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René Galand (in Breton, Reun ar C’halan), Professor of French Emeritus: Biography and List of Works

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René Galand (In Breton, Reun ar C’halan), Professor of French emeritus.

The writings placed in this repository are mostly translations of books and articles which appeared in Breton language publications under the name of Reun ar C’halan, and are accessible only to native speakers of Breton and to specialists of Celtic languages and literatures. His books and articles in English and French may be found in university libraries. All of Professor Galand’s works are listed below in the Chronology of his publications, with the exception of over 125 book reviews, and are available at the Clapp Library, Wellesley College.

Biography.

René Galand was born on January 27, 1923 in Châteauneuf-du-Faou (Brittany). He was still a child when his parents emigrated to the United States. Their two children remained in Brittany in boarding schools. They spent the holidays on their grandparents’ farm, in the heart of Breton-speaking Brittany. René Galand studied at the lycées of Brest and Rennes and at the University of Rennes. He received a baccalauréat (mathematics) in 1941, a second baccalauréat (philosophy) in 1942, and the licence ès lettres in 1944. He had his first contacts with the French Résistance in November 1942, and after the Normandy landings he took part in the battle for the Liberation of France, in a Résistance unit which was armed and advised by a parachuted Jedburgh team led by an American OSS officer. When General Middleton’s combat commands reached Western Brittany, on August 5, 1944, René Galand’s battalion (along with three other similar battalions from the area) was placed under the American general’s orders: he sent them to capture the strongly defended German naval aviation base of Lanvéoc-Poulmic, a mission which was accomplished at the beginning of September. During that time, the American troops concentrated their efforts on the port of Brest (strategically important because of the fleet of German submarines sheltered there under thick concrete vaults). Brest was defended by the Kreta Korps (25,000 men) of General Ramcke, who surrendered on September 12.

Promoted to the rank of aspirant (officer candidate) in October 1944, Galand was sent to the École Militaire Inter-Armes of Cherchell (Algeria). He graduated in June 1945 with the rank of second lieutenant and was assigned to the French Forces of Occupation in Germany. At the end of 1946, he received his discharge from active duty. He could not join his family in the US until March 1947 (the American consulate in Paris was swamped with requests for visas, and transport across the Atlantic was almost impossible to find). In the fall of 1947, he was admitted as a Ph.D. candidate in French literature at Yale University, where he also served as Teaching Assistant (1947-1949) and Instructor of French (1949-1951). Having completed his doctoral thesis in the summer of 1951, he joined the Wellesley College faculty as an Assistant Professor of French. He taught at Wellesley until he retired in 1993 with the rank of Professor of French emeritus. He served as Chair of the French Department from 1968 to 1973. He lectured primarily on French literature in the 19th and 20th centuries.

René Galand is the author of numerous studies on French writers from Chateaubriand, Renan and Baudelaire to Camus, Robbe-Grillet and the Oulipo. His publications include five books, numerous contributions to collective works, articles and reviews which have appeared in The French Review, The Romanic Review, Revue d’Histoire littéraire de la France, Revue de littérature comparée, PMLA, Yale French Studies, Symposium, Dada/Surrealism, World Literature Today and other journals. He has also published essays on American writers (Melville, T. S. Eliot, Lovecraft, Kerouac), and on the Spanish poet Jorge Guillén. Under the Breton form of his name, Reun ar C’halan, he has published several books in Breton: three collections of poems, a volume of short stories, and two volumes of autobiographical writings. Uncollected
poems, short stories, critical studies on Breton literature, and reviews of works published in the Breton language have appeared in volumes of essays and in such journals as Al Liamm, Skrid, Poésie-Bretagne, Pobl Vreizh, Barr-Heol, Keltoi, Bro Nevez, Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Keltica, World Literature Today... Some of his writings have been translated and published in other languages, French, English, Welsh, Dutch, and Polish. Critics have ranked him among the best Breton writers of his time. René Galand has participated in the work of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium, of the CSANA (Celtic Studies Association of North America), and of the American branch of the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (referred hereafter as ICDBL). In 1971, René Galand was awarded the Palmes Académiques by the government of France for his contributions to the study of Grench literature. In 1979, he received the Xavier de Langlais Prize for his first collection of poems, Levr ar Blanedenn (The Book of Fate), and, in 2003, the Imram Prize for his Breton literary writings.

Bibliography


Chronology of publications

In this Chronology, some one hundred and twenty reviews of books by French and Breton writers, and of works dealing with French and Breton literatures have been omitted. The full title of the publication ICDBL Newsletter is The International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language Newsletter. This publication was founded in 1981, and renamed Bro Nevez in 1984.

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545-548
Bk. *L’Ame celtique de Renan* [Renan ;s Celtic Soul]. (Yale U. P. - Presses Universitaires de France, 1959)
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Art. "En marge d’*Éloges*" [In the Margins of *Éloges*], *The French Review*, (Special issue, Spring 1973), pp. 112-119
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Art. "Cocteau, or the poet as magician", *The American Legion of Honor Magazine*, vol 46 (1975), no 3, pp. 139-154
Poems "Oaziz", "Anzavadenn ar re laosk" [Oasis, The Coward’s Confession], *Barr Heol*, Dec. 1975, no 87, pp. 36-37
Poem "Marc'heg ar gurun" [The Knight of Thundere], *Pobl Vreizh*, May 1976, no 76, p. 7
Poems "Gouelec’hiou an eñvor"[The Deserts of Memory], *Skrid*, no 9 (1976), pp. 1-20
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Poems "Planedenn ar barzh kozh" [The Fate of the Ancient Poet], *Al Liamm*, no 193 (1979), pp. 83-88
Story "Laora", *Skrid*, no 19 (1979), pp. 30-61
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Art. "E kouen eus Anjela Duval" [In memory of Anjela Duval], *ICDBL Newsletter*, no 3 (1982), pp. 11-12
Poem "Serr-noz er gouelec'h" [Nightfall in the desert], *Al Liamm*, no 215 (1982), p. 331
Poem "Ar Steredenn du" [The black star], *Al Liamm*, no 216 (1983), pp. 6-7
Poems "Bleuñv an huñvre"; "Skeudenn ar garantez" [The dream flower, The image of love], *Al Liamm*, no 217 (1983), pp. 83-84
Poems "Levenez ar ch'hillhog"; "Gouel an hañv" [The rooster's joy, The feast of summer], *Al Liamm*, no 218 (1983), pp. 163-164
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Poems "Dor an noz"; "An Dalled"[The Door of Night; The Blind], *Al Liamm*, no 222 (1984), pp. 3-4
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Bk. *Klemmgan Breizh* (Brest: Al Liamm, 1985)
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