

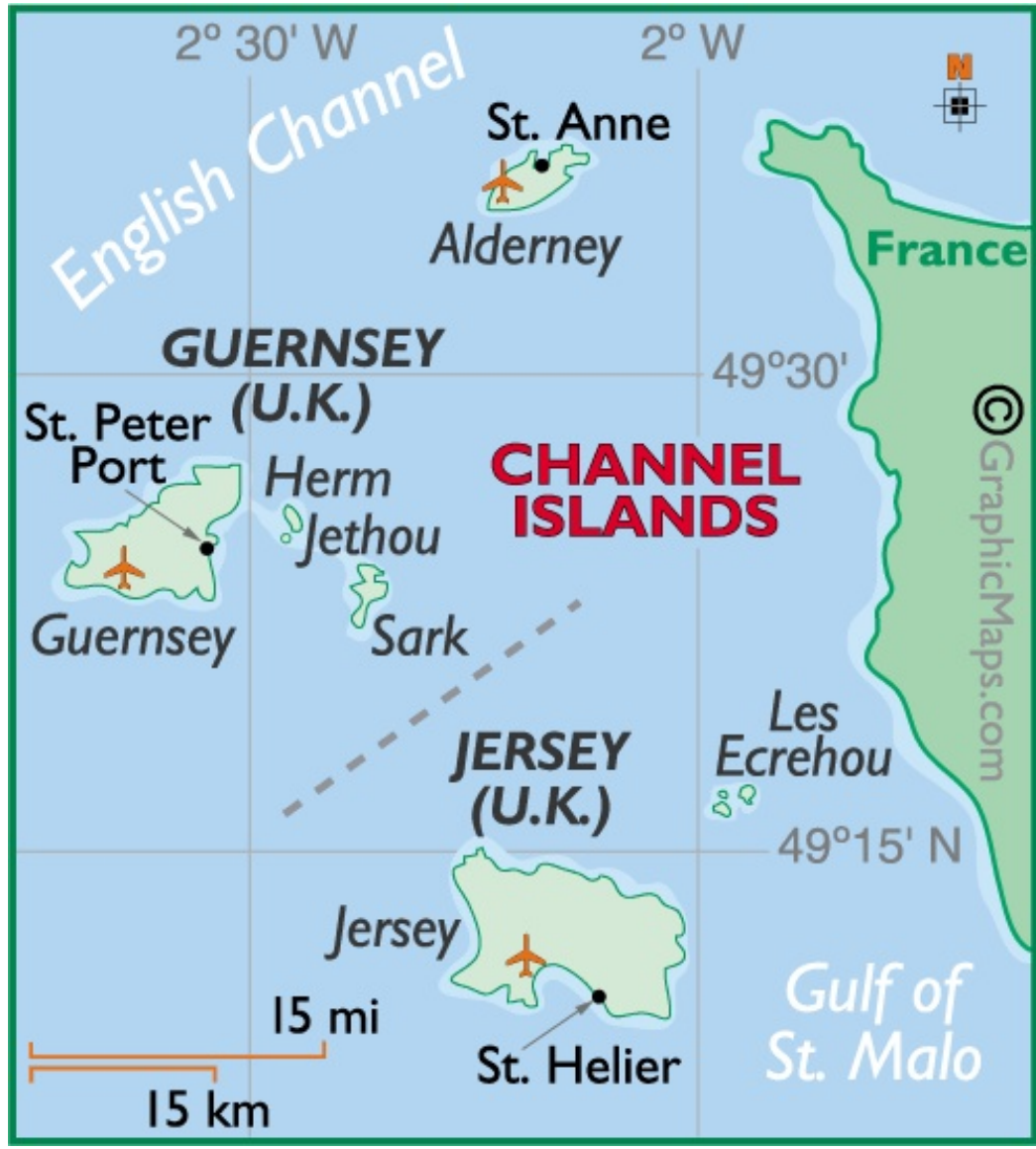
# Language Obsolescence and Revitalization: The Case of the Channel Islands

Mari Jones

University of Cambridge

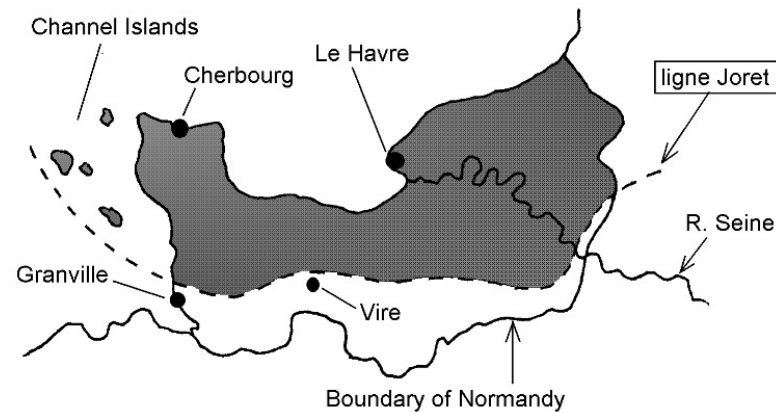
[mcj11@cam.ac.uk](mailto:mcj11@cam.ac.uk)





# Charles Joret

- *Des Caractères et de l'extension du patois normand* (1883)
- Ligne Joret
- /k/ + /a/ > /k/ - [ʃ]; /k/ + front vowel > [ʃ] - /s/



français	Jèrriais	Guernésiais	Serquiais
<i>chat</i> , <i>vache</i> [ʃ]	ka , vak	ka kat (V), vak	kɔt vak
<i>Cent</i> , <i>cinq</i> [s]	ʃã ʃɛk, ʃɛk	ʃã , ʃo ʃɛ, ʃɛ, ʃɛj	ʃã, ʃãt ʃɛ, ʃɛ, ʃɛj

*Mer:* G. [majr] J. [mɛ] S. [mwɛR]

*Miel:* G. [mjɛl] J. [mji] S. [mi]

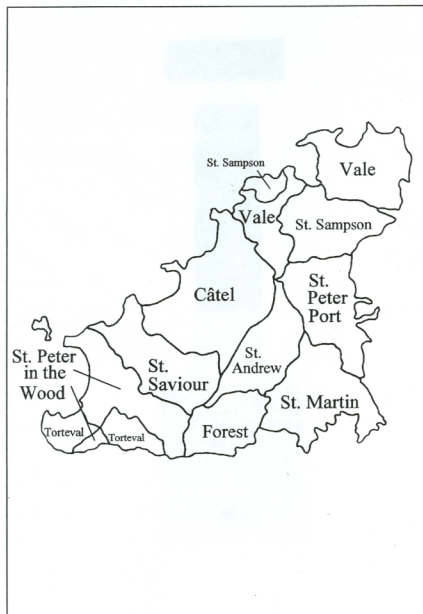
*Noeud:* G. [naw] J. [nœ] S. [nœwk]

# 'Internal' Linguistic Variation'



- Jersey (east - west)  
*/r/ > /ð/ méthe (fr. mère)*

The Parishes of Guernsey



- Guernsey (north - south)
- */ko/ (C,V) - /kaw/ (F, P) (fr. chaud)*

# Speakers

## JERSEY

- 1989: 5,720 (6.9%)
- 2001: 2,874 (2%)

## GUERNSEY

- 2001: 1,327 (2.2%)

- SARK: c. 20

- ALDERNEY: 0



# History (1)

- 1204 - King John “Lackland” loses the duchy of Normandy to the French (King Philippe Auguste)
- The archipelago continues its political allegiance to England
- English garrisons in Jersey and Guernsey
- Contact with English (especially in St. Helier and in St. Peter Port)

# History (2)

- Tourism
- Finance Industry
- Immigration from the United Kingdom
  
- 1940: Occupation by the Germans (5 years)
- Evacuation

# Sark

- 1835: English-speaking miners arrive (tin)
- Tourism

# Borrowings (1)

- *Bike* (vélo) [English: 'bike'] (J)
- *Boutchet* (seau) [Eng.: 'bucket'] (J)
- *Dgêle* (tempête) [Eng.: 'gale'] (J)
- *Alouair* (permettre) [Eng.: 'allow'] (G)
- *Châtcher* (secouer) [Eng.: 'shake'] (G)
- *Djaine* (bande) [Eng.: 'gang'] (G)
- [**nite**] (tricoter) [Eng.: 'to knit'] (S)

## Borrowings (2)

### Jersey

- *Ticl'ye* (bouilloire) (< 'tea-kettle')
- cf. G. *caudjère*

### Sark

- [skrẽ] (crible) (< 'screen/riddle')
- cf. J. *cribl'ye*

# 'With'

## **Auve (J), Dauve (G), [ov] (S)**

- Counnis-tu chutte belle garce *dauve* l's bllus iaers? (G) ('Connais-tu cette belle fille aux yeux bleus?')

## **Atout (J), atou (G) [atu] (S)**

- J'ai copai lé pôin *atou* lé couté ('J'ai coupé le pain avec le couteau')

## **Acanté (J)**

- Je m'en vais *acanté* lyi ('Je vais avec elle')

# Calques

- *J'fallais* aller en cours (J)
- La langue *va* (G)
- [par le sɛ tu tɛ fini] (S)
  
- I sont bein *supportés* (J)
- Not desnaïr fut *attendu* par 230  
persaonnes (G)

# Language Planning (1)

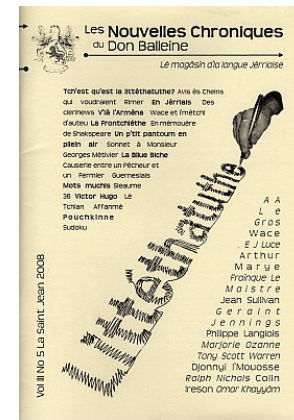
- L'Assemblaie d'Guernesiais
- L'Assemblée d'Jèrriais



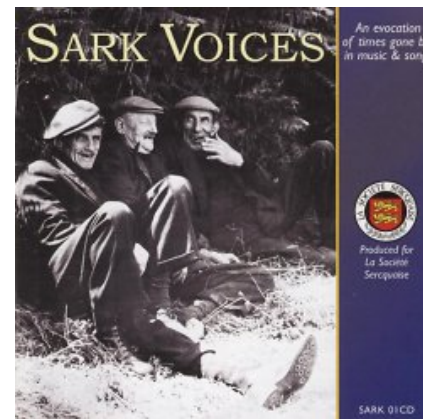
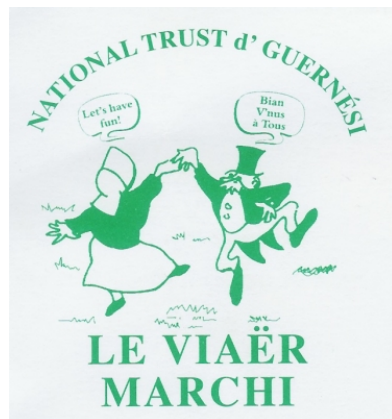


# Language Planning (2)

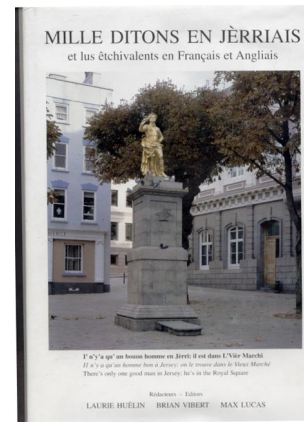
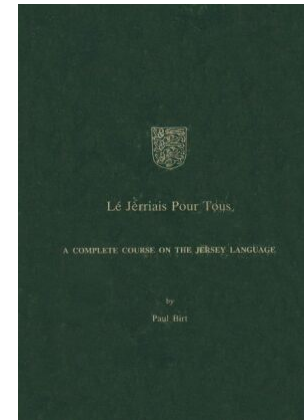
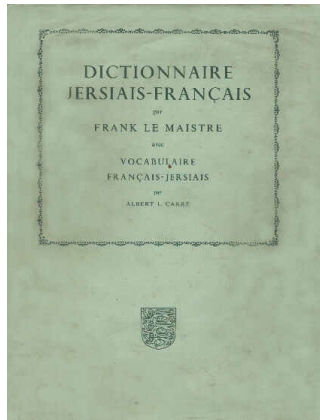
- La Société Jersiaise (1873)(Section de la Langue Jèrriaise - 1995))
- La Société Guernesiaise (1882)
- Le Congès des Parlers Normands et Jèrriais (1996)
- Don Balleine Trust (Jersey) (1943)



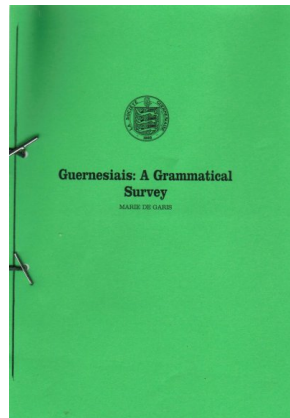
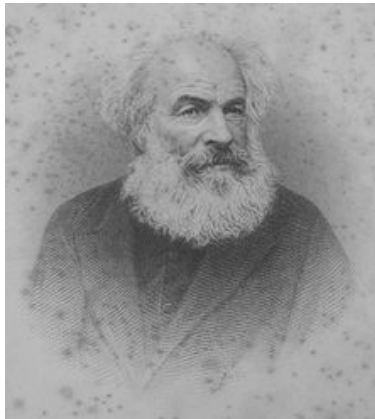
# Language Planning (3)



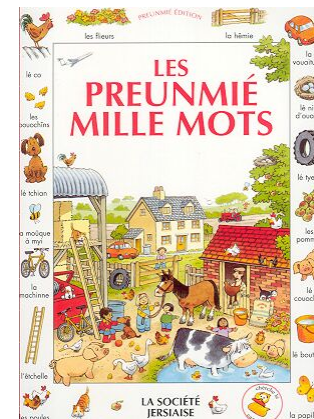
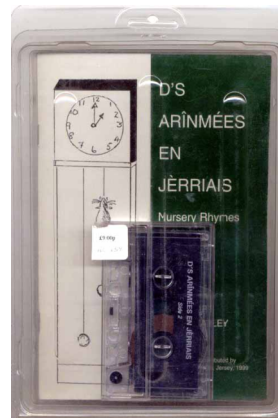
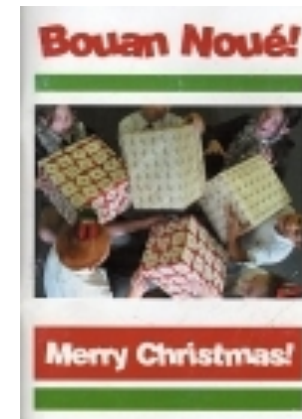
# Codification (1)



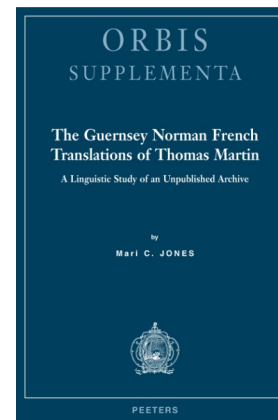
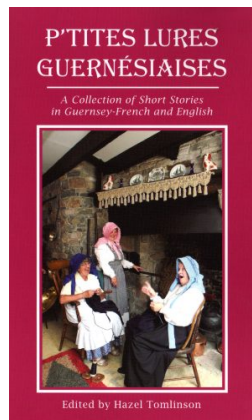
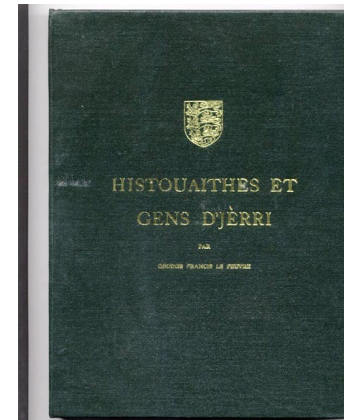
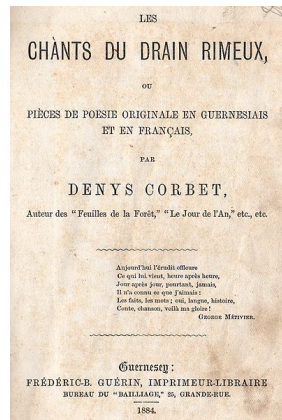
# Codification (2)



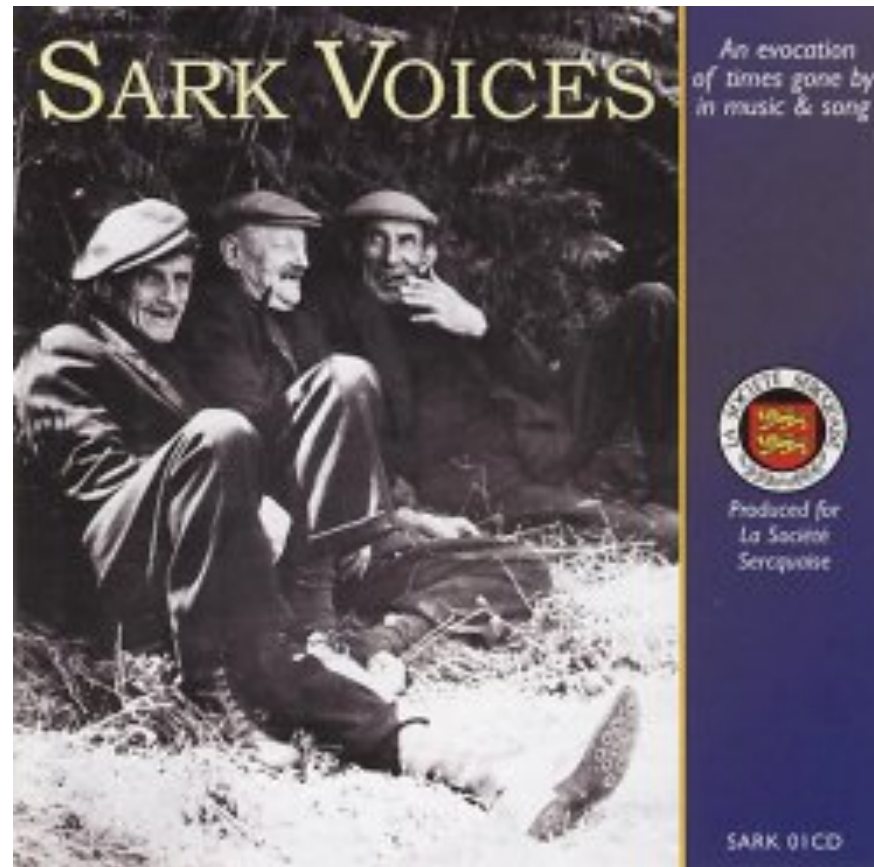
# Codification (3)



# Literature



# Sark



# Teaching

- Evening classes: 1967 (Jersey), c. 1980 (Guernsey)
- Primary school since 1999 (Jersey), 2004 (Guernsey)





# Corpus Planning

- lé compiuter, lé printeu
- lé software, l'email
- brantchi (cf. brancher); clavi (cf. clavier); distchette (cf. disquette)
- internet; modem; scanneu
- boîte de dialogue; disque dur
- ithangnie; la page dé siez-mé
- èrchelle (cf. flèche à défiler); déchergi (cf. télécharger)

# Welsh Language initiatives outside the school

**Coffi a Chlono**  
 Cymraeg/Welsh = 2 afal  
 St. James' Hall  
 Pont-y-pŵl (Lower Hall)  
 09.30 - 11.00  
 Bob Dydd Gwener  
**Dysgwyr a Siaradwyr - Fridays**  
 Dewch i siarad ac ymarfer Cymraeg  
 Yn dechrau/ Starts 16/09/11  
 Come to practise your Welsh, learn new phrases and gain more confidence!  
 Play card games and board games in Welsh  
 Eydla Kerry  
 Kerry.beaton@torfaen.gov.uk  
 01633 647721

**Nadolig Soar Christmas**  
 Noson Lawen Iawn  
 08-12-11 7.00-9.00pm  
 £3 to £3.50  
 Noson a ddarlledir 7' hysbysu  
 An evening of entertainment for the whole family  
 Siôn Corn  
 09-12-11 a 10-12-11 10.00 - 4.00 yf/pm  
 £4.00  
 Ddwyf i gael stor gyda Sion Corn  
 Come for a story with Sion Corn  
 Noson Garolau  
 13-12-11 6.30yb  
 £3.00  
 Tystiola a Meddadae Eidd ym perfformio  
 Local school and organisations performing  
 www.theatrosau.com 01405 722176 theatr@theatrosau.com

**Cymraeg yn y Cartref**  
 Cymraeg@Home  
 Come and learn Welsh with your family!  
 Simple language patterns to use around the home.  
 Dad, mom, grandad or grandma learning Cymraeg?  
 Bring the whole family!  
 Every Saturday Morning  
 10-11.30am  
 February 4th - March 3rd  
 Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Mael, Newport (01633) 466017  
 Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, Blaenau (01495) 755861  
 St. James Lower Hall, Pontypool (01495) 755861  
 www.menterillocasenwydd.org  
 www.menterillocasenwydd.org

**Clwb Pêl-rwyd yr Urdd Netball Club**  
 Bob Nos Fercher - 5-6 - Every Wednesday  
 Lleoliad: Y Felodrome Blynnyddoedd/Years 3-6  
 £2 y sesiwn / a session  
 Cysylltwch â/Contact:  
 Rhiannon Wade  
 rhiannonwade@urdd.org  
 07881782600  
 Dechrau ar Ionawr 18fed  
 Starts 18th of January

Eisteddfod (cultural festival)

**JERSEY EISTEDDFOD.**

**GRANDE SETHÉE D'JERRIAIS**  
**A SPRINGFIELD.**

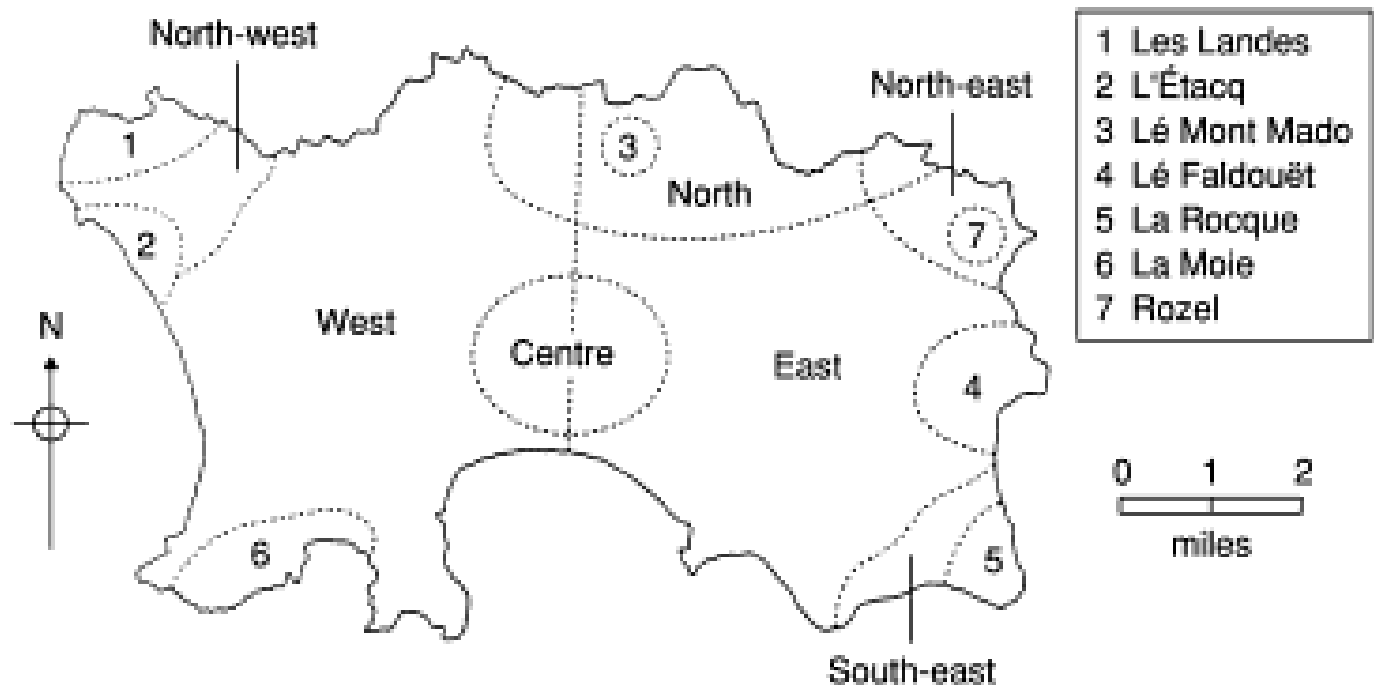
**SAMEDI TCHI VAIN, le 2 Novembre à 7 heures.**

**Multième Concours pour la Coupe "E. J. Luce."**

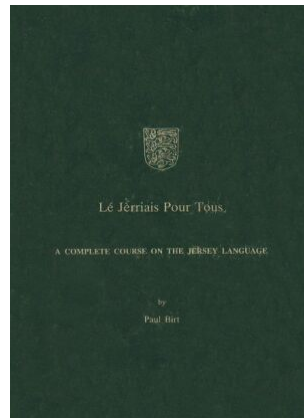
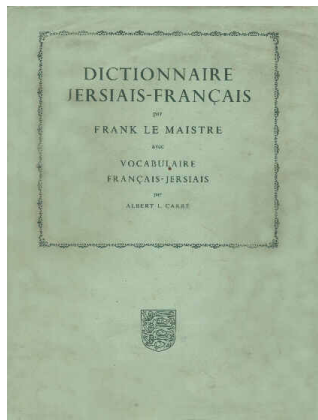
**RÉCITATIONS, DIALOGUES, etc.**

**Y altha des "Bus" de la J.M.T. pour vous r'porter tous aiez-vous  
quand la sèthée s'ra finie.**

**Ne mantchiz pas l'occasion !**



# Standardisation



- St. Ouen sub-dialect (St. Ouennais)
- 'In many ways ... has asserted itself as the standard form of Jèrriais'

Table after K. George (1986): *The Pronunciation and Spelling of Revived Cornish*

	<i>Speakers of KLTGw</i>	<i>Speakers of Néo-breton</i>
Location	In rural parts of Brittany west of a line from Biric to the mouth of the Vilaine	All over Brittany, including a substantial number in Rennes
Number	Up to 500,000 but declining at an alarming rate	A few thousand
Age	Generally over 50	Relatively young
Literacy	Few can read or write Breton	Can read and write Breton
Pronunciation	Little influenced by French	Heavily influenced by French
Type of Breton	Dialectal	Standard
Vocabulary	Full of French words especially for modern concepts	Few French words, many new words formed from Celtic roots
Motivation	Speak Breton because it is their native language; sometimes ashamed of this.	Speak Breton because they want to; sometimes militant.

Mèrcie bein des fais

A la perchôine!

