

317 West 90th Street  
New York, N.Y. 10024  
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M. l'Abbé Pierre Lafitte  
Petit Séminaire  
Ustaritz

M. l'Abbé:

My purpose in writing to you is threefold. First, I wish to express my great appreciation of your Grammaire Basque. In the course of a number of years I have acquired and read most of the standard grammars of the various Basque dialects and I can sincerely state that yours is among the very foremost in comprehensiveness and clarity, which I deem quite an outstanding feat in a language as complex as Basque.

Secondly, I would be most grateful if you could tell me where it is possible to order the other works in French and Basque listed opposite the title page of your Grammaire Basque, I am interested in obtaining all of the books cited and am particularly anxious to know about the re-edition of Lhande's great dictionary as well as your Vocabulaire Français-Basque. Any information you may be able to give me would be most welcome.

My third point is slightly more difficult. I have an M.A. degree in Georgian language and literature from Columbia University in New York, but due to unavoidable circumstances, my professor was not retained for the time it would have taken me to obtain a Ph.D. degree. Be that as it may, I have long been interested in Basque as well as the languages of the Caucasus (although I am decidedly not a partisan of the Basque-Caucasian hypothesis) and I have been trying to find out whether it might be possible for me to study Basque language and literature in France and eventually to acquire a Ph.D. degree in that subject. I wrote to Prof. René Lafon in Bordeaux some time ago, but have not received any answer. Would you perhaps know of any institution in France that offers degrees in Basque? My wife and I both speak French (I regret that I am not perfectly fluent, hence my reason for writing to you in English) and contingent upon our removing ourselves to France if such an institution exists, would be the problem of finding employment, but the most important thing at the moment is to find a place to study.

Thank you in advance for any assistance you may be able to offer.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard Fox