



The influence of the Norman dialect on the English one Our History together



By becoming king of England, the Duke of Normandy, William the Conqueror made Norman the language of power overseas.

replace it? Why then did English come back? Who are the living witnesses of Norman in English? These are all questions that this CJO Newsletter 99 intends to provide some concrete answers to...



One day trip to London - 2016

And why do the British speak English today and not Norman? You will see, through this CJO Newsletter, that it was just a matter of time that all those who speak English today, around the world, do not speak French like you and me. You will see the indirect impact of the Hundred Years War and the roles of John Cornwall, Richard Pencrich and King Henry IV... theirs, not the French Henri IV!



59 Teenagers in Hyde Park London - 2007



The 2004 1st Twinning night

Combing hair, watching a wrestling match, organizing a garden party, listening to rock and roll or being a fashion victim... Contemporary English uses Norman words. Yes, I mean, NORMAN WORDS. Why? The answer dates back to 1066 when William II, Duke of Normandy, conquered England with his companions. Norman then became the language of power and prestige in England and this for centuries... But what is known about the practice of Norman in England? Why did it take the place of English, the English language spoken before 1066? How could it be that French and Latin did not completely

1066 : Normans conquered and took the throne of England

On January 5th, 1066, the death of the king, Edward the Confessor (1004-1066), caused trouble in Britton, the present England. Indeed, without direct descent, the king had promised his throne to the Duke of Normandy, William II, called the Bastard. Why him? Edward was the son of Guillaume's great aunt, Emma, herself the daughter of the Duke of Normandy Richard I. These family links had enabled him to flee the Danish invasions in 1013 by taking refuge in Normandy at the court of his uncle Richard II. His reign, begun in 1043, was marked by his great mistrust of the English and Danish. He therefore surrounded himself with good faithful Normans, which earned him the enmity of the Anglo-Saxons.

At the death of Edward, the Anglo-Saxon nobles wanted to prevent the arrival of William II and settled on the throne Harold Godwinson (1022-1066) who was no relation to Edward. He was crowned on January 5th, 1066. William II quickly raised a powerful army of Normans, Picards, Bretons and Flemish. After landing in England, he killed Harold and many Anglo-Saxon nobles during the famous Battle of Hastings on October 14th, 1066. He took the crown of the Kingdom of England on December 25th, 1066, in London. Thus, on the head of a single man was founded an immense power: the

crown of the Kingdom of England and the crown of the Duchy of Normandy, vassal of the Kingdom of France. A power and a system that lasted until 1204.



59 Teenagers in Buckingham Palace London - 2007

A Norman elite settles into power

To thank his companions for having supported him in the conquest of the throne, William – now called the Conqueror – gave them the titles and functions formerly possessed by the Anglo-Saxon nobility. He surrounded himself with men of trust and thus constituted an aristocracy with a Norman majority in the political, military, religious and economic spheres. To name a few, Thomas was made archbishop of York and Lanfranc de Pavia became archbishop of Canterbury. The names of dozens of great Norman families can be found thanks to the Domesday book (1086) which listed for the king all the lands of England: the Aubigny (from the Manche department), the Beaumont (Beaumont-le-Roger), the Bohun (from Saint-Georges-de-Bohun, Manche), les Bourg (became De Burgh in England and Burke in Ireland), les bruis (de Brix, near Cherbourg, became Bruce of which Robert 1st king of Scotland), les Ferrière (from the Eure department, became Ferrers), les Giffard (Bolbec), Grandmesnil (Falaise), Harcourt (near Neubourg), Mandeville (Manneville, Seine-Maritime), Montfort (Montfort-sur-Risle), Mortemer (now Mortimer), Montbray (Cotentin), Richard (Octeville-sur-Mer), Montgomery (from the Calvados department), Tosny (Eure), etc...



50 Octevillais in USA with the San Francisco Golden Gate Bridge 2008

Impacts of the conquest

The Normans are the last conquerors England has known. By force, they united the country for the first time in its history and brought remarkable stability to it. They did the same thing in Sicily and southern Italy at the same time (see our next CJO Newsletter). They strengthened the royal power by its administration and by the installation of the feudal system, a vast hereditary hierarchy led by the king and which includes lords and their obliged vassals. The lords had strong castles built throughout England to sit and protect their power and, more generally, **than** the king. Finally, the Norman imprint was also felt in English culture... The king's language became the language of power but also, after Latin, of law and religion. As a result, the Norman language became synonymous with prestige and culture. Yes, it did! But does that mean that English had disappeared from England?



The 5th Twinning Night - 2009



The Normans and their allies were a few thousand to express themselves in Norman among nearly 1.5 to 2 million English **Anglo-Saxon** speakers. The contrast was strong between these languages because Norman is a Roman language, close to French, forged since late antiquity from the popular Latin of the north of the Gaul. Indeed, the Normans, the name given to the Vikings by the Franks, mean etymologically «the men of the north». But they quickly adopted the Roman language spoken in the region that took the name of Normandy. After 1066, the English people continued to speak and write in English. Only the English that came into contact with power became familiar with the elitist Norman, particularly in order to improve their social and financial position. Over the decades,

they have brought hundreds of Norman and Latin words from the other side of the English Channel into English.

Linguists count only 900 Norman or Latin words before 1250. This is partly due to the rarity of the writings that have reached us. However, the sons of the Norman conquerors, known as the Anglo-Normans, grew up among the Anglophones. The Anglo-Normans, who were far removed from the royal power, were therefore very comfortable in English at an early age and created so many bridges between languages. The English vocabulary was then enriched with Norman and Latin words, mainly in those areas where the conquerors shone or changed the uses. Here are some examples...



Visit to Bourne End (no more cake for kids!) - 2010



A beautiful table in Bourne End - 2010

Some examples :

Administration : government, council (conseil), state (état), royal, court, assembly, parliament ;

Religion : sermon, prayer (prière), clergy, abbey, miracle, marvel, piety ;

Right : justice, jury, judge, liberty, proof (preuve), verdict, prison, pardon ;

Martial Arts : army, enemy, arms, combat, defence ;

Mode : fashion, collar, button, boot, satin, ornament ;

Arts of cooking : dinner, supper, sole, saumon, sausage, pigeon, biscuit, orange, peach, oil, vinegar, mustard. Norman words were integrated to English to give names to foods. Des mots normands ont été intégrés à l'anglais pour nommer des plats while names of living animals remained English. A few examples : bœuf (beef/ox), le veau (veal/calf), le mouton (mutton/sheep), le cochon (pork/pig) ;

Arts : art, music, image, cathedral, column, pillar (pillar).

A prolific literature

With Latin, Norman was the language most used in literature in England during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. The archives have preserved the writings of dozens of authors, while French literature was still in its infancy. It's amazing, don't you think so? Among the most brilliant are Wace, author of the *Novel de Rou* [Rollon], a chronicle on the dukes of Normandy and the *Novell of Brut* [Brutus], the oldest chronicle in the Roman language on the kings of Brittany. Benoît de Sainte-Maure is the author of the *Novel of Troy*, the main Roman work relating the Battle of Troy and the "Estoire" (story) of the dukes of Normandy. Anglo-Norman literature also carried the oldest version of Roland's Songs, then a major work of French literature. Let us also mention the legends around Merlin the Enchanter and King Arthur that were compiled by Geoffroy de Monmouth in *Historia Regum Britanniae* before they penetrated French literature. Many other remarkable writings have marked this period and this cultural area and in particular historical works such as the *History of Guillaume the Marshal*.



Canterbury - 2010

After 1135, the Norman gives way to the French

In 1135, Henry 1st nicknamed Beauclerc died in Lyons-la-Forêt. This last son of William the Conqueror was the last king of the Anglo-Norman dynasty. His successor, Etienne, was the son of Count of Blois, Etienne-Henri, and the daughter of William the Conqueror, Adèle. Etienne of Blois was the father of Geoffroy V of Anjou, said Plantagenet... so much as Norman was not the first language of the Plantagenets. The court of England maintained the use of Norman but became accustomed to a new accent and new words. In 1204, the king of France, Philippe Auguste, conquered Normandy. The king of England, John **nicknamed** Lackland, kept only the Channel Islands. The loss of influence of the Anglo-Norman was acknowledged. Many lords had to choose between their Normandy lands, now dependent on the French crown, or their English lands...



Furci Siculo - On the side of the Etna volcano - 2010

Those who remained overseas were cut off from their Norman origins. They then opened up to other cultural horizons mainly imported by the British crown. **They** particularly appreciated the beautiful soft language (French) of Paris that had emerged with the Capetian monarchy. In fact, by the second half of the twelfth century, the Anglo-Norman was perceived by the elites in England as a deformed French. Schools taught French spoken in the Ile de France (all around Paris) alongside schools teaching English-Norman. That is why French was adopted in England for justice and law. The English elite taught this beautiful French language to their children abroad or in London thanks to tutors from France. The English language recorded its first French words sometimes in addition to their Norman synonyms. Examples include ward/guard, Warden/Guardian, warrant/guarantee, captain/Chieftain, etc. It can be said that Norman opened English culture to French, the future official language of the Kingdom of France by the edict of Villers-Cotterêts (1539).



Furci Siculo - On the Etna volcano slopes - 2010

After 1349, English gradually triumphed

What an extraordinary case that a royal power that artificially maintained a minority language unknown to the people!! The attachment to traditions cannot explain everything. English Monarchs were native to lands on the other side of the English Channel. English was foreign or secondary to them. It was therefore necessary to wait for the Hundred Years War (1337-1453) and the gradual loss of land in France for English to regain its place of power. In 1349, John Cornwall and Richard Pencrich, teachers at the University of Oxford, decided to use English in their teaching.



Christmas market - 2010



Christmas market - 2010



Christmas market - 2010

From 1363, the chancellor began the parliamentary session with a speech in English and no longer in Anglo-Norman. Everything started from there. Henry IV of England (1367-1413) was the first monarch since 1066 whose mother tongue was English. The kings of England claiming the throne of France, the long line of weddings with women from the French nobility has long maintained a bond with French. From Henry II to Henry VI, all the English sovereigns married women of France... and their lands...



**The Twinning night - 2010
Viva la musica!**

Edward IV (1461-1483) was the first to break this tradition in 1464: the use of French in government and law-making came to an end in the 1480s under the reign of Henry VII Tudor (1457-1509). Why is it the end of French in England? Was it due to an identity withdrawal, a "resale" following the loss of territories? It seems not, since the teaching of French and the borrowing of many words from its vocabulary continued unabated... to the present day!



The Niagara falls - 2010

English, marked for life by Norman and then French...

Before the Normans, the Scandinavians (Vikings) colonized England and changed the grammar and pronunciation of English. This influence was facilitated by the common origin of these Germanic languages. Although they spoke a Latin language – and thus very different from English – the Normans profoundly changed English, including spelling and pronunciation. (as for example suffixes –tion pronounced /Chone/, almost like Norman /Chon/. That is why linguists all distinguish the Ancient English, before 1066, from the Middle English which coexisted with the Anglo-Norman. The Normans opened the English language to the Roman languages in addition to the Latin already known by the elites and the Church.

Nearly 10,000 words of Latin origin were switched to English between 1150 and 1400 (90% after 1250). If the Anglo-Norman language has amazingly survived only in the Channel Islands where it is the official language (the CJO organized a trip in 2006 to Jersey to note that), linguists agree that English has been enriched by more than 33% of words of French origin. Some even say that English is a hybrid language! This openness to another language is really remarkable and unique in the world. All the words imported are so vast that it is even possible to distinguish between Norman and French words...



New York City - The Statue of Liberty - 2010

Distinguishing Norman from French?

Originally, Norman and the language of "oil" (oil means French, nothing to do with oil) are dialects derived from Latin spoken in the Roman Gaul following the Roman domination. This is why linguists classify them as Roman languages. Their similarities are important. Thus, many words passed in English cannot be attributed to Norman or French. For example, Veil (voile), Leisure (loisir), Prey (proie)... The "oi" sound of current

French was pronounced "ei" in the Middle Ages and is always pronounced in Norman this way... However, since the end of Antiquity, several centuries of separate evolution have brought about clear differences in pronunciation and vocabulary between the Norman and the French. Along with the Picard (dialect from Picardie) and the Walloon, the Norman is part of the dialects of the north of the Joret line, a line identified in 1833 by the philologist Charles Joret (1829-1914). In Normandy, it passes through Granville, Vire, Evreux and Les Andelys. Here are some differences in pronunciation between the dialects of the north and south of the Joret line:

- in the north the sound/k/ of Latin was maintained while in the south it became/ch/. Example: the Latin word calidum becomes «Caud» in Norman and «chaud» (hot) in French;
- in the north the /w/ of some Germanic words became /v/ while in the south it became/gu/. Example: "viquet" in Norman and "guichet" in French;
- the sounds /s/ and /ch/ are as inverted. Example: «cauchure» in normand and «chaussure» in French.



New York City - Manhattan - 2010



Washington - The Congress - 2010

Thus, with these differences in pronunciation, we can identify certain words of Norman origin. Our working tool was the 1966 edition of The Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology. This etymological dictionary is the result of several decades of study. The fourth editor of this dictionary was the grammarian Charles Talbot Onions (1873-1965). With great care, he distinguished the words from Latin and ancient French and, not only that, from the ancient French (Old French) and the ancient French of the North (Old Northern French). It is these last words that we began to list in order to illustrate the differences in Norman/French pronunciation mentioned above.



Twinning Charter Signing with Furci Siculo in Octeville - 2010



In conclusion...

English has retained many words of Norman or French origin. The philologist Charles Joret has identified some of them. We have chosen 50 words from dialects in the north of France. You will find them in next pages. If written sources are rather rare in the first centuries after the conquest of England by the Normans, it seems to us nevertheless possible to link these words to the Norman cultural influence that preceded the arrival of the French of the Ile de France among the English elites. A book on the history of the Norman language is missing. It would be welcome to identify the characteristics and evolution of the Norman language over the centuries. It would make it possible to give it its true place and to recognize that it has played a major role in bringing the peoples of both sides of the English Channel and beyond...

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DATES DES RENCONTRES 2019

**Les Octevillais iront à FURCI SICULO (Sicile)
 du 20 au 27 août
 OCTEVILLE SUR MER accueillera les Anglais
 du 12 au 16 septembre**



The Tempo choir welcomes our English visitors with "God saves the Queen"



Guernsey 2011



Pour terminer cette aventure linguistique, je vous propose de visiter <https://www.superprof.fr/blog/lhistoire-de-la-langue-anglaise>. Ce site explique très bien l'évolution qui a conduit à l'anglais moderne.

Les nombreuses photos illustrant cette CJO Newsletter n°99 ont été spécialement choisies pour vous rappeler de bons souvenirs...

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"Octeville Place" Inauguration in Bourne End - 2010

English words coming from the Norman language examples			
English word (with its meaning)	Sound in Norman	Similar sound in French	Older origins
brush (to) (brosser)	brocher	brosser	de "brosse"
bushel (boisseau)	boichel	boissel	mot gaulois
cabbage (chou)	caboche	chou	latin populaire : caulis
caitif (chétif)	caitif	chétif	latin populaire : cactivus
candle (chandelle)	candelle	chandelle	bas latin : candela
canvas (canevas)	canevas	chanvre	latin : cannabis
capon	capon	chapon	latin : capulare (couper)
captain (capitaine)	capitaine	chevetain	latin : caput (la tête)
car (voiture)	carre	char	latin : carrus
carpenter (charpentier)	carpentier	charpentier	latin : carpentarius
carry (to) (porter)	carrier	charrier	de "charrrier"
castle (château)	castel (côté, aujourd'hui)	château	latin : castellum
catch (to) (attraper)	catcher	chasser	latin : captare
cater (to) (approvisionner)	acater	acheter	latin : ad captare
caterpillar (chenille)	cateplose	chateplose	latin : catta pilosa (chatte poilue)
cattle (bétail)	catel	cheptel	latin : capitale (propriété)
cauldron (chaudron)	caudron	chaudron	latin : caldaria
causeway (chaussée)	cauchie	chaussée	latin : calcia viata (voie renforcée de chaux)
chair (chaise)	chair	chaise	latin : cathedra
chalice (calice)	chalice	calice	latin : calicem
cherry (cerise)	cherise	cerise	latin : ceresium
crocket (crochet)	croquet	crochet	francique : krok
cushion (coussin)	couchin	coussin	latin : coxinus
decay (to) (déchoir)	décair	déchoir	latin : decadere
fashion (mode)	faichon	façon	latin : factio
fork (fourche)	fourque	fourche	latin : furca

garden (jardin)	gardin	jardin	latin populaire : gardinus
kennel (chenil)	quenile	chenil	latin : canile
lavish (prodigue)	laviche	lavis	latin : lavare
launch (lance)	lanche	lance	latin : lancea
leash (laisse)	laiche	laisse	de "laisser" (latin : laxare)
March (mars)	Marche	Mars	latin : Martius
mushroom (champignon)	moucheron	mousseron	de "mousse" (francique : mosa)
parosh (paroisse)	paroiche	paroisse	latin : parochia
pocket (poche)	pouquette	pochette	francique : pokka
poniard (dague)	poniard	poignard	latin : pugnatis
poor (pauvre)	paur	pauvre	latin : pauper
push (to) (pousser)	poucher	pousser	latin : pulsar
rock (roche)	roque	roche	latin : rocca
search (to) (chercher)	cercher	chercher	latin : circare
sorrel (oseille)	surelle	oseille	francique : sur
surgeon (chirurgien)	sérugien	chirurgien	latin : chirurgia
trick (triche)	trique	triche	de "tricher" (latin : tricari)
truncheon (bâton matraque)	tronchon	tronçon	latin populaire : trunceus
usher (huissier)	huichier	huissier	de "huis" (latin : ostium)
wage (gage)	wage	gage	francique : watha
wardrobe (garderobe)	warderobe	garderobe	de "garde" (francique : warden)
warranty (garantie)	warantie	garantie	francique : warjan
warren (garenne)	varenne	garenne	germanique : wardon



London's visit - 2004

Watch the children... Do you recognise them today?