The March meeting had to be cancelled due to the severe winter conditions and Dr Geoffrey Hare's talk on *James Gordon Bennett et le New York Herald à Paris* was re-scheduled for June after the May AGM.

The Branch had a difficult year and membership dropped to single figures. Invitations will be going out to lapsed members to renew or come as guests. The

Branch would welcome any suggestions from the wider membership and friends. A different formula more adapted to the area and its constraints may be necessary in order to maintain a FSSS presence in South West Scotland.

Alexander Gray Bequest: So far there has not been any local interest for funding.

Edinburgh

The first meeting in September 2017 was the traditional *pot d'accueil*. Since the new venue of the French Institute was not yet ready, the event was held at the Résidence Consulaire and attracted many participants. At the October meeting Patrick Landri gave a talk in French on *le Roi François 1er*. At the third meeting Richard Mowe and Ilona Morison, directors of the annual French Film Festival gave an introduction/preview of the 2017 edition of the *French Film Festival*. This meeting was a joint event with the French Institute and attracted over 50 participants. In November Elizabeth Bryant from the Glasgow Branch gave an excellent talk on *La Normandie romane*. The *Fête de Noël* saw a very professional performance by the *National Youth Choir, Edinburgh Ensemble* of a selection of French and Scottish seasonal songs. The Ensemble repeated their performance at their own Christmas Concert in St Cuthbert's Church to which members of the Franco-Scottish Society Edinburgh Branch Committee were invited as special guests. In January John Cooper of the Edinburgh Branch gave a very revealing insight into *Autocracy & Democracy, Centralism & Individualism –A French Enigma*. Walter Perrie of the Perth Branch spoke of *John Law et la Banque de France* later in the month; a very successful event which was well attended. The guest speaker from France, Thierry Rechniewski from the *Association franco-écossaise*, also ensured a full house with his *Penchmarc'h et quelques aspects du Pays Bigouden* in February. The *Dîner des Membres* was held in a French restaurant in town. Special thanks



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went to Catherine and Geoff Hare for organising this very convivial evening.



organising this very convivial evening. *Celebrating Mary Stuart in Edinburgh: the use of civic space 1558 and 1561* was the title chosen by Dr Giovanna Guidicini for the penultimate meeting in April. The AGM was held on 9th May 2018, followed by a light hearted and personal account of the *Bizzareries of the French Language* by Tom Wight.

Alexander Gray Bequest: No monies were received from the Education Fund for 2017. The Branch recommended Castlebrae Community High School as a possible recipient. A grant was sent from central funds. The Lecture Fund was used for talks in French and to invite the "shared speaker", Thierry Rechniewski.

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Branch Funds were used to support the French Film Festival and to provide prizes for the Napier and Edinburgh University *Concours de l'écriture*.



Local Activities: The Chairman gave a talk to the Corstorphine History Society on "Thomas Blaikie in France". The Branch is active in the "Language Ambassadors" programme with a private donation for French publications sent directly to the school.

Glasgow

Membership stands at 60. New and younger members have joined. The new session of evening events resumed in September with a talk by Janine Adamson on *Monet and his Art and Gardens at Giverny*, followed in October by a presentation by Richard Mowe, director of the French Film Festival and his colleague, of films to be featured at the forthcoming *25th French Film Festival*. The talk represented a change of format and was very well received. The Branch gave a donation to the festival from its **own funds**. In November, Elizabeth Bryant presented *Regards sur la Normandie romane* and members also attended a guided visit in French at the Hunterian Art Gallery of the exhibition *The*

Truest Mirror of Life: 19th Century French Caricatures given by the curator, Dr Greg Kerr of the University of Glasgow Languages Department. In early December the Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary presented the certificate and cheque to the FSSS language-prize joint winner 2017, Joseph McGrath Williams, at a ceremony at the High School of Glasgow. He also attained the highest mark in Advanced Biology and is now studying medicine at Oxford University where he is a member of the French Society. The annual *Christmas Party* with traditional *vin chaud* took place mid-



December with songs and carols from the *Ullapool String Quartet* which included some Branch members. The

monthly Thursday evening meetings at Russell House continued in January 2018, with a talk by Tom Wight on *Thomas Blaikie (1751-1838), un paysagiste écossais en France pendant la Révolution Française*, followed in February, in common with other Branches, by Thierry Rechniewski's presentation *Penmarc'h et quelques aspects du Pays Bigouden* and in March by Colin Browning's *Sir Marc Brunel, ingénieur civil français*. The annual members' lunch served by college students in the catering department of the Anniesland campus followed later in March. The annual *concours de pétanque* was held on Bastille Day at Hillhead Sports Club followed by lunch in the restaurant.



Thanks are due to Colin Browning for taking over from Joe Cent in organizing this popular event which also attracted members from other Francophile groups in Glasgow.

Afternoon meetings *Quoi de Neuf*, on the first Monday of the month (except in August) continue at the Alliance Française, providing an opportunity to discuss, in a round-table format, items of personal interest around a pre-arranged theme. These are well attended and offer a social side during the interval between the monthly evening Branch meetings. The February discussion was

replaced by a debate which proved highly successful and will be repeated next year.

Alexander Gray Bequest: Glasgow City Council received a grant to assist the funding of technical support for the *Concours de la francophonie*. St Charles Primary School, Glasgow selected to represent Scotland at the final stage of the annual "Understanding Cinema Programme" at the *cinémathèque française*, received support to enable pupils to participate in the two-day event in Paris, plus a day as tourists using their French learnt at school. In June, Committee members attended the school and heard about the class's experience in film making and visiting Paris.

Inverness

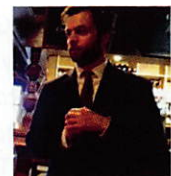
In 2017-18 the FSS of Inverness concentrated on the *promotion of French cinema*.

Following on from the presentation in October 2017 by Iona Morison, deputy director of the *French Film Festival*, the Branch worked closely with the FFF and the Eden Court Theatre. The screening of five French movies was organised with special discounts for members followed by the usual *French Dinner* at the Glen Mhor Hotel.

A *mini concert* with two guitarists singing *French songs* from the French repertoire was very well received by members and non-members. A *wine, cheese and charcuterie tasting* from a French "charcutière" based in the Highlands had been organized again following popular demand. The traditional *Christmas Party* in December and the popular *Bastille Day BBQ* in July are now part of the social calendar.

This year the Branch had 18 signed up-members, but it also went out of its way to attract French speaking temporary workers in the area. Thus, many more attend the *dinner after the events*, and this means there is always someone new for the members to discuss with in French.

On 19 May the Branch was delighted to host their first *FSSS AGM*. The turnout was particularly impressive and several members had decided to combine the meeting with a weekend in



the Highlands. The Chairman welcomed all delegates with particular thanks to those who had come from afar. In the afternoon several members of the Branch organised a visit to Culloden Battlefield and Clava Cairns.

For its next programme the Branch will be working on special events with the literary club.

Alexander Gray Bequest was used again to support a local school trip to Paris, this time for Inverness High School who were very grateful as they thought they would have to cancel the trip due to lack of funds.

Perth

Current membership stands at 30 and the Branch has welcomed new attendees as non-members. The Branch continues to meet in the Royal George Hotel which helps provide a convivial location after the talks. These are publicised in pamphlet form as well as on the website. Meetings are well attended with many presentations given by members on a wide variety of subjects. **Links** have been successfully established with the Cognac Society, the Perth Film Society, the Council's Education Department as well as interaction with other Branches of the FSSS.

The 2017-18 season started in October with *La Fête du Cinéma*, an entertaining presentation of the French Film Festival celebrating its 25th anniversary. Organisers of the Perth Film Festival were invited with whom links have now been established. They will screen a French film for the Branch in next season's programme. At the November meeting a local teacher, Pauline Bourbigot, gave a presentation on the French music festival *Les Vieilles Charrues*. In December, Marie Christine Graham talked about *Les Chateaux de la Loire*.

Last year's Perth Branch winner of the Alexander Gray Award, Ben Hood, gave a report in French on his stay in Bordeaux and Paris. An *Epiphany Lunch* was held in January at the Royal George with a *recital of French songs* given by two local teachers, followed by a *lunch-time talk* in February on *Penmarc'h et quelques aspects du Pays Bigouden* by Thierry Rechniewski. The next evening-talk was given by Walter Perrie, illustrated by Christopher

Lindsay, on *John Law et la Banque de France. L'alcool et nous au cours des âges* by Michel Perombelon rounded off the year's programme.

The Branch extends special thanks to committee members for their support and more especially to long standing members now demitting: Michel Perombelon, Françoise Perombelon and Ginette Gervais-MacWilliam. The Branch is indebted to them for their years of loyalty, time and effort. Joëlle Fabre is now Hon. Treasurer.

Alexander Gray Bequest: The winners of the competition organised by the Perth Branch in conjunction with local schools were Rebecca Peedle (1st prize) and Eleanor Senior (Runner up). The award was presented by Cllr Willie Robertson at Kinross High School in the presence of fellow students and teachers.

St Andrews

The 2017-18 programme commenced in September with excellent reports from Elmwood College Hospitality students and Waid Academy school pupils on how the Gray Bequest had benefitted them and their fellow students. At the end of October, Richard Mowe whetted members' appetites with an overview and snapshots of the films that were to be shown as part of the *French Film Festival* in November 2017 in various locations in Scotland. In November the Branch welcomed one of its members, Professor Malcolm Scott, who gave a talk on *Americans in Paris, Français en Amérique, the Rise and Fall of the Franco-American Revolutionary Alliance*. December saw a large number of members enjoying a *Pre-Christmas Lunch* at Café Montmartre in Dundee. In January 2018, Fiona Dakin, a PhD student in the French department, gave a talk *From Matisse to Manga: Illustrations of the Poetic Works of Charles Baudelaire, 1888-2017*. For February, members and guests from the Loches - St. Andrews Alliance visited the Hospitality Suite at Elmwood College Cupar where the HND students and staff produced a superb *French themed lunch*. In March, members were invited to join a *Transgenerational Creative Writing Session* organised by Dr Elise Hugueny-Leger from the French department

at the University. The theme was *je me souviens* and when read out, group members had to guess the year. The final talk in April was by Dr Joe Carson from St. Andrews University entitled *French Theatre*. The Branch AGM was held in May.

Branch Joint Projects: on-going discussion with Aberdeen Branch for co-operative exchanges and projects in the autumn. Possibility of a visit to the new V & A opening in Dundee, combined with a lunch.

Alexander Gray Bequest: was used for supporting two school exchanges for Waid Academy and Madras College and, in conjunction with the Cupar Twinning Committee, support for a student from Elmwood College for a placement in a patisserie in Sainte Menéhould.

Society News

Le Concours de la Francophonie

The international day of *la francophonie*, a tribute to the French Language, is celebrated all over the world on 20 March. In Scotland, every young person is entitled to learn 2 languages in the "Broad General Education" and a majority of school communities have chosen French as their second language.

This Scotland based competition is now in its third year and the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland was pleased to continue its sponsorship of the *Concours de la francophonie*.

The school competition was launched in 2016 to support and encourage teachers and learners of French at primary and secondary level. The competition is open to all primary and secondary schools in Scotland. They are required to submit a short video of a class production in French. The judging takes place in two phases, a semi-final at Council level, with a special semi-final for Independent Schools, followed by a national final. This year semi-final entries were submitted by the Councils of Aberdeen City, Angus, Argyll and Bute, Dundee City, East Lothian, Edinburgh City, Glasgow City, North Ayrshire, Perth and Kinross, Shetland Islands, Stirling, West Lothian and from various Independent

Schools. The national panel of judges was made up of: Toria Fraser, Languages Unit, Curriculum Unit, Scottish Government; Louise Glen, Senior Education Officer, Education Scotland; Judith McKerrecher, Professional Development Officer, SCILT and Thomas Chaurin, Education Attaché, Institut français d'Écosse.

The results were: Category P1/P4

Premier prix: Maisondieu PS, Brechin – Angus Council – P3 – for "Minibeast Madness".

Deuxième prix ex aequo: Dunning PS, Auchterarder – Perth & Kinross Council – P2/3 – for "La météo" and Kirn PS – Argyll and Bute Council – P1 – for "Comment ça va aujourd'hui?"

Category P5/P7

Premier prix: Doune PS – Stirling Council – P7 – for "Le Ballon rouge".

Deuxième prix : Aberlemno PS – Angus Council – P1/7 – for « Histoire de Noël ».

Category S1/S3

Premier prix: Mid Yell Junior School – Shetland Islands Council – S2 – for "Ciné Yell".

Deuxième prix: The Mary Erskine School – Independent School – S2 – for "La mauvaise note".

Le Prix spécial de la créativité

Clermiston Primary School – City of Edinburgh Council – P7 – for « Au café ».

First-prize winners were invited to celebrate *la journée mondiale de la francophonie* on Friday 23 March at the Institut français d'Écosse. Learners took part in French activities and received a selection of French books. First-prize winners who were not able to travel that day were awarded a "French immersion day" organised in their school in Spring 2018.

Second-prize winners and the special-award winner received a selection of French books.

The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland was represented by its President, Lord Brodie and members of the Edinburgh Branch Committee.



A "shared speaker" from France

In February 2018 the Society welcomed Thierry Rechniewski of the *Association franco-écossaise* to speak to Branches of the FSSS. Monsieur Rechniewski gave a talk on *Penmarc'h et quelques aspects du Pays Bigouden* to four of the Branches (Perth, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfries and Galloway) all of whom were delighted by his lecture.



The FSSS Language Prize and FSSS Lecture

The Fund which provided the prizes for the Lansdowne Language Prize and for the Lansdowne Lecture is now exhausted. At the AGM in 2015, it was agreed that the Society would continue to provide a prize to the student with the highest mark in Advanced Higher French from its own funds and also continue to organise a biennial lecture, while seeking additional sponsorship from other sources.

The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland Language Prize. In 2017-18 two students obtained the highest mark in Advanced Higher French and both were awarded the first renamed FSSS Language Prize (See separate feature.)

The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland Lecture. The Edinburgh Branch of the Society has agreed to offer sponsorship for this first edition in November 2018 (More details in next year's Bulletin.)

The Annual General Meeting 2018

At the 2017 AGM a discussion on the organisation and venue of subsequent AGMs had arisen. Would it be more convenient to hold the AGM each year in the Central Belt (i.e. in Glasgow and/or Edinburgh) or to continue to ask each Branch in turn to host and organise the meeting?

The 2018 AGM was scheduled to take place for the first time in Inverness, the FSSS' youngest branch. The discussion was

continued at branch level and a poll subsequently conducted to ask every member which option they preferred and whether they would be willing to travel to Inverness to ensure a quorum for the 2018 AGM. A clear majority felt that rotating the AGM venue was preferable and that travelling to Inverness would not pose a problem and could even offer the chance of a weekend break.

The Society would like to thank the members of the Inverness Branch for their welcome in May and for the quality of the organisation. Attendance turned out to be remarkably high with many more members of the Aberdeen and Perth Branches able to attend. The members from all the Branches agreed that the 2018 AGM was a great success.



The Biennial Exchange Visit

In June 2018 it was the turn of the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland to welcome members of the *Association franco-écossaise*. They had expressed the wish to visit Edinburgh and the Borders. A nine-day programme was submitted to the AFE for approval and 18 members of the Society were welcomed in June. The visit was deemed a great success by both the French members and by the Scottish members who joined the group on several occasions for outings and local activities. (See separate feature.)

The next Exchange Visit will be in France in 2020. Suggestions for the area of France to visit are very welcome. At the time of going to press, suggestions range from Hauts-de-France to Provence or Bourgogne.

Visite de l'AFE
à
Edimbourg
et
dans les Borders

The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland Language Prize 2017-2018

There were two joint winners of the FSSS Prize 2017-18 (formerly the Lansdowne Prize): Vicki Harrison, who studied French at Edinburgh College and Joseph McGrath Williams, a student at the High School of Glasgow.

They both scored 192 out of 200 in the Advanced Higher French exam, the highest mark in the country. They were among 774 candidates across Scotland who sat the exam. The Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland awards the prize annually to the candidate who achieves the best mark in Advanced Higher French.

Vicki Harrison achieved her success while carrying out her full-time job as a risk manager for a bank and her role as a mother of three (aged 8, 11 and 13). She decided to study French through a desire to continue learning and expand upon the other languages she has studied – Italian and German. She is now studying Spanish.

The prize was presented to Vicki by Lord Brodie, President of the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland.

The Chairman, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer of the Edinburgh Branch of the Franco-Scottish Society were present at the ceremony organised by the Edinburgh College.



The Chairman, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary of the Glasgow Branch of the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland were pleased to attend a ceremony at the High School of Glasgow to award the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland Language Prize 2017-18 to Joseph McGrath Williams who also attained the highest mark in Advanced Higher French. The Chairman of the Glasgow Branch of the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland made a short speech and gave Joseph his certificate and cheque for £200. Joseph is now studying medicine at Oxford University and is a member of the French Club.



EXCHANGE VISIT 2017 -2018

The biennial exchange visit is organised by the Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland or the Association Franco-Écossaise in France for members of these sister societies.

The 2017-2018 visit took place in Scotland

Edimbourg et les Borders, du 5 au 13 juin 2018

Mardi 5 juin

Les 18 membres de l'Association franco-écossaise arrivent de Paris en début de soirée avec un léger retard à l'aéroport d'Edimbourg. Ils sont accueillis par des membres de la Franco-Scottish Society d'Edimbourg et de Glasgow.



Un car les conduit à l'hôtel *Hilton Edinburgh Carlton* au centre de la Vieille Ville. Une fois installés tous se retrouvent dans une salle privée pour un « diner de retrouvailles » où plusieurs membres écossais se joignent au groupe.



Mercredi 6 juin

Ce premier jour sera consacré à la *Old Town*. La visite de la cathédrale St Giles, the *High Kirk of Edinburgh*, se fait avec un guide francophone. L'église actuelle date du 14e siècle mais a subi d'importantes restaurations au cours du 19e siècle. Elle est dédiée à St Giles, le saint patron d'Edimbourg.



Ensuite, le président de la Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland, Lord Brodie invite le groupe à visiter *Parliament House*, l'ancien parlement d'Ecosse, actuellement la Cour suprême. Le groupe assiste à un procès avant de passer à la bibliothèque de la Cour. On y a sorti un certain nombre de documents anciens pour consultation par les visiteurs français et écossais de la société franco-écossaise.

Après un déjeuner au fameux restaurant du musée national d'Ecosse, *The Tower*

Restaurant, le groupe descend le *Royal Mile* (la *High Street* et *Canongate*) à pied en compagnie de Forbes MacNaughton, ancien membre de la FSSS et guide officiel francophone. Il assure également la visite de *Holyrood Palace*, résidence royale depuis le 16e siècle. La reine Elizabeth II y passe généralement une semaine au début de l'été pour investiture et autres affaires officielles.



La visite du palais et de l'exposition dans la *Queen's Gallery* ont offert une après-midi bien remplie avant de regagner l'hôtel.



Jeudi 7 juin

Sorties à la périphérie d'Edimbourg. Une visite à *Linlithgow Palace* s'impose- le palais dont les imposantes ruines dominant la petite ville, où Jacques V est né et où Marie Stuart est devenue reine d'Ecosse six jours après sa naissance. On y trouve la seule statue d'elle en Ecosse, inaugurée le 25 avril 2015 grâce aux efforts de la *Mary Stuart Society* et de leur dévouée présidente. La Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland et l'Association franco-écossaise ont participé à ce projet.



Ensuite, l'autocar emmène le groupe à *Hopetoun House*, résidence de la famille Hope au bord de l'estuaire du Forth. On y déjeune au restaurant aménagé dans les anciennes écuries avant de passer à la visite de cette magnifique



demeure. La famille Hope est associée à l'exploitation de mines de plomb. En 1699, la construction de Hopetoun House est confiée à Sir William Bruce. Dès 1721, William Adam est chargé d'agrandir le manoir et à sa mort l'aménagement intérieur est confié à ses deux fils, John et Robert.



Sur la route du retour à Edimbourg, le groupe fait un arrêt rapide pour admirer les trois ponts sur le Forth : le *Forth Railway Bridge* (1890), le *Forth Road Bridge* (1964) et le tout dernier *Queensferry Crossing* (2017).

Vendredi 8 juin

Sous un soleil radieux, le premier contact avec les Borders. Le car



passé par *Scotts View* qui domine la rivière Tweed et les *Eidon Hills*, un des endroits préférés de Sir Walter Scott, avant d'arriver à

l'abbaye de Dryburgh. Celle-ci a été fondée en 1150 et dès 1152 l'ordre des Prémontrés y est établi. L'histoire de l'abbaye est assez mouvementée, incendiée à deux reprises et reconstruite, c'est au 15e siècle qu'elle vivra ses plus glorieuses heures. C'est ici que reposent Sir Walter Scott et Douglas Haig.

Après un déjeuner agréable au *Dryburgh Abbey Hotel*, le groupe se rend à *Mellerstain House*, la résidence des Comtes d'Haddington. La construction et l'aménagement intérieur sont l'œuvre de William Adam et de ses fils. Cette contribution familiale dote l'ensemble d'une remarquable harmonie, une homogénéité que

l'on retrouve dans la décoration intérieure. Un

escalier majestueux, des plafonds aux tracés délicats, un bel ameublement et de superbes peintures font de Mellerstain un des joyaux de l'architecture de l'Ecosse du 18e siècle.



Samedi 9 juin

Une deuxième journée consacrée à Edimbourg, de nouveau en compagnie de Forbes MacNaughton comme guide, et cette fois dans le quartier *New Town*. En 1766, J. Craig s'est vu confier la construction de la Nouvelle Ville qui devait être harmonieuse et strictement résidentielle, une enclave privilégiée au cœur de la capitale pour une classe sociale très aisée.



On commence par la visite de la *Georgian House* qui appartient désormais au *National Trust of Scotland* et qui est l'un des sites les plus visités à Edimbourg. Ensuite une promenade le long de *Queen Street* avec un arrêt rapide à la *Scottish National Portrait Gallery* où le car attend le groupe pour aller à Duddingston déjeuner à l'auberge *Sheep Heid*

le plus ancien « pub » d'Ecosse : le seul qui ait accueilli la Reine actuelle, qui s'y est arrêtée un jour pour « prendre un pot ».



L'après-midi est dédiée à une virée sous un soleil agréable dans les jardins botaniques d'Edimbourg. Par ordre d'ancienneté ce sont les deuxièmes du Royaume-Uni derrière ceux d'Oxford. Leur création remonte au *Physic Garden* de 1670. Depuis le début du 19e siècle le *Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh* se trouve



sur le site actuel de Inverleith Row. Il représente non seulement un lieu touristique avec de belles vues sur la ville, mais un centre de renommée mondiale pour l'étude des plantes.

Dimanche 10 juin

Retour dans les Borders avec un premier arrêt au petit musée de North Berwick où Anne Cowan, journaliste et membre de la FSS d'Edimbourg, accueille le groupe. Le *North Berwick Coastal Communities Museum* est un vrai bijou. On y trouve une exposition



de la route de pèlerinage vers St Andrews qui tentait de surpasser celle à partir de South Queensferry, ainsi qu'un historique de cette station balnéaire de North Berwick, où la famille de Robert Louis Stevenson passait les vacances d'été, et dix mille ans d'histoire et de préhistoire dans ce musée dont des guides bénévoles assurent la gestion. Ce dimanche ils accueillent tout spécialement le groupe franco-écossais et ont fait appel à une descendante de RLS qui parle français.

Le car repart par la route qui longe la côte et descend vers le Northumbria en Angleterre. La vue sur la mer et les paysages est superbe surtout sous le soleil qui continue à gâter les visiteurs.

Après le *Sunday Lunch* traditionnel en attendant la marée basse, le car traverse la



chaussée pour se rendre sur la *Holy Island of Lindisfarne*. Quelques gouttes de pluie et un vent glacial ne gâchent cependant pas le moment passé sur cette île, ancien centre de christianisme celtique. On y visite le musée et les ruines aménagées du monastère fondé au 7e siècle par le moine irlandais St Aidan venu de Iona, monastère qui fut pendant des siècles un centre religieux et un lieu de pèlerinage. Sir Walter Scott a consacré un poème aux « humbles pèlerins de Lindisfarne ». *...Dry shod o'er sands, twice every day/ The pilgrims to the shrine find way, / Twice every day, the waves efface / of staves and sandalled feet the trace.*

Le retour se fait par les *Lammermuirs* et montre le deuxième visage des Borders – la lande, un paysage lunaire et des moutons à perte de vue.

Lundi 11 juin

Inauguré en 1998 le *National Museum of Scotland* abrite plus de 10.000 objets, œuvres d'art, bijoux et armes à travers lesquels le visiteur peut voyager depuis les origines géologiques jusqu'à nos jours. Le groupe est accueilli par Xavier Dectot, ancien directeur du musée Louvre - Lens et depuis 2016 directeur du département Art et Design au NMS. Il présente une sélection d'objets



franco-écossais dont plusieurs sont les objets personnels de Napoléon Bonaparte acquis par le Duc de Hamilton après la chute de Napoléon en 1815. Ensuite, chacun fait sa propre visite selon ses centres d'intérêts avant de se retrouver et se rendre au fameux restaurant *Collonades* à la *Signet Library* sur la place de l'ancien parlement. Le déjeuner est servi dans cette ancienne bibliothèque dont les rayons regorgent de textes de lois ; une salle de toute beauté avec une décoration d'époque.



L'après-midi est consacrée à la visite de *Rosslyn Chapel* à quelques kilomètres d'Edimbourg. La chapelle de Rosslyn a été construite au 15e siècle, créée pour William Sinclair, dernier Prince Saint-Clair d'Orkney, descendant des Chevaliers Normands de Saint-Clair et liée, selon la légende, aux Chevaliers du Temple.



La chapelle est connue pour un nombre important de sculptures, gravures et décorations, parmi ces éléments les piliers du Maître et celui de l'Apprenti, de chaque côté du pilier de l'Artisan, sont particulièrement remarquables.

Mardi 12 juin

Dernière excursion en dehors d'Edimbourg. Le groupe traverse l'estuaire par le nouveau *Queensferry Crossing* et se rend dans le Fife pour visiter le "palais" de *Culross*, la demeure d'un entrepreneur écossais du 16e siècle, Sir George Bruce. Aux 16e et 17e siècles la petite ville de Culross était un centre important de l'industrie minière, et possédait la seule mine au monde qui s'étendait sous la mer. Culross avait aussi une industrie de salaisons de poissons et une activité portuaire importante.



Une visite rapide de la maison et de son jardin avant de reprendre la route de Stirling par le pont de Kincardine pour déjeuner au *Stirling Highland Hotel*, une ancienne école victorienne. L'après-midi visite du château.



Stirling Castle est l'un des plus grands et des plus importants châteaux d'Ecosse aussi bien du point de vue

historique qu'architectural. Erigé sur un piton volcanique, il est entouré sur trois côtés par des falaises à pic, ce qui le rendait quasiment imprenable. Les bâtiments datent du 14e, 15e et 16e siècle. Visite du grand hall, de la grande chapelle royale, du palais royal avec les appartements de la reine et du roi et les fameuses tapisseries de la Chasse à la Licorne.

Le guide attire l'attention sur les liens avec la France : le travail des massons français, Marie de Guise veuve de Jacques V qui y a vécu en tant que régente et Marie Stuart qui y est couronnée en 1543.



Retour à Edimbourg. **Le soir apéritif et repas de gala** à l'hôtel. Ambiance amicale et

conviviale, échanges et discours où on constate combien ces visites contribuent à créer de nouveaux liens et à renforcer ceux qui existent de longue date, liens non seulement au niveau de l'amitié mais aussi dans le domaine d'échanges pour de futurs projets en commun.



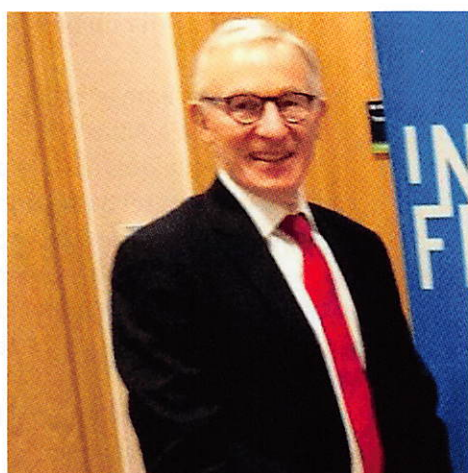
Mercredi 13 juin

Jour de départ. On traverse la ville une dernière fois pour se rendre à l'aéroport, avec plein de souvenirs *d'Edinburgh and the Borders* en tête et malgré la confusion provoquée par le nouveau système d'enregistrement à l'aéroport et le retard du vol, le groupe s'envole pour Paris et les pensées se tournent vers la prochaine visite : rendez-vous dans deux ans, en France.

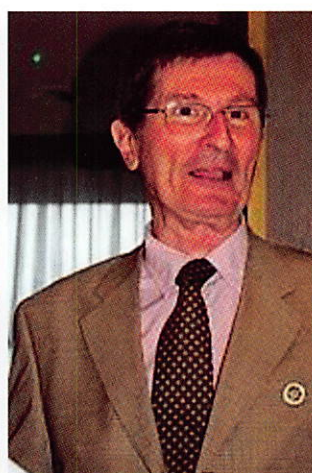


(J.Adamson ,A-C Lequet, T Wight)

Les présidents des deux Associations



Philip Brodie (FSSS)



Thierry Rechniewski (AFE)

FRENCH CONNECTIONS

A Fable made owre intil Scots



THE REIVERS AN THE DUNKEY

Owre a rookit Dunkey twa Reivers focht:
The ane list tae keep it, t'ither tae sell.
An aa the while their fell dunts wrocht,
An oor heroes socht tae fend thirsell,
There comes anither ruffian;
Wi Maister Dunkey aff he'll rin.

Erstwhiles the Dunkey is a wee bit state:
The reiver sic or sic a potentate,
Israel, Russia or America mibbe.
Instead o twa, l've gien ye three:
There's feck sic property tae fin.
But aft-times nane o thaim the spulyie win:
A fowrth comes e, wha leaves them aa free
Himsel makin aff wi the Dunkey.

LES VOLEURS ET L'ANE

Pour un Ane enlevé deux Voleurs se battoient:
L'un vouloit le garder, l'autre le vouloit
vendre.
Tandis que coups de poing trottoient,
Et que nos champions songeoient à se
defendre,
Arrive un troisième larron
Qui saisit maître Aliboron.
L'Ane, c'est quelquefois une pauvre province:
Les voleurs sont tel ou tel prince,
Comme le Transylvain, le Turc, et le Hongrois.
Au lieu de deux, j'en ai rencontré trois:
Il est assez de cette marchandise.
De nul d'eux n'est souvent la province
conquise:
Un quart voleur survient, qui les accorde net
En se saisissant du Baudet.

*(From "Twelve Fables – Jean de La Fontaine –
made owre intil Scots" by Walter Perrie)*

MARIE STUART
(For Michael Granger)



J'étais reine couronnée de France,
je suis, par Dieu, la reine d'Écosse,
ended the feast, the courtly dance,
the queen of loss.

No loss, black burning loss, can blot
my soul; their prudent treason,
triumph of all that I am not;
my son, my barren cousin on her throne.

Betrayed by sex and by my heart,
I loved the beautiful, the false, the weak;
no mortal man is set apart.
How soon they break!

Weak, so I loved and weaker lost,
cut out my heart, cut off my head!
Cheated of life I pay the cost;
they will not cheat me of my God.

(Poem: to be published next year by **Fras**
in a new collection of poems « **Histories** » by
Walter Perrie.)

Photo: figurine by A Davidson for Mary Stuart
Society statue at Linlithgow Palace.)

When I was at the Sorbonne...

(The following article by a member of the FSSS was
first published in **France Magazine**
www.completefrance.com. under the title "Summer
at the Sorbonne". We are grateful to them for
allowing us to re-print the feature, as well as to the
Sorbonne press office for allowing us to reproduce
the photos.)



The idea was irresistible.
According to an article in
The Times, for the
modest fee of around

400€, you too, dear reader, could be a student
at the Sorbonne in Paris.

The *université d'été en Sorbonne* was
targeting "students, expats and retired
couples" as well as other Francophiles
worldwide. The lure of the Left Bank proved
seductive. I fell for it. Not only would I greatly
enjoy this new experience, but for the rest of
my life I would be able to say, "When I was at
the Sorbonne..."

But before you get too excited at the
prospect, it has to be said that, as with many
ancient universities, most lectures do not take
place in historic amphitheatres beneath
splendid domes. Paris-Sorbonne University's
summer school is based at 28 *Rue Serpente*, a
seven-minute walk, downhill then left, from
the iconic building we see on post cards.

The *université d'été* runs for four weeks in
July, but many students opt to attend for one
week, as I did. I arrived on the Monday
morning, a very mature fresher, for my first
day ever at a university. The entrance hall was
a milling throng of students signing in,
chatting, drinking coffee and each receiving a
large canvas Sorbonne-goody-bag complete
with branded pen and notebook.

It was a lively gathering. We ranged from
teenagers to pensioners, a cosmopolitan
bunch, speaking in many tongues as well as
French, and delighted to be here. We certainly
were not going to keep ourselves to
ourselves. Members of the administrative
staff and academic doyenne, Dr Catherine
Helbert, were busy helping us and seemed to
be enjoying the social buzz and general
activity too.

Most of us were Francophone, as well as
Francophile. However, you do not necessarily
have to know any French to attend this
summer school. There is always at least one
course in English. A survey found that 85 %
of the summer school intake was not French.
In all, 41 nationalities were represented and
51% of the students were in the age range 18-
25. Indeed, the international camaraderie was
to prove one of the many pleasures of the
course.

It is better to arrive early on your first day to
get your bearings. One day I dashed in late to
the wrong lecture and stayed. I could hardly

believe my luck when the subject turned out to be *Paris au miroir du cinéma*.

Confident that I knew something about the subject, I opened my Sorbonne notebook and scribbled *Gigi*, *Charade* and *Amélie* in case we were asked. Wrong! How could I have been so naive? This lecture dived in at the deep end, to cinematography with splashes of psychology and philosophy, none of your technicolour froth. In moody, grainy 1952 black and white the Eiffel Tower was the character, moving around and awash with symbolism. Atmosphere too, which was, after all, what I was here for. I was starting to like this approach to Paris in films.

After Tuesday's lecture I met up with Neil Johnston from Ireland, a Sorbonne summer school regular. Over drinks at a café terrace, I put it to him that one *cycle* (a course of 15 hours spread over 5 days, Monday to Friday) could seem more cerebral and rarefied than another. *La femme française: femme fatale? Un mythe qui perdure?* or *Paris, capitale touristique*, might lack the gravitas of *Les intellectuels et le pouvoir sous l'empire romain*.

Neil was quick to disabuse me of any such notion. "These are all academic level courses, it's serious stuff," he said. "Most of the lecturers are faculty staff of this prestigious, world-class university. We are getting the crème de la crème. This is not watered down, it is one-size-fits-all rigorous."

So how are we students selected? It is self-selection Neil told me, first come, first served. I still had qualms knowing how quickly French people speak but I was assured that the lecturers tend to check that everyone can hear and is "getting it".

As I was soon to learn, it is no big deal to put your hand up and ask a lecturer if they would repeat difficult numbers such as 1789 more slowly. Fortunately, in one class I sat next to Joan, a 17-year old Catalan speaker, who discreetly translated dates from French into English for me. Then, at the interval, he went to the piano and delighted us all by quietly playing the most beautiful classical music.

Meeting people from around the world, fellow Francophiles, was *formidable*. (French pronunciation). Nothing was formidable

(English pronunciation) except maybe my *bête noir*, *les chiffres*. Neil had assured me that the ear becomes accustomed to listening to French and it was much the same for taking notes. Amazingly, I found myself scribbling away in French, automatically putting in the accents.

The Sorbonne does offer language classes as well but, in the *cycles*, the French language is the medium, and you choose your message from a range of disciplines - *philosophie*, *histoire*, *histoire de l'art*, *littérature*, *géographie*, *biologie*, *physique*.

In the interests of journalism, I was allowed to adopt a pick-and-mix approach to the various *cycles* and found myself fascinated by lectures which would not have been my first choice. 'Graeco-Roman Rhetoric', for example, and 'The Enlightenment after Leibniz' or 'Modernity and Post Modernity'. I went in to each of these lectures hardly even understanding the title, and came out wanting to learn more.

When I canvassed opinion, two particular reactions stood out. One was that being a Sorbonne student is completely different from coming to Paris as a tourist. During the week, I came to regard steep, narrow *Rue Mouffetard* as my local high street and *Café Delmas*, in villagey *Place de la Contrescarpe*, as my neighbourhood café.

In *Place de La Sorbonne* waiters at *L'Ecritoire Café* got to know my unusual order. At the *Librairie Philosophique* opposite, I bought a slim volume, *Philosophie de la Mode* by the late 19th century sociologist Georg Simmel. The book cost 6.20€, a fraction of the price of my usual Paris souvenir, the collections issue of French *Vogue*. Importantly, it was smaller and much lighter to pack for the journey home.

The other response was an appreciation of meeting people from different countries and nowhere was this more evident than at the *Remise des Certificats*. On that final Friday, our studies over, we were back in the entrance hall of 28 *Rue Serpente*. There was celebration in the air as Dr Helbert congratulated the students and presented us with certificates of attendance. After the applause, photographs and cheering from

classmates, our student days were over, for this year at least.

I had been class hopping, so was not with any particular group, but as I left, Kate Keenan, who lives in Bath, asked me to join her group for a drink.

So, there we all were in a café, the young and lovely, a grandfather and physicist from New York State, a teacher from Windsor, Joan the pianist and translator, and Kate, the occupational psychologist and author, who, inspired by previous Sorbonne courses, was staying on in Paris to do a Masters degree. There was plenty of chat and stories to tell.

That evening, school teacher Mat, another student, emailed. "Class farewell "do" tomorrow night, steak and chips in L'Entrecôte, meet at St-Germain-des-Prés".



It was a great night out. On our way back Rue de Buci was in full Saturday night mode, and there were fond farewells all round.

Immersing students in French culture, at one of the world's most prestigious universities, against the backdrop of the City of Light, puts this summer school in a class of its own. I have already signed up for the Sorbonne this July.

(Anne Cowan, Edinburgh)

La Résistance : les Mythes.

L'idée d'un mythe

Pourquoi ce titre ? Quand je parle d'un mythe, je n'entends pas une fiction imaginaire mais plutôt des faits qui tentent d'expliquer une situation et qui peuvent aussi servir à justifier des actions de dirigeants ou à donner un sens d'identité à un peuple. Je vais parler du mythe gaulliste de la Résistance, un mythe toujours contesté, et de plus en plus depuis le décès du Général, mais qui fut longtemps le mythe central.

Le contexte historique

Ce mythe il convient de le mettre dans son contexte historique. Depuis la Révolution il y a en France deux traditions politiques

opposées. A droite une tradition conservatrice, catholique, autoritaire et souvent, antisémite. A gauche, une tradition républicaine, laïque et démocratique, une tradition moins homogène à cause des rivalités entre radicaux, socialistes et communistes. Résultat : une France très divisée. Cette France divisée, les Allemands l'envahirent le 10 mai 1940 et la subjuguèrent en six semaines. Le 17 juin le gouvernement de Paul Reynaud, le dernier de la Troisième République, fut remplacé par celui du vieux Maréchal Pétain, vénéré héros de Verdun. Trois jours après, Pétain signait un armistice avec les Allemands qui divisait la France en



trois zones (je simplifie), le Nord et l'Ouest occupés par les Allemands, une petite zone dans le Sud-Est occupée par les Italiens, et une soi-disant zone libre dans le Centre où Pétain allait installer sa capitale à Vichy, suivit un gouvernement autoritaire qui remplaça les mots clefs de la Révolution - Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité - par Travail, Famille, Patrie, un triomphe pour la Droite traditionnelle qui, avouons - le, fut volontiers accepté par bien des Français.

Laissons un moment cette France vaincue et humiliée et faisons maintenant un saut dans le temps jusqu'en juin 1944 au moment de la Libération de Paris. Imaginez De Gaulle descendant triomphalement les Champs d'Élysées jusqu'à l'Hôtel de Ville où il prononça ce célèbre discours :

« Paris. Paris outragé. Paris brisé. Paris martyrisé. Mais Paris libéré. Libéré par lui-même. Libéré par son peuple avec le concours des armées de la France, avec l'appui et le concours de la France entière, de la France qui se bat, de la seule France, de la vraie France, de la France éternelle. »

Les éléments du mythe gaulliste

Maintenant faisons un autre saut dans le temps. L'année suivante, grand défilé à Paris le 18 juin, jour anniversaire de l'appel de De Gaulle de Londres, un appel qui, selon le mythe gaulliste, marqua le début de la Résistance. Mais ce fut surtout un défilé

militaire qui accorda peu de place à la Résistance intérieure. Ajoutons que De Gaulle créa l'Ordre des Compagnons de la Libération pour honorer ceux qui avaient lutté contre les Allemands. Sur les 1,038 membres de cet Ordre, 81% étaient des officiers et 0,6% étaient des femmes. Considérez ces trois faits et vous comprendrez l'essentiel du mythe gaulliste : l'armée était au cœur de la Résistance et, selon De Gaulle, "l'immense majorité des Français, sauf une poignée de misérables et d'indignes " avait soutenu l'armée, la Résistance intérieure était peu importante et les femmes n'y étaient pour rien, une Résistance, donc, militaire et masculine.

En créant ce mythe, De Gaulle avait deux objectifs, premièrement redonner le moral à une France vaincue et humiliée, suggérer aux Français et au monde que la France était toujours une grande puissance mondiale et deuxièmement minimiser le rôle de la Résistance intérieure où les communistes avaient joué un rôle crucial.

La Résistance : la contribution des forces françaises



Examinons maintenant les trois éléments de ce mythe. Commençons par la contribution de l'armée à la libération de la France. Selon le mythe gaulliste, la Résistance armée commença avec le discours du 18 juin 1940 émis par la BBC quand De Gaulle lança cet appel aux Français. *« Il est nécessaire de grouper partout où cela se peut une force française aussi grande que possible Moi, Général De Gaulle, j'entreprends ici en Angleterre cette tâche nationale. J'invite tous les militaires des armées françaises, j'invite les ingénieurs et les ouvriers français spécialistes de l'armement qui se trouvent dans les territoires britanniques à se réunir à moi. J'invite les chefs, les soldats, les marins, les aviateurs où qu'ils se trouvent actuellement à se mettre en rapport avec moi. J'invite tous les Français qui veulent être libres à m'écouter et à me suivre. Vive la France libre dans l'honneur et l'indépendance »*

Avec le temps, ce discours acquit une importance symbolique mais en juin 1940 peu de Français l'entendirent. Le chaos régnait en France. Des millions fuyaient les troupes allemandes - un exode décrit par Irène Nemirovsky dans la première partie de son roman *« Suite Française »* et même ceux qui l'entendirent ne se rallièrent pas à De Gaulle. Après l'Armistice, les soldats en Grande Bretagne pouvaient choisir de rentrer en France. Dans un corps de Chasseurs Alpins 670 sur 706 choisirent le rapatriement. Donc, pendant deux ans De Gaulle resta isolé - un général sans armée.



Mais il y avait des forces françaises importantes dans les colonies, surtout en Afrique du Nord, des forces commandées par le Général Giraud, fidèles au gouvernement de Vichy. De Gaulle était si peu estimé que, lorsque les Américains envahirent l'Afrique du Nord en novembre 1942, il ne fut même pas prévenu. Réagissant contre cette invasion, les Allemands décidèrent d'occuper la zone libre, révélant ainsi l'impuissance du Maréchal Pétain et la faiblesse du gouvernement de Vichy. De Gaulle saisit l'occasion de se rendre en Algérie en mars 1943. Il réussit à écarter Giraud et à s'imposer comme chef incontesté des Forces Françaises Libres.

Ces forces françaises participèrent à deux invasions en 1944 : les débarquements en Normandie et dans le sud de la France. En Normandie, De Gaulle avait demandé que les troupes françaises soient parmi les premières à débarquer mais Eisenhower refusa. Il fallut attendre presque deux mois pour que la Deuxième Division Blindée commandée par le Général Leclerc arrive en France. Cette division fut la première à entrer dans Paris, mais seulement parce que les Américains décidèrent d'accorder à De Gaulle son heure de gloire. Le premier régiment 'français' à entrer dans Paris était largement composé de républicains espagnols engagés dans l'armée française pour lutter contre le fascisme international, ce qui est assez ironique quand on sait que De Gaulle voulait promouvoir l'idée d'une France libérée par des Français.

Par contre, des forces françaises importantes débarquèrent dans le Midi le 15 août et libérèrent Marseille et Toulon, mais ces forces françaises étaient équipées par les Américains et commandées par des généraux américains ce qui contredisait le mythe gaulliste.

Ce mythe a donc exagéré l'importance de la Résistance armée. Les forces françaises ont certainement contribué à la Libération. Mais il est évident que la France a été libérée surtout par les armées des Alliés. Et cela non par amour de la France mais parce que les Alliés voulaient à tout prix empêcher que l'Europe passe de la domination allemande à une domination soviétique.

La France résistante ? Les formes de la résistance

Considérons maintenant le deuxième élément du mythe - l'idée d'une France résistante. L'histoire se complique, l'image populaire de la Résistance ce sont les Maquisards. Mais la Résistance prenait d'autres formes parfois simplement des gestes symboliques comme celui de l'étudiant nantais hissant le tricolore sur la tour de la cathédrale ou bien la grève d'ouvriers obligés de travailler pour les Allemands ou encore la presse clandestine dont les publications attestaient que beaucoup de Français rejetaient l'occupation et la propagande allemandes. Dans son livre « *Les Parisiennes* » Anne Sebba raconte comment les Parisiennes utilisaient le métro pour distribuer ces journaux. Mais elles savaient que, parfois, les Allemands les guettaient aux sorties de gares. Un son de bottes cloutées les prévenait qu'il fallait trouver une autre issue non surveillée. Il y avait aussi une industrie de fabrication de faux papiers pour les clandestins et aviateurs alliés abattus pour qui il fallait organiser des filières de refuges et d'accompagnements à la frontière espagnole ou en Bretagne où des bateaux les attendaient. Plus important encore furent les réseaux d'agents de renseignements conçus par les Britanniques et De Gaulle. Tel fut le cas de Jeannie Rousseau évacuée à Dinard en 1940. Parlant allemand couramment elle trouva un emploi d'agent de liaison entre les Allemands et les autorités françaises. Les Allemands ne

souçonnaient pas cette innocente jeune femme et dialoguaient librement. Ainsi Jeannie put fournir des renseignements sur des dispositions allemandes et des projets de fortifications. Rentrée à Paris elle travailla dans une entreprise française qui visait des contrats avec les Allemands. Dans ce but elle visita régulièrement le quartier général allemand où elle entendit parler de projets de fusées, les renseignements qu'elle communiqua entraînent le bombardement des installations de Peenemünde, bombardement qui retarda le développement des fusées. Arrêtée par la Gestapo Jeannie finit la guerre à Ravensbrück.

Il y eut de multiples formes de Résistance, certaines secrètes d'autres spectaculaires comme les actes de sabotage, les déraillements de trains, destructions de ponts, etc.

L'évolution de la Résistance

Cette Résistance intérieure évolua. Il y eut peu de Résistance pendant la première année de l'Occupation. Les Français la jugeaient inutile, les Allemands dominaient l'Europe avec pour seul adversaire une Grande Bretagne impuissante, incapable de libérer seule la France. Une période étrange décrite dans la deuxième partie de « *Suite Française* », quand les Allemands essayaient de se rendre agréables et les Français se résignaient à l'Occupation.

Mais au cours de 1941, l'invasion allemande de la Russie et l'entrée en guerre des Américains renversa la situation. Ces événements eurent deux résultats importants. D'abord ils firent espérer qu'à la longue, les Allemands seraient vaincus et ils produisirent l'effet immédiat d'engager les communistes dans la Résistance. Après le pacte nazi-soviétique de 1939, Moscou avait interdit toute attaque anti-allemande par les communistes. Désormais ils étaient libres de reprendre leur lutte contre le fascisme.

Dès lors, les communistes jouèrent un rôle central dans la Résistance intérieure. Ils étaient nombreux, disciplinés et les persécutions qu'ils avaient subies leur avaient donné l'expérience du travail clandestin, ce qui leur permit d'organiser des syndicats

clandestins, des grèves et des actes de sabotage.

Mais cet engagement communiste dans la Résistance entraîna des problèmes. Car avec leurs alliés de Gauche ils avaient une vision révolutionnaire d'une France libérée opposée à la vision conservatrice de De Gaulle. De plus, il y avait des communistes prêts à reprendre la lutte contre le fascisme tandis que la plupart des Résistants ne voulaient pas commettre des attentats par peur de représailles, inquiétude justifiée quand on sait qu'en octobre 1941 deux communistes assassinèrent un officier allemand à Nantes et que la réaction allemande fut de fusiller 48 otages. Ces objectifs différents créèrent des tensions entre la Résistance intérieure et extérieure qui durèrent jusqu'à la Libération et même après.

Après la rupture du premier armistice entre Français et Allemands, les événements stimulèrent la Résistance. En juillet 1942, le gouvernement de Vichy organisa la terrible rafle du Vélodrome d'Hiver ; 13,000 juifs étrangers y compris femmes et enfants déportés aux chambres à gaz, le premier de ces convois meurtriers. Horrifiés, des gens courageux décidèrent alors de sauver des vies

Introduit en février 1943, le Service de Travail Obligatoire obligeait les jeunes hommes à travailler dans des usines allemandes. Environ 600.000 furent déportés, mais d'autres, les réfractaires s'évadèrent et disparurent dans le Maquis. C'est à partir de cette période que le Maquis devint important dans les régions montagneuses : les Alpes, les Pyrénées, et les Cévennes.

L'Armée Secrète

Donc peu à peu la Résistance crût mais elle manquait de cohérence. Il y avait trop de réseaux séparés, les plus importants Combat, Libération, Francs-Tireurs, Front National (rien à voir avec le Front National de Marine Le Pen). Les Francs-Tireurs et Partisans nettement communistes prônaient une résistance violente. Ces réseaux avaient des chefs ambitieux avec des conceptions stratégiques diverses. De Gaulle voulait unir ces groupes disparates et constituer une armée secrète qu'il envisageait comme des

réseaux d'hommes armés et préparés pour aider les armées alliées lors des débarquements - une Armée Secrète sous ses ordres.

Mais ces chefs de réseaux entendaient conserver leur indépendance d'action et ne pas se soumettre au commandement de De Gaulle. D'autre part, les Alliés se méfiaient des communistes et ne voulaient pas leur fournir des armes. De Gaulle négocia avec ces chefs et envoya Jean Moulin en France en émissaire. En avril 1943 Moulin réussit à créer un Conseil National de la Résistance formé des représentants de tous les réseaux importants. Ce Conseil reconnut De Gaulle comme chef de la Résistance après quoi le Général Delestraint fut nommé chef de l'Armée Secrète, le problème de cohérence semblait résolu.

Hélas non ! En juin, Delestraint est arrêté à Paris et deux semaines plus tard Moulin est trahi (on ne sut jamais par qui), torturé et meurt aux mains de la Gestapo. Le Conseil National et L'Armée Secrète survécurent mais, ces deux tragédies affaiblirent les liens entre De Gaulle et la Résistance intérieure. Donc les tensions sur les modes de Résistance et sur l'avenir d'une France libérée n'étaient pas résolues.

1944, les débarquements inaugurèrent la période héroïque de la Résistance, quand les actes de sabotage proliférèrent. Les cheminots furent particulièrement militants, ils déraillèrent des trains, quelques fois dans les tunnels, coupèrent des lignes (37 coupées autour de Dijon) retardèrent des trains de soldats allemands. Ces activités leur coûtèrent cher : 300 fusillés, 3,000 déportés. Les résistants des PTT coupèrent des câbles souterrains obligeant les Allemands à utiliser des communications radio plus facilement déchiffrables. Ces exploits aidèrent les armées alliées et accélèrent leur avance.

Période héroïque et tragique, les Maquisards dans le Sud-Est, mal équipés, mal entraînés surestimèrent leurs forces et sous-estimèrent celles des Allemands. Ils attaquèrent trop tôt et déclenchèrent de féroces représailles : en Corrèze à Tulle, les Allemands rassemblèrent les hommes en groupes sur la place publique en pendirent 99 et déportèrent 149, en

Auvergne plusieurs villages souffrirent aussi : Ruynes en Margeride (400 habitants, 35 fusillés), Murat (2000 habitants, 200 déportés, 40 fusillés), un abrégé d'une longue liste de représailles qui touchaient des innocents.

L'histoire de la Résistance intérieure est une histoire pleine d'actions courageuses mais ce ne fut pas le mouvement national du mythe gaulliste. En vérité, pendant l'Occupation il y eut une minorité de collaborateurs, une minorité plus grande de Résistants, mais entre les deux une majorité essayant de survivre.

La Résistance une affaire d'hommes ?

Troisième élément du mythe gaulliste - la Résistance, une affaire d'hommes ?



Absolument pas ! Tout d'abord, la France manquait d'hommes, plus d'un million et demi prisonniers en Allemagne, plus d'un demi-million déporté en 1943.

D'autre part, les femmes étaient plus compétentes pour certaines tâches ; les hommes écrivaient les articles de la presse clandestine qu'ensuite les femmes tapaient à la machine. Souvent elles cachaient des gens fuyant les Allemands et conduisaient les aviateurs abattus le long de filières d'évasion. Les résistants agissaient dans la clandestinité ; la communication essentielle entre membres de réseaux était confiée à des coursiers. Ce travail essentiel et dangereux fut souvent entrepris par des femmes qui attiraient moins l'attention en donnant l'impression de se consacrer à des activités ordinaires, promener des enfants, faire des achats.....

Madeleine Barot

Des femmes s'efforcèrent de sauver des Juifs, surtout des enfants. Il y a de nombreux exemples dont celui de Madeleine Barot, protestante dévote et secrétaire générale d'une organisation caritative pour évacués. En 1941 elle était dans le Sud de la France où dans des camps comme ceux de Gurs et Rivesaltes, vivaient des milliers de réfugiés dans des conditions atroces : baraques mal construites, sans chauffage ni literie et en



manque de nourriture. Madeleine réussit à pénétrer dans Gurs et à y établir un centre de distribution de ravitaillement et vêtements donnés par des associations caritatives.

Son but initial était simplement d'améliorer les conditions dans les camps et elle put travailler ouvertement. En 1942 le gouvernement de Vichy accepta de déporter au moins 10,000 Juifs. Ils étaient rassemblés dans un camp près de Lyon avant d'être embarqués. Un jour Madeleine apprit que des trains partiraient le lendemain. Mais la décision de déporter aussi les enfants ne semblait pas avoir été prise. Madeleine et ses collaborateurs profitèrent de cette incertitude pour passer dans le camp pendant la nuit et pour persuader les adultes de leur confier leurs enfants. Juste avant le départ des trains, le gouvernement avait changé d'avis et décidé de déporter aussi les enfants. Mais déjà des enfants, séparés de leurs parents, avaient été placés dans des couvents, des pensionnats, des maisons autour de Lyon : des refuges temporaires. Ils furent rapidement dispersés dans des villages isolés de la Haute-Loire où Madeleine connaissait des pasteurs protestants. Par la suite elle dut travailler dans la clandestinité, elle chercha des refuges dans les villages et trouva des filières de passage en Suisse pour ceux qui étaient le plus en danger. Souvent elle risquait sa vie en les accompagnant à la frontière.

Le mythe gaulliste ne reconnaît pas ces contributions de femmes. D'abord parce que c'est l'histoire d'une Résistance militaire et les femmes, sauf exceptions, n'étaient pas armées. Mais surtout les femmes ne parlaient pas. Après la Libération les hommes eurent intérêt à démontrer qu'ils avaient résisté. Les femmes non. Aussi les Françaises, qui n'obtinrent le droit de vote qu'en 1945 ne se mêlaient pas de politique. Culture de l'époque ou psychologie féminine, en tout cas, elles se turent. Mireille Philip, par exemple, risqua sa vie comme Madeleine Barot. Mais après la Libération elle rentra au foyer tandis que son mari poursuivait sa carrière politique. Et quand le gouvernement

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La Cimade



d'Israël voulut la décorer pour honorer ce travail humanitaire, elle refusa arguant qu'elle n'avait jamais envisagé de récompense.

Résumé

J'ai essayé de clarifier ce qu'était le mythe gaulliste si dominant jusque dans les années soixante-dix. Le mythe d'une Résistance militaire soutenue par la majorité des Français, un mythe qui accorde trop peu d'importance à d'autres épisodes. Pour des raisons politiques trop peu d'importance à l'histoire de la Résistance intérieure trop redevable aux communistes, encore moins d'importance à l'histoire de la Résistance humanitaire où les femmes figuraient si largement, une Résistance qui fit que des milliers d'enfants Juifs ne périrent pas dans des chambres à gaz. Mais cette histoire humanitaire semble, aujourd'hui, devenir le mythe central de la Résistance. En 2004, Jacques Chirac se rendit au Chambon-sur-Lignon, ce village centre d'un réseau de sauvetage d'enfants juifs et de réfugiés et dit « *vous êtes la conscience de notre pays* ».

Le mythe gaulliste rassurait les Français que la France était toujours une grande puissance mondiale. Le mythe de la Résistance humanitaire les rassure que même si pendant l'Occupation des événements honteux se déroulèrent, la France restait toujours un pays civilisé, fidèle à sa meilleure tradition : Liberté, Égalité et Fraternité.

(Extrait d'une causerie de Willis Marker à la Branche de Glasgow le 17 Novembre 2016.)

Arbuthnott: a very peculiar place

For the Aberdeen Branch, "Arbuthnott" was a name most members were familiar with though principally through the road signs southbound on the A90. The majority had never visited the historic house or garden. Since our outing to Kincardine Castle in 2016, we were keen to visit another stately home this year; on one of the warmest days in May Arbuthnott did not disappoint.

The entrance is twelve miles south of Stonehaven on the B967, near the Grassic Gibbon Centre. Indeed, in Leslie Mitchell's

Scots Quair, Arbuthnott is the model for Kinraddie, the parish he grew up in. The impressive gateway to the estate appears suddenly and unexpectedly with a Greek-style temple on one side and a fine lodge on the other.

A drive lined with ornamental trees and shrubs leads across a flamboyant bridge, along an avenue of beech trees before reaching a gravelled parking area in front of the house. The striking façade is reminiscent of an 18th century dolls' house in the heart of the



Scottish countryside. But this delightful Georgian frontage belies a rich and much older history.



We were warmly greeted by Christopher, the son of the present 17th Viscount, his wife Emily and their children. Their enthusiasm revealed how much the family cherish this magnificent house not only for its history and beauty, but also as their home, giving it a welcoming and intimate character. As they had recently overseen the first full-scale sympathetic renovation scheme in 250 years, they were well placed to be our guides. We were divided into two groups for our visit. During each tour our hosts recounted the fascinating history of their family, the house and the estate, which "boasts uninterrupted succession for thirty-five generations over 800 years"!



In addition to what we learnt from our guides and from the tour, I have used particularly, as a source of detail and analysis, Pevsner's *Aberdeenshire: South and Aberdeen* (Yale University Press, 2016). Phrases in double quotation marks indicate this as the source.

The earliest mention of this unusual place name refers to lands granted by King William the Lion in 1170 to the 'famous and valiant' crusader Osbert Oliphant, sheriff and forester of the Mearns who died in the holy wars.

Before the 12th century the name was recorded as 'Aberbothenothe', conveying the dramatic setting of the site located on steep banks and constrained on each side by two rivers. Here 'aber' denotes the influx of a smaller stream into a larger one and 'both' is a dwelling or baronial residence. The full name most likely signifies 'the confluence of the water below the baron's house', the river being the Water of Bervie joined at this point by the Bothenoth Burn. Osbert's daughter subsequently married Hugo de Swinton and it was his son Duncan who "first took the toponym de Arbuthnott" emphasising the Scotto-Norman legacy of the laird class.

The family name applies not only to the house, the estate, but also the adjoining lands, the barony, the church and surrounding parish. This once covered a large area of the Mearns, extending to Allardice and most of the parish and estate of Catterline including its fishing harbour, as well as to the harbour at Gourdown. However, much of this land was later sold off, predominantly in the 1920s.

Arbuthnott Church was consecrated in 1242 by the 3rd Laird, Hugo de Arbuthnott. However, there is evidence of a much earlier church in its dedication to St. Ternan who, it is believed, was born to a Pictish family in the Mearns in the early 5th century. This is one of the only parish churches in rural Scotland dating from the pre-Reformation which is still used for public worship. Part of the original 13th century church survives, much altered over the centuries. The grounds contain a medieval stone effigy of 'Hugo le Blond de Arbuthnott'.

The first extensive, historical "account of the family and house was written in 1567 by Alexander Arbuthnott, the first Protestant principal of Aberdeen University and nephew of the 14th Laird". The house, like the church, dates from 1242 and began as a single-story keep, the foundations of which are still visible. Recently, when the harling was removed from the building during restoration, many phases and adaptations came to light.

Our hosts recounted anecdotes concerning their ancestors whose many portraits stared back at us from the walls. Christopher explained how the Arbuthnotts, never a

leading Scottish family, were nonetheless involved in many historic events, at times on the "wrong" side, particularly in the 16th and 17th centuries. Indeed, the house and family documents on display represent a microcosm of Scottish history at domestic and national levels. Other papers and early correspondence are housed in the Special Collections at Aberdeen University.

We learned of the family's involvement in major political and religious intrigues, one ancestor being implicated in a singularly nasty crime: the 9th Laird, Hugh Arbuthnott, was responsible in the 1420s for building the upper floor of the hall house as well as strengthening its defences, but this, it transpired, was in order to protect himself and his family from reprisals after having taken part in the savage "killing of John Melville, sheriff of neighbouring Glenbervie, whom he had subsequently boiled, supping the resulting broth"! The hereditary title of 'Viscount' was first granted in 1641 to Robert, 18th Laird, in a vain attempt by Charles I to win him over from the Covenanters. A century later, John Arbuthnott, 22nd Laird and 5th Viscount, "an inveterate Jacobite, managed to survive the rebellions without forfeiting his estate".

By the mid-17th century, the building had evolved into a fortified manor house and with an extra bedroom floor with habitable attics, the house began to resemble home. It was from this period that the most stunning features of the interior originate. Robert Arbuthnott, 20th Laird and 3rd Viscount, gutted the original mediaeval hall, creating a new entrance door on the north side and two exquisite reception rooms on the first floor, both with elaborate moulded plaster ceilings. Dating from the 1680s they are "among the finest in Scotland". "Rustic in style and reflecting local folk art", they replaced the earlier painted decorations of the mid-17th century.

During the recent restoration of the two attic bedrooms, the family discovered a collection of 18th and 19th century dresses and costumes in a bedroom cupboard, which we were able to view.

Major landscaping of the gardens adjacent to the steep riverbanks was carried out by the 3rd Viscount, creating sloping terraces on the south side, avenues of trees and a new formal approach to the house from the west. His “ambitious plans were most likely connected with his marriage in 1683 to Lady Anne Sutherland Gordon, daughter of the Earl of Sutherland.”

In 1754 John Arbuthnott, the Jacobite, began the façade we see today. Sweeping away the original fortified buildings, he created an impressive if idiosyncratic Georgian home.

An imposing porch and front door, with the main staircase, were added in 1820. The panelled dining room on the first floor is from this date with simple classical ceiling plasterwork. The entrance hall with niches and columns is of the same era which “perfectly sums up the peculiarly quirky history” of this house whereby “the front door is not opposite the main doorway leading to the stairs”. This was the time when the estate acquired its grand entrance gate, drive and ornamental bridge immortalised in a painting



by David Wilkie who spent some time at Arbuthnott in the 1840s. The original painting, now owned by Aberdeenshire Museum Service, shows the 8th Viscount sitting proudly in front of his bridge, park and house. A copy hangs in the staircase at Arbuthnott House.

As half our party visited the house, the others wandered around the beautiful walled garden in full bloom and bathed in sunshine. The formal garden on its precipitous slope, laid out in the 1680s, was further developed a century later during the period of agricultural improvement. It was fashionable then for ‘improving lairds’ to take an interest in forestry and innovative farming methods. A more extensive landscape layout was thus established incorporating significant expanses of woodland alongside areas of farmland.

At the core of the five-acre garden, now with 1920s Arts-and-Crafts planting, is a wide, grass walk with three further, interconnected, walks running horizontally across its slope. A lawn lies immediately below the house with

an adjacent orchard for fruit and hazelnut trees. Above the lawn is a two-acre productive garden containing vegetables and soft fruit echoing the 17th century design of a French *potager*.



This is bounded by herbaceous borders and rose beds and protected on the north side by a high wall, with espaliered fruit trees, alongside 50 yards of greenhouses. Christopher and Emily’s children had set out a table of homegrown produce, selling their rhubarb at £1.00 a bunch, while serenading us with guitar and chanter.

Leaving Arbuthnott for the Creel Inn, eight miles north in the historic fishing village of Catterline, we enjoyed an excellent lunch.

(Françoise Kunka, Aberdeen)

Garlieston et le Mulberry Harbour

Le petit village de Garlieston niché dans la baie de Wigtown au sud-ouest de l’Ecosse est un havre de tranquillité depuis bien longtemps. Le commerce avec l’Irlande prospère au XVIIIème siècle est inexistant de nos jours, les pêcheurs amarrent leurs bateaux dans d’autres ports, seul, parfois un voilier vient s’abriter ici. Il est difficile d’imaginer que ce lieu si paisible ait pu jouer un rôle décisif dans les préparatifs du débarquement en Normandie lors de la deuxième guerre mondiale.

Après l’échec catastrophique du raid de Dieppe en 1942, les Alliés réalisèrent qu’il leur fallait trouver une autre solution que l’occupation d’un port pour libérer les territoires occupés. Lord Louis Mountbatten était partisan d’un port artificiel qui permettrait aux Forces Alliées de débarquer d’importants contingents d’hommes et de matériel et d’attaquer les Allemands là où leurs mesures de défenses étaient relativement vulnérables. Le 4 août 1943 Winston Churchill embarqua à bord du Queen Mary pour aller rejoindre au Québec le Président Roosevelt afin de mettre au point les stratégies de l’Opération Overlord, des officiers britanniques et américains assistaient à la conférence. Le concept d’un port flottant

était tout à fait nouveau pour les Américains mais Winston Churchill avait pris la précaution de se faire accompagner par des experts compétents. Le projet fut étudié minutieusement et adopté avec enthousiasme. Il fut décidé qu'Overlord incorporerait deux ports flottants, Mulberry A qui serait utilisé par les Forces Américaines et Mulberry B pour les Forces Britanniques. A la suite de cette conférence le Ministère de la Défense créa une division spéciale, Tn5, dont le seul but était de développer et d'étudier différents modèles de ports flottants. Finalement trois prototypes furent retenus et construits dans les arsenaux de la Tamise, de la Clyde et du Pays de Galles mais avant la décision finale «Swiss Roll», «Hippo» et «Spud Pier and 'Whale' Roadway» devaient être soumis à de rigoureux essais dans le plus grand secret.

Après avoir comparé plusieurs sites les responsables choisirent Garlieston et Wigton Bay pour plusieurs raisons. Tout d'abord la nature et l'inclinaison du terrain près du port étaient assez similaires à celles des plages normandes, d'autre part fréquemment de violentes bourrasques agitaient la mer mais surtout le Wigtonshire était peu peuplé, loin des sentiers battus et les habitants peu enclins aux commérages. Un camp militaire établi près du village de Whithorn avec mess pour officiers et sous-officiers, au total 120 personnes, était opérationnel dès mars 1943. De plus, la salle commune de Garlieston avait été réquisitionnée pour loger 20 sapeurs chargés des tâches dans le port. Une patrouille militaire et des agents de police garantissaient la sécurité du site et éloignaient les curieux des routes longeant la mer. Dans l'ensemble il n'y eut guère d'entorse au règlement, quelques casiers de langoustes posés 'innocemment' dans des zones interdites ne créèrent pas d'incident majeur.

Initialement, « Swiss Roll » conçu par Ronald Hamilton semblait prometteur, une surface de toile imperméable munie d'abattants à charnières qui devaient empêcher l'inondation de la chaussée ; malheureusement des charges trop lourdes ou de fortes marées compromettraient

sérieusement l'équilibre du pont flottant. Le prototype « Hyppo » ne persuada pas davantage les autorités militaires ; des caissons ancrés au sol et liés à une voie surélevée avaient tendance à vaciller sous l'influence de sables mouvants, de plus l'installation ne pouvait être utilisée 24 heures d'affilée. Le troisième prototype, « Spud Pier and Whale » élaboré par le Lieutenant - Colonel William Everall et le Commandant Allan Beckett était constitué d'une chaussée flottante attachée à un pont flottant monté sur béquilles pour en assurer la stabilité et pour parer aux violents remous des eaux. Après des mois de travail assidu, de tests, d'essais, d'échecs suivis de succès, ce prototype s'avéra être le bon choix et c'est ainsi qu'au printemps 1944 et au début de l'été tous les éléments des « Mulberrys » furent amenés tout au long de la côte sud de l'Angleterre pour être réassemblés par les mêmes hommes qui les avaient si laborieusement testés à Garlieston. Ainsi reconstruits Mulberry A et Mulberry B partirent en guerre l'un vers Omaha et l'autre vers Arromanches.

L'invasion de l'Europe débuta le jour du Débarquement, le 6 juin 1944. Malgré des conditions météorologiques désastreuses qui gênèrent considérablement les mises en place des deux ports (Mulberry A fut presque totalement détruit), dès le 14 juin des camions de 3 tonnes débarquaient sur la côte normande ainsi que des commandos de 'Royal Marines'. Et à Arromanches, le 23 juillet, Winston Churchill pouvait déclarer avec conviction « *This miraculous port will play a most important part in the liberation of Europe* ». Fin octobre 1944, Mulberry B avait débarqué 627,719 tonnes de matériel, 39,743 véhicules militaires et des milliers d'hommes. Les « Mulberrys » entraient dans la légende des stratégies militaires ce que sut reconnaître Albert Speer, Ministre des Armements du Reich « *Pour consolider nos défenses, en deux ans, nous avons utilisé d'énormes quantités de béton et d'acier mais, quinze jours après le débarquement, ces efforts furent réduits à néant par une simple idée de génie. Les Alliés amenèrent leurs ports et rampes de débarquement et*

accostèrent sur une côte peu défendue. » Sur un ton plus enjoué un journaliste britannique notait : « No other nation than ours would contrive such an impudent solution to its problem of invasion than to take its own harbour along ! »

Il convient aussi de noter que les habitants de Garlieston ont modestement contribué au succès de cette opération, pendant plus de 18 mois leurs vies furent marquées par le bruit, le va-et-vient des patrouilles de surveillance, les restrictions d'accès, ils ne se plaignirent jamais, observèrent une rigoureuse discrétion et une stricte discipline. Le calme est revenu depuis bien longtemps dans ce coin d'Ecosse qui est encore aujourd'hui en dehors des sentiers battus. Pas de monument grandiose mais une simple stèle « commemorates the building and trials of Sections of the MULBERRY HARBOUR AT GARLIESTON, thus making the INVASION OF EUROPE possible and the ALLIED VICTORY a reality »



(Janine Adamson, Glasgow)

Post Scriptum : La Passerelle de l'Oise - d'Arromanches à Manicamp

(Un élément du Mulberry Harbour cette « jetée flottante du port artificielle d'Arromanches, ce port préfabriqué qui a servi au ravitaillement des troupes alliées après le débarquement de Normandie en juin 1944 » se trouve toujours dans un petit village de l'Aisne dans le nord de la France.

Cet ouvrage représente un lien de plus avec l'Ecosse et les échanges entre Manicamp et la Franco-Scottish Society of Scotland. Lien établi depuis quelques années, suite à l'hommage rendu à Thomas Blaikie, jardinier écossais

refugié dans ce village pendant la Révolution. (Voir Bulletin no 77, p 8 « A shared speaker from France »)

Ci-dessous, avec l'autorisation du maire, Luc Dagonville, quelques photos et un résumé à partir de panneaux explicatifs dans le village).

(ACL Editor)



« Le 19 novembre 1944, le pont artificielle d'Arromanches est fermé. Les alliés sont arrivés aux Pays Bas. Ils viennent de prendre le port d'Anvers... Dès Noël 1944, le génie britannique commence le démantèlement des installations d'Arromanches. Et tout ce qui pourra être récupéré le sera. Environ 140 travées vont être cédées à l'État français. Elles seront démontées et entreposées au chantier de Blainville sur Orne près de Caen. C'est de là qu'elles seront expédiées par voie ferrée vers les départements demandeurs.»

Manicamp est demandeur et la passerelle



est expédiée de Normandie le 25 novembre 1946. La raison ? En « mai-juin 1940, les troupes allemandes envahissent le pays. Dans la région, la bataille de L'Allette (87eme Division d'Infanterie d'Afrique) va défendre Manicamp et ses environs, jusqu'à son anéantissement quasi complet ! Le pont de Manicamp qui enjambe l'Oise est détruit. Il était pratiquement neuf : ses plans avaient été approuvés fin mai 1929. Il ne sera pas reconstruit pendant la guerre et les Manicampois devront attendre juin 1947 pour enfin retrouver l'usage de la route allant vers Marest et Abbecourt. Sept ans presque jour

pour jour après la destruction du pont d'origine."

Cette passerelle de l'Oise restera opérationnelle pendant 69 ans jusqu'en 2016 où finalement suite à l'usure du temps elle doit enfin être remplacé par un nouveau pont.

La municipalité décide alors que cet élément qui fait partie de l'histoire du débarquement et de la région doit être sauvegardé et mis en valeur. Des fonds doivent être levés pour la restauration et avec le soutien de la commune, de la région et d'entreprises

locales, la passerelle est déplacée à quelques mètres de son emplacement d'origine.

L'inauguration a lieu le 26 juin 2017. Désormais cette « vieille dame » repose sur des plots de béton, entourée de panneaux explicatifs :

témoin de l'histoire et souvenir de Garlieston et le Mulberry Harbour.



Pourquoi suis-je arrivée ici ?

Mai-juin 1940, les troupes allemandes envahissent le pays. Dans la région, la bataille de l'Allette va faire rage du 20 mai au 6 juin 1940. Notamment, le 3^{ème} bataillon du 18^{ème} Régiment de Tirailleurs Algériens (87^{ème} Division d'Infanterie d'Afrique) va défendre Manicamp et ses environs jusqu'à son anéantissement quasi complet !

Les berges du canal de Saint-Quentin sont tenues par le 107^{ème} Régiment d'Infanterie appartenant à la 23^{ème} Division d'Infanterie. Le 7 juin au matin, toutes les troupes françaises ont quitté le secteur. Le pont de Manicamp qui enjambe l'Oise a probablement été détruit par le Génie de la 23^{ème} DI le 1^{er} juin.

Il était pratiquement neuf : ses plans avaient été approuvés fin mai 1929. Ce pont ne sera pas reconstruit pendant la guerre. Voilà pourquoi les Manicampois devront attendre juin 1947 pour enfin retrouver l'usage de la route allant vers Marest et Abbécourt. Sept ans presque jour pour jour après la destruction du pont d'origine.



FRANCO-SCOTTISH SOCIETY

(SCOTTISH BRANCH)

Report for 1917 by the Council to the Twenty-second Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Branch of the Franco-Scottish Society to be held in the Faculty Hall, St George's Place, Glasgow, on Tuesday, the 19th day of November 1918, at 4 o'clock afternoon.

THE Council of the Scottish Branch of the Society beg to submit their Report for 1917 :—

The membership has increased by 24, after allowing for deaths and resignations. The total membership is 507.* The members registered at Edinburgh are 184 in number ; those registered at Glasgow are 245 ; those at Aberdeen are 37 ; those at Dundee are 41.

An Abstract of the Society's audited Accounts is annexed hereto (see pages 143 to 148). As stated in last Report the Council resolved in the course of the year 1917 that the Accounts should be stated so that a General Fund for the Society should be created, and shown separately from the Local Funds. The Balance at the credit of the Society's General Fund at 31st December 1917 was £364. 12s. 2d. The total funds controlled by the Society locally and generally at 31st December 1917 amounted to £668. 12s. 7d., an increase of £199. 5s. as compared with the corresponding total for 1916. The Council regard this position as highly satisfactory. The creation of a General Fund implies the separate statement of the local funds as applicable to Edinburgh.

The Society has continued to administer the Special Fund for the relief of the dependents of French Reservists and other French people in Scotland, who are in need owing to the war. An Abstract of the Accounts of this Fund for 1917, duly audited by the Society's Auditor, will be found on page 148 of this Report. The subscriptions, &c., received by the Fund during 1917 were £242. 9s. 11d., and the most cordial thanks of the Committee in charge of the Fund are due for all the generous assistance received.

In connection with the relief of French people in Scotland your Council desire to record the work done by the special Consular Fund at Glasgow, and to express their thanks to the Authorities of that Fund for the donation towards the Society's Relief Fund of £210 shown in the Accounts. The Council again desire to record their thanks to all parties who continue so sympathetically to assist in the administration of the Relief Fund.

Your Council are pleased to report that there have been several

* As at 1st April 1918.

instances of French people in trouble applying to the Society's Officials for assistance, and they feel glad that the Society is becoming useful in this sphere.

The Council did not think it expedient to make any public appeals for funds for the French Red Cross in the course of the year 1917, but since the commencement of the year 1918 they have renewed their exertions on behalf of the French Red Cross—but such matters are outwith the scope of the Report for 1917.

The Society in the course of the year now closed opened a new sphere of activity by purchasing two MS. Rolls on vellum of Household Accounts of Mary Queen of Scots for the 26th day of July 1550 at St-Germain-en-Laye, and for the 4th day of February 1552 at Amboise. The transcription of these accounts will be found on pages 98 to 102 of this Report. It is anticipated that members of the Society will be interested in reading the details of these Accounts. Both of the Accounts have been framed, and one of them is to be offered to the Municipal Authorities in Edinburgh for exhibition, on loan from the Society, in the Municipal Museum. The other is to be offered for exhibition, on the same terms, to the Municipal Art Galleries, Glasgow. Cordial thanks are due to Mr Maitland Thomson for his transcription of the Accounts.

Your Council, in the course of the past year, heard with pleasure that the original Muster Roll of the French Garrison in the Castle of Dunbar under the Command of Captain Carronant, made for an inspection by John Monlo, Lord of Monlo, Commissioner Extraordinary of War, on 11th June 1553, had been presented to the Corporation of Dunbar by Major W. Wilfred Carey of Seaholm, Dunbar. Your Council were considering taking steps for the purchase and preservation of this document by the Society, but when they ascertained that it had been presented to the Municipality of Dunbar, they felt that no more desirable permanent resting place for the document could be found.

The Society's lectures were duly delivered in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee during the past year. The following is a list of the lectures arranged for the Society:—

“Canteen Work in the French Lines,” by Miss Christie of Cowden Castle, Dollar.

“Mitteleuropa,” in Edinburgh; “La paix que voudraient les Allemands,” in Glasgow; “Le Problème de l'après Guerre,” in Aberdeen; and “Mentalité et Ambition des Peuples Germaniques,” in Dundee, by Captain George Blondel.

“La question d'Alsace-Lorraine,” by Monsieur F. A. Helmer, Avocat, of Colmar, Alsace.

“The Work of France in Morocco,” by Mr J. M. Macleod, C.M.G., British Consul at Fez.

“Verdun,” by Monsieur Emile Hinzelin.

Additional lectures were also delivered in Edinburgh and Glasgow, namely:—

In EDINBURGH—

“Scottish Women’s Hospitals amongst the Allies,” by Miss Louisa Innes Lumsden, LL.D.

In GLASGOW—

“Juillet-Octobre 1914, vécus par les Français : Mes souvenirs : Lettres de mon frère Sous-Lieutenant au 57^e Chasseurs à pied, tué à l’ennemi,” by Monsieur Henri Weiss.

“Alsace-Lorraine,” by Mr F. Y. Eccles.

“Impressions de Guerre,” by Monsieur Léon Pitoy.

“My Canteen Work with French Soldiers,” by Sir F. R. Benson.

Very cordial thanks are due to all the lecturers, especially to those who have travelled from France to address the Society, and who have faced the no small difficulties of travel in war time. Cordial thanks are also due to Monsieur Paul Labbé, of Paris, Secretary of “L’Effort de la France et de ses Alliés,” who has placed that organisation at the service of the Society with a view to facilitating the coming of lecturers to Scotland.

It had come to the knowledge of certain members of the Council that many French-Canadian soldiers on leave, or wounded in hospital, in Great Britain, were somewhat isolated, as, on account of linguistic difficulties, they were not always able to make themselves fully understood, and sometimes were quite unable to do so. It will be within the recollection of members that the matter was mentioned at the last Annual General Meeting, and as it seemed that many of the members of this Society would be peculiarly able to assist such soldiers, the Secretary opened correspondence with the French-Canadian chaplains in the camps in England, with a view to bringing before the military authorities the Society’s willingness to assist French-Canadians—especially those who require help because of their knowledge only of French—when they are on leave, or in hospital, in Scotland. Your Council now desire to repeat the expression of this desire, and to extend it to all ranks of French-speaking Canadians in the Army. Your Council feel that they will have the unanimous support of the members of the Society in thus endeavouring, so far as the Society can, to promote feelings of friendship and solidarity between such widely separated parts of the Empire as French Canada and Scotland.

During the year under report it was arranged that Professor J. S. Phillimore should lecture under the auspices of the French Branch at Paris, Bordeaux and Toulouse. This visit has recently been carried out very successfully, and the most cordial thanks of the Society are due to Professor Phillimore.

It is the duty of the Annual Meeting to elect, under Rule IV. of the Bye-Laws, Members of Council in place of those who retire at this time.

The Council recommend that Lord Strathclyde be re-elected President of the Society.

The following four Members of the Council retire at this time :— Messrs J. A. H. Hector, A. N. Paterson, James Walker, and Sir John J. Burnet.

The Council recommend the election of Canon Stuart, Dr T. Pettigrew Young, James Goodwillie, and Professor J. S. Phillimore as members of Council.

The thanks of the Society are due to the Office-Bearers who retire, and who, it is hoped, may offer themselves for re-election at a later date.

In name of the Council,

JOHN SMART,
Honorary General Secretary.

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY,
19 YORK PLACE,
EDINBURGH, *7th November 1918.*

OBITUARIES

JACQUES LERUEZ (1932-2018)

Jacques Leruez, the eminent political scientist who died on 2 March 2018 at the age of 86, was known internationally for his work on Franco-British institutions, especially those of Scotland. Despite spending most of his working life in Paris at the *Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques* (Sciences-Po), Jacques remained a proud Norman. His early education in Cherbourg was interrupted by the German occupation, causing him to be evacuated to the Cotentin. Only at the end of the Second World War was he able to resume his studies at the Lycée de Cherbourg. From there he went to the University of Caen, the first of his family to go into higher education. At Caen he studied English under Sylvère Monod, one of the finest Anglicists of his generation. Monod had close links with Edinburgh and it was no doubt on his nomination that Jacques was appointed *lecteur de français* at the University of Edinburgh in 1952. The invitation to stay in post for a second year had the happiest of consequences: he met Marie-Danielle Lejeune, newly appointed as *lectrice*, and they married in 1956.

After military service Jacques taught English in a lycée in Rouen, but gradually found his academic interests moving towards law, economics and politics. His ground-breaking doctorate on the 'Political and institutional effects of economic planning in Great Britain' (1971) was followed by a permanent post at Sciences-Po, where he was to spend the rest of his career, retiring as the Director of CERI, the Centre for International Studies and Research. That appointment recognised his extensive published work – for example his books on *Gouvernement et politique en Grande-Bretagne* (1989), *Le Phénomène Thatcher* (1991), *Le système politique britannique depuis 1945* (1994), and *Le Royaume-Uni au XXe siècle* (1997) – and the international reputation he had earned in the

field of Franco-British studies. Gradually, his work began to focus on Scotland. As early as 1983 he had published *L'Écosse: une nation sans état*, which was followed, after the creation of the Scottish Parliament in 1998, by *L'Écosse: vieille nation, jeune état* (2000). To mark his services to Franco-British relations, Jacques was appointed an honorary CBE in 1996 and shortly afterwards France made him a *Chevalier de la légion d'honneur*.

Jacques combined his scholarly career with a wide range of outside interests. He was a keen gardener, tending roses and hydrangeas on his terrace in the Rue de la Colonie and his shrubs in the garden of the family house at La Cadière d'Azur which he loved so much. Wherever he found himself, he was an enthusiastic walker, particularly with the group in Paris, engagingly called *étapes savantes*. Like all Normans he knew the importance of *la bonne table*. Not that he cooked much himself – that was left to Marie-Danielle for very good reason – rather he contributed his excellent taste in wine and whisky. Never to my knowledge a rugby-player himself, he understood the intricacies of the game; his support of France in the Six Nations was passionate but never over-partisan. No day in his life was complete without his copy of *Le Monde*.

In 1996 Jacques succeeded Georges Dickson as President of the *Association franco-écossaise*, a post which he held until his death. Under his leadership the Association thrived, maintaining its close historic links with the Franco-Scottish Society. Jacques and Marie-Danielle were regular visitors to Scotland, where Jacques kept contact with political leaders and commentators, particularly at election times. His interest in Scottish affairs continued until his death: the editorial he wrote for the January 2018 *Bulletin* of the Association is an incisive commentary on Brexit and the continuing negotiations between Holyrood and

Westminster. By his death Scotland has lost a true friend; Britain and France have lost a shrewd, authoritative analyst of British and Scottish affairs.

Jacques is mourned by his daughters Elisabeth and Marianne and their families, and by his very many Franco-Scottish friends who will long remember his warmth, his kindness and his unfailing civility.

(Jim Laidlaw, Edinburgh)

SHEILA LYDVO (née Macgregor) (1930-2018)

The members of the St Andrews Branch of the Franco-Scottish Society are sorry to inform you of the death of Sheila Lydvo a faithful member of the Branch for over twenty years. There will be a few moments of silence in her memory at the first meeting of our new session on September 27th.

Sheila was born in Milngavie near Glasgow and attended the Glasgow Girls' High School. She had an aptitude for languages and a head for figures and enjoyed music and art. After school she worked as a secretary with J&P Coates in Paisley and attended night classes to enhance her secretarial and language skills. Later she worked in Paris, then with a travel agency as a tour guide in the South of France and finally joined N.A.T.O. in Paris as a secretary, travelling widely. In 1964 she married Olav Lydvo a Norwegian diplomat. Rev Donald Caskie, known as the Scarlet Pimpernel for his work during the war, whom she knew from the Scots Kirk in Paris, performed the ceremony.

In 1965 Olav became head of the Norwegian National Defence College and they moved to Oslo. Sheila mastered the Norwegian language and for the next 20 years they moved to the countries where Olav served as Ambassador: Iceland, Colombia, Venezuela, Czechoslovakia, Morocco and Australia. In 1986 when Olav retired, they moved to the South of France and a few years later settled in St Andrews where Olav died in 1998.

For the next 20 years Sheila pursued life in St Andrews to the full. She played golf, went to concerts and was a member of the St Rule Club, the Art Club, the Franco-Scottish Society, a French conversation group, and the

University's Extra-mural group. She was a quiet but enthusiastic member of the St Andrews branch of the F.S.S. rarely missing a meeting when she was in town and helping with the refreshments.

Sheila came to one of the last meetings of our session. Typically, she had not shared her worsening heart condition with many of us and members were shocked to see how ill she looked. She died a few weeks later. There were many friends at her funeral at which her brother spoke movingly about her interesting life. Fittingly her ashes will be buried with her husband's in Norway.

She will be greatly missed.

(Elizabeth Slack, St Andrews)

IAN MACLENNAN (1931-2018)

Ian was for many years a hard-working and popular Treasurer of the Glasgow Branch.

When Janine Adamson was President, she persuaded him to become Treasurer and subsequently he served under three other Presidents, not retiring until 2012 when his eyesight was beginning to prove a problem, a total of 15 years of service to the Branch.

Ian was educated at Allan Glen's and at the Royal College of Science and Technology. With qualifications in engineering he spent most of his working life with what was then the great Singer organisation. This sent him all over the world e.g. to China, Japan and the U.S.A. Among these travels he spent four years working in Milan and this gave him an interest in languages. He learnt Italian and went to classes here in Glasgow, but he also took up French at the Alliance Française and this in turn led him to the Franco-Scottish Society.

Ian was a good man to work with: reliable, affable and full of good sense. Unfortunately, in the last few years of his life he suffered from a loss of memory and had to live in a care home. However, he was so well-thought of that members of the Branch continued to visit him even though he had no knowledge of the past. A sad end to a good life.

(Willis Marker, Glasgow)

THE FRANCO-SCOTTISH SOCIETY SCOTLAND

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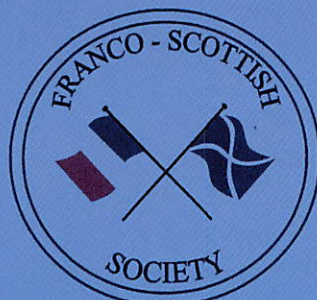
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