

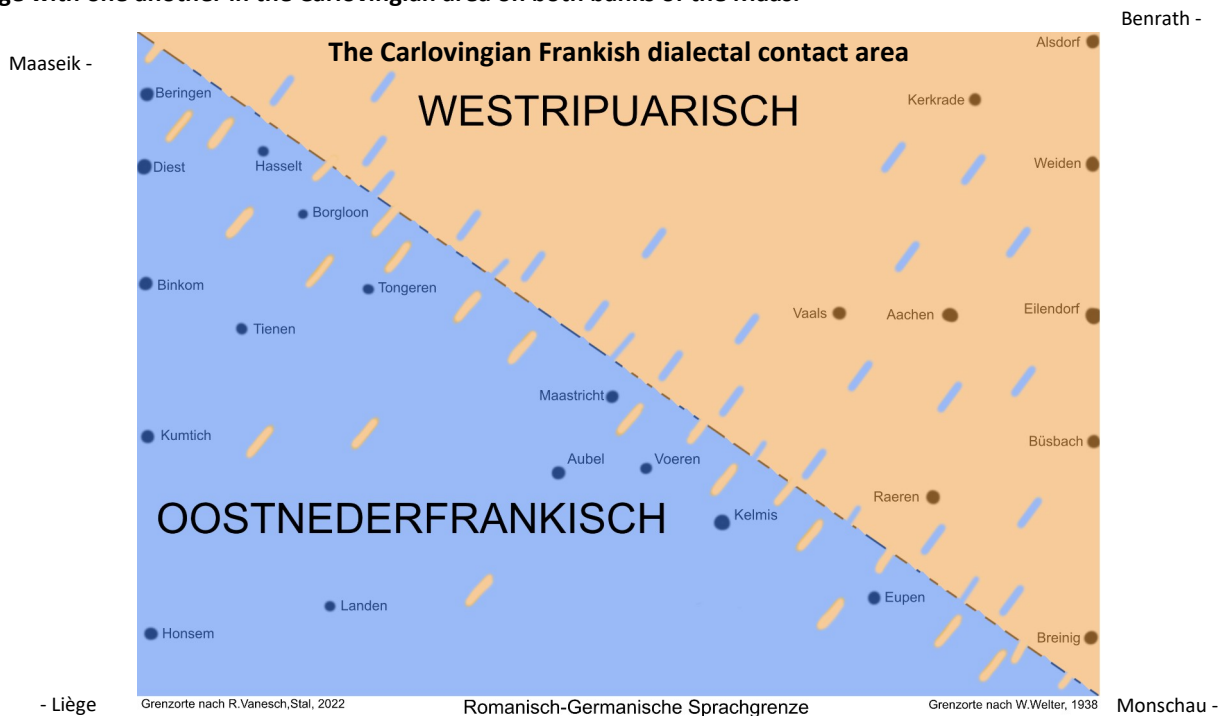
The Carolingian Frankish area in the Maasland – a linguistical reality grown in the Carolingian home territories between Aachen-Aken-Aix-la-Chapelle and Landen (1)

Preface & abstract

The historical area around the coronation town Aachen/Aix-la-Chapelle has so far been neglected by dialectology founded towards the end of 19th century. That is the reason why I want to give it a new base by *Four Keys to Carolingian Frankish*. The first aim is to document the importance of objective philological investigation relying on epigraphical artefacts and archives texts as well as on topo- and hydronyms. But several place names may here be considered by some inhabitants as endonyms by others as exonyms... Moreover we want to underline the cultural worth of our old idioms grown near the Roman-Germanic linguistic border steadily shifting towards the east, as a consequence of the last two world wars. Mind that, since the end of the 8th century until the beginning of the Modern era, the political history of Western Europe has been directed from Aachen situated at the crossroads of so many Galloroman and Germanic idioms. In the late 19th century, Dr. Georg Wenker developed a so-called 'Rheinisch' fan (RF) by means of empiric methods ; but this scientific instrument was soon altered by the imperialistic Prussian politics, leading to the two horrible world wars. The RF became a rule fixing a so-called « Hochdeutsche Strahlung » from the south towards the north-west, thus falsifying the base of dialectological research.

Nevertheless, In the years 1950-1960, some researchers started to consider the consonant shifts of the explosives p ; t ; k to the hissing sounds f ; s, ts ; ch as being autochthonous in several regions. By means of intensive field researches and comparative analyses of regional dialects in the Maas and Mosel lands, the author has documented that the area Aachen-Limburg-Luxemburg contains plenty of materials allowing a deeper study of the linguistical history of Western Europe. Therefore, he agrees with Theodor Frings who wrote in his *Germania Romana* (1932, p. 6) : « Man kann sagen, dass in der deutsch-romanischen Nahtzone ein älteres sprachliches Westeuropa bis heute lebt ». Of course, the erroneous term 'deutsch' ought to be replaced by « *germanisch* » corresponding exactly to *romanisch*.

Our study, subdivided in four *keys*, aims at creating an innovative standpoint for the comparative analysis of the contact dialects situated around what I call now topographically *Westgermanischer Sprachfächer*. The imperialistic view of the 19th and 20th centuries, promoting a High German radiation towards the north-west of the Western Germanic area, is thus replaced by a systematic field research based realistically on autochthonous evolutions caused by regional substratic, adstratic and superstratic phenomena. Our schema shows how the Low Frankish and Ripuarian elements mingle and exchange with one another in the Carolingian area on both banks of the Maas.



This *chemistry of languages* is not only to be found in the nucleus area Aachen-Limburg but also in the southern region of Moselfrankish : Why is the preposition « with » pronounced *mét* in the Aachen and Kelmis, *mät* in Eupen and Elsenborn, *mot* in Amel and Sankt-Vith and *mat* in Arel and Luxemburg ? Why can we find Low Frankish and even Scandinavian elements in *Lëtzebuergesch* ? Moreover the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg with *Lëtzebuergesch* as its sole national language and two additional official idioms French and German gives birth to three literatures - or better to one literature using three different linguistical media. And all this grows out of a population of about 600.000 people only, nearly one half of them being newcomers... Still another facette of the Luxemburgish language chemistry is the growing impact of the international medium English in the field of technical and commercial edition and, among the youngsters, even for literature... In 2018, the 20. *Ausgab* of the yearly literary edition « E Buch am Zuch » (*A Book in the train*) gathered 9 French texts, 18 German ones and 24 *Lëtzebuergesch* texts. In any case, this small country can be proud to have saved and officialised one variant of the venerable endogenous language of the medieval territory forming the so-called 'middle realm' Lothringen/Lorraine.

KEY One: Toponymy (A.), historical documents (B.) and epigraphic monuments (C.)

The author wants to dedicate the present article to the memory of Godefroid/Gottfried KURTH who was the founder of the 'School of Belgian Historians' at the University of Liège and at the same time the initiator of a systematic toponymic research in Belgium. In fact, I have had the honour to defend my doctoral dissertation in the auditorium bearing his name.

The imperial town of Aachen (173 m high, 50° 46' 00" N, 6° 06' 00" E), centre of the Carolingian patrimony situated between Landen (B), Eschweiler (D) and Metz (F), lies on the eastern bank of the Maas valley at a distance of about 40 km from Liège and Maastricht. Here, towards the end of the 8th century, Charlemagne established his fixed residence, his Pfalz. Later, 30 kings of the so-called 'Holy Roman Empire' were crowned in its dome until 1531 (Ferdinand I). For centuries, its Royal Court administrated an ever changing large parcel of Western Europe. It is therefore unthinkable that Aix-la-Chapelle should not have had any linguistic radiation. A fact is, that dialectology as well as historical philology have too long forgotten – or willingly ignored (?) – the important role of the old cultural region Aachen-Limburg-Luxemburg. But how can we reach and fathom this historical entity?

When travelling by car on the highway E 40 from Landen towards Liège, one can easily ascertain that the

track runs down into a lower area bordering the river Meuse/Maas.

Later, passing over this river in the direction of the frontier with Germany, the route will rise gradually and finally climb up to the summit near Frechen still situated at a distance of 12 km from Köln.

The effect is still more convincing on the way back home from Bonn or Cologne the Highway Cross near Frechen (75 m high, 50° 54' 44.096" N, 6° 48' 57.58" E). Since there the route flows steadily down the highway E 4 towards Aachen.

In this way one can experience, that the right bank of the Maas proves to be even broader than the left one. Finally, it appears that the topography of the Euregio landscape clearly shows that a wide part of the so-called Rheinland belongs, in fact, to the hydrographic system of the Meuse.

Fn 1. "4 Keys to Carolingian Frankish" (CF) will be published in several essays by Leo Wintgens in 2022-2023 .



Let us now add some details about the situation of the Maas areas bearing the name Limburg in the south-east of the Netherlands and the north-east of Flanders, the Dutch-speaking part of Belgium. What I shall call Old-Limburg came first to existence as a County, since 1155 Duchy of LIMBURG. Much later, since 1816, the double province Limburg all around Maastricht inherited the old name: this 'New-Limburg' is since 1839 cloven in a Belgian and a Dutch territory. On the provincial road, to the east of Liège, farther than Herve, we can, from the hill of Henri-Chapelle, op Kapäl, about 340 m high, overlook the whole territory of the ancient Duchy of Limburg. Below to the north-east, on the banks of the Göhl, a side-river of the Maas, we enter the historical mining area of Kelmis whose exceptional riches in zinc ore warranted a long lasting economical value and, accordingly, political interest until the middle of the 20th century. According to Plinius the Elder 23-79 a.C., this inherent riches was already known to the Romans.

The ancient Gallo- or Belgo-roman town Aachen is documented by a chalk stone plate discovered about 1976. After 85 a.C., a governor (septemviratus) of the Roman province Belgica was thus honoured by the army of the Germania inferior. The small river Wurm between Aachen and Burtscheid had probably been chosen as a limit since the recent territorial reorganization by the emperor Domitian (85 a.C.). Later Wurm and Rur/Roer remained the frontier between the bishoprics Tongeren and Köln until the end of the 'ancien régime' (1795). Aachen belonged to Tongeren, later Maastricht, then Liège until 1802.

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November

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In the Middle Ages, the town Aix-la-Chapelle attracted the Carolingians to establish their fixed court in the vicinity of this famous 'old mountain' der aue Bäärech. The villages Kelms and Heyenrot (Hergenrath) were first mentioned in a Latin testament dating from 1280. In the 17th century, the mine and factory on the old mountain are considered as a top industry on world level by the famous English scientist Dr Edward Brown.



On July 5th 1673, Edward Brown, doctor med. of King Charles II and member of the Royal Society visited the 'old mountain' and its metallurgical installations. Here above extracts of the pages 184-185 out of "A Brief Account of some Travels in divers parts of Europe", 2nd edition, 1685. Already in 1696 a Dutch version was edited in Amsterdam. The MVMuseum in Kelmis exhibits an original exemplar of this edition. The commune KELMIS bears the toponymic name of the zinc ore.

In 1837, the Société des Mines et Fonderies de Zinc de la Vieille Montagne is created on the site. Their engineers apply the foundry processes developed by the famous chemist Jean Jacques Dony of Liège.

A Mine of *Lapis Calaminaris*
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Within two Leagues of *Aken*, in the Country of *Limbourg*, is a Mine of *Lapis Calaminaris*, which we went to see having a *Corporal* and eight *Musquetiers* for our Security, to pass the *Wood*. This Mine lies over against the Castle of *Einenberg*. As soon as I had delivered a Letter to Mr. *John Franck*, Comptroller of the Mine for his *Catholick Majesty*, he went along with us, to shew us the manner how the *Cadmia* grows in the Earth, and other Curiosities. This Mine having been wrought Three hundred years, and being one of the most remarkable

of that kind, it may not be impertinent to set down some particulars concerning it. It is about eighteen or nineteen *Fathoms* deep, lying all open like a *Chalk Mine*, of an *Oval Figure*; they digg at present in several places, and the best *Calme* lies between the *Rocks*, in the deepest part of the Mine: They have now found an excellent *Vein* so placed, of eleven or twelve Foot thick, which they digg out with *Pick-axes*, with some difficulty, by reason that the *Lapis Calaminaris* is very hard. The colour of this Stone is of a dark yellow and red, and hath *Veins* of natural *Brimstone* mixed thinly in it. The *Veins* of the *Lapis Calaminaris*, being so large, they follow them not only in one place, but digg over one anothers heads, and frame their work into the shape of large *Stays*, and one throws up what another diggs, and so upward till they lade the *Carts* with it. Some of the *Cadmia* is blackish and dark brown; and there are *Fluores* between the Cavities of the Stone handsomly figured, but most of a blackish colour. The works about the Mine the most remarkable, are these: 1. An *Overshot-wheel* in the Earth, which moves the *Pumps* to pump out the water; and this not placed in the Mine but on one side of it, and a passage cut out of the Mine to the bottom of it, by which the Mine is drained; and another passage or *cuniculus*, out of the place where the wheel is turned, which lets out the water which turns the wheel; and also the water which comes out of the Mine into the Neighbouring Valley. 2. The washing of the Ore or Stone, which they perform, as at other works, by letting the water over it, and stirring it; and this they do wheresoever they begin to work near the *Superficies* of the Earth, for there the *Calme* is less, and more mixed with *Clay* and *Earth*: but the most remarkable work is the calcining of the Ore (for all our *Lapis Calaminaris* of the Shops is the calcined *Calme*) and it is worth the seeing; for they place *Faggots* in a handsome order first, and cover a large round Area with them, of about Forty or Fifty yards Diameter, upon which they place *Charcoal* in as good an order, till all be covered and filled up a yard from the ground; then they place ranks of the largest Stones of *Calme*, and after them smaller, till they have laid all on; and then by setting fire to the bottom, the fire comes to each Stone, and all is handsomly calcined. They make *Calme* also about two English miles from *Bleyberg* in *Carinthia*. They make it after this manner; They take the Ore out of the Mine, sometimes they wash it, and sometimes not, they burn it as they do *Rost*. Then they take it, and beat it in pieces with a mallet; They choose the best of it, and throw away the dross, the whitest is commonly the best. From hence we went to *Limburg*, meeting with divers *Souldiers* upon the Road, who desired money of us; but did not attempt any thing against us; we being many of us together in Company.

Limburg is seated upon a high Rock, which overlooks all the Country, and a little River runs almost round it at the bottom. The Avenue to the Town on the North-side is difficult all along upon the edge of the Rock; and the Gate of the Town, over which is the *Governor's House*, spreads it self from one side of the Rock to the other, and locks up the passage. Here we shew our *Passports* from the *Spanish* Plenipotentiaries; and in the Afternoon had a pleasant Journey to the *Spaa*. In the way we saw where the *French Army* had passed the Country towards

As for the linguistic situation, the region is still nowadays crossed by the so-called Romano-German frontier – which is indeed a vast contact zone running between Herve and Aubel, Verviers and Aachen. In the facts, Belgium as a whole was a vast area of “langues en contact”, just as the left bank of the Rhine. Moreover, the region represents a wide contact area of Germanic dialects evolving from Low-Frankish in the west to West Ripuarian in the east: B-Hergenrath-Kelmis Härjent, Kälmes, B-Gemmenich Jömelech, NL-Heerlen and D-Heinsberg speak a rather Low-Frankish variety, meanwhile NL-Vaals, D-Aachen Oche, and B-Raeren belong to a rather Ripuarian area. A woody hill in between them forms the limit of both linguistic areas; it is known as Benrather line (line 8 on the Limburg map, line 3 on the final map Westgermanischer Sprachfächer “Western Germanic Fan”).

MIND:

1. One cannot analyze toponyms, written documents or epigraphic inscriptions without referring to lexicology, morphology and phonology, and we do so in the present KEY-essay. But those specific fields will moreover be especially documented in three separate “KEYS to Carolingian Frankish” (CF). As a matter of fact, the political and social history of the region remains since long the basis for all these researches.

2. There are many resemblances between our Carolingian dialects and English (‘a dialect among others’ according to Peter Trudgill, Sociolinguistics, 1983). Therefore we are busy collecting these resemblances for an edition in 2024. But we can already state now that – notwithstanding the French and Latin influences undergone since Hastings (1066) – English is the most Germanic language of all as for the intonation, the stress system. In fact, most Roman loanwords bear the word stress on the first syllable: ‘aphorism, ‘bachelor, ‘content (adj.), ‘deficit, ‘energy, ‘government, ‘orchestra, ‘purpose, ‘visual, ‘vulgar etc.

A. Toponymy

The County, since 1155 Duchy of Limburg, had, in the 11th century, was erected from the territory of the Imperial town of Aachen, situated in the northern part of the Ardennes. Limburg was gradually formed out of allodial territories lying around the village of Baelen near the river Vesdre/Weser. On an old refuge rock, 261 m high, (50° 37' 13.124" N, 5° 56' 30.817" E) in a meander of the river, 19 km to the west of Aix, Walram Udo of Arel/Arlon built a fortress that progressively strengthened his mastership over the Weser/Vesdre and Göhl/Geul valleys up to the walls of Aachen. On June 5th 1288, Duke Johan I of Brabant won the battle at Worringen, against e.g. Siegfried of Westerburg, Archbishop of Köln, and became also Duke of Limburg. In 1439, *Philippe le Bon*, Duke of Burgundy, whose ancestors had inherited Brabant-Limburg from his aunt Johanna, Duchess of Brabant, confiscated the zinc mines of the *ave Bäärech* (old mountain) at Kelmis, situated on the banks of the river Göhl to the west of Aachen. As a result, the frontier shifted from the banks of this river to a woody hill a few kilometers to the east. The watershed of Göhl-Weser and Rur/Roer still forms the modern frontier between Belgium and Germany.

In fact, Limburg owes its fame and importance to this inherent riches. Already Plinius the Elder (23-79 a.C.), in his *Historia Naturalis*, book 34, chapter 2, mentioned *Cadmia* mines in the province *Germania*. Already in 1981, I have stated that later Charlemagne established his court at Aachen because of the economical riches represented by those calamine mines exploited under the leading of Alcuin. Afterwards, several historians of the RWTH Aachen have gathered evidences and artifacts about the metallurgical needs and activities during the Carolingian period.

Zinc ore was indeed indispensable for the manufacture of brass, and the old mountain was the richest source of this ore in whole Europe. Therefore the so-called *dinandiers* of the Maas valley could, during centuries, develop their copper smith art between Dinant, Maastricht and Stolberg. The region offered moreover the woods and the necessary water indispensable for this industry: mind *Aquae granni* (Water Granus), the Celtic water god, giving birth to the toponym Aachen. At a certain period, the town Dinant even became a member of the international commercial *Hansa* union.

In 2018, the National Geographic Institute of Belgium (NGI/IGN) invited me to hold a lecture at the Symposium of the UNGEGN, gathering in Brussels (Prince Albert Club) toponymy experts of more than 50 countries worldwide. It bears the title *Exonyms and endonyms in historical contact regions – standardization without leveling: the case of Eastern Belgium*. Already the multilingual denominations (nearly all unshifted - even in the Ripuarian metropole Köln!) of the town *Liège /Wall. Liidsch/- Lüttich - Luik - Lük, Lök, Lék, Lik* (disrounded in *Lëtzebuergesch*) clearly show the historical impact of this growing city in Western Europe. Why then reduce its fame by leveling it to a one-name-place with a seemingly restricted political and cultural radiance? Moreover, the toponym of this today Walloon town seems to have a Germanic root: *leudi* "people", with the Latin derivation *leodicum* (see G. Kurth, A. Carnoy, M. Gyseling, A. Boileau).

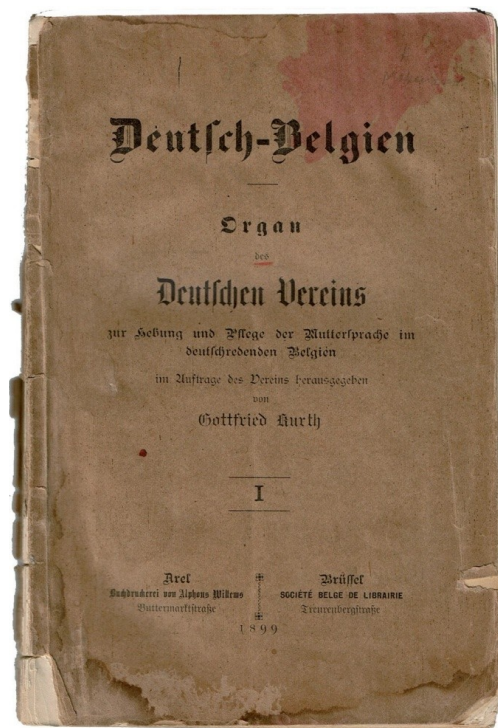
Therefore, in a CRTD article of the year 2000 (reedited in ATLAS II, p. 86 f.), I concluded on p. 139 :
«Il ne suffit pas de faire des doublets un sujet d'études savantes. Il faut également, dans les travaux et publications destinés aux utilisateurs dans notre pays et à l'étranger, veiller à l'application correcte de la volonté fondée du législateur... Et la mondialisation, d'autre part, ne peut pas être un prétexte pour 'normaliser', c'est-à-dire schématiser, simplifier à outrance notre patrimoine toponymique reflétant les réalités historiques.»

It is exactly the same for numerous other Belgian towns. *Arlon* (NI. Aarlen), for instance, is originally a Celtic name: *Orolaunum*, and its *Lëtzebuergesch* name is *Arel*, as well with a Germanic *a*. Similarly even more or less frequent microtoponyms have finally a historical right to be known in the frame of their specific area, i.e. among others on the maps of the NGI/IGN dealing with our 3rd linguistic Community, the so-called *DG OSTBELGIEN* (centre Eupen).

More ample toponymic, hydronymic and oronymic materials, elaborated according to the method developed by *Godefroid* alias *Gottfried Kurth* (Frassem 1847-Asse 1916), founder of the 'School of Belgian Historians' (ULg), can be found in volume II of our recent comparative atlas (*HELIOS*, Aachen 2016).



Painted portrait (1892)

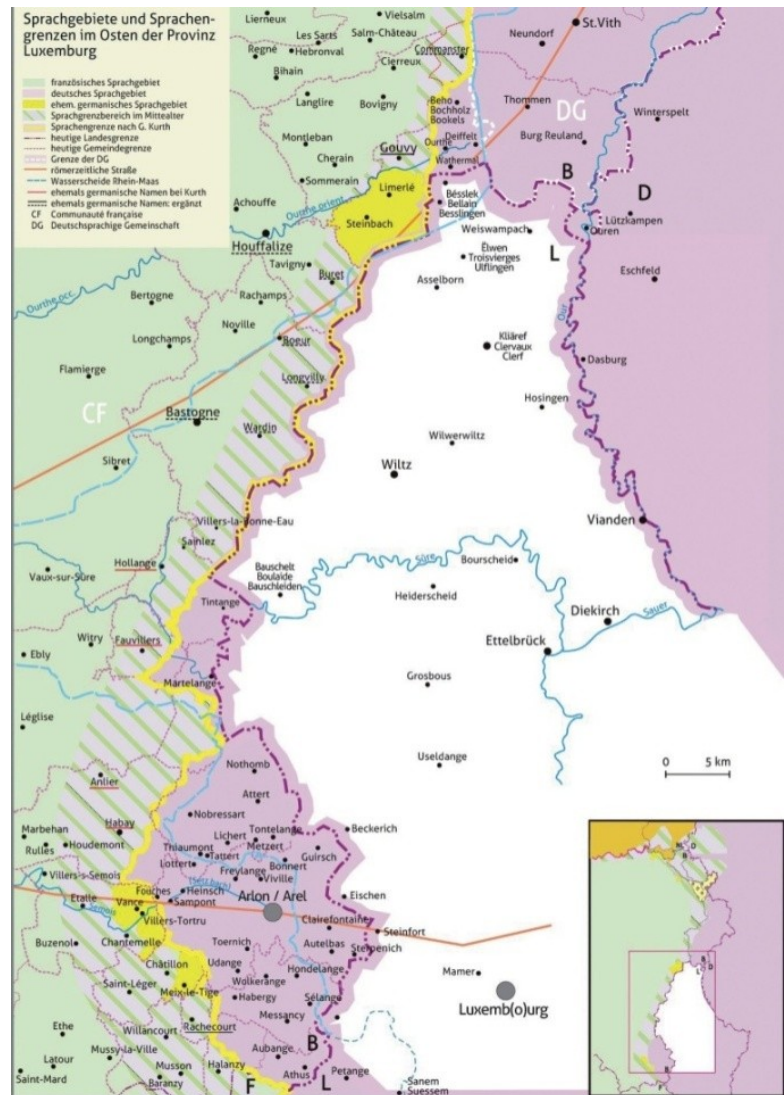
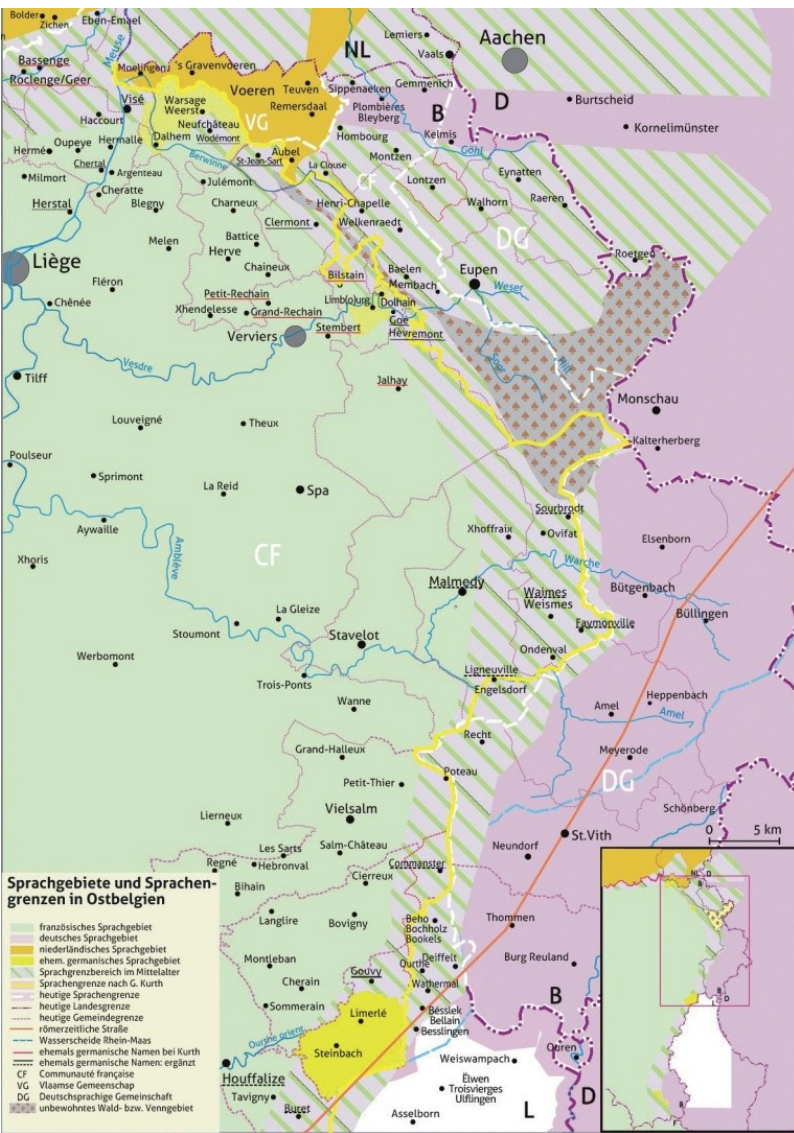


In fact, under the thin layer laid by the short episode of the French occupation (1795-1815), Kurth could still feel the heartbeat of the different mentalities in the territories of the 'ancien régime'. In *Vergleichender Sprachatlas des Karolingisch-Fränkischen II*, *HELIOS*, Aachen, 2016, pp. 17-39, I have underlined the importance of Kurth's work « *La frontière linguistique en Belgique et dans le Nord de la France* », Brussels I 1896, II 1898. Moreover, I have completed his basic map by describing in detail the areas lost by the Germanic tongues in the Gallo-roman - Germanic contact zone from the Maas near Moelingen up to the French border (see the maps on p. 7).

The right angle bend of the 'frontière linguistique' towards the north-east near Visé/Wezet indicates that the re-romanization won a lot of ground in the Maas valley (see the map *Westgermanischer Sprachfächer* in fine). Toponyms as Herstal, Chertal, Dalhem, Vottem (?), Dolhain and double names as Liège/Luik/Lüttich, Bassenge/Bitsingen, Visé/Wezet, Warsage/Weerst etc. document the symbiosis, the "mariage intime" quoted in our publications (see below the chain of the Visé *Arbalétriers*, 15th C.).

Furthermore, G. Kurth openly defended the rights of the German speaking people in Eastern Belgium by creating in 1899 in Arel/Arlon the „*Deutscher Verein zur Hebung und Pflege der Muttersprache im deutschredenden Belgien*“. This cultural society has edited a *Jahrbuch* from 1899 to 1914. In 1905, another section was founded in Montzen, where a "deutsches Dekanat" had been created since 1888. But the imperialistic attitude of Germany and its vehement aggression towards Belgium on August 4th 1914 rendered Kurth's activity fruitless.

In the context of the new German invasion on May 10th 1940, the same occurred to his follower and colleague at the Liège University Heinrich/Henri Bischoff (Montzen 1873-Aachen 1940).



The Duchy of Limburg was mainly composed of the three 'duytsche banken' Baelen, Montzen and Walhorn and the Walloon department Herve (all underlined on the Limburg map). The ancient *Bank Montzen*, for instance, is nowadays subdivided in three parts: Teuven and Remersdaal belong to the *Vlaamse gemeenschap* (VG), Sippenaeken, Hombourg, Gemmenich, Moresnet and Montzen to the *Communauté française* (CF) and Kelmis - Neu-Moresnet to the *Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft Belgiens* (DG). The previous commune of *Gemmenich /Jömelech/* – since 1977 a part of *Plombières*, in local dialect */ob-ene Bliiberech/* – is already attested in 888 as *Geminis*. It also occurs as *Gemminiacum*, a compound toponym formed of the Latin patronym Gemmo or Geminus followed by the German suffix -ini-, meaning clan, group, and ending on -acum from the Celtic affix -aco, meaning place. The whole multilingual alloy signifies: the property of the family of Gemmo/Geminus. Similar toponyms are met in Nordrhein-Westfalen (D) *Gymnich* and Bretagne (F) *Gommenec'h* (information Charles Paulus).



Still in the same modern commune, this time in the village of *Montzen*, the street name *Kinkenweg* – just as *Kinkebahn* in Raeren (DG) and the micro-toponym *Kénkepées* in Kelmis (DG) – has a similar composition. The root Kiem, from the Gallo-roman cam(m)inus (cf. in French „chemin“), is still more frequent in the south (in Luxemburg). In Montzen it has taken the velar Low-Frankish diminutive ending /-ke/ causing the phonetic withdrawal of bilabial m to apical n. The same phenomenon appears in the word *Bongert* < L-F Boomgaard “orchard” e.g. in Aachen, Maastricht and Köln. As the semantical content of *Kinke* „little road“ was no longer understood, the lexical elements -weg, -bahn or -pées (< Fr. piste?) were added, and so the bilingual tautology was completed... Similar mingled names can nearly be met everywhere in Belgium, being a historical ‘melting pot’.

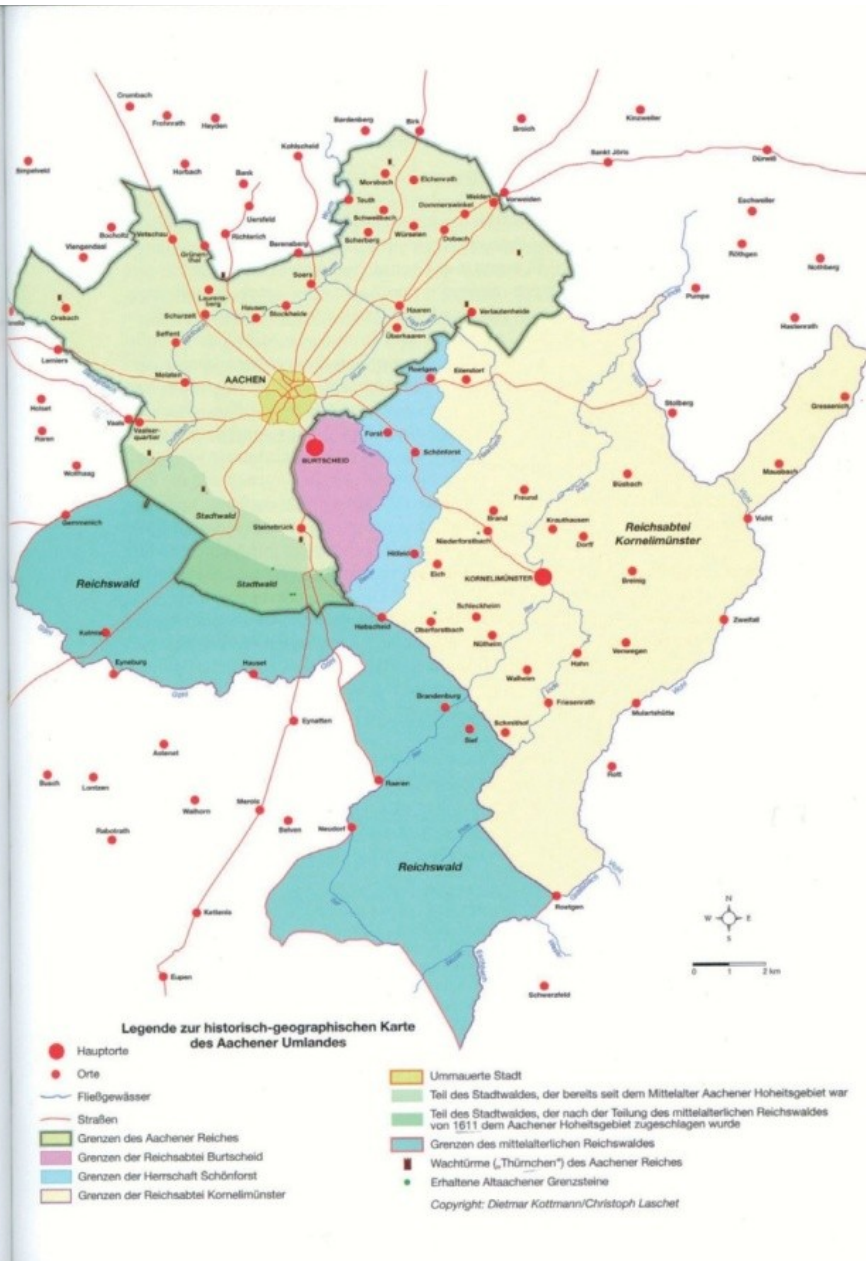


On June 5th 1999, during an international meeting of our *Royal Commission for Toponymy and Dialectology* (CRTD/KCTD) – that I had the honour to preside – organized at the *Palais des Académies* in Brussels under the title « *Les doublets toponymiques en Belgique au cœur de la problématique des langues* », the colleague Dr Jacques Devleeschouwer was quite right when he called Belgium « *une véritable mosaïque ethnique* ». Next to him Dr Maria Besse (University of Saarbrücken) presented a synthesis of her doctorate thesis „*Namenpaare an der Sprachgrenze – Eine lautchronologische Untersuchung zu zweisprachigen Ortsnamen...*“ (1997) based, under more, on the well-known sources

edition of our colleague Maurits Gyseling „*Toponymisch woordenboek van België, Nederland, Luxemburg, Noordfrankrijk en Westduitsland vóór 1226*“ (Tongeren 1960).

The presence of Romanic speaking populations in present-day Germanic speaking regions is moreover evidenced by modern toponyms as *Wahlwiler* (NL), *Walheim* (D), *Walhorn* (B/DG: in 888 still *Harna*) and *Wahlhausen* or *Welschbillig* (Luxemburg). To the north of Luxemburg, in the so-called *Ösling /Éislek/*, the triple name of the village *Élwen* (L), *Ulfingen* (D), *Troisvierges* (F) shows the intense cultural contacts occurring here quite normally. Its name recalls the existence of the (probably pre-indoeuropean) ‚matron cult‘ evidenced moreover by little statues (three goddesses linked together) and other artifacts found in the near German Eifel, e.g. in Marmagen, at Pesch, next to the Abbey of Steinfeld, and a bit more to the north in Morcken-Harff.

A remainder of a statue of the Celtic goddess *Arduenna* is the so-called ‚Wolf of the Dome‘, in local dialect */der Wowf va-je Mönster/* – in fact the remaining bear of the destroyed statue – inside the entrance to the Carolingian cathedral (built in 800) in the old central town of *Aachen /Oche/* (with consonant shift, LV). Just as the name Aquitaine (F), this toponym shows the presence of water, of thermal sources. It is based on the Latin genitive „*aquae gran(n)i*“, meaning the waters of the Celtic god *Gran(n)us*. The unshifted form *Aken* (NL.) – in my dialect of Hergenrath (B) */Ooke/* (with a ‚hit or acute tone‘) – is pronounced to the west and north-west of the Ripuarian town. The French name *Aix-la-Chapelle* shows also a kind of shift -ks. In eastern Belgium, this *affricata* alternates with the pronunciation *h-* in toponyms as *Xhoffraix* or *Xhendelesse*.



NB: The so-called « consonant shift » of the plosives *p ; t ; k* to the hissing sounds *f ; ts, s ; ch* differentiating the Ripuarian dialects from the Low-Frankish ones can be synthesized in the sentence « This water, you just need to let it flow. » L-F: *Dat Waater bruks-te mär loope te loote // Rip.: Dat Waßer bruchs-te mär loofe tse lose.*

The separating line is called „Benrather Linie“ (see map Pauwels and our final map “Westgermanischer Sprachfächer”). Between Vaals (NL) – Aachen (D) in the north and Gemmenich-Kelmis-Hergenrath (B) in the south it follows a woody hill which forms, since 1439 (*Philippe le Bon*, Duke of Burgundy and Brabant-Limburg), the limit between the Duchy of Limburg and the imperial town of Aachen. It is still the actual national border.

Of course, there are a lot of unshifted forms in the Riparian transition dialect of Aachen: déip „deep“, Déipde „depth“, vloke „to curse“, zöke „to seek“ even in Köln), köte „shorten“; /kot/ alternates with /kots/ „short“, /bö(s)che/ with /böke/, „beech-wooden“, /Kälek/ with /Kälech/ „chalis“ etc.

DIEPENBENDEN sounds like a quite Low-Frankish place, for the German name would indeed be „Tiefenauen“... Moreover Low-Frankish words are ‚shifted‘: the Dutch word raken „to touch“ is pronounced /raache/, vermak „pleasure“/Vermaach/, kaak „gallows, gibbet“ is shifted in /Katsch(hof)/, a local micro-toponym situated just behind the Town hall with its *Turris regia*, built as well in 800. The situation is similar for the so-called velarisation of -nd to -ng: *onger* „under“, *anger* „other“ - appearing also westward of the Maas, under more in Maaseik. So the Dutch word kont „backside“ becomes in Aachen /Konk/ and the verbal preteritum /schtong/ „stood“ (so also in Hergenrath). In Maaseik it is kónt, but *stong/sting* instead of *stond*).

On the banks of the Maas, the name of the Walloon town of *Liège* shows – as we said – a great variation; it seems to have, at least partly, Germanic roots by sub- or adstratic working. Farther to the south, there is still another doublet or triplet: the old Celtic -acum name *Bastogne* (Fr), *Bastenaken* (NI), *Bas(t)nach*, *Basnesch* (L). Moreover – astonishingly – at the border of the Belgian province Luxembourg, next to the commune of Burg Reuland (DG), we come across in the Belgian part of the Ösling, thus in the heart of the Moselfrankish area, two unshifted toponyms: The name of the previous commune *Beho* (in French) comes from Germanic *Bochholz* „beech forest“, with shift. But the Ösling dialects in Belgium and in Luxemburg have all preserved the unshifted form /Bookels/. In its vicinity, we find the village of *Wathermal* with an unshifted t, just as for the commune of Watermael-Boitsfort in the heart of the Low-Frankish province Brabant. Both villages are since 1977 integrated in the entity of *Gouvy* (CF), in Lëtzebuergesch *Geilich*: both with -ch out of an old -k (the ending /-ç/ has been lost in the French name).

Still further towards the south flows the river *Chiers*, in Luxemburgish *Korn* (with an old k-), not far from the venerable town of *Arlon* (Fr), *Aarlen* (NI), in fact Lëtzebuergesch *Arel*, all of them with a Germanic a instead of the previous Celtic o in the historical name *Orolaunum*. This can again be referred to as « the chemistry of languages ».

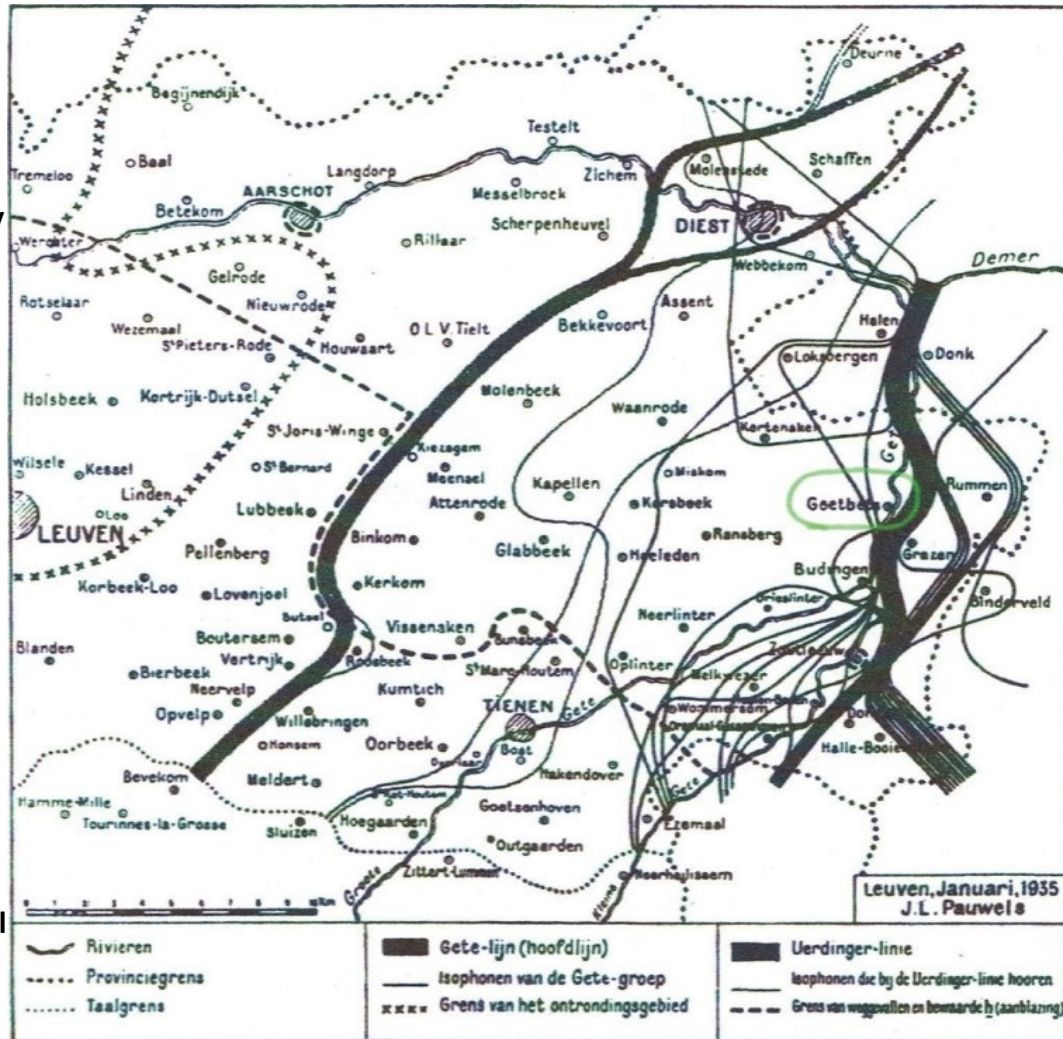
Let us still consider as a sample one hydronym, that has moreover frequently become a toponym. Its presence evidences how tight the ethnical cohabitation must have been even before the re-romanization of the Walloon region. The old Germanic appellative *baki > German *Bach*, Dutch *beek*, Danish *baek* /bäg/, English *beck* „mountain brook“, appears in the Riparian area around Aachen-Vaals-Raeren as /de Baach/ (F., with ‚trailed or circumflex‘ vowel). Only the preserving zone Eupen-Walhorn-Lontzen-Welkenraedt-Baelen has kept /de Bak/. Hergenrath, Kelmis and the villages towards the West pronounce /de Baach F./, e.g. in Montzen (centre) /Streverstroperbach/, in Clermont, next to Crawhez, /(la) Bach/ and /Quoidbach/. The Voer villages Sint-Martensvoeren /Bäk/, ‘s Gravenvoeren /Biek/, Moelingen /Bjäk/ (with a ‚rising diphthong‘ !) are as well unshifted. In Teuven the (recent) tautology *Bachbeek* is now mentioned (De *Vlaamse gemeentenamen*, 2010).



In the eastern part of the province of *Limburg* in the Netherlands, up to the trace of the ancient Roman road Boulogne-Bavai-Tongeren-Maastricht-Heerlen-Rimburg-Jülich-Köln, various river names appear with a postvocalic shifted ending: Noorbeek /Norbik/, pronounced in Walloon /Na°debaye/, is today unshifted, but it has historical shifted forms: in 1144 Nortbech(e), 1280 Nordebach, 1436 Nordebaie (gathered by P.L.M. Tummers-D.P. Blok, *Watervamen in Limburg en Drente*, Amsterdam 1962). A bit farther to the north, Tummers quotes Cortenbach /Kortemich/, Gitsbach /Gitsberich/, Palembach /Palemich/, Kronenbach /Kronemich/. We found moreover Craubeek /Kroobich/, Waubach /Woobich/ (information Frans Hinskens), Orsbach /Ueschbich/as well as the shifted appellative “de Baach” (F.) in Wittem and Nijswiller.

More to the south near Visé/Wezet the toponym *Bombaye* (NI. Bolbeek, in C-F /Bomb(e)lech/) forms a walloonized variant of the shifted name (again with the loss of -ch).

The countless hydronyms and derived toponyms on -baie, -bais, -baix, -bize (Orbais, Marbaix, Tubize etc.) in the Walloon region of Belgium and in the North of France (Roubaix) as well as numerous doublets -beek, -beck/-bech,-bets (see Gysseling, 1960) near the linguistic border prove the long lasting mutual interpenetration that we call “*mariage intime romano-germanique*”.



According to the authors of *De Vlaamse Gemeentenamen* (2010), Geetbets (surrounded on Pauwels' map here-above) and Walsbets (B Limburg) are due to Romanic influence. They are in any case formed by assibilation. So, this water name in a big part of Belgium and in the EUREGIO evidences specifically that the consonant shifts are, as a whole, consequences of the Old-Belgian, Gallo-roman or Rhaetian substrates on the language of the Germanic newcomers.

In any case, all along the so-called ‘frontière linguistique’, from Switzerland to the Belgian coast, plenty of linguistical transfers and mingled forms occur. So we can analyze in the old regional tongues what I now tend to call the chemistry of languages, « la chemie des langues ». I think that Frans Hinskens – just as I, bred in the proximity of the Benrather line – has already viewed the matter in a similar way in his doctoral thesis of 1993 dealing with dialect levelling in (New-) Limburg. He insists, under more, on the difference between the *ich-* and *ach-Laut*, which seems to be abolished in a part of the research area.

B. Historical documents

Already in the years 1960, the Flemish philologists Gilbert De Smet and Maurits Gysseling presumed in the vicinity of Aachen “eine eigene Schreibprovinz”, i.e. a linguistic area with a *scripta*, a written language of its own.

According to H. Tervooren (2006, 140-141), Duke Jan I of Brabant, the winner of the Worringen battle (June 5th 1288) has himself written poetry in a ‘mixed language’ - according to me in West Ripuarian, i.e. in Carolingian Frankish.

In this field, a strictly scientific analysis of the available documents respecting objectivity and loyalty is a must. Therefore in his essay, *De evolutie van de Limburgse ambtelijke schrijftaal na Woeringen* (in *Woeringen en de orientatie van het Maasland*(1988), Gilbert De Smet criticizes the publication of Jozef Moors, *De oorkondentaal in Belgisch-Limburg van 1350-1400*, 1952, in different respects: Moors simply pushed aside a series of documents from the ducal Court of Loon-Heinsberg because the language was too Ripuarian. Moreover, the modern Belgian province does not at all correspond to the historical territory. The more, according to De Smet, the reader is obliged to make a statistical analysis of his own “*en de variabelen... opnieuw te gaan tellen*”: in fact he ought to count the variables again.

Such an attitude is surely not allowed for a scientific researcher, but the imperialistic point of view of German philologists as H. Protze (1965) and historians like W. Schäfke can help to explain (not to excuse!) such reactions. In fact, Schäfke, editor of the catalogue “Der Name der Freiheit 1288-1988. Aspekte Kölner Geschichte von Worringen bis heute” (Köln 1988) pretends on p. 105: “Noch betrachtet man sich am Hofe Jans I. von Brabant als zugehörig zum deutschen Sprachbereich.” Still, at the Court of Jan Ist of Brabant, they regarded themselves as belonging to the German linguistic area... ” And that only because in his dedication Jan van Heelu called the language of his epic poem “Rymkroniek betreffende den slag van Woeringen” ‘*Dietsche tale*’. Last but not least: a more defined ‘deutscher Sprachbereich’ will only come to existence gradually after the era of Martin Luther!

In any case, this Westripuarian *scripta* was in the 14th century the diplomatic language of the so-called “Landfriedensbünde an Maas und Rhein”, which were mostly signed by the delegates of the concerned territories in Aachen, rarely in Köln. It is only in the second half of that century, that in Britain English replaced Latin and French as language of the administration and jurisdiction.- On the contrary, in Aachen, the local *scripta* was already sporadically used since the middle of the 13th century instead of Latin. Carolingian Frankish is nowadays dwindling, but English has taken its flight all over the globe. Nevertheless, the creative working of the Carolingian language area is still today evidenced by the existence, at least in its centre region Aachen - Old-Limburg, of the autochthonous article *der* M. sg. and the specific regional *gen*-article (all genders) used for place or direction and sometimes for time specifications. Moreover, the preservation of the old Germanic monophthongs *i*, *ü*, *u* seems, among other things, to be concentrated around the centre Aachen. These and plenty of other phenomena will be studied in detail in our further KEYS.

As for the near Maas valley, a relatively recent publication of our colleague Jean Lechanteur « Toponymie de Soumagne et de Melen » (CRTD, Liège 2004) documents that in the neighbourhood of the *Seigneurie de Fléron*, belonging to the *Marienstift Aachen* till the end of the *ancien régime*, the registers (16th century) of the court of *Soumagne* contain, next to the frequent appellative *la heid*, *heyd*, CF */de Héj/*, words as *arinne*, *arène*, as for me representing the Carolingian phrase */a-gen Rän/* «near the drain, the channel» (p. 31) and *bêrich*, *bairick*, *bairixhe* « mountain, cf. German Berg » (p. 32). For *Melen* we encountered (15th-16th centuries) apart from the more frequent words *trihe*, *trixhe* CF */Dréesch/* « dry meadow » and *wède*, *waide* */Wéi(de)/* « meadow », *spelte* « épeautre » (225) and *Beusken* ; *bouxhon* */Böischke/* « small wood » (231, 232). Conversely, the countryside more to the east, in Old-Limburg, is dotted with toponyms coming from Roman roots, such as *Kettenis* < lat., 289 *cathena* « limit of wood », Kohnemann 1961, 290; *Fossai* < fr. fosse, wall. fosseye « mine pit », Boileau 1971, 199 ; *Belven* < fr. Belval « property of Belval, Abbey in Huy, Kohnemann 1961, 64, etc.

Hereafter follow, in chronological order, larger extracts of archives documents supplied by the archives of the central territories in the Carolingian language area Aachen-Old-Limburg-Dalhem-Valkenburg-Rolduc:

1. Aachen-Burtscheid, September 1261

The Count of Jülich intervenes in a divergence arisen between the Abbess of Burtscheid and the Vogt Arnold, depending on the Duke of Limburg. This Westripuarian document, one of the eldest between Maas and Rhine, contains already the old autochthonous Carolingian article M. sg. *der* (herzoge, voit etc.).

L. Wintgens, *Grundlagen der Sprachgeschichte im Bereich des Herzogtums Limburg – Beitrag zum Studium der Sprachlandschaft zwischen Maas und Rhein*, Ostbelgische Studien I, Eupen 1982, 180 (Doctoral thesis ULg, 1979).

506. Graf Wilhelm v. Jülich weist das zwischen der Abtei und dem Vogte v. Burtscheid wieder streitig gewesene Vogteirecht. — 1261, im September. ^(1. Kgl. Nr. 152)

Ich *Wilhelm* greue van *Guleche* dun kunt allen den die nu sien ende die herna kumen solen, dat ich also sulige zueinge, also was intuschen mine vrowe die epdisse inde den conuent van *Burschiet*, die van dere grawer ordenen sint, van einenthaluen, inde heren *Arnolde* den *voit* van Burschiet van andren haluen, alsus nieder han gelaht. Her Arnolt der voit ende sine nakumelinge, ende wat van ome kumen mah ende van sinen nakumelingen, solen lazen mine vrowe die epdisse inde den conuent in al den rechte, da si nu in is, also in oren hantvestene steit, die si van keiseren ende van kuningen hain, inde wat da nu gedain is, dat sal stede bliuen, inde dar umbe enmah der voit, noch engein siner nakumelinge, die van ome kumen sien of kumen mugen, iemerme mine vrowe die epdisse ende den conuent noch engein er guit ze zalen sezzen. Vorwert ensal der voit noch engein siner

alles des denges, da die zueinge umbe was. Umbe dat dit denc eweliche stede bliue ende dat nieman herna brechen enmuge, so hait mien neue der herzoge van Lemborg, van deme dat die vodie ruret, durch bede van beiden siden sien ingesegele, ende ig dat min, ende dit goizhus van Achen dat hore, ende die stat van Achen dat hore, ende mien vrowe die epdisse dit hore, dere dat denc in einchalf anegeit, der voit van Achen dit sien, der droszete van Rode dit sien, her Arnolt van Borscheit der voit, deme dit denc van anderhaluen anegeit, dit sien, ane diesen brief gevangen; bit also sulicher vorworden, so we dat dit vorbreche, also also id bescreuen es, ende he des verzuget worde also also id vorschreuen is, dat wers alle bit gesamender hant ende unse nakumelinge weder deme wesen solen, de id zebrichet ende den anderen gestain de id heldet, ende die gewalt aue dun.

Du dit geschiede du warens dusend iar ende zweihundert iar ende ein en seszig iar dat got geboren wart, ende in den mande den man heizet September.

2. Kelmis 1470, 24 October

Registration and approval of the leasing of the Old Mountain at Kelmis by the Mayor and High Court in Limburg. Since 1469 the merchant Johan Wateir/Wauthier from Middelburg (NL) has acquired the mining rights for all the zinc mines of the duchy.

The language is Ripuarian with some rare unshifted forms.

Nr. 34 in L. Wintgens, *Weistümer und Rechtstexte im Bereich des Herzogtums Limburg - Quellen zur Regionalgeschichte im 14.-18. Jahrhundert*, Ostbelgische Studien III, Eupen 1988, 196-199.

Wir Leonairt Trele, Meyer, Reynairt van den Panhuys, Johannes Parys, Collet Snyrnase, Joha Jamene ind Walrave van Lymborch, Scheffen zo Lymboirch, doen kunt allen luden mit diesen intgeen-wirdigen brieve, dat vur ons koemen ind erschene sijnt Johan Wateir¹, op eyne sijde, ind Leonairt, Ailairtz son van Kelmysse, op die ander sijde, mit yrre beider vurreaide ind guden moetwillen haint bekant ind kennen, dat sij eyner condicien ind vurweirden overkoemen ind eyns woirden sijnt, dat Leonairt vurs. annoemen hait ind annympt allen den kelmen, de opten Alden berch valt, seess jair lanck nae eyn anderen neyst volgende, die op datum dis brieffs angaen ind begynnen sullen, mit drij jairen aiff zo staen, weine^a dat nyet en gait van den tzweyen partijen vurs. ind eyn halff jaire up zu spreichen, weine dat nyet en gait, dat is zo wissen, dat man id sall opsagen bynnen deirdenhalven jaire. Ind off dat nyet en gescheit, so salt eyne gestendiche koumenscha^bff^b sijn seess jair lanck durende. — — — — —

In^d alle die Reichten, die diese pechteneir haven van mijns genedigen heren wegen van Boirgondien etc. in des Hairtogen walt, omb koelen zu beirnen off omb holtz, des man opten berch behoeft, dat sullen sij Leonairt laessen gebruycken volkoemlich sonder airgeliste.

Ind off yeman Leonairt vurs. hinderlich were in allen deme, dat vurs. steit, so sulde Leonairt eynen baede schicken op hoirre lude kost, want sij waele die maicht haven van mijns genedigen heren wegen, dat unreicht zerstunt aiffzo stellen sonder airgeliste.

Ind dis alles in orkonde der woirheit, so haven wir Meyer ind Scheffen vurs. zer beiden beider partijen vurs. mallich van ons sijn ingesiegell an diesen brief gehangen.

Gegeven int jaire ons heren dusentvierhondeirt ind sievenzich des vierindwyzichsten dags in october.

3. Auel 1565, 18 October

Registration in the market village Auel, in the eastern tip of the County of Dalhem, dating from October 18th 1565. It is written in Ripuarian that allows some intrusions from the south (uff, ubermits). The regional place article appears in the toponym at the end of line two in the manuscript: *an ghen eeschboirn*.

L. Wintgens, *Le passé européen d'Auel au coeur du pays sans frontières, Ebauche d'une histoire linguistique de la seule commune jadis quadrilingue en Belgique*, in *Auel: Un pays dans l'Histoire 1248-1998*, Auel 1998, 113-136.

For Maaseik (*ancien régime*), this specific article is quoted in about 50 examples with various prepositions by Gaspard Cornips in a thesis of the year 1957. In the present day dialect of Prüm (D), it still occurs in the nominative "Jen Turem vô Babel" (title of a poem, see LW Atlas II, p. 93).

Anno 1565 den 18^{en} dag des maintz october so is komen / unnd gecomp(ar)teert Lennart an ghen
 eeschboirn / der selbige opdroech in des herrn handt eyn / mudde
 speltzen unnd dat tzo havende uff alle dat gut dat he hat oder erkryge(n) mach unnd / dat dede der
 vurg(enamde) Lennart in oirber unnd / behoiff claes van nider aubelen der dairinne / waert gegyfft
 unnd geguet ubermits die / somme van sestzien Jochemsthallers schecht kouff / unnd uff euwige nei-
 derloesse. Uff dag / unnd dat(um) vurs. so hav-et claes vurg.entfang(en).
 Anno vunnftzuefhondert vunnff undesestzich den aichten / dag des maintz September so is komen
 vur / gericht van aubelen gielen an den scheauer (= Schever ?) unnd hat in des herre(n) hant gedra-
 gen eyn / mudde speltzen uff aller sien gut vur xvi dallers / loss gelt unnd dat dede he in oirber unnd zo
 behoeff van claes van nider aubelen dat(um) / vurs. hav-et claes vurg. entfange(n).

Anno 1565 den 18^{en} dag des maintz october so is komen / unnd gecomp(ar)teert Lennart an ghen eeschboirn (article rég. cf. infra, XVII^e siècle) / der selbige opdroech in des herrn handt eyn / mudde speltzen unnd dat tzo havende uff alle dat gut dat he hat oder erkryge(n) mach unnd / dat dede der vurg(enamde) Lennart in oirber unnd / behoiff claes van nider aubelen der dairinne / waert gegyfft unnd geguet ubermits die / somme van sestzien Jochemsthallers schecht kouff / unnd uff euwige nederloesse. Uff dag / unnd dat(um) vurs. so hav-et claes vurg.entfang(en).

Anno vunnftzuefhondert vunnff undesestzich den aichten / dag des maintz September so is komen vur / gericht van aubelen gielen an den scheauer (= Schever ?) unnd hat in des herre(n) hant gedragen eyn / mudde speltzen uff aller sien gut vur xvi dallers / loss gelt unnd dat dede he in oirber unnd zo behoeff van claes van nider aubelen dat(um) / vurs. hav-et claes vurg. entfange(n).

4. Kelmis, after 1615

Report dealing with the long lasting quarrels between the Duchy of Limburg and the town of Aachen about the zinc mine of the *Old Mountain* at Kelmis. Extract from the so-called *Waeltboek* written by Jan Franck, junior, later also director of the ducal zinc mines from 1623 to 1680. Text written in Brabantish language with some rare local interferences.

Nr. 47 in L. Wintgens, *Weistümer und Rechtstexte im Bereich des Herzogtums Limburg - Quellen zur Regionalgeschichte im 14.-18. Jahrhundert*, Ostbelgische Studien III, Eupen 1988, 230-239.

Waelt ende gescreuen Boeck der ducen
Mouten / Monsten / Minen ende
Mondmet / Aenghende Gemeinde
gnompt jussel duse / den Fabel

9r Want int Jaer 1615 was, boven versiens ende weten deser Ingesetenen, van wegen Haere Hoocheyden bestelt eenen lantmeter van Cortrick in Vlaenderen, ende die van de Stadt van Aecken hadden bestelt den lantmeter van die Stadt van Coellen, om die gemeynen ende bosschen te meten oft te betrecken.

Soe wordt men bescheyden op zeekeren gelimiteerden dach te compareren op den Kelmynberch, alwaer onsen heer Drossart Straet mit goet deyl van Schepenen ende naeburen der drey kirspele hun vervuegende, syn aldaer gecommen eenige Heeren der Stadt van Aken ende die Lantmeters, by hun gevueght Jan de Burre, drossart van Baelen, comis wegen Haere Hoocheyden.

Hebben alsoe hunne meyninge opgedoen ende van ons Naeburen willen hebben, dat men hun die limitten van die gemeynen soude wysen, ende onder allen van onsen Drossart willen hebben, dat hy Officie wegen syn onderdaenen soude daertoe houden, om die Limitten te wysen. Hy gaff voir antwoordt, die naeburen stonden daer, dat syt hun selffs deden doen, seggende doch tot naeburen: »Soe ghyt weett, soe seggeten.« Die naeburen hun besproken hebbende, hebben voir antwoordt laeten geven, van gheenen besonderen limiten nydt te weeten, anders als in het Prevelogie boeck des Hertochdoms van Lemborch en stonde, daertoe hun refererende.

Naer noch meer andere redenen is onsen Drossart mit die naeburen omgekeert ende thuys gegaen, laetende die van Aken ende Drossart van Baelen opten berch blyven. Die daernaer syn affgegaen

9v tot aen die schaepsbrugge van Eeneberch, aldaer sy lange stonden Raet houden; syn daernaer vortt gegaen, aldaer die rievieren van die Geul ende Hornne in malchanderen comen. Ende daer beginnen te meten. Ende comende tegens den Kelmynberch, syn die van Aecken, wesende den Burgenmeester Blyenheufft, den bouwmeester Moll, der Stadt commissaris Jan Boegaerdt mit eenighe Raedts dienaren ende Drossart van Baelen nae den Kelmynberch wider gecomen.

Ende was van die van Aecken daer bestelt een vaetken Wyns met goede etenspyse, hebben alsoe int huys opten Kelmynberch te taffel bereyt ende meltyt gehouden.

Over welcke maelyt aventursche redenen resen: Die van Aecken costen hun nyet genochsam verwonderen, dat onsen Drossart soe

b) Der Text bricht am Seitenende mitten im Satz ab.

From historical records it is known that the 'Ghesellen van den Spele' of Diest in eastern Brabant performed, on March 14th 1412, the 'abele spel' "Lanseloet" in Aachen. Diest pronounces today *ich* with consonant shift (LV) after closed vowel but mostly *ok* without LV after this open vowel (see map Pauwels). Therefore, the rather similar idioms of both towns seem to have strongly drifted away from one another since the end of the middle ages...

In any case, if the migration from eastern Europe, due to the fall of the Berlin wall (1989) and the recent war (that keen diplomacy could have avoided) as well as the uncontrolled immigration from the Near East and Africa, gradually growing during the last decades, went on (a kind of new "invasion barbare" as in the 5th century) the European language map will soon be quite overthrown. The hybrid regional tongues will quickly be replaced by Pidgin-Dutch, -German or -French, or more probably everywhere by overwhelming Pidgin-English. And with our old tongues a great part of our history and ancient culture will soon be wiped away. The sole remainders will then – provisionally – be our linguistically mingled topo-, oro- and hydronyms, archives texts and epigraphical documents. Even our "Westgermanischer Sprachfächer" (precedingly called RF), will then no longer cause any divergences...

In summary: Sound shift phenomena similar to the 'second consonant shift' have since long been caused everywhere in the languages of Western Europe because of the progressive mixing of populations mainly since the 5th and 6th centuries of the first millenary (after the fall of the *Roman Limes*, probably on December 31st 406) and then developed differently in various areas. Let us – as long as it will be possible – take care of our immaterial heritage by analyzing what I call the "chimie des langues endogènes en contact" instead of still talking on about "sprachliche Eroberungen" told from an imperialistic way out of a German view-point... More details about the complex interferences and exchanges between vowels and consonants, leading e.g. to trailed/circumflex vowels or hit/acute tones, velarizations, LV cases etc. will be given in our further KEYS to Carolingian Frankish.

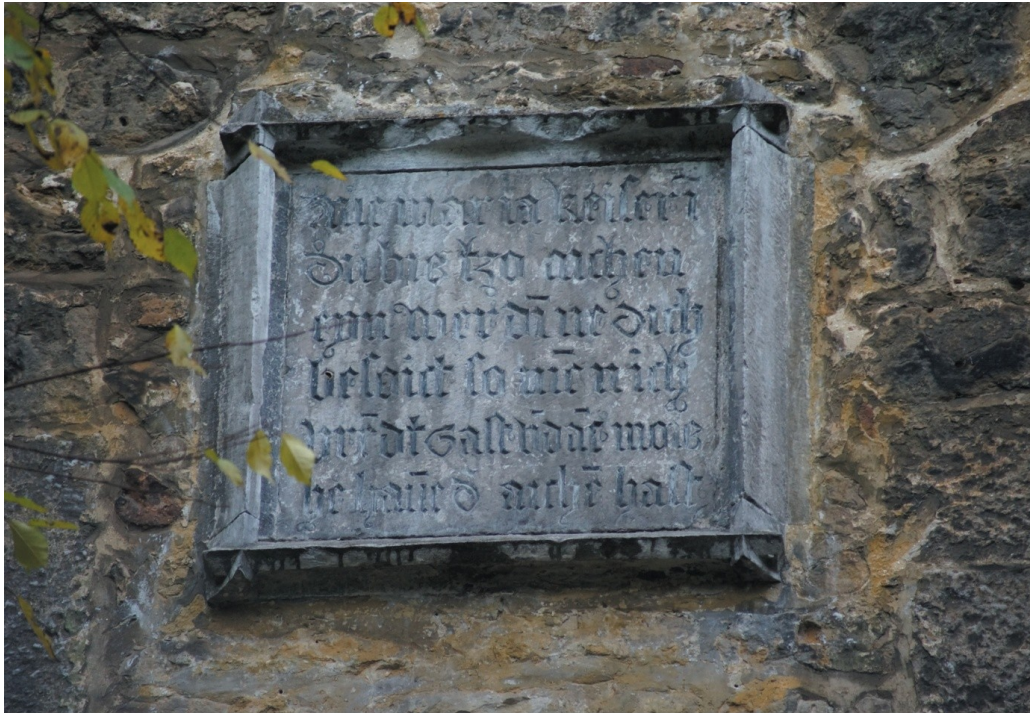
	<i>latin</i>	<i>espagnol (occitan)</i>	<i>français</i>	<i>anglais/néerl.</i>	<i>allemand</i>	<i>danois</i>
p	ripa	riba	rive	hope / hopen	hoffen	håbe hoobe
t	pater	padre	père			
	vita	vida	vie	let / laten	lassen	lade laa(de)
k	securu(m)	segur	sûr	-- /roken	rauchen	ryge rüü(je)
th				father / vader	Vater	far faa(r)*

* De même encore chez les vieilles générations de notre région : *Då verröön noch Vaar ån Moor*. "Il trahirait son père et sa mère".

C. Epigraphical monuments

1. 15th century : LIZENS HÄUSCHEN (Aachen)

Caused by the long lasting economical divergences between Aachen and Limburg in the 14th and 15th centuries, a protection ditch line, called “*Kleiner Landgraben*”, was built all around the town territory in the years 1423-1458. In front of the village of Hauset in the eastern Limburgish Bank Walhorn a watching tower was erected, called today “*Linzens Häuschen*”. In view of the annexation, in 1439, of the Old mountain with the zinc mines near Kelmis by *Philippe le Bon*, Duke of Burgundy, Brabant and Limburg, the inscription of a the chalk stone plate fixed on the tower bears a clear warning:



*Ave maria, keiseri(n)
du bis tzo aichen
eyn werdin(n)e. dich
besoict so men(n)ich
vre(m)dt gast. u(n)da(n)c mois
he have(n) d'aiche(n) hast.*

“Ave Maria, Empress / you are in Aachen / a hostess. You / are visited by so many / foreign guests. Misfortune ought to / follow him who hates Aachen.”

In short, a spell is cast on him who hates Aachen...

This text is written in Westripuarian containing the unshifted word *besoict* /*bezökt*/, just as in the present-day language in Aachen and even in Köln. The Ripuarian auxiliary *haven* has nearly the same form as the modern English verb “to have”.

2. 15th century : Bird of ARBALETRIERS (Visé/Wezet)

The brass bird in the kings chain of the « *Compagnie des Arbalétriers à Visé* » (Brotherhood of cross-bow-men) dating from the 15th Century bears on its neck the inscription « *van wezet bin* » (I am from Visé). I have first used this document in a conference held before the *Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie du Pays de Herve* on 22.11.2011.

The inscription on this chain of a para-military brotherhood in the « Bonne ville de Liège » Visé near the linguistic borders documents the mingled population : At first sight, *van wezet* seems a Dutch denomination, but *van* is as well Ripuarian ; *bin* reflects a Ripuarian or a German influence.

All the later plaquettes bear texts in French.



Der Voorel van de « *Compagnie des Arbalétriers à Visé* »
ud-et 15. Joorhondert drät a-jene Hoos de Inschrift *Van Weset bin*
ut L. Wintgens, ATLAS II, 2016, Zij 24.

De öschte Kier äjezet bééj ene Vöördraach vör de *Société d'Histoire et d'Archéologie du Pays de Herve*,
der 22.10.2011.

3. 16th century : LIMBURG 1520

In the Saint George church of Limburg on the plateau, the plinth of the so-called « *théothèque* » (10 m high) bears the names of the givers :

« Diese vinster hait gegeve(n) Pirot Hubret / meyer tzo der tzyt tzo Limborch ende sin huysfrauwe / Dilien. Bidt god vur dye selen. An(n)o Domini XVc en(n) XX. » (This window has been given by Pirot Hubret / mayor at this time of Limburg and his housewife / Dilien. Pray God for their souls. Ao 1520.)

The tabernacle is surrounded by the latin inscription : « Flectu genu lapis hic venerabilis hospite christo / hoc in pane Deum gens venerabere / Quis hospes? Theoteca stat verenda... » accompanied by a streamer with : « Psalmista panem angelorum manducavit homo/ Sapientie IX venite comedite panem meum ».

The text on the foot, written in faultless Westripuarian language, documents that in the 16th century it was still the most important idiom in Limburg next to Latin. As to onomastics, the first name of the mayor seems to be French or Walloon, the surname Germanic. Dillien is clearly a short name for Odile.

In the 16th century, Carolingian Frankish was also used for the administrative registers of the capital in concurrence with old French, seemingly according to the wishes of the clients.



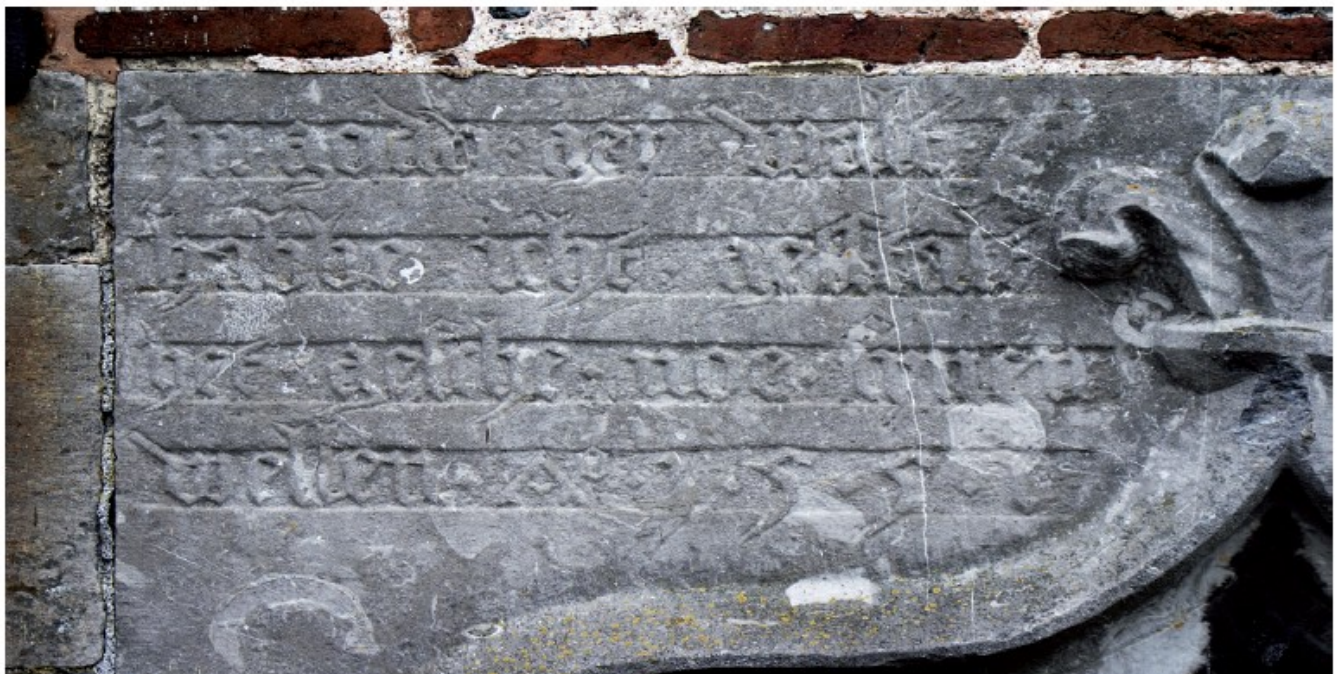
4. 16th century : Crawhez 1551

The principal entry of the fortified farmhouse *Crawhez* in the eastern part of Clermont (Bank of Herve) next to Aubel bears the inscription : « *In godd gey walt / habbe icht gestalt / het gesche noe synen / wellen. A(nn)o 1551.* » (In the power of God / I have placed it / It shall occur according to his will. Ao 1565)

In this text, similar interferences occur as those met in the register text of Aubel (County of Dalhem) in the year 1565. Some mistakes may have been committed by the sculptor ignoring the language : If the text is read in nominal style meaning « In the power, protection of God » *gey-* could be the prefix of the German substantive *Gewalt* . If it were written in verbal style *gey* (instead of *ger* ?) *walt* means « *God who reigns* » - *habbe* resembles to both Dutch « heb ik » and German « habe ich » - *ich* is clearly Ripuarian - *gestalt* is the Ripuarian past participle of *stellen* « placed » (still so today in Aachen and Kerkrade) - *het* is both Low-Frankish and Ripuarian - *noe* is the dialectal preposition /no/ «according to».

Later, around 1600, the Ripuarian scripta was totally wiped away by the three 'modern' languages cohabiting in our border region until today. The doctoral thesis L. Wintgens *Grundlagen der Sprachgeschichte im Bereich des Herzogtums Limburg*, ULg 1979, edited by Grenz-Echo, Eupen 1982, deals with this evolution for the Duchy of Limburg from the 15th to the 18th century.

*In godd gey (der?) walt habbe icht gesstalt
het gesche noe synen wellen 1551.*



5. 17th century : Montzen

On the old grave yard all around the Parish church, a series of between 40 to 50 finely chiseled chalk stone tomb crosses have disappeared since 2010 with the knowledge of the deputy mayor (catholic party!) of the responsible commune. Dating from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, the inscriptions on those protected monuments contained indispensable information for historians, genealogists, historians of art (sculpture) as well as for philologists and researchers in the wide field of onomastics. The language on these crosses changed from a more Ripuarian or Brabantish *scripta* to a mingled or nearly German spelling, with clear influences from the regional tongue, as in the two examples here-under:

“A(nn)o 1604 den 13 April ist in Gott entschlaffen Matthis Schroers. Gott troest die Seel. Amen”

“ A(nn)o 1643 den 18 Fe(y?) is in Got entschlaffen Bill Cnobs van Snellenberch. Got troest die (Seel).”
(Ao ... has gone to sleep in God God help the soul. Amen)

As the commune Plombières, in dialect /op-ene Bliiberech/, belongs today to the French Community of Belgium the removal of the old headstones seems to aim at destroying any remembrance of the plurilingual history inherent to this parcel of the old Duchy of Limburg. The local genealogist François Hick considers such hare-brained gestures as acts of iconoclasm similar to those committed in Afghanistan. I myself remembered the dictatorial reign of « Newspeak » in George Orwell’s novel 1984...

On April 10th 2021, a complaint and urgent demand to have these crosses re-installed was sent to the competent federal minister in Brussels, dealing with the protected Patrimony. So far, we received a double acknowledgment of receipt as sole reaction...!



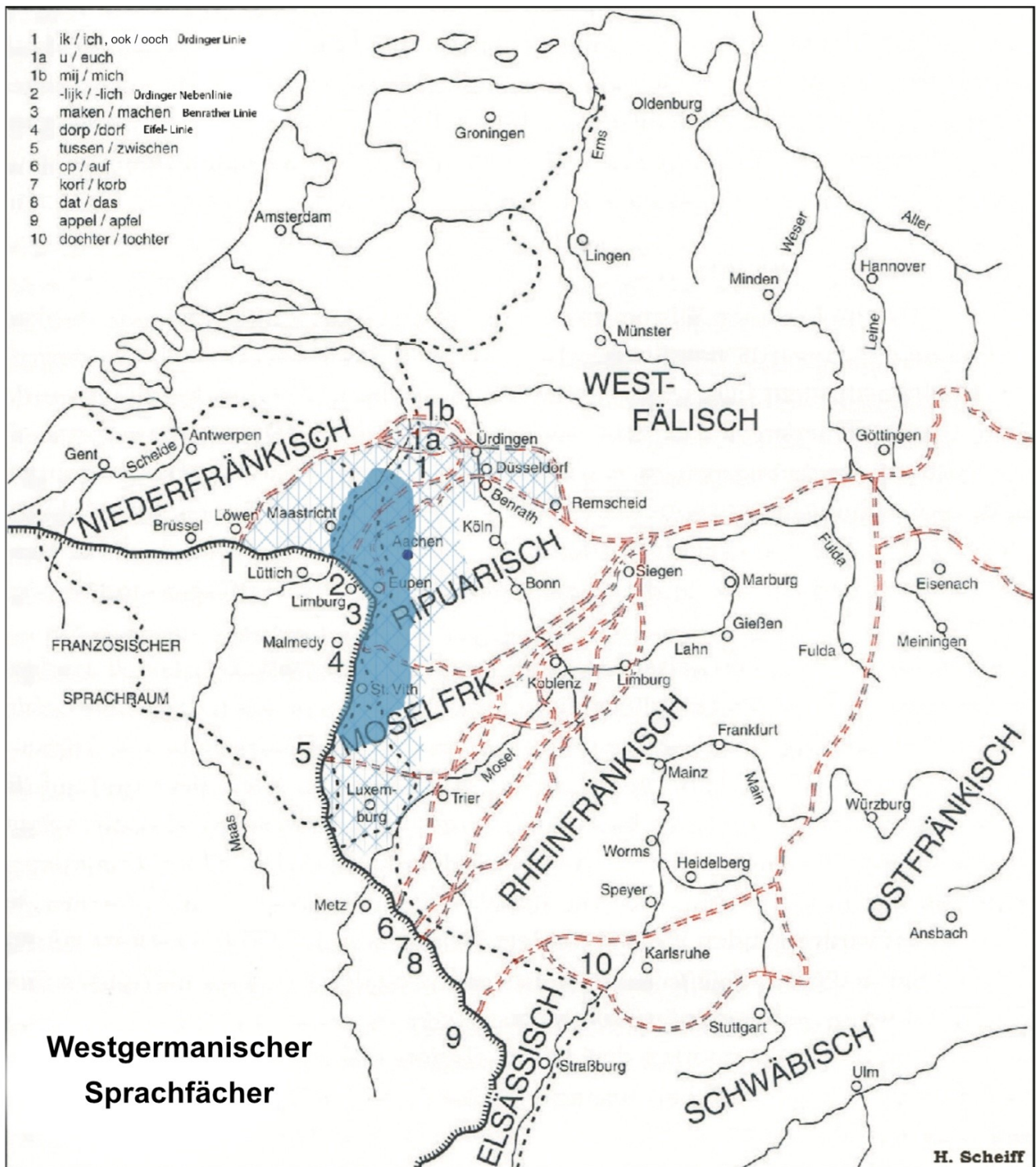


Here-after follows a scientific essay written in our regional tongue about the eldest literature in Carolingian Frankish, recently published in *Echos ut os Schprook II* (2020, p. 8-11). It aims to evidence for some sceptical colleagues that – as soon as it has been given again an appropriate spelling – our old idiom, being *the scripta* of the Maas area from about 1250 until 1600, possesses all the competences indispensable for such kind of needs.

Already years ago, I have held several scientific conferences in Moresnet, Kelmis and Aachen in my father and mother tongue – which was also the first family language of the famous composer César Franck (Liège 1922 - Paris 1990). So the *Verein Öcher Platt e.V.* invited me several times to refer about our commune linguistic past in the historical *Staufer-Keller* of *Haus Löwenstein* (14th Century) facing the Town Hall of Aachen and the statue of Charlemagne.

By the way, already in 2004, I have published in my native tongue the history of our Old-Limburgish villages in *“The Balaade van de Moresender Brök”* through more than 1000 alexandrins. In this way, literature in Karolingisch-Frankish can perhaps proceed... The last stanza of this epic poem will here-under end our *“First Key to Carolingian Frankish”*.

We hope that these ‘speaking samples’ taken out of the regional toponymy, archives and epigraphic monuments have – at least partly – filled up the lack of pragmatical information for the toponymist, the philologist, the historian and, above all, for the cultivated reader. The aim is to improve the state-of-art in the field of historical philology for the central area of the linguistic transition region in Western Europe, the modern *Euregio*.



Der sog. Rheinische Fächer ohne ‚Strahlungstheorie‘ sollte sachgerecht westgermanischer Sprachfächer genannt werden. Die Laut- und Wortlinien dieses Konstrukts stellen u.E. Ausgleichslinien dar, die wohl seit dem späten Mittelalter Spracherscheinungen aus der Zeit der Bevölkerungsvermischung fixieren. Der westlichste Teil ist konkret als ‚Aachener Wirkungskreis‘ zu betrachten, denn die Krönungsstadt hat, u.a. auch als Appellationsgericht (ATLAS I, Karte S. 13), ohne Zweifel jahrhundertlang eine sprachbildende Wirkung auf ihre Großregion und auf weiter ab liegende Gebiete ausgeübt. Das engere und weitere Areal wird hier gestaffelt durch die Farbfläche und die umringende Rasterung dargestellt.

De otste Literatur én et Karolingesch-Fränkesch

„In dutschen dichtede dit Heynriick, Die van Veldeke was geboren“ schrääf é 1175 Heinrich van Veldeke bééj zing „Sint-Servaes-Legende“. Hæe wät als Kop än Pionier van de „Nederlandse Literatur“ än van de „Deutsche Literatur“ jeviet, wail hæe zing Tächte adens mét än adens oone „(Mit-)Lautverschiebung“ schrääf.

Mär Veldeke és mär éng Schpéts van der Iisbäärech van en éje Literatuurlantschaf, hééj é-je Maaslant – va Kleve bés Echternach – lang ie dat de ‚Mittelhochdeutsche Dichtung‘ onde é-jene Züuden opkoem.

Veldeke woor de Brök, över di de Dichtong van de Franse *Troubadours* än *Trouvères* no Bälje än wier no Dütschlant erää kos wandere. Schpieder zaat Gottfried von Straßburg jans dütlech över Veldeke:

„Er impfete das erste riis in tiutscher zunge.“



Et Ripuaaresch – dat jewése Forscher é Verjäet en „niederländisch-deutsche

Mischform“ nööme – woor drééj Joorhonderte lang de Schprook van de Kultur än de Administratsiuen än och van de Diplomatií én os Jebiit tösche Maas, Moozel än Riin.

Der 14. Mäets 1412 hant de „Ghesellen van den Spele“ van de Schtat Diest é Ostbraabant warschainlech én di Schprook et *abele spel* „Lanseloet“ én Ooke opjevuet.

Noch köet vör zinge Duet, é-jene Januar 814, hau Kaizer Karel der Jruete de Kérekelij wérem opjeroope, der Jloof och én de Schprook van et Vook bekant te maake. Ezö zönt och de zuejenoomde „*Karolingische Psalmen*“ ut et Latiin överzat woede.

De létste Vársiuen és vör mierere Forscher hééj én os Jääjent äntstande. Der holendsche Filoloog H.K.J. Cowan (Leiden 1957) schrift utdröcklech „*wellicht in de nabijheid van Aken*“. Der Montzener Forscher Joseph Langohr mingt ezöjaar (LGOG LXXIV, Maastricht 1938), ene Déél derva wüer é Jöleke/Goé of Boole, op Lémerech of op Kapäl, jeschrääve woede.

Psalm LIV

1. *Gehôri got gebet min, in ne faruuirp bida mina;
thenke te mi in gehôri mi.*

2. *Gidruovit bin an tilongon minro, in mistrôst bin
fan stimmon fundes in fan arbeide suudiges.*

4. *Herta min gidruovit ist an mi, in forchta dodis fiel
ouir mi.*

6. *In ic quad: uuie sal geuan mi fethron also dûvon,
in ic fliugon sal in raston sal?*

Langohr schrift op Zij 13, der Bezitser van de „*Karolingische Psalmen*“ wüer onbekant, mär op Zij 62, et Manuskript lööch é-je Kloster Jotsdel bij Oobel. Ääl do és et now och at lang nëét mie ...

Op Lémerech woor noch é 1520, näven et Latiin, et Ripuaaresch de wichteche Schprook. Dat dokumentéere doo de Inschrifte op-en Téotéék é-jen *Église Saint-Georges*. Pirot Hubre(ch)t és va 1510 bés 1536 als Maier van Lémerech (van et ‚Huech Jerécht‘) bekant. De Schprook és jans réng Ripuaaresch:



*Diese vinster hait gegeve(n) Pirot Hubret,
meyer tzo der tzyt tzo Limborch,
ende sin huisfrauwe Dillien.
Bidt got vur dye selen.
An(n)o Domini XVc enn XX.*

Ut et 9.-10. Joorhondert schtamt och en Aat Diksjonäär, et „*Fränkesch-Lattinesch Konvärzatsiuensbökske*“, wuva é Paris än é Rom mierere Äxemplaare é-jen Archiive lije.

20. *Gueliche lande cumen ger? / de qua patria ?*

„Aus welchem Land kommen Sie?“

21. *Eg uas mer in gene francia. / in francia fui.*

„Ich war im Frankenreich.“

É Zats 20 könt der *Suffix -lech* vöör, wi hüj noch ömer bés é Sent-Mäete-Vuure; än vör „däär“, frz. vous, schtéét *ger*, dat hüj noch é Mestrech än é Moelingen/Mouland beschtéét.

É Zats 21 wät oze régionaaale *jen*-Artikel vör Plaatsch-Beschtémonge jebrukt: *é-gen Francia*, d.h. wue ‚oot Frans‘ d.h. galloromanisch wät jekalt.

Över-jen Äjangsdöör van et Häärehuus op Crawhez (< Kroonehég) – et és hüj e fii Hotäl-Rästorant – tösche Oobel än Clermont (< Kloormoont) schtéet ene Schproch, dä Jots Zääneng op dat Huus eraaf röpt. De Schprook is schtäre k jemischt:

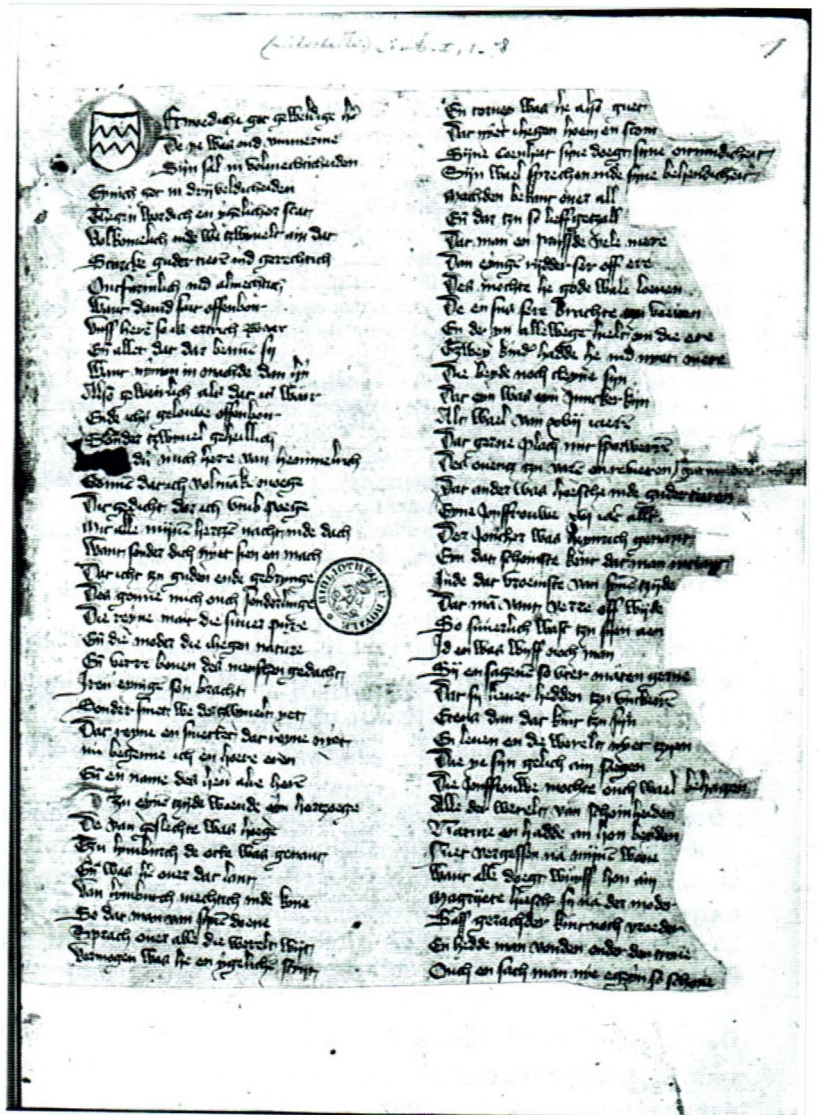
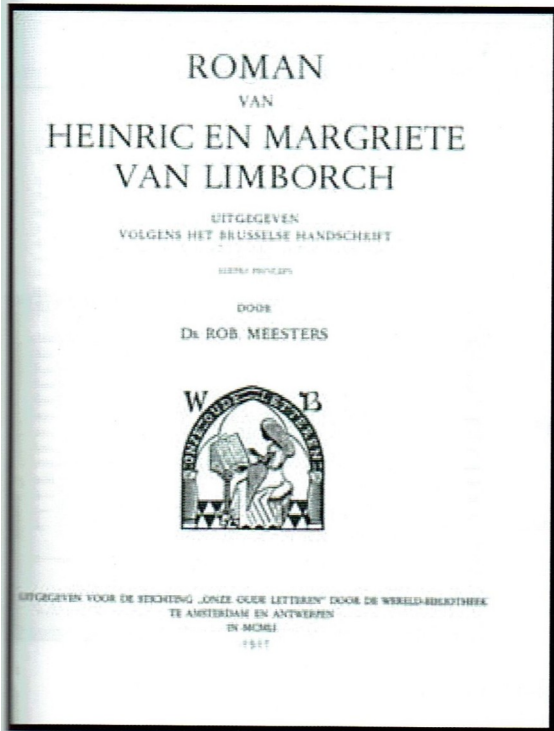
*In godd gey walt
habbe icht gesstalt
het gesche noe synen
wellen A° 1.5.5.1.*



Än ezö woete och noch é 1565 de Réjistere én Oobel op e jemischt Ripuaaresch jevuuet. Dat és di au *Scripta*, di éch hüj Karolingesch-Fränkesch nööm, än di va ca. 1260 aa é-jen janse EUREGIO én än öm Ooke bés onjeväär 1600 de ofitsiäl Schréftsprook blääf. Di Schprook – éjentliche en Norm van os Plat – woet béj os é noch vööl auer Tiite och at schréftlech jebrukt.

De Jroove va *Manderscheid-Blankenheim* é-jen dütsche *Eifel* hant alösch é 1531 én Ooke a-jene *Katschhof* hön Jeböjdens verkoet; di loore doo aater-je Roothuus, wue hüj der „*Centre Charlemagne*“ schtéet. Jüs doo hant ze fléks als *Sponsore* joorelaangk brabantische Literatur én et Ripuaaresch loote överzéte. Ezö wi – öm 1420 – der „*Roman van Heinrich inde Margriete van Lymborch*“, e Épos va ront 23.000 (jambesche) Värze. Et Oriijinaal woet öm 1300 als Opdraach va Johan I. va Brabant, der Zijer van de Schlacht va Worringen (5. Juuni 1288), van ene jewése *Heinric* (van Aken?) é Brabantisch, d.h. é niiderfränkesch, jeschräave.

Et mot ene *Bestseller* jewäst zie, dän et zönt onjevaär 20 Värsiuene van dä Book bekant. Der ‚*Sprachstand*‘ – ripuaaresch of niiderfränkesch – hat Isabelle Wintgens é 1990 a-jen *Université libre de Bruxelles* (ULB) als ‚*Masterwärek*‘ analiziet än och Élémente onderzuuet, di os Plat hat drääjelaat (Artikel *der m. S.*, *jen*-Artikel etc.). Hééj os Transkripsiuene van de Värze 31-38 ut de öschte Zij van et Manuskript *Hs.18231* é-jen *Bibliothèque Royale* é Brösel:



Tzu eynen tziide woonde eyn hertzoge,
 De van geslechte was hoege,
 Tzu Lymburch, de Otte was genant.
 Ende was here over dat Lant
 Van Lymburch, mechtich inde kone,
 So dat man van sijnen doene
 Sprach over alle die werelt wijt.
 Vermogen was he in ygelychen strijt.

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XXI: Epilooch

"Mennicher ys so verblyndt inde gepynt, dat die sonne in't water schynt."
(Schproch op Burech Streversdorp)

Dat, ming lééf Lüy, és, wat de Jööl os Brök vertélt,
Et Äzelejéj lustert mét, än der Otste va höön hölt
dat ales vöör de Tsuukonf vaas. Mär wat now noch köönt,
of hééj de Minsche no vööre of no aate vaare of jöönt,
dat wéte de Jööl, de Brök än och de Kroniste néét.
Der Diogéénäs zälver wös doröver néét Beschéét.
Onde löpt éwech de Jööl. Höör Waater blinkt wi ene Schpééjel,
wue Haas än Voos draa drénke, Libäle än Piepele vlééje,
Vööjel zéngé än flööte, et és wéreklech ene Jenos!
Wää ezöjät Fings hat jemakt, dä hat jetsécht, wat e kos.

Eé Déél mär wéle vää hoepé: Dat de näkste nüngsech Joor
van et éenentwintechste Joorhondert jéé Léét än jéng Jevoor
dörch di Brök hééj zal äntschtuue wi a-jen *Brück' am Tay*,
wue Bléts, Schtroom än Orkaane der Tsoch än de Minsche terräete,
och néét wi é-jene létste Krééch de Brök över der *River Kwai*,
di mänech *Saldooteläave* koosde. Wää kös ezöjät verjæete?
Onjlök än Krééch, blit vut! Va öch hat me vlot jenoch!
E Row än Vrää wél vää hééj lääve, än dat wéle os Nobere och!
Als *Kriegsbahn* woet os Brök jebowt, é Vrää wél vää ze nötse.
Di fing jerästoriéde Béén, di zalen-os wal schötse,
di vrésch jelifde Bake, dat nöt métale Korsét,
doo köne de Tsöch dröver vaare wi én e Flokebét.
Dat fönkelt é-jen Zon wi en Vrow én e nöj Fästkléét,
ezö proper, dad-et énge ächt no-jen Knöek ääjéét.

Lans Jéétebök op *Stééntevält no-en (Fifth) Avenue de l'Europe*
jong ver verlää jemüttelech no Olsbrech, der Kop erop,
schpatsiede du dörch-en Wéjen-eraaf, et woor bo wi ene Droom,
du tsiede huech över-en Brök ene bonte Booch der Zoom
van di Bööm, di wier de drééj Jränse mét hön Loof tudéke.
Et woor dervöör ezö wäärem jewäs, dat me höj köne verschtéke.
Jans dütlech zoore ver de Drien méden-é-jen Brök,
än é-jene Böjsch aater-en Burech woose Pierueze Schtök a Schtök.
Noo Donder än Rään, now Zoneschiin: Milliueene Pääele lüdene op,
winseje Diamante verschpritsde hön Vüür, över-ne Kop
van os Brök schtraalde en Kruen - of hong di Brök an dä Booch,
wi me é-jen Filme zit? - Ech tséchde di Kléng, wat éch zooch -
mär onderéns, ene létste Bléts, än du ränd-et, dad-et klatscht.
(Der Düüvel hat Kérmes, zät me, wän de Zon schingt é-jene Rään,
da héischt et mär jau schule, wierjuue hat jaar jéngé Zään.)
De Klööre zöönt wi utjevächt, de *Fata Morgana* jeplatst:
E sctoole Jeschtél lit vöör os op tsemänte Schtil.
"Upa, ver wäede waal jans nat!" joomert der kléngé Will.
Mä der Rään loot noo. De Äzele roope va wiit op os aa;
ezön Déére wéete jans genau: an döön hange Beschüte draa.



Wi ze a-en Brök hééj wérkde, han éch dék a ming Kéngskénger jezaat:
"Kikt joot, wat ze alemool maake, wi ze verschaale, schméde, hääve,
zét-der, wi di, över Naat, doo dat nöt Elemänt hant jelaat?
Ezö Wärek, ezue akuraat jemakt, dat zét-der mär éns én üer Lääve."
Et Tsöfke kikt än schtaunt än hat jüs noch en Vroor,
du zät der kléngé Jilliom - e és noch jéng vof Joor:
"Wän di di Schtöker *vädech* krie, da és dat néét ezö wéél,
di da do oove drop te duue, dat woor mär Kéngerschpéél."

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Notes about our writing & spelling of Carolingian Frankish

Our aim is to allow each reader to pronounce correctly the words of our ancient language in danger of disappearance. To reach this aim we established a strict rule: The texts are basically written in bold lettering. Each sound is always reproduced by the same sign: **1 sound = 1 sign**. That reality is not to be found in the so-called official languages as French, German, English or Lëtzebuergesch, where for instance the vowels /o/ E. « hole » and /o/ E. « hot » are nowhere distinguished. (Our sole exception is the lack of differentiation between the so-called *ich-Laut* (palatal) and the *ach-Laut* (velar): e.g. in *Köche* "kitchen" and *laache* "to laugh").

This way, we hope to ensure Carolingian Frankish a future existence, even after an eventual dissolution by lack of native speakers...

Short vowels are always spelled with one letter, long vowels with a double letters.

The so-called "hit (or acute) tone" (Schärfung) is expressed by a normal letter following the bold one:

e.g. énge Daach – twaai Daach "one day – two days"; énge Wääch – twaai Wääch "one way – two ways"; éch loop s. pres. - éch loop/léep s. past "I run – I ran"; et Jraaf – der Jraaf "the tomb – the ditch".

Contrary to English, all voiced consonants are pronounced voiceless at the end of words (*Auslaut*), just as in Dutch and in German. In CF this phenomenon is also *and written*.

Here the chosen letters compared with English E., French F., German G. and/or Dutch D.:

Vowels:

ä: jät "a bit": E. cat, G. Kerl; é: mét "with", E. pit; e: maake "make", E. liver

o: vool "full": G. holen, F. eau; ö: Hölep "help", Pöl; G. Höhle

o: Lot!, imperative "let!" E. God, F. ordre; ö: kö(e)t "short"; E. shut; G. Hölle

u: vut "away", E. put, G. Ruck, F. fou, D. goed; ü: Vüür "fire", G. für, F. lune

The diphthongs are spelled as phonetically as possible: ai, éi (éj), au, ow, öj, ö(ö)j; äe, ie, ue etc.

Consonants:

ch: éch "l" = palatal *ich-Laut* (/ / ésch, éj- + vowel), G. ich; lachen "to laugh" = velar *ach-Laut*

j: Jong; juue "boy; to go", E. yes, G. Junge, F. yoga, D. jongen

g: zaage (West) D. zeggen // zaare (East: pronounces a kind of r) "to say"

sch: Schot "shot", E. shot, G. Schuss, F. niche, chose; Schruf « the screw »; schtuue « to stand », Schpiuen « the spy »

sch: schwat "black" (voiced to the West of Gemmenich), F. Jean

z: zéte; zaare "to sit; to say", G. sitzen, F. zèbre, D. zitten, zingen

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