

**L. L. BONAPARTEREN ERAKUSKETA
BRITISH LIBRARY-N**

London, 1991-II-7 / 1991-IV-14

KRONIKA LABURRA

1991.II.7/9

Jose Antonio Arana Martija

Otsailaren 7an, goizeko hegazkinean joan ziren Sondikatik Londrese-
ra Jean Haritschelhar euskaltzainburua, Jose Antonio Arana Martija biblio-
tekaria eta erakusketaren arduraduna, Pello Salaburu Bibliotekako ba-
tzordeburua eta Juan Jose Zearreta ekonomi-eragilea. Egun berean,
arratsaldeko lauretan bildu ziren Geoffrey West jaunarekin, honek British
Library-ko berriak eman zizkielarik. Arratsaldeko seietan, nahiz eta edur
ugariagatik British Library itxita egon, berrogeita hamar entzule bildu
ziren bertako areto batetan hitzaldiak entzuteko asmotan. West jaunak
egin zuen sarrerako hitzaldia, Bonaparte, euskara, Euskal Herria eta
Euskaltzaindiaren berri emanez. Gero Euskaltzainburuak hitz egin zuen
frantsesez, "Bonaparte et le Pays Basque" gaiaz mintzaturik. Arana Mar-
tija jaunak egin zuen hurrengo hitzaldia, euskaraz, hitz lauz eta bertsoe-
tan Euskal Herriak Bonaparteri zor dion omenaldi gisa. Eta azkenean
Pello Salaburu jauna luze mintzatu zen ingelesez, Bonaparte Europako
dialektologiaren aintzindari gisa aurkeztuz "Bonaparte, forerunner of modern
dialectology" hitzaldiaren izenburua izan zelarik. Erakusketa inauguratu
zen ostean, eta British Library-ko zuzendari nagusia den J. M. Smethurst
jaunak Euskaltzaindiari eskerrak eman zizkion erakusketa prestatzearen
egindako lan eta emaitzengatik. Lunch batekin amaitu zen eguna. Otsai-
laren 8an, Arana Martija jauna British Library-ko informatizazioaz ari
izan zen goiz osoan West jaunarekin. Ilunabarrean Txomin Idigoras,
Londresen dagoen euskarazko irakaslearekin, "The Prince Bonaparte"
pub bat ikustera joan zen Arana Martija jauna. Igandean, arratsaldez,
itzuli ziren denak hegazkinez Sondikako aireportura. Erakusketa apirila-
ren 14 arte egongo da zabalik.

THE BRITISH LIBRARY

A series of short talks in French, English and Basque to
accompany the British Library exhibition:

Out of the confusion of tongues: Louis-Lucien Bonaparte
1813-1891

will take place in the Meeting Room in the East residence of the
British Museum, Great Russell St, London WC1 on 7 February
at 5.45pm.

Jean Haritschelhar, President of the Academy of the Basque
Language:

'Bonaparte et le Pays Basque'

Pello Salaburu, Professor at the Universidad del País Vasco:

'Bonaparte, forerunner of modern dialectology'

José Antonio Arana Martija, Librarian of the Azkue Biblioteka,
Bilbao:

'Euskal Herriak Bonaparteri omenaldia'

* * *

Out of the confusion of tongues: Louis-Lucien Bonaparte
1813-1891

An exhibition in the King's Library 8 February-14 April
The British Library, Great Russell St, London WC1

PRESENTATION

(SARRERA HITZAK)

(LABURPENA)

Geoffrey West

Geoff West of the Library's Hispanic Section welcomed those who had defied the blizzard in order to come to the lectures which were intended as an introduction to the exhibition "Out of the Confusion of Tongues. Louis-Lucien Bonaparte (1813-1891) and the Languages of Europe". He introduced the three speakers and welcomed them to the British Library (in English and in Basque).

Reverting to English, he thanked Euskaltzaindia for its financial support for the exhibition and the representatives of the Academy who had come to London to attend the opening. In particular he wished to thank José Antonio Arana Martija for his advice and encouragement during the preparation of the exhibition.

Finally he expressed the hope that the exhibition would serve to make the work of Louis-Lucien Bonaparte better known in England. While he was highly regarded by Basque scholars, he was sadly very much neglected in England, even though he had spent some forty years of his life in London.

L. L. BONAPARTEREN ERAKUSKETA

London, 1991-II-7

Jean Haritschelhar

euskaltzainburua

Monsieur le Président:

Mesdames, Messieurs:

L'Académie de la Langue Basque –Euskaltzaindia– est heureuse de se trouver aujourd'hui à Londres pour l'inauguration à la British Library de l'exposition sur le Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte dont elle célèbre le centenaire de la mort. Je ne résiste pas au plaisir de vous dire la joie que nous avons de nous trouver parmi vous, malgré l'inclémence de ce temps de neige assez exceptionnel, mais la chaleur de votre accueil jointe à l'abondance et à la qualité du public présent dans cette salle est pour nous un témoignage de ce que représente l'Académie de la Langue Basque au delà du domaine où elle exerce son influence. Qu'il me soit permis aussi de saluer la présence de personnes connues, le professeur Trask qui a participé à plusieurs de nos congrès ou colloques et notre ami Alan King, membre de la commission de grammaire de l'Académie, dont les avis pertinents sont toujours pris en compte.

L'Académie de la Langue Basque a pris naissance en 1918 au premier Congrès d'Etudes basques d'Oñate. Composée à l'origine de douze membres dont neuf de citoyenneté espagnole et trois de citoyenneté française, elle est donc une institution transfrontalière destinée à oeuvrer, en dehors de toute idéologie partisane, au maintien et à l'expansion de l'euskara ou langue basque. Elle est devenue une institution officielle depuis le décret royal du 26 Février 1976 qui lui assure la reconnaissance du pouvoir espagnol ainsi que, quelques années plus tard celle du gouvernement de la communauté autonome basque ainsi que celle du gouvernement autonome de Navarre. Elle est composée actuellement de vingt-quatre académiciens dont dix sept sont de citoyenneté espagnole et sept de citoyenneté française. J'en assume le présidence depuis le 1.º Janvier 1989 où, pour la première fois dans l'histoire de l'Académie, un citoyen français a été appelé à cette haute fonction. Pour

vous montrer l'éclectisme de l'Académie je m'adresserai à vous en français, mon collègue José Antonio Arana Martija le fera en basque et mon collègue Pello Salaburu en anglais. Outre les travaux de lexicologie, de grammaire, d'onomastique ou de littérature l'Académie de la Langue Basque s'intéresse aussi à la dialectologie et c'est pour cela qu'elle a inscrit à son programme pour 1991 la célébration du centenaire de la mort du prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, le père de la dialectologie basque.

* * *

Curieuse destinée que celle de cet homme, fils de Lucien Bonaparte et neveu de l'Empereur Napoléon. Les démêlés entre les deux frères ont voulu que Lucien ait émigré vers les Etats-Unis, que le navire où il avait embarqué ait été intercepté par la Royal Navy et qu'il ait été assigné à résidence en Grande Bretagne où son fils le prince Louis Lucien verra le jour le 4 Janvier 1813. A partir de la chute de Napoléon la famille de Lucien Bonaparte s'installe en Italie où Louis-Lucien va entreprendre des études chez les Jésuites à Urbino, études qu'il poursuivra en minéralogie et chimie à l'Université. Pendant de nombreuses années il fait des recherches et publie des travaux dans le domaine de la chimie. On est loin de la linguistique qui le passionnera plus tard.

C'est en 1846, en effet, qu'il s'intéresse à la linguistique et commence ses premières enquêtes sur le terrain. Dès 1847 il publie à Florence le "Specimen Lexici comparativi omnium linguarum europearum", première ébauche de travaux plus élaborés qu'il publiera par la suite. Mais déjà est marquée sa préférence pour la langue basque dont il saisit d'emblée l'originalité.

Le destin, quand il est favorable, apporte une aide précieuse. Il se manifeste par la Révolution de février 1848. Le prince est élu représentant de la Corse à l'Assemblée Constituante en 1848, puis représentant du département de la Seine à l'Assemblée législative en 1849. Le coup d'Etat de 1851 et la proclamation de l'Empire l'année suivante font que son cousin l'Empereur Napoléon III le nomme sénateur. Il obtiendra ainsi l'aide financière nécessaire pour la poursuite de ses travaux sur la dialectologie basque. Il vit cependant en Angleterre depuis 1852, se fait un nom dans les milieux intellectuels de Londres et il est désigné comme membre de l'Atheneum Club de Londres en même temps que Benjamin Disraeli.

Le destin ou le hasard fait qu'au cours d'un voyage à Londres d'Antoine d'Abbadie, le grand mécène des lettres basques, le contact

s'établit entre les deux hommes (hiver 1855-1856). Antoine d'Abbadie a pour mission de recruter des collaborateurs pour l'oeuvre gigantesque que le prince a imaginée. C'est rapidement chose faite et le prince entreprend le premier de ses six voyages au Pays Basque pendant l'été de 1856 afin de prendre contact avec ses collaborateurs, faire leur connaissance et ordonner une méthode de travail, la même pour tous de part et d'autre des Pyrénées. Du 19 Juillet au 26 Septembre il parcourt le Pays Basque où il est très chaleureusement accueilli. Ses collaborateurs se sont mis au travail et les premières traductions seront éditées et distribuées lors de son second voyage en 1857.

Le séjour du prince en 1857 sera beaucoup plus court: 26 jours au total, mais extrêmement fructueux. Il va de Bayonne à Pampelune par la vallée de Baztan, puis de Pampelune à Bilbao par l'Alava, il passe une semaine entre Bilbao et Bayonne à travers la Biscaye et le Guipuzcoa et consacre une semaine entière à la Soule qu'il n'avait pas visitée lors de son premier voyage. Partout il reçoit un accueil enthousiaste, partout il rencontre ses collaborateurs et les anime au travail. Il a déjà pleine conscience de la diversité des dialectes et des parlers existant sur l'aire basque. Désormais l'équipe qu'il a constituée peut travailler à plein rendement.

Neuf années se sont écoulées. Le prince revient au Pays Basque en 1866 où il passera deux mois, du 21 Janvier au 21 Mars. Il fait venir ses collaborateurs bizcayens, guipuzcoans et navarrais à Bayonne pour quelques journées d'études, parcourt ensuite les trois vallées navarraises d'Aezcoa, de Salazar et de Roncal et termine son voyage par la Basse-Navarre.

En 1867, pressé d'accomplir son travail sur le verbe basque il effectue deux voyages; le premier en Février-Mars est consacré au Pays Basque de France, le second, en automne, le voit parcourir toute la Navarre pendant un mois et demi.

En 1869 il entreprend son sixième et dernier voyage. Il ne pourra franchir la frontière à cause des événements politiques de la Révolution de 1868 et il fait venir ses collaborateurs à Bayonne.

L'année suivante, à la suite de la guerre franco-allemande, l'Empire est renversé, la République est proclamée. Le prince n'est plus sénateur, le gouvernement de la République supprime l'aide financière qui lui était accordée, mais ce que l'on peut considérer comme les travaux les plus notoires du prince sont publiés: "Le verbe basque en tableaux" ainsi que la "Carte linguistique" définissant et matérialisant les huit dialectes de l'euskara.

Pendant vingt ans, jusqu'à sa mort, le prince continuera à publier ses travaux dialectologiques intéressant la langue basque ainsi que de

très nombreux dialectes de toute l'Europe. Sa renommée est très grande dans tous les milieux scientifiques. Il s'éteint le 3 Novembre 1891 à Fano, près d'Urbino, lieu de sa jeunesse et il est inhumé au cimetière de St. Mary à Londres.

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Pour commémorer l'oeuvre de ce bascologue éminent l'Académie de la Langue Basque organise un certain nombre de manifestations:

1. L'exposition sur le prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte qui se tient actuellement à la British Library de Londres et que nous venons d'inaugurer sera présentée en Octobre-Novembre à Bilbao et en Décembre à Bayonne.

2. Un congrès international de dialectologie aura lieu du 21 au 26 Octobre prochain dans le nouveau siège social de l'Académie à Bilbao. Ce congrès réunira d'éminents chercheurs en dialectologie venus de nombreuses universités européennes. Il permettra de faire le point sur les recherches en dialectologie, en ethno-linguistique, en dialectométrie, en cartographie.

3. D'autre part l'Académie va rééditer pour le Congrès l'ensemble de l'oeuvre de Louis Lucien Bonaparte, un total de 2.200 pages qui rendra accessible aux chercheurs et aux étudiants un apport énorme à la dialectologie basque devenu introuvable. Cela est destiné à donner un nouvel élan à la recherche dialectologique. Outre le catalogue des manuscrits de Louis Lucien Bonaparte qui sera publié dans le courant de l'année, une bibliographie bonapartienne due à l'académicien et bibliothécaire de l'Académie José Antonio Arana Martija qui s'adressera à vous en basque à ma suite paraîtra dans la revue de l'Académie **Euskera**.

4. Enfin l'Académie a mis en chantier un "Atlas linguistique du Pays Basque" (2.800 questions dans chacun des 145 points d'enquête) enquêtes qui se termineront à la fin de l'année. Transcription des enquêtes, informatisation des données, cartographie, tel est le programme des années à venir. Au delà des manifestations du centenaire, l'Atlas linguistique du Pays Basque, lorsqu'il sera publié, sera le plus bel hommage rendu à Louis Lucien Bonaparte le père de la dialectologie basque.

L. L. BONAPARTERI EUSKAL HERRITIK OMENALDIA

London, 1991-II-7

Jose Antonio Arana Martija



(1)

Agur entzule ta ikusleok
horra nire esan gura:
Euskal Herritik etorri gara,
arratsaldeon, bilkura!
Bonaparteren mendeurrena
ospatzea da ardura,
gerra guztien gainetik da ta
biltzen gaituen kultura.

Bertso batekin hasi dut nire hitzaldiñoa, Bonaparteri Euskal Herriak zor dion omenaldi gisa. Gure Herriaren hizkuntza hain maite zuenak ondo merezia du omenaldi hau, hizkuntza literario edo idatziaren gainetik maite bait zuen herriaren hizkuntza, mintzoaren iturri bizia.

Eta hasierako bertso honekin itzultzen diet ingelesei beraiena omen den melodia. Donostian egon zirenetik, eta 1813an hiria sutan jarri ondoren —dena esan behar baita— doinu hau betirako geratu zen gure herri altxorrean finkatua *Donostiako hiru damatxo* kantuaren doinu gisa, eta ordutik hona bertsolarien doinuen artean txertatua. Dena den, emandako data Bonaparteren jaiotzako berbera dela azpimarra dezagun.

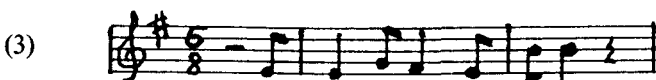


(2)

London honetan sortu
zuen ikerkuntza
inoiz egina ez den
ordutik honuntza.
Bonaparteren gandik
jatorku aldakuntza
berak maite bait zuen
gehien gure hizkuntza.

Londonen gaudelako edo, guztiz egia ez dena esatera ausartu naiz, denok bait dakigu hizkuntzalaritzako ikerketak lehenagotik hasiak zituela Bonapartek, hots, Italian bizi zenean hain zuzen. Baina hemen gorpuztu zen beste hizkuntzarekiko benetako ikerlana, eta bereziki euskarari buruz egin zuena. Horregatik hiri honi ere omenaldia eskaini nahi izan diot, Bonaparte omentzeko Bilbotik etorri bait gara eukaldun eta euskaltzainok, bi hiri hauen artean merkatal eta kultura lotura estuak direlarik.

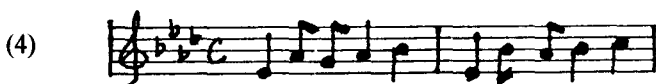
Halako hitzaldiño bat, edo zati bat behintzat, bertsotan ematea ez ohizkoa dirudi. Baina hori hala egikeran zera gogora erazi nahi izan dut, hots, behin baino gehiagotan, Printzea gure Herrian egon zenean, bertsotan egin ziotela omenaldia hala nola Alkat, Jauretxe edo Bidegarai olerkari eta bertsolariek. Eta hori gogoan izanik, eta gure Herriaren izenean Bonaparteri egiten diogun omenaldi honetan, bertsolaritzan erabiltzen diren lau bertso motak kantatu nahi izan ditut hitzaldiño honetan, hots, zortziko txikia eta nagusia, eta hamarreko txikia eta nagusia, hauek bait dira bizi eta indartsu jarraitzen duen gure Herri kulturaren adierazgarri.



(3)

Asko baino gehiago
izan dira parte
euskara ikertzean
ordutik gaur arte.
Humboldt eta Abbadie
dira hor bitarte,
gure artean Duvoisin,
Intxauspe, Uriarte,
baina denen gainetik
printze Bonaparte.

Gure mundu landuaren izenean ere zor zaiola Bonaparteri omenaldia uka ezinezkoa da, gogoan izan behar bait ditugu itzulpen lanetan, gehien bat biblikoetan, ari izan zirenak, itzulpen hauek Bonapartek bere etxean edo hiri honetako moldiztegiatan inprimatzen zituelarik. Euskara landu zuten haien izenean, eta gaur egun iraun dezan, heda dadin eta jagon lanetan ari garenon izenean, Euskaltzaindiaren izenean hain zuzen, bihoakio omenaldirik beroena euskal dialektologiaren aitari, berak saiikatu eta finkatu bait zituen gure hizkuntzaren dialektoak, gaur ere onartzen dugun sailkapenean, nahiz eta sailkatutako euskalki batzu desagertuak izan edo desagertzeko zorian egon.



(4)

Euskal Herritik zintzoa dator
bihotzeko esker ona,
ehun urte betetzeko uanean
Printzeari zor zaiona,
Beste hizkuntz gainetik euskara
maite izan zuen gizona
hemendik hurbil bizi izan zena
ikerle sutsu sakona;
finkatu zituen euskalkiak
diraute ordutik hona,
diraute ordutik hona.

British Library-k hain maitekiro antolatu duen erakusketa hau izan bedi Bonaparteren oroitzapena, eta Europako hizkuntzak, eta bereziki ingelesak eta euskarak ikertzen egin zuen lanaren esker ona. Jendaurrean nahi nuke eskertu Geoffrey West adiskideak erakusketa hau eratzeko egin duen lan paregabea. Eta Louis-Lucien Bonaparteren mendeurrenean nik hemen dudan hunkipena eta guk dugun poza.



(5)

Amaiera orduan
heldu zait dardara
British Library honetan
mintzatu bait gara.
Berak izango zuen
poza ta algara
hemen entzun bazuen
barra-barra euskara.

HOMAGE TO BONAPARTE FROM THE BASQUE COUNTRY (Translation)

Jose Antonio Arana Martija

Greetings, listeners and visitors!
Here is what I wish to tell you.
We have come from the Basque Country:
Good evening to all gathered here!
Our intention is now to celebrate
the centenary of Bonaparte,
as despite our past wars
we are united by culture.

I have begun my talk in verse, as a tribute to Bonaparte from the Basque Country. He who so loved the language of the people, the living spring of the spoken tongue and indeed of the literary or written tongue, justly deserves the homage of the people whose language he so loved.

In making this tribute I believe I have brought back home to the English a tune that seems to be theirs. After the English occupation of San Sebastián and the burning of the city (these things have to be said) in 1813, this tune became popular and has ever since been associated with the popular Basque song “Donostiako hiru damatxo”, part of the repertoire of the *bertsolaris* (improvisers and versifiers). Note that the year mentioned is that of Bonaparte’s birth.

Here in London he began
his investigations,
which have never been bettered
from then till now.
From Bonaparte onwards
the change began,
as his greatest love
was our language.

Being here in London encouraged me to state something that is not entirely untrue, since we know that Bonaparte’s linguistic research began

earlier when he was still in Italy. But his true research into other languages, especially Basque, was realised here. This is why I wished also to pay tribute to this city, so closely linked commercially and culturally, to our own Bilbao, from where this expedition of Basques and academicians has set out to honour Bonaparte here.

It may seem unusual for a brief talk to be given, at least in part, in sung verses. But in this I have wished to recall that during his visits to the Basque Country Bonaparte was feted on more than one occasion with verses such as those of Alcat, Jauretche and Bidegaray. Therefore, I decided in this talk to use four different verse-forms, traditional to the *bertsolari*, a part of our culture still living and active among our people.

Many have been able
to join in Basque research
from then to now.
Here are among others Humboldt and Abbadie
and among our people Duvoisin,
Inchauspe and Uriarte,
but above all stands
Prince Bonaparte.

But I must also render homage to Bonaparte in the name of our intellectual community, by recalling some of those who collaborated with Bonaparte on the translations, especially from the Bible, which he had printed in his house, or by London presses. In the name of those cultivators of Basque and in the name of all of us who are now dedicated to its preservation, protection, standardisation and promotion, and particularly in the name of Euskaltzaindia, the Academy of the Basque Language, let our homage go out from here to the father of Basque dialectology, he who defined the dialects of our tongue, in a classification still accepted today among dialectologists, although some of the variants recorded have since disappeared or are on the point of doing so.

From the Basque Country comes our
sincere and heartfelt gratitude
which, on the occasion of his centenary,
we owe to Bonaparte,
the man who above all other languages
loved our Basque,
who, living near here,
was an ardent, profound researcher;
all the dialects that he defined
are living today.

I hope that this exhibition, mounted so lovingly by the British Library, will serve as a reminder of Bonaparte and his important research work into the languages of Europe, especially English and Basque. I wish publically to express my gratitude for the work of Geoffrey West, the inspirer of this exhibition and its efficient organiser. I wish also to express my emotion and our pleasure at being here on the occasion of Louis-Lucien Bonaparte's centenary.

On reaching the end
I feel moved
at having been able to speak
here in the British Library,
Bonaparte certainly would have been
greatly moved
if he had been able to hear
Basque spoken here.

**L. L. BONAPARTEREN ERAKUSKETA: BONAPARTE,
FORERUNNER OF MODERN DIALECTOLOGY**

London, 1991-II-7

Pello Salaburu

Ladies and Gentlemen:

After having had the chance to listen to the President of the Royal Academy of the Basque Language, Prof. J. Haritxelar, and Jose A. Arana's amusing dissertation —although it was given in Basque, I think that listening to these Basque popular songs was really fun for all of us—, I would now like to return to the normal mode of presentation in official proceedings.

The late prof. Koldo Mitxelena, who was a prominent Basque linguist and, as many people noted, one of the most important intellectuals born in the Basque Country, claimed in a paper published in 1976 that dialectology and studies about dialectology in general are as old as the history of humanity itself or, at least, as old as the written evidence we have about our own history. However, among all the authors who wrote onto this subject, he added in the same article, there is no doubt that some few researchers, —and Bonaparte, with his different maps on Basque or English dialects must be included in this small group—, take a different and more scientific perspective on dialectology.

Those few linguists who began to research the language “in situ”, interviewing the speakers of different dialects, dismantled one of the basic claims that backed the prehistory of dialectology, namely, that in a given domain it is possible to group and separate clearly the dialects, subdialects or talk-varieties. We know now that divisions among dialects are not clear-cut and that we have to take into account the specific boundaries affecting different levels of language. Moreover, very often we are forced to conclude that the linking line between two given dialects breaks down in verb morphology, for instance, but not, let's say,

in the lexicon or in phonetics or even in noun phrase morphology. This new way of facing linguistic problems has made it possible to progress a lot in the development of research and inquiry, even though I don't think that the theoretical foundations of dialectology have actually changed since the 19th century. Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, and this is a very good example, established the main division among Basque dialects a hundred years ago, and the same division, with slight changes, still holds and leads the studies of Basque scholars concerning dialectology.

Louis Lucien Bonaparte was born in Thorngrove (England) on the 4th January, 1813. His father was the brother of Napoleon the 1st and the fact that he was born in this land was just a matter of chance. We know that his parents were put under arrest while they were traveling and running away from Civita-Vecchia to the United States of America. So, he was born English because the family was in exile. However, to the time he began to study Basque, 40 years later, he was already back again in England.

Bonaparte married first Ana Cecchi, in 1832, but the marriage broke down in 1850, even though they didn't decide to revoke the legal union until the last months of Bonaparte's life a hundred years ago now, in 1891. During this time he lived with Clémence Richard, whom he married that year, following the death of his first wife. The relationship between Clémence Richard and Bonaparte was not based only on their marriage, but on the fact that they had common commitments regarding Basque: she could give a lot of help to the Prince, since she was very closely connected with Basque families and had a good command of the language. The Prince is buried in the Catholic Cemetery of St. Mary, very near the place where they lived for 40 years.

We know that Bonaparte did not begin to study linguistics or philology in his first student years. In fact, he took his degree in Chemistry and published several papers and research-studies about subjects related to the "hard" sciences: the atom, mineralogy, etc. But he became interested in linguistics about 1839, when he was actively involved in politics. Ten years later he was publishing his first piece of research: "Specimen lexicum comparativum omnium linguarum europearum".

During the Second Empire, he received the title of Prince and was assigned 130.000 francs a year. Moreover, after having received several official prizes of different types, he had the benefit of 600.000 francs from an inheritance, when he was 75 years old. These special economic circumstances allowed him to devote his life to the study of different languages and dialects, to maintain several violent public arguments with other linguists like Van Eys and Vinson and to patronise important and restricted publications about the studies he was carrying out on all these

languages. For the same reason, he was able to collect a lot of books and manuscripts in his private library. The researchers estimate that there were more than 25.000 books in his house when he died. These books were first catalogued and, some years later, put on sale by Bonaparte's widow. It seems that during these years almost 10.000 books disappeared for different reasons, before the library was bought by the Newberry Library of Chicago in the first year of this century. The price was in fact very high: \$21.000. It is worth noting that in the library there were a lot of booklets written by Bonaparte himself: according to the Catalogue elaborated by Victor Collins in 1902, 31 % of these specific works were devoted to the Basque language, 22 % to Italian, almost 20 % to English, and the rest to several other languages.

The manuscripts were working-papers, systematic translations of parts and chapters of the Bible, written sometimes by Bonaparte and usually by his local assistants, native speakers of the languages and dialects or subdialects he was studying. Many of the manuscripts were sent spontaneously by other people also. In one of his trips to London, R. M. de Azkue, who was one of the founders, and the first president, of the Basque Academy of the Language / Euskaltzaindia, noticed at once the importance of these manuscripts that were on sale too but hadn't been acquired by the Newberry Library. He canvassed for help from the Spanish ambassador in London and the presidents of the local Basque governments, as well as from the Basque deputies and other politically influential people. Finally, Azkue's suggestions were accepted and, on payment of £ 350, the manuscripts came to the Basque Country, where they can now be consulted and studied by researchers, in 1904. Carlos Gonzalez Echegaray and Jose A. Arana Martija published a detailed and general Catalogue of Bonaparte's manuscripts and publications last year.

Anybody who has attempted to study Basque dialectology knows that the guiding lines of this subject were established by Bonaparte, as I said at the beginning of my talk. Between 1856 and 1869, Bonaparte went to the Basque Country five times, spending 9 months in all. The activity of the Prince during these months was highly impressive and revealing of his personal involvement with problems concerning Basque: on his first trip he was able to connect with most of the sources who were to be part of this peculiar group of researchers and collaborators for the rest of his life; he had put into print, and published, two books, and two others were left prepared; he also took a very important collection of manuscripts and books from the village of Zarautz and sent them to London, etc. After this first journey, many of his collaborators and assistants, Abbadie, Duvoisin, Intxauspe, Uriarte, Etxenike and others, began to work, translating texts following Bonaparte's indications, finding new collaborators, etc. I would like to mention something else: before he

went back to Bayonne, just one year later, he had already published in London six more books, among them the Gospel according to St. Matthew in Gipuzcoan, Biscayan and other dialects. It is not easy to understand how, and how well, Bonaparte was able to learn Basque and argue with native speakers about the smallest details concerning different dialects. It gives us a very good idea of the Prince's remarkable activity.

But let me turn for a moment to some other aspects of Bonaparte's research that might be more unfamiliar. In particular, it is not very well known that the Prince was concerned with other languages too, even though he did not study any other language as carefully as he did Basque. His ability to classify languages and dialects won him a great reputation. On the contrary, his reliance on the fact that a particular language can be studied only if the researcher knows the language very well, brought him a lot of sometimes unpleasant discussions with prominent linguists: I would like to remind you here of the different scientific positions regarding Basque studies and researchers adopted by Van Eys and Vinson, who, unlike Bonaparte, had no confidence in Basque Grammarians.

The list of vowels and consonants, and the identification of European vowels, with examples, given by Bonaparte impressed Alexander J. Ellis, as he recognized in his "Early English Pronunciation". I'm quoting him: "The Prince [...] as the outcome of his phonetic studies pursued during many years, with unprecedented facilities for hearing varieties of pronunciation, drew up a schema of vowel and consonant classification. [...]. At my request [...] he verified his appreciation by giving in each language a word containing that vowel-sound, together with its meaning, serving to identify it. He has thus constructed the most extensive series of key-words ever attempted, and has furnished a means or arriving between comparatively narrow limits at the meaning of the palaeotypic symbols".

If we look at the list mentioned by Ellis, we will find that Bonaparte is constructing his own model and system using data from 45 different European languages. It is worth noting that the first language included there is precisely Basque, where Bonaparte finds 13 vowels, in fact allomorphs of the basic five vowels. Years and years later, with our modern systems of electronic analysis that make it possible to establish precisely the exact measures of the formants of human speech, we can conclude that Bonaparte was basically right when he decided that in Basque, the "a" in "ahalke", for instance, is different from the "a" in "ura" or that "e" in "begi" is not the same as "e" in "mehe". Bonaparte analyses there the vowels of Finnish, Estonian, Livonian (extinct dialect of Salis, still spoken at the beginning of the 19th century, as he notes),

Lap (a dialect from Finmark), Permian, Votjak, Tsheremissian (a dialect of the right bank of the Volga), Hungarian, Ostiac (a dialect of Surgut) and many others up to 45, and classified all of them in two main classes: Class I, of Basque stem and Altaic Stem, and Class II, of Indo-germanic stem and Semitic Stem. Each stem is also classified according to the different linguistic families.

Bonaparte's broad and vast work was astonishing. Jose A. Arana has been studying for the last few months the manuscripts and the books published by the Prince, just in order to present them in a pedagogic way for future researchers. I would like to pick up here some of them, only a few of them, to give you an idea of the type of work that Bonaparte managed to do. I shall not mention here the almost 200 works that he himself wrote, ranging from that part of the Bible translated into 72 different versions of European languages to the many observations about the pronunciation of different dialects of Italian or the analysis of the pronunciation of Portuguese, Spanish from Asturias and Castile, etc. There are papers comparing Basque to the Finnish languages and morphological classifications of European languages. It is possible to find observations about the lexicon Cornu-Britannicum or interesting remarks on Basque, Scandinavian and Uralic names for "Saturday", as well as the list of the languages and dialects belonging to Basque, Uralic, and Aryan families in Europe. A close observation of the manuscripts will show us a paper entitled "Albanian, modern Greek, Gallo-Italic, Provençal, and Illyrian still in use (1889) as linguistic islands in the Neapolitan and Sicilian provinces of Italy". But, as I have already said, it is not my intention to speak about them here.

The same as in the Basque Country, Bonaparte had different collaborators in other parts of Europe. In research about Italian, for example, Federico Abis was one of them. He sent different translations to the Prince: "Il Vangelo di S. Mateo, volgarizzato in dialetto sardo cagliaritano" and four other translations, published here, in London, around 1860. Luigi Scalia translated several texts into Sicilian dialect and Giovanni Spano worked with at least 12 large texts, published in London as well. Lucien Adam helped Bonaparte in the study of Uralo-Altaic languages. The Finnish philologist August Ahlquist published studies in Vogul and Votiac and dialects from Northern Russia and Siberia. Henry Baird, William Barnes and Daines Barrington translated into Devonshire, Western, Dorset and Cornish English Dialects several parts of the Bible. Others did the same with more dialects. Thomas Spencer Baynes, under whose direction the ninth edition of *The Encyclopaedia Britannica* was published, used to be a qualified assistant to Bonaparte: he carried out work in the pronunciation of the Somersetshire Dialect, including also several other dialects.

Irish also was studied by Bonaparte: B. Bedell translated the Song of Solomon into the living Irish dialect, as the title says. Gonçalvez Vianna helped Bonaparte with his essay on the Phonetics and Phonology of Portuguese, in the same way as Halbertsna helped with Neo-Frisian dialects. George Henderson translated the Gospel of St. Matthew into "lowland Scotch". In these manuscripts it is possible to read the days of the week in Asiatic and African Languages next to the Gospel of St. Matthew in "dialetto piemontese" or the song of Solomon in Russian, which was printed in Russian characters. J. Seivert translated the same text into dialects from Transylvania.

Well; I am finishing now. The purpose of this short talk was to give you a general overview of Bonaparte's huge task and to focus on some of the work that he carried out. He did his job with enthusiasm and pleasure. He worked not only in Basque but, as we have seen, in any language he had knowledge of. A hundred years later, the Royal Academy of the Basque Language / Euskaltzaindia, along with the British Museum, is trying this afternoon to pay him back, through this official act, a small part of the huge debt we owe to him. It was very kind of you to attend this lecture. Thank you very much.

GRATEFULNESS

(AZKEN AGURRA)

J. M. Smethurst

The Director General thanked the Academy for its support for the exhibition and its representatives who had come to London from Bilbao at the Academy's expense. The three lectures which had marked the opening of the exhibition.

He drew attention to the importance of the exhibition both for the Library and the Academy. Bonaparte had lived and worked in London for forty years and had been part of the intellectual milieu. He had also studied the dialects of English. His contribution to the study of Basque was greater still and his work had stood the test of time.

Mr Smethurst thanked those responsible for exhibition: Geoff West of the Hispanic Section, the Library's exhibition staff and again the Academy whose advice and support had been invaluable. Finally he thanked those guest who had braved the snow in such numbers to attend the lectures and the opening.