

Jonathan Schiffman

by Ian Mowat

English Language spotlight:

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For those who have been following the story of the conductor and our august orchestra, Jonathan Schiffman and OLRAP, I have some news. The story so far is that Jonathan fell out of grace with the General Manager, Philippe Grison, who was brought in 1 year ago after having been fired from the orchestra of Montpellier.

The disagreement at OLRAP has been coloured as a power struggle with Mr. Grison attempting to overtake Jonathan's duties as Artistic Director. That description lends the episode an air of drama when in fact it is a sad affair of miscalculation by a bureaucrat who seems more interested in his own position than in the good of the orchestra or those around him.



At the root of the disagreement are an artist and an administrator. The two in this case do not seem to mix. In particular the administrator has made no allowances for artistic feeling and has used horror and shock tactics to get what he wants. The result is bad for the orchestra, bad for Avignon, bad for Jonathan and ultimately, one hopes, will be bad for him as well.

An example of his behaviour concerns the "Association pour la Défense et Rayonnement de L'OLRAP" which was set up many years ago when the orchestra was in financial difficulties.

This 400+ member association has backed Jonathan from the beginning of this affair and has collected a petition of well over 2000 signatures in his defence. The General Manager has now created an entity called "Extenso", as an attempt to replace this already existing and well-functioning organization, thereby trying to isolate and negate Jonathan's supporters which incidentally make up the vast majority of the orchestra's subscribers as well as the orchestra musicians themselves.

The latest in the saga is that Jonathan, as is his right, is suing the administration for wrongful dismissal. The process is a judicial one under the aegis of the court. However a panel of five judges have been appointed. Of these, two represent the view of employees, two of the employer and one is a court judge. The process is not as clean as it might be with suspicions at least that there is the heavy hand of politics around here somewhere. But at least the laws are clear and usually on the side of the employee. Jonathan has met once with the tribunal and the case will be heard in February.

In the meantime Jonathan is successfully pursuing his career with concerts around Europe including an excellent concert in the Royal Albert Hall in London and more recently concerts with the Irish RTE National Symphony and the Orchestre National de Lyon. We wish him well and will be following his progress in the years to come when this awful affair is long forgotten.



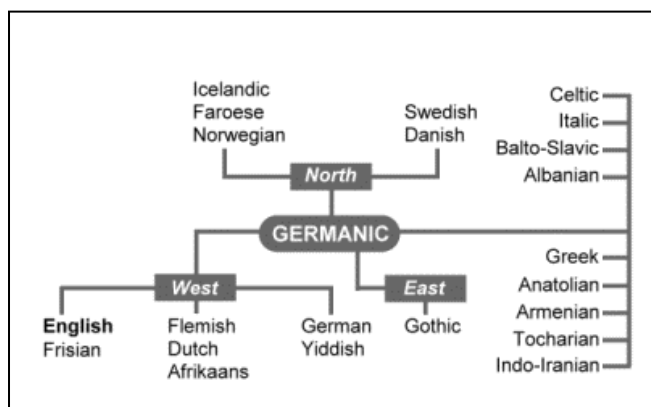
A History of the English Language

Sur une île bercée entre les mers du nord, l'océan, dont les vagues la lèchent continuellement, et les grandes terres d'un continent plus ou moins étrangères, vit un petit peuple marin, sinon un peu insulaire. Pourtant, actuellement, la langue parlée sur cette île se répand partout dans le monde, même s'il y en a qui y font concurrence. Curieusement, les origines de cette langue sont perdues dans les brumes de l'histoire, trop ancienne pour pouvoir voir qu'un soupçon d'hypothèse. Perdues, également, grâce aux maintes mélanges de cultures venant, entre autre, de leur goût pour les voyages – et même de quelques envahisseurs, parfois dominants, parfois ayant une but plus pacifique. Et cette langue s'appelle – l'anglais.

Voici le début de son histoire "officielle" :

- après le dernier âge de glace, il y a presque 8 000 ans, la Grande Bretagne est habitée par des indigènes celtes, appelés des "Britons"
- vers la fin du dernier siècle avant christ, des romains - Julius Caesar, Claudius, Caligula..... - lancent plusieurs attaques contre les "Britons" et y restent pendant presque cinq siècles. Comme ailleurs, il est fort possible que le latin n'était courant que pour les documents officiels et pour ceux qui avaient un contact direct avec les envahisseurs
- vers 400 AD, l'île commence à devenir indépendante. Le pays est divisé en royaumes avec des seigneurs indigènes fort puissants. Ils emploient des mercenaires, des Angles, Saxons et Jutes, pour renforcer leur pouvoir
- vers 440 AD, les mercenaires se rebellent car les salaires ne sont pas payés comme prévu lors d'une récolte médiocre. Ils vaincraient le pays, repoussant les Britons vers l'ouest (Wales, Cornwall....) et imposent leur langue, l'anglais, dans l'est.

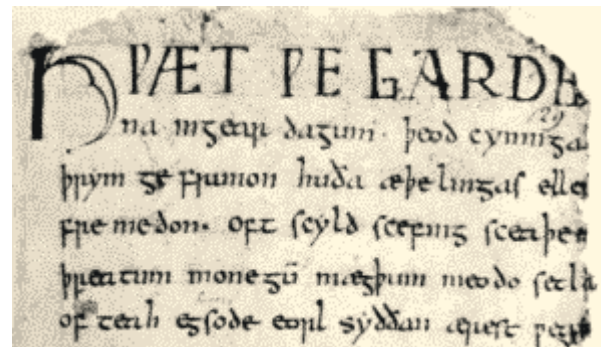
En 2006, Stephen Oppenheimer publie un livre "The Origins of the British". Il démontre que c'est bien possible que la langue anglaise existait déjà en Grande Bretagne avant l'arrivée des romains. D'après Oppenheimer, ce n'était pas



Yvette Lilot

tous le pays qui était, ou parlait, celtes (qu'il croit veut dire "culture" plutôt que de définir une langue). Le pays se divisait du nord au sud, plus ou moins le long des Pennines, la "colonne vertébrale de l'Angleterre", la chaîne montagneuse qui séparent les deux cotés.

Avant la fonte des glaces, l'est de l'Angleterre était attachée au continent, surtout la partie qui s'appelle la Belgique aujourd'hui. Leur langue est germanique et ressemble beaucoup à celle des Angles. Donc il est possible que, à l'est, on partageait cette langue, appelée "phyto-English". Par contre, la langue "galloise" qui a beaucoup plus en commun avec les "langues" celtes de l'ouest de l'Europe, aurait pu venir par des voyageurs sur la mer venant de l'Espagne et l'ouest de la France vers les Cornouailles, le Pays de Galles, l'Irlande, l'Ecosse.



Une tranche de *Beowulf*, une poème écrit en Old English vers 900AD

Dans son livre, Oppenheimer donne des arguments pour montrer que c'était peu probable que les Angles, qui était de loin minoritaire en tant que mercenaires, ont pu éradiquer les Britons et imposer leur propre langue si rapidement jusqu'au point qu'il ne reste que très, très peu de traces de la langue dite "celte". Ceci peut être démontré par des linguistes, des historiens et des anthropologues.

Dans le nord du pays et en Écosse, il y avait aussi les raides des Vikings dont la langue est également liée à la langue germanique. Souvent cité comme premier écrit important des anglais, "Beowulf" est écrit dans cette région. Quoi qu'il en soit, au 5ème siècle, l'anglais – **Old English** – est parlé en Angleterre, même s'il est possible que c'était déjà le cas il y a 6 000 ans.

Puis – 1066 après Jésus Christ – date légendaire! Guillaume le Conquérant bat le roi, Harold, à la bataille de Hastings. Les français, ou plutôt les normands, prennent le pouvoir. Dans le court du

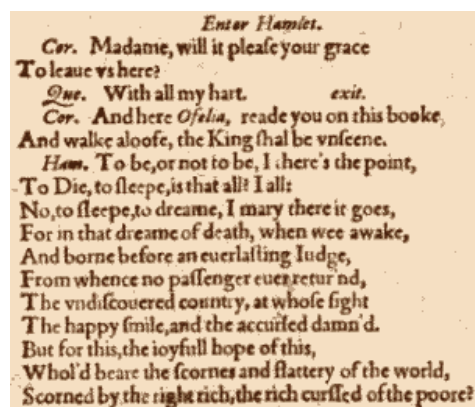
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A History of the English Language

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roi, les courts de justice, l'administration, le français prime. Mais il est fort probable que les paysans et surtout les gallois, continuent de parler leur propre langue. Forcement, il y a beaucoup de mots français, lui-même d'origine germanique parsemé du latin, qui imprègnent la langue. Même aujourd'hui, il est intéressant noter que des mots "courtois" ont souvent des racines normandes, et les conversations quotidiennes se passent essentiellement dans l'anglais germanique. Il y a de bonnes raisons pour cela. Par exemple, les éleveurs parlaient de "cow", "sheep", "pig" - mais quand il fallait préparer de la viande pour les nobles, on parlait de "beef", de "mouton", de "pork".

C'est l'ère du **Middle English**. Il y a beaucoup qui est maintenant écrit en anglais - surtout le "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle" et en 1258 les "Provisions of Oxford." A la fin du 14ème siècle, Geoffrey Chaucer, parfois nommé le père de la littérature anglaise, écrit ses "Canterbury Tales". Même si dans le texte, ce n'est pas trop facile le comprendre aujourd'hui, cet œuvre est écrit dans la vernaculaire, et pas en français. A la même époque, le roi Edward III commence à adresser le parlement en anglais.



Puis, Shakespeare, mondialement connu, fait de la littérature un art qui perdure! La langue devient **Early Modern English** et le premier dictionnaire, "Table Alphabeticall" sort en 1604. L'évolution continue vers le **Modern English** et Samuel Johnson le marque avec son "Dictionary of the

A brief chronology of English

BC 55	Roman invasion of Britain by Julius Caesar.	Local inhabitants speak Celtic or proto-English
BC 43	Roman invasion and occupation. Beginning of Roman rule of Britain.	
436	Roman withdrawal from Britain complete.	
449	Settlement of Britain by Germanic invaders begins	
450-480	Earliest known Old English inscriptions.	Old English
1066	William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invades and conquers England.	
c1150	Earliest surviving manuscripts in Middle English.	Middle English
1348	English replaces Latin as the language of instruction in most schools.	
1362	English replaces French as the language of law. English is used in Parliament for the first time.	
c1388	Chaucer starts writing <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> .	
c1400	The Great Vowel Shift begins.	Early Modern English
1476	William Caxton establishes the first English printing press.	
1564	Shakespeare is born.	
1604	<i>Table Alphabeticall</i> , the first English dictionary, is published.	
1607	The first permanent English settlement in the New World (Jamestown) is established.	
1616	Shakespeare dies.	
1623	Shakespeare's First Folio is published	
1702	The first daily English-language newspaper, <i>The Daily Courant</i> , is published in London.	
1755	Samuel Johnson publishes his English dictionary.	Late Modern English
1776	Thomas Jefferson writes the American Declaration of Independence.	
1782	Britain abandons its American colonies.	
1828	Webster publishes his American English dictionary.	
1922	The British Broadcasting Corporation is founded.	
1928	The <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> is published.	

English Language" en 1755.

Petit peuple, vaincu, envahi à plusieurs reprises, mais aussi de grands voyageurs, et colonisateurs, les habitants de la Grande Bretagne se sont laissé ouvert aux langues des autres. De ce fait, sa langue est devenu très riche et flexible, son vocabulaire énorme. Actuellement il est considéré comme langue universelle, que ce soit pour la technologie (surtout à partir de la révolution industrielle), l'informatique, le commerce, ou tout simplement les voyages. On peut dire aussi que l'anglais s'approprie facilement les langues d'autres pays - qu'il n'y a pas d'état d'âme pour utiliser un mot, germanique, français, latin, grec, espagnol, de l'Asie, de l'Afrique, de l'Amérique tout en gardant quelques racines, linguistiques, et orthographiques et de prononciation qui parfois viennent d'une ère perdue dans la préhistoire, et qui rendent perplexes celles et ceux qui cherchent à le maîtriser!



Association News

Our association has been active in the region for over 25 years now and is still going strong. In any association, membership numbers inevitably fluctuate. Recently we have lost members moving out from the region, but there are green shoots showing. The committee has been actively publicising our activities. The results are increased attendance at the Tuesday language meetings and new members attending our monthly social activities. Part of our strategy is to use the local press and so you have seen more articles published.

In 2010 we have been delighted to see how popular our activities have been. It has been marvellous to be able to share some of the fascinating adventures of our travel hungry members, to feast our eyes and ears with amazing technology, here at our own "front doors". But we have also celebrated Provençal and Irish traditions and gathered together to share books, hobbies, languages and interests accompanied by appetising meals.



Ian amongst the crystal

Once again, Klaus and Gudrun Adams presented a panorama of photos, complete with music. On this occasion, their destination was Peru. So, in July,

many members gathered in Loriol du Comtat, to enjoy their presentation, steeped in the ancient history of the region well contrasted with the modernity and exotic countryside. Then we all gathered together for a sumptuous paella, prepared for us by local caterers. Our thanks also goes to Carole Harris who efficiently organised the evening.

Back in Provence, our traditional June outing to the Mechoui, the outdoor Lamb Roast, was held as usual at La Cheylude. Ceremoniously, the cooks bore the whole roasted lambs shoulder high to the awaiting diners – very impressive and delicious! Sitting at long tables in this lovely shaded garden, in true Provençal style, older members and newcomers laughed and ate heartily, while the first cigales of the season sang for us.

Two very interesting visits were organised this year. The first, in May, at the Crystal "palace" near Apt, La Lustrerie Mathieu. Our members were taken on a guided tour of these magnificent, glistening chandeliers – works of art fit for a king. Before this enlightening visit, we tasted a delicious open air meal at the Auberge des Grands Camps. The second visit, in September, equally fascinating, was to the Atelier d'Horlogerie Ancienne in Entraigues. It simply enthralled our members.

In March, though, for St. Patrick's Day, Carpentras turned Irish, at the Espace Auzon. This excellent tribute to Celtic music, first from the Carpentras Conservatoire singing the old favourites with verve and enthusiasm, followed by a fiddle playing band, setting feet tapping gaily and giving the whole audience a true taste of music from the other side of the channel. The pub-like atmosphere was enough to cheer the hearts of all who attended.

April, heralded a visit to the private cinema club near Aubignan. On the menu, the film based on Peter Mayle's Provence flavoured book, – A Good

A Year's Events

Year, with French subtitles. True to form, the events committee produced a delicious meal to follow and many thanks go to the owners who hosted this lovely evening.



Joe asking a question

Two other very popular events, the Book Exchange in January together with a demonstration to admire some exceptional patchwork "oeuvres" was also the occasion to taste the Gateaux des Rois and other teatime treats in a very convivial atmosphere. And then, in February, we joined forces with Veronica Grange's theatrical association for an English style theatre evening at the Chapelle des Penitents Blancs.

Our next exotic destination, Columbia. After an amazing trip to his wife's homeland, Ian and Clara Mowat had prepared a very interesting show of photos, films and information in October sharing the sights and sounds of this equatorial South American paradise with us. And on the menu this time, a Poulet Colombo!

All in all, an eventful, varied and highly enriching year of activities – and many thanks to those who organise faultlessly behind the scenes with such devotion and good taste!



Members Comments on English

These comments were noted at one of the Tuesday meetings and are a selection from the attendees.

Le français a été si longtemps la langue internationale que nous avons dormi sur nos deux oreilles. C'est une langue très difficile, avec une grammaire que, même les Français de bon niveau, ne parlent pas toujours correctement.

Côté orthographe, il y a énormément de grammaire à apprendre. Combien de Français parlent-ils et écrivent-ils sans faute? Très peu, à mon avis.

Lorsque la langue internationale est devenue l'anglais, ou plutôt l'américain pour être plus exact, les Français se sont trouvés très démunis! L'oreille n'était pas prête. L'oreille est un organe très étonnant.

Savez-vous qu'une personne qui a la chance d'avoir l'oreille absolue peut rencontrer des difficultés insurmontables pour apprendre une langue étrangère?

Qui peut dire que la langue internationale d'aujourd'hui est mieux enseignée, mieux retransmise?

Que ferons-nous si, un jour, le chinois devient la langue internationale?

The language itself is easier, but the difficulty is in the way of thinking

At school, it is a difficult language to learn because we are taught via translations, Spanish is easier. It is more important to converse to learn English, whereas it is better to learn French through reading

English is acquired through speaking, listening, and then reading. It is difficult to learn a language if it is disconnected from reality so the best way to learn is through "immersion"

Students will never learn (English) if they are under stress; they need to relax and be freed from anxiety

We are afraid of making mistakes and cannot learn through isolated words. The words need to be in context – so, the dictionaries should be changed!

The language should not be dissociated from the culture

I have always liked the English language!

Veronica Grange – Provencale Doyenne

by Joe Nathanson

This is a story about Veronica Grange, in Geneva. resident of Bédoin, with a truly remarkable career in theatre, opera production and performance.

She has produced and had roles in renowned musical works and as a teacher, she has helped launch the careers of performers who are reaching to the heights of their profession. One such performer is Alexander Swan, son of Franco-Britannique Association members Malcolm and Janet Swan. Alexander, 36 years old, is a tenor who is already enjoying a promising career in opera singing, is singing in many theatres and festivals throughout this country and overseas.

Veronica is the doyenne of classical music and opera productions in an area that radiates from her home in Bédoin reaching approximately 100 kilometers within Vaucluse.

She settled in Bédoin in 1983. Of Anglo American parents, her childhood and schooling were spent in England. She continued her theatrical and musical training at the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, the Morley College Opera School and le Théâtre de Carouge



Since retiring from her teaching posts, Veronica founded Opera Ateliers 84, primarily for mounting opera productions for students, but over the years the association has become engaged in professional productions, notably for the Festival Coté, and for various cultural and music venues including Aix en Provence.

Fifty Provence residents are members of Opera Ateliers 84. The association's

concerts are held at Veronica's Bédoin home, La Grange de Piquet, with performances by interesting vocalists and instrumentalists. Attendances well exceed the number of members with up to 100 people squeezing into her theatre. Membership of Opera Ateliers 84 is open to all.

Her one disappointment in her vocation is the lack of interest shown by the younger generation for classical music or opera.

"Today we have lots more musical activity in this region, a lot of them private concerts such as we have at Opera Atelier '84. When we started ten years ago, there were fewer musical events. But is interest in classical music growing among young people? I'm not so sure," Veronica said.

Although not active herself in U.S. or French politics, Veronica boasts two international politicians among her cousins—Brice Lalonde, Ecological Ambassador for France and U.S. Senator John Kerry, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Famous people's Comments on English

Les Anglais ont un autre avantage sur nous, c'est de se passer de rime ; le mérite de nos grands poètes est souvent dans les difficultés de la rime surmontées, et le mérite des poètes anglais est souvent dans l'expression de la nature Voltaire

Un homme qui parle trois langues est trilingue. Un homme qui parle deux langues est bilingue. Un homme qui ne parle qu'une langue est anglais. Claude Gagniere

La langue anglaise est un fusil à plombs : le tir est dispersé. La langue française est un fusil qui tire à balle, de façon précise. Otto Von Habsburg

L'anglais. Langue des affaires. Du grand commerce. De la richesse. Des notables. Le français, c'est bon pour le négoce, les petits trafics, les combines politiques. Monique Bosco

La langue anglaise est du hollandais brodé de français. John Howell

L'anglais, ce n'est jamais que du français mal prononcé Clemenceau

Je parle l'anglais bien mieux que je ne le comprends, parce que quand je le parle, c'est moi qui choisis les mots. Jean Cazalet

Un Anglais, c'est un type comme nous, sauf qu'on ne comprend pas ce qu'il dit Domitille de Pressensé

Je me suis remis à la clarinette. C'est ce qui rapproche le plus de l'anglais. Raymond Devos

Quand on voyage sans connaître l'anglais, on a l'impression d'être sourdmuët et idiot de naissance. Philippe Bouvard

J'ai commencé à comprendre les Anglais le jour où j'ai enfin réalisé qu'ils disent exactement le contraire de ce qu'ils pensent. Marianne Faithful

La Recette

Lemon Layer Pudding

This recipe is my favourite pudding. It somehow manages to be as luxurious as the devil's promise and yet as light as a cloud, as creamy as a Normandy sauce and yet as refreshing as a boule of sorbet. It is simple to make and I offer it as a splendid treat for your next dinner party.

Ingredients for 4 people

2 eggs yolks beaten lightly
 2 egg whites beaten stiffly
 57 grams self raising flour ("farine pour gateaux")
 57 grams butter
 Zest of one lemon
 Juice of one lemon
 113 grams sugar
 200 ml milk

Fairly hot oven – 200C

Blend the butter, sugar and lemon zest together until creamy. Beat in the egg yolk. Stir in the lemon juice, flour and milk. To this mixture fold in the beaten egg whites.

You can either make the sweet in one dish of 1½ litres or in separate ramekins. Grease the dish(es) with butter and pour in the mixture. Place in a bain marie (roasting tin filled with water to ensure the mixture does not burn) and place in a hot oven for 45 minutes or until the sponge is golden. Serve just as it is or with a spoonful of crème fraîche.

When it is done, the top will be firm and maybe a little crunchy and spongy while the base is creamy.



Jazz Dans Les Vignes

Our beautiful region comes alive in the spring with the start of the concert season. During the winter we are restricted to visits to the Opera House where there are regular concerts every month. But during the summer there is a feast of opportunities around the area. The best of these, I would suggest, is the series of jazz concerts which is sponsored by Provence Bleu and PACA. They have been held in caves (wineries not the dark, dank kind) since 2006.



The first of these we went to this year was held in the winery in

Vacqueyras, Coline St Jean. It turned out to be an interesting evening. At 21:00 or whatever that might be in Provencal time, things always being a little late here, the concert got away to a good start. We were treated to a wonderful set by the quintet which included drums, percussion, saxophone, double bass and keyboards. Unfortunately they had been treated to an excellent lunch with unlimited wine and the keyboard player was tired and emotional, as we say in Scotland.

He seemed to think the sound was not anymore connected to his instruments and threw a hissy fit, banging the keyboards and generally behaving badly. Our first reaction was great surprise but then it got really funny especially as his attempts to bend down threatened to upend him entirely. Eventually the leader threw him off the stage and he stood there somewhat sheepish for about 10 minutes during

which time the group sound was not as good. Then he crept back on and for the most part behaved himself playing and contributing well.



Oh and there is one other thing I almost forgot to mention. The concerts are followed by a wine tasting with a groaning table full of canapés. Other concerts might have been less eventful but were all the same very enjoyable. If you like jazz, look for the series next year and go along. For €13 a ticket they are excellent value and a real community experience. Send them an email and get yourself on the mailing list for next year.

Jazz Dans Les Vignes

Web Site: <http://www.jazzdanslesvignes.com>

Telephone: 06 22 08 07 28

Email: contact@Jazzdanslesvignes.com

La Marseillaise



Rouget de Lisle, composer of the Marseillaise, sings it for the first time at the home of Dietrich, Mayor of Strasbourg

The national anthem of France was written and composed by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle who was a young officer in the French army in 1792 and adopted as the national anthem in 1795. It is also the first example of the "European march" anthemic style. Since being adopted as France's national anthem, the evocative lyrics and instantly recognisable tune of La Marseillaise have led to

its use as a revolutionary anthem as well as to the inspiration of many pieces of music, classical and popular. However it was not all plain sailing. Successive leaders had other ideas including Napoleon who banned it. But the power of the song was such that popular acclaim held it as the people's favourite. In 1879 it was officially restored as the nation's national anthem.

National Symbols



Restaurant Review

By Joe Nathanson

It is rare that we find a restaurant in which the food is both good and affordable. Such a restaurant is the Café du Cours, almost hidden away on a picturesque street near the entrance to Vacqueyras. Tom Jones and I visited the Café du Cours one evening several weeks ago. Lise was in Canada working on a court case as an expert witness.

The restaurant is run by its three owners, two of whom are sisters—Nathalie De Santis, Céline Sorde and Stéphane (whose family name we were unable to get because he was involved in a hot poker game at the time of our interview and the restaurant is now closed for their winter holiday).

Nathalie was the lead speaker while we were chatting and, typical of French restaurant owners, she learned cooking from her grandmother and her mother. Nathalie and Céline, in addition to their restaurant duties, are mothers and have the added jobs of taking care of their young children.

The restaurant is divided into two

parts—outside, under beautiful plane trees, is the Course Stassart, which looks like a typical Provencal outdoor café, and inside is the Hall of Provence, which seats 70 diners.

My dinner was like my mother's—gigollette de dinde confite aux épices douces. The meat was of high quality and freshly cooked. Its size was ample but not too much. The price was 13 euros. Tom had the baron d'agneau et sa crème à l'ail—delicious, he said, and that cost only 12 euros. The baron d'agneau was part of the menu which included a choice of five entrees, five Plat au Choix and six desserts.



At 19 euros, it is a menu that is hard

to beat. Weeks later, Tom was still praising his dinner through the streets of Lafare, his home village.

The Café du Cours also has available a large menu of viandes, poissons, salades, all of which are available a la carte.

There is also the Menu du Troubadour, at 25 euros, with four entrees and five Plat au Choix, including Parmentier de canard sur crème aux champignons and cote de bœuf (400g, with a supplementary cost of 3 Euros). The Troubadour menu is the most expensive in the house.

The Café du Cours carries wines of 39 proprietors and a total wine stock of 100 bottles.

For children, Café due Cours serves a 7.50 euros dinner with Jambon Blanc and Steak Haché and a choice of three different deserts.

In the summer, Café du Cours is open daily, noon and evening. From October 17 to 31 inclusive, it is open daily for lunch and starting Monday, November 1, they are open daily for lunch only.



Cafe du Cours

jusqu'au samedi 16 octobre inclus : ouvert tous les jours midis et soirs.

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Vaison La Romain – Trois villes

Local Villages

Trois villes en une : Vaison l'actuelle, animée, séduisante vivante ; la haute ville, perchée sur son site fortifié ; Vaison la romaine, l'antique Vasio.

C'est entre deux sites fouilles principaux, la Villasse et colline de Puymy, que l'on peut s'immerger, deux mille ans en arrière, dans la vie quotidienne gallo-romaine.

Mais Vaison ne redevient la Romaine que récemment, au début du XXème siècle, grâce à une trilogie – encore le chiffre trois – d'hommes providentiels : l'abbé Sautel qui passera un demi-siècle à fouiller le site ; l'architecte des monuments historiques Jules Formigé et un mécène, Maurice Burrus, curieusement homonyme d'un enfant du pays, Sylvanus Burrhus... qui fut le précepteur de empereur Néron !



Book Reviews

Book Worm

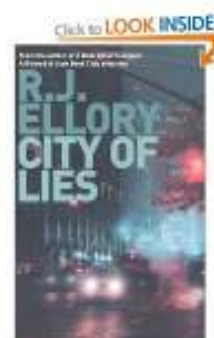
Winter in Madrid – C.J.Sansom – £3.98 from Amazon UK

There has been a rash of books published recently set at the time and place of the Spanish Civil War. Most prominently “Guernica” and “Shadows of the Wind” have captured that tortured time which still scars Spanish life. C. J. Sansom has written several historical novels featuring a character called Shardlake and set in the time of Henry VIII. Here he has turned his attention to Spain just after the civil war has finished and Spain is trying to pull itself out of the darkness while the rest of Europe is already at war. Madrid is the center of much attention being neutral and yet full of Nazis.

Harry Brett is a traumatised survivor of Dunkirk who is recruited as a reluctant and naive spy to gain the confidence of an old school chum Sandy Forsyth. Sandy has been living in Madrid and has come to the attention of the British secret service in Spain where the Nazi influence is felt in all sectors of the city.

Sandy's girlfriend is engaged in her own secret mission to find her former lover Bernie Piper who vanished from the bloody battlefields where he was serving as a passionate communist.

Our hero finds himself embroiled in an ever more dangerous game. It is a haunting evocation of the turmoil in Spain at the time, the dangerous eddies created by the Nazis and the profound impact of impossible choices.



A City of Lies – James Ellory – £5.43 from Amazon UK

R.J. Ellory is an author who has quietly stolen on to the scene and then was “found” by Richard and Judy's Book Club. They are a surprising route in to new authors which I have used on several occasions with great success. I now trust their recommendations.

Ellory books combine a good story line with intelligent portrayal of the streets of America and interesting characters. In this book the central character, John Harper, was living in Florida writing for a small town newspaper when he discovers that the father he thought long dead is lying in a coma in a New York Hospital after being shot in a liquor store. Returning home to New York, the city of his childhood brings back painful memories and yet Harper could never have prepared himself for the truth.

He is seduced by the lifestyle he seems to have inherited – an underworld life of power, treachery and menace. He is told many lies as he is manipulated by crooks and police alike, each telling different versions of the story, gradually peeling back the layers until finally the raw facts are laid out before him. And with the truth comes terrible danger. Will he survive in this alien environment? The reader is drawn down into this web of lies just as he is and the tension mounts.



Keith Floyd of L'isle sur la Sorgue



Keith in the garden of his French restaurant

Walking through the bustling market, French ladies, their baskets firmly tucked over their arms, take a bright black aubergine in their hands to test its firmness. They expertly sniff at melons, pass a critical eye over black and green, jewel-like, olives, inhaling their delectable aroma. Hagglng knowingly over new season's figs, these local housewives prod the multitude of saucissons, wary and wondering at the enormous range of brightly coloured peppers, while fresh herbs and garlic hang in profusion. Stall holders extoll their wares in their liltingly warm accents. For this is Isle sur la Sorgue.

Around thirty years ago someone else with a passion for real food and real living, walked along these streets, by these waterways, through these myriad narrow sun dappled streets. Keith Floyd was enchanted. Restaurateur and unique television chef, was drawn to this Provencal paradise. For him it was "brilliant.....". So much so that in the seventies, he opened a restaurant here and, incidentally, joined their rugby club too. But this venture was

doomed to failure, as were so many of his others, both financial and personal.

Flamboyant and passionate, Floyd had an amazing capacity for words. Words flowed through his early writings as a young journalist. Words, too, shocked yet inspired in his highly successful TV shows. His prolific outpourings in his very popular books tantalised with exquisite recipes. For the atmosphere is almost tangible. And they evoke flavours to titillate the senses.

Certainly, no one could be left indifferent. His hands, his face, his whole body would gesticulate as he enthused, (and even abused) the TV crews then raise his inevitable glass of red wine for a "quick swig"!!! Not satisfied with a studio show, he cajoled his presenters into filming him cooking up a gourmet meal in the open air – for example, on a trawler on the North Sea just after the catch was hauled in.

Millions were inspired by his enthusiasm. He whetted the appetite of so many diners with his gastronomic delights at his various

By Yvette Lilot

different restaurants. Despite such a gift for the culinary art, Floyd made – and lost – several fortunes. Bankers must have wrung their hands in anguish. With four marriages and four divorces – his personal life was apparently equally turbulent. As his long standing friend and last partner declared, he was, "outrageously rude, stupendously stropic, utterly adorable.... "

In those last years, perhaps tired of so much travelling and even of so much fame, Floyd returned to Provence to live in Montfrin, a little village just to the west of Avignon. He was still bubbling with new projects, this time in Thailand - and with his new partner. He had lived his life more than to the full. Sadly, on 14th September 2009, dogged by cancer, for which he had been treated at Nimes hospital, his great heart finally failed him.



Visiting wineries in our region

Thanks – and indeed, my personal thanks - to this master of the art of cooking. For, though perhaps he comes from an era out of time, our culinary world has been metamorphosed - by Keith Floyd !!!



Wine Library

The wine varieties of our region are prescribed by the authorities in Avignon. In this continuing article, here are four of the lesser known and little used varieties. But of course when they are in a wine, they add a special something, not available in varietal wines. It is the breadth of grape varieties in Cotes du Rhone which deliver the range of wine tastes available to us from our local producers.

Marselan



Utilisé dans l' AOC Côtes du Rhône (10% maximum), il donne un vin complexe, très coloré, très parfumé, riche en tannins souples et harmonieux. Sa typicité permet de constituer une base d'assemblage en raison de son potentiel polyphénolique, antocyanique et tannique.

Muscardin noir



Utilisé dans le Gigondas, ce cépage apporte dans l'assemblage un bouquet floral et une agréable fraîcheur.

varieties). Costières de Nîmes, Coteaux du Tricastin, Côtes du Luberon, Côtes du Ventoux

Camarèse et Vaccarèse noir



Ils ont une originalité aromatique intéressante pour modérer l'ardeur du Grenache dans certains vins auxquels ils apportent finesse et structure.

Tea for two.....

For all tea lovers, or tea snurlers!!!

How can we find some English tea without counting on friends or family coming from across the channel? If there are a sufficient number of members who would like to order English tea, we could send a group order to a site that specialises in delivering abroad -

www.bitishcornershop.co.uk

For up to three kilos delivered – that's a lot of tea! - the delivery charges are almost 12€. The tea appears to be at a reasonable price for good tea and the delivery costs could be shared among those who order. If you are interested and would like to try this, and even order other products which could make up the weight, please let Yvette Lilot (yvette.lilot@gmail.com) know.



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See us at:

<http://www.franco-britts.eu>

Membership

If your friends would like to join our organization, please send us an email or write to the address in the column. Most months we meet for something to eat and to chat and these events are a chance for members to meet and exchange ideas. We also have **Les rendezvous du mardi** where language skills in French and English are exercised. If you have questions about the area, our organization, or how things work in France, please call one of the telephone numbers here.

We will always endeavor to find you suitable assistance.

Your Magazine -You Can Help

Your team has prepared this edition. Yvette Lilot for the French stories, Joe Nathanson and Bruce Henderson reporting local interest stories and Ian Mowat, editor. But we are looking for contributions in French or in English. The subject should be something from the area and could be a story about how you have settled here, or, if you have lived here since childhood, about your family's history in the region. Whatever the subject, we would love to read your story, so please send your contributions to Ian MOWAT by email: ian.mowat@bon-sejour-provence-fr

About Our Organisation...

Our Association's mission is to assist English speaking people with their integration into the area and to help English and French speaking members improve their skills in each other's language.

Our Association also offers Anglophone members assistance when facing administrative or legal problems (not advice though!). It is not very easy to settle down in a foreign country, and even though one can speak the language, sooner or later one faces an issue, whether it is about taxes or building regulations or swimming pools. Also there are regulations you may never have considered such as how long to keep your utility bills (5 years!!).

The Association has compiled a practical guide to legal and fiscal issues which is given to all new members.

If you are already facing an administrative problem, do not hesitate to call us. We will endeavour to help you, either by supplying an answer or by helping with translations.

We also maintain a register of Anglophone doctors. If you know such a doctor, please send the details to our secretary. If you would like to join our organisation, please send us an email or write to one of the addresses on the left.

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Joe NATHANSON, auteur

Yvette LILOT, rédacteur français, auteur

Courrier des lecteurs

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Letters to the Editor

Vos histoires et remarques nous intéressent. Envoi un email à Ian MOWAT à ian.mowat@bon-sejour-provence.fr ou au courrier à rte de la Petite Grange, 84260 SARRIANS. Nous avons un prix pour la meilleure lettre.