

L. L. BONAPARTERI EUSKAL HERRITIK OMENALDIA

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(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.

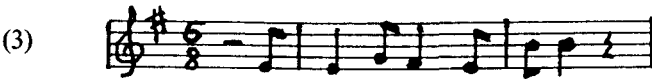


(2)

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)

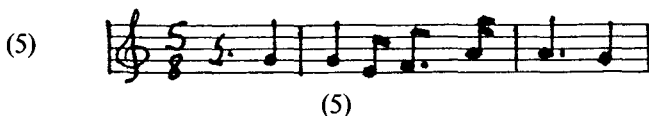
Asko baino gehiago
 izan dira parte
 euskara ikertzean
 ordutik gaur arte.
 Humboldt eta Abbadie
 dira hor bitarte,
 gure artean Duvoisin,
 Intxauspe, Uriarte,
 baina denen gainetik
 printze Bonaparte.

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.



Euskal Herritik zintzoa dator
bihotzeko esker ona,
ehun urte betetzeko unean
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.



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.