

## Annex 3: press articles further to our letter of July 6th, 2009

**Le Télégramme** July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009

<http://www.letelegramme.com/ig/loisirs/ete/vieilles-charrues/grains-de-sel-toi-aussi-t-as-envie-de-fairehippie-12-07-2009-465874.php>

**Object:** Unesco

### **Annexion**

**Extracts from "Grain of salt"**, a chronicle of the Telegram on Sunday 12 / 07 / 09 (...)  
But what it is like this binz? The partisans of the reunification who militate within "Reunited Brittany", couldn't get over it. The castle of the dukes of Brittany, in Nantes, has just appeared in a touristico-promotional list of castles, certified "Val-de-Loire, Valley of the Kings"! Entered into the Heritage of Unesco in 2000. That Nantes be found stowed away in a Val-de-Loire list, which goes from Sully to Chalennes, well, alright ! But the castle of the Dukes de Bretagne is classified in the Valley of the French Kings, that is a matter for provocation, to "Reunited Brittany", which remembers well all the times when French and Bretons cheerfully waged war against one another. In other words, this touristical uniting takes after a real historic annexation. We know "One hundred years" wars which were started for less than that!

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**Ouest-France, Nantes** Tuesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Front page with photo, sending to page 7:

### **Nantes, Breton castle or castle of the Loire?**

The fortress of the dukes of Brittany stands henceforth on the map of the castles of the Loire. Breton associations denounce a "rewriting" of history.

Page 7 : [http://www.ouest-france.fr/actu/actu\\_B\\_-Nantes-chateau-breton-ou-chateau-de-la-Loire-8619-1005385\\_actu.Htm](http://www.ouest-france.fr/actu/actu_B_-Nantes-chateau-breton-ou-chateau-de-la-Loire-8619-1005385_actu.Htm)

### ***In the name of History***

Indignation! It is the word used by four Breton cultural and political associations (among which the Cultural Institute of Brittany and Reunited Brittany), in a mail

to the director of Unesco in Paris. **They denounce the presence of the castle of the dukes of Brittany in the tourist folder "Castles of the Loire, the Valley of the Kings, the ladies of Touraine".**

The document bears the label of the Val de Loire, classified by Unesco in the World Heritage. The last residence of the dukes of Brittany, they write, does not have its place in the Valley of French the Kings, who have **"so often waged war to the Bretons"** until the annexation of the duchy.

Behind the touristic argument, they may detect *"the less noble cause of the destruction of the Breton identity of the Loire-Atlantique and of its monuments"*. They speak about **"diversion"**, about **"pernicious abuse"** of which the historic territory of Brittany, but also Val de Loire, would be victims.



Classified, this last one indeed occupies a very precise territory, which stops at Chalonnes-sur-Loire, at 25 km from Angers. The signatories ask Unesco to bring order, so that Val de Loire finds his "**true**" limits, and so that the "Marches" of Brittany are "*shielded from an exaggerated revisionism towards History*". If they are not understood, they do not exclude other actions, in the name of the protection of the cultures.

### ***In the name of the tourism***

Jean-Baptist Desbois, chief executive officer of Nantes Culture and heritage, is delighted to see Nantes appearing beside a heavy touristic place as Chambord. "*The idea was to gather, around the Loire, fifty seven high places of tourism and history. It is an invitation to go and visit somewhere else by leaning on the Val de Loire*".

He r[all translations Maryvonne Cadiou].egrets an ambiguity: "*It would have been necessary to clarify the classified zone in the World Heritage*". For the rest, he denies any will to rewrite History. "*The controversial document has nothing historic, it is just a touristic map*".

The fact that the castle of the dukes of Brittany is on this map does not prevent from asserting its Breton identity, argues the director. "*We are at the crossing: castle on the Loire, and Breton castle, access door to Brittany. We are going to continue to take into account the Breton dimension. The castle has just welcomed the rock opera "Anne de Bretagne". We shall present, after the summer holidays, a project with Dastum and the Breton cultural Agency.*"

**Track down.** The metamorphosis of the castle of Nantes is the work of François II, last duke of Brittany. It begins by 1466. Conceived to fulfill at the same time the functions of fortress and comfortable princely residence, the castle is on the second line of defence of the duchy of Brittany. Under François II the towers of the Pied-deBiche are built and of the Boulangerie which surround the main entrance, then the tower of the Jacobins. Other defensive towers and curtains will be built by duchess Anne.

Marc Le Duc.

### **La Vie Immobilière** July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

[http://www.lavieimmo.com/actualite-immobilier-Polemique\\_autour\\_du\\_chateau\\_des\\_ducs\\_de\\_bretagne-00003446.html](http://www.lavieimmo.com/actualite-immobilier-Polemique_autour_du_chateau_des_ducs_de_bretagne-00003446.html)

On Wednesday, July 15th, 2009 at 17:09

#### **Nantes Polémique around the castle of Dukes de Bretagne**

Catégorie: **unusual**

#### **Brittany stirs up**

Four cultural and political associations of the peninsula denounce in a mail sent to the director of Unesco in Paris the presence of the castle of Dukes de Bretagne in the tourist folder "Castle of the Loire, the royal valley, the ladies of Touraine", reveals the daily paper Ouest-France. For the associations, the last residence of the dukes of Brittany has not its place in the valley of French kings who, according to them, have "so often waged war against the Bretons". And the signatories want to "shield Brittany from an exaggerated revisionism towards History". The chief executive officer of Nantes Culture and Heritage, Jean-Baptist Desbois, on the contrary, sees in this classification the opportunity for Nantes to stand beside an important touristic place as Chambord by combining around the Loire "57 high places of the tourism and the history". M.F



## **Castle of Nantes: history must be respectfully treated**

From Jean Cévaër, reader:

"I read in your editions of July 14th the article concerning the castle of Nantes, the castle of Dukes de Bretagne. It is obviously very illuminating that a historic forgery is brought to light in this day of a National celebration which hides a disguise of history hiding to the good people what was really "the storming of the Bastille", its real stakes and the horrors which accompanied it.

There are here two notions to be considered, one is geographical, the other is history - both acknowledged for centuries - Val de Loire geographically which extends from Sully-sur-Loire to Chalonnes. It is this space which was placed by Unesco on the list of the World heritage. There is then a historic dimension of the castles of the Loire, a set of residences and of royal fortresses or of the royal domain, located between Orléans and Angers.

The last one of these castles to be possibly considered as a castle of the Loire is thus the castle of Angers, built in the XIIIth century by order of Blanche de Castille to protect the royal domain from the attacks of the Bretons.

**As for the castle of Nantes, fortress and residence of Dukes de Bretagne**, it became property of kings of France only after 1532. Beforehand, they had tried to seize it by the violence, unsuccessfully, in summer, 1487.

In a time when so many marks which structured our societies are fading, whether it is the religion, the ideologies, the family and while the trust in the institutions of the State, including the justice, is at the lowest, history remains one of the recognized elements of the identity of the populations and a reference, still history must not be "rewritten", denied or interpreted to serve a political cause.

I do not doubt the good faith of Mr the director of *Nantes Culture and Heritage*, but his sense of history. The historic said tourism is not any more supported by ill-assorted assemblings, as the one he quotes including castles, cathedrals, museums and houses of celebrities. This tourism, of style "supermarket" is not any more with current tastes, the visitors want to grow richer by following a coherent subject, the exhibition on "*The Marches of Brittany*" at present in Châteaubriant is a good example, as moreover "*The sea for memory*" in the castle of Dukes de Bretagne that Mr Desbois quotes.

A multimillennium experience thus teaches us that history which, by good will or reluctantly, establishes us, must be respectfully treated. We did not forget what was said in Soviet Union to characterize the work of the "historians-communists" « *Here the past is even more difficult to predict than the future* ».

[translations Maryvonne Cadiou].