

La Gazette



WINTER 2020 ISSUE

RENDEZVOUS DATES-
To be advised.

FRENCH FILM REVIEWS/EXHIBITIONS

Review of film *Le Mystère de Monsieur Pick*
Review of book "Intrépide".

FRENCH LANGUAGE RESOURCES

- **NEW**-----SBS EASY FRENCH
- French news on SBS daily at 8.40am
- TV5monde.com
- Culturetheque online-This has books, magazines, papers, music and online study materials in French

Important message!

Please confirm on the Meetup site (Central Coast French Conversation Meetup Group) when attending the 'Meetups' on the 4th Saturday of every month.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mes Chers Amis et Membres, Bonjour!

Since the last Gazette three months have passed but unfortunately in the worst conditions and you know very well what I mean by that.

All over the world the same words resonate...Pandemic, Covid 19 with all its tragic consequences. But we must not forget how lucky we are in Australia and also not to forget that there are still other illnesses destroying lives.

I'll try to avoid pronouncing these words but we cannot ignore them. We are in a critical moment of History and it is obvious that we are experiencing global paralysis but respecting my principles..." *There are never problems...only solutions*"... for example regarding our French lessons, our teachers Felix and Patricia have worked very hard to introduce and continue their distance teaching via Zoom and I can tell you that the comments from the few students I have spoken with were very positive and they were very impressed...now there you have an example of a solution!

Usually I always have the great pleasure of talking about all the social events that have been organised bringing variety and happiness to you all, my dear friends and members of our AFCC, but unfortunately all those which were scheduled for the last three months had to be cancelled ... in fact No ... not cancelled just postponed!...except for a few unlucky...or maybe...lucky travellers around the world!

The Pre-Easter picnic... cancelled....but there will be many other picnics, the cruise on the beautiful Brisbane Waters... cancelled... but there will be many other cruises, the French Country Market as popular as it always is... cancelled...but there will be many other French Country Markets!

At least one project for our members/students is still planned and will be carried out in early September ***IF*** we are allowed to depart Australia and fly to Noumea where the school is located in a former penal colony. All its historical buildings are intact, including what was the house of the French Governor, the bakery where the prisoners' duty was to make bread for everyone, the typical chapel ... everything is still there!...and all of it with a spectacular view!

In the meantime, my dear friends and members, I really look forward to finally being able to meet you all...in French of course...and if you have forgotten, don't worry I'll forgive you and "let's start again", to celebrate our reunion probably at the Cheeky Charlie Restaurant with a very special lunch...maybe champagne???...and most importantly to see you all in perfect health and happy to realise how beautiful and precious life is!

À très bientôt, j'espère,

Nathalie Adams
President

THE MYSTERY OF HENRI PICK

Starring **Fabrice Luchini**, **Camille Cottin**, **Alice Isaaz**, **Bastien Bouillon** and **Josiane Stoléru**, this 101min drama is an Australian Premiere. Based on *David Foenkinos's* 2016 book of the same name, *The Mystery of Henri Pick* revolves around the film's enigmatic title character whose celebrated novel *The Last Hours of a Love Story* was discovered two years after his death. Not everyone is convinced of its authenticity, including influential literary critic *Jean-Michel Rouche* (Fabrice Luchini) who is on a mission to expose the truth.

His unflagging determination leads him to trace Pick's footsteps all the way to Brittany where he finds the daughter of the supposed author, *Joséphine Pick* (Camille Cottin) who is also a major bookworm. Though opposed at first, she ends up assisting Rouche in his search for the truth, as she assists him in navigating the secretive Breton landscape.



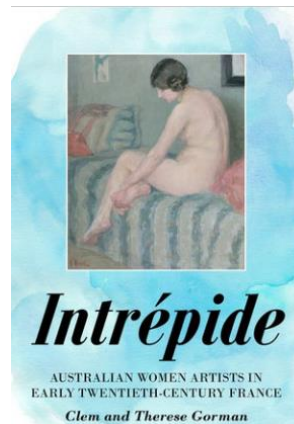
LE MYSTÈRE DE HENRI PICK

En Bretagne, un bibliothécaire décide de recueillir tous les livres refusés par les éditeurs. Ainsi, il reçoit toutes sortes de manuscrits. Parmi ceux-ci, une jeune éditrice découvre ce qu'elle estime être un chef-d'oeuvre, écrit par un certain Henri Pick. Elle part à la recherche de l'écrivain et apprend qu'il est mort deux ans auparavant. Selon sa veuve, il n'a jamais lu un livre ni écrit autre chose que des listes de courses... Aurait-il eu une vie secrète? Auréolé de ce mystère, le livre de Pick va devenir un grand succès et aura des conséquences étonnantes sur le monde littéraire. Il va également changer le destin de nombreuses personnes, notamment celui de Jean-Michel Rouche, un journaliste obstiné qui doute de la version officielle. Et si toute cette publication n'était qu'une machination? Récit d'une enquête littéraire pleine de suspense, cette comédie pétillante offre aussi la preuve qu'un roman peut bouleverser l'existence de ses lecteurs.

Our editor was fortunate enough to see the above film and it was a mystery with a tightly knit plot but with a light humour, which made it quite a unique and appealing story to the audience.

INTRÉPIDE

by Clem and Therese Gorman



One of the latest books on Australian artists is **Intrépide** and those looking for information about women artists working and exhibiting works in France will be happy to find this answers their needs.

All the artists covered in this book lived and worked in France during the early part of the 20th century. The authors who are francophiles themselves started investigating the names of these artists and originally they found 6 and soon this expanded to altogether 60 in total. Some of the names of these people included Stella Bowen, Madge Freeman, Evelyn Chapman, Bessie Davidson and Margaret Preston. Agnes Goodsir was unique for her “modernism” and Margaret Olley, who is widely known, also belonged to this group.



Bessie Davidson-La robe jaune 1931
(Above painting from the **S.H.Erving Gallery-Sydney**)

Some exhibited in the Paris Salons and in private galleries on the Left Bank, most studied and many received prizes and accolades. Dorrit Black & Grace Crowley bought back to Australia an understanding of modern art witnessed first-hand. Stella Bowen, Anne Dangar, Agnes Goodsir and Bessie Davidson never returned permanently, having adopted France as their home. Bessie Davidson stands out from the group as she was awarded the Légion D’Honneur for her work in Art.

A LA DÉCOUVERTE DU TAENNCHEL, MONTAGNE MAGIQUE D'ALSACE



Les particularités vibratoires du Taennchel en font un véritable centre initiatique.

L'origine du nom « Taennchel » en apporte la confirmation : Taennchel est à mettre directement en relation avec « chêne ». Le chêne, symbole de puissance et de force, nous place dans le contexte des forêts magiques peuplées de mages, de druides et d'adorateurs de pierres.

Il faudrait consacrer une journée entière à la découverte de ce site. Une journée pendant laquelle les pèlerins chercheurs pourront bénéficier, tout en savourant le plaisir de la découverte, de l'air pur de la montagne et d'une séance de magnétisme cosmo-tellurique. Le gigantesque rocher des Titans fascine par ses énormes cubes de grès qui semblent avoir été empilés dans un dessein mystérieux par des Titans. L'onde de vie de ce rocher est très bonne, mais l'exposition ne doit pas dépasser quinze minutes.

Préparez-vous à cette rencontre de vous-même par des silences, car vous avez des espaces où tout s'arrête, se suspend. Ces hauts lieux sont des couloirs qui s'ouvrent aux êtres pour leur permettre d'atteindre cette vibration ultime, échelle placée d'un temps à un autre pour rejoindre l'onde pure et cristalline qui en fera des êtres prêts pour l'évolution cosmique des temps.

The unique physical vibrations caused by the magnetism of the Taennchel area make it a real draw card for tourists.

The origin of the name " Taennchel " confirms this: Taennchel is linked directly to " oak ".

The oak tree, a symbol of power and strength, places us in the context of magical forests filled with Magi, Druids and stone followers.

One should spend a whole day to discover this site, during which visitors and pilgrims are able to enjoy the pleasure of discovery, the pure air of the mountain and a session of cosmo-telluric magnetism. The giant rock of the Titans fascinates by its huge sandstone cubes that seem to have been stacked in mysterious designs by Titans. This rock's vibration is healthy, but it is recommended that exposure to this should not exceed fifteen minutes.

Enjoy this magical solitude, for you have spaces where everything stops, suspended.

Control + Click on link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hfip42arC_8

(click on CC for French subtitles)

A JAPAN SOJOURN: A FEW IMPRESSIONS

There is a tenuous connection between my 24 years in Japan and 'la belle France'. In 1988, on my way to spend a year in Dijon, in France, as an English teaching 'assistant', I decided to take advantage of the stopover possibilities offered by JAL (Japan Airlines) and drop in on Tokyo for 4 days. It wasn't my first time to Japan as I had been there on holiday with my family as a teenager, but it was my first time to navigate the un-named streets and lane ways of the capital by myself. Incredibly, at the time of writing, those zillions of streets still remain nameless, but, thank goodness, much easier to navigate these days with Google Maps and GPS.

(Note: During the Allied Occupation, an attempt to introduce street names, and thus, ease of urban-navigation, was apparently 'politely rejected' by the Japanese!)

While in Tokyo I noticed the large number of English teaching jobs advertised in Japan. So it was that after my year in France I ended up looking to Japan to find new work and adventure. Soon after my return to Australia I accepted an 'assistant' teaching position once again; this time for the Japanese Ministry of Education. Unlike my teaching positions in Germany and France, the Japanese government provided a full salary, accommodation, all flights, orientation in Tokyo...wow! And an education system vastly different from those of Australia and Europe.

The Japanese Consul in Sydney "warned" me that Toyama, the prefecture of Japan I was being sent to was 'ultra-Nippon', a rural backwater of Japan; traditional, conservative and rural. I was ecstatic. No sprawling, "green space-less" mega-cities for me! What's more, my home for two years would be a small town, famous for traditional woodcarving, surrounded by rice paddies, blanketed by snow in winter, at the very foot of the Japan Alps.

I must admit that my first general impressions of Japan were rather mixed. A very efficient and street-clean country; with an extremely hospitable, well organised, and polite welcome. The highlight was, and still is, the fascinating traditions, customs and social interactions, and, of course, their magnificent transportation networks! The negative for me is what I consider to be an unrelenting and ugly urban sprawl stretching around the coastline. Vast swathes of concrete lining the banks of the rivers and rippling down mountainsides; miles of dense, heavy power lines snaking through the streets of the cities and towns. Blocks of characterless concrete office and apartment buildings. The typical demolition every 25 years or so of family homes leads to a mass of vinyl-clad, featureless housing throughout the suburbs and towns stretching from Hokkaido in the north to Kagoshima in the very south. Even the Japanese islands stretching down to Taiwan are dominated by nondescript buildings and housing. There are reasons given for all this but a lot, it appears, has to do with political expediency and big business profits.

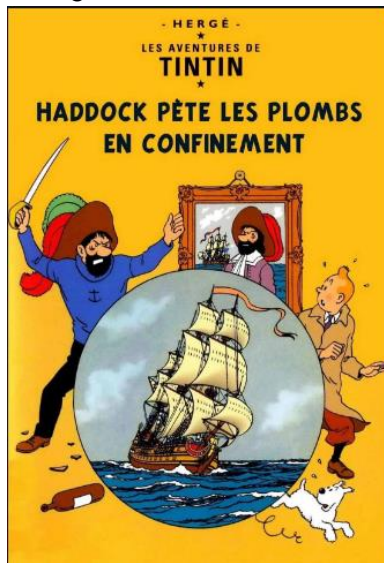
(Note: There is little to no value in housing in Japan; you are paying for the land. The construction industry also wields enormous political and economic influence.)

Another discovery was the actual rarity of our Western image of a minimalist, restrained interior decoration of Japanese homes. All books and images show us the traditional simple beauty of tatami mat rooms, paper-shoji and fusuma doors, carved wooden transoms between rooms, the beautiful tokonoma-niche with its seasonal scroll and vase of ikebana-arranged flowers. Japan is an amazing country. Sure there were things I didn't like or agree with, but that never detracted from my enjoyment of living and travelling there.

Par Sonya Govey.



With the **confinement** affecting our lives due to **corona virus**, we can try to see the lighter side of life if possible. Here are some of our favourite characters such as Captain Haddock, cartoonists and artists who have succeeded in doing so!



(Haddock blows a fuse / gets very angry in confinement)

Les Goguettes du confinement, sur l'air de "Vesoul" par Jacques Brel avec Clémence au piano, et Valentin au chant et à la guitare.
(**ctrl-click on link**; to slow down, then click on Settings, and set the Playback speed to 0.75 or 0.5):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BFOJtRFIY-8>

Vidéos drôles pendant le confinement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eB5P9UHsnyl>

