

Migration Matters : 5th Meeting in Tarbes

October 15th-20th

« Itinerant Professions, Ambulant people, Pilgrims, Seasonal workers... Being on the road »



Day 1 : Monday 15th

Welcoming at school and our High school visit : our school's leaflet

- **Our « Migration Matters » exhibition with the Archives Departementales** : we found a Migrant coming from each of your country and who spent some time or the rest of his/her life in our Department. Students made research from genuine documents to understand the reasons of their migration, their route/itinerary and their relevance for our local history.
- **Theophile Gautier : A literary man on the road...** : 30 August 1811 – 23 October 1872 was a French poet, dramatist, novelist, journalist, and art and literary critic.

Gautier spent the majority of his career as a journalist at *La Presse* and later on at *Le Moniteur universel*. He saw journalistic criticism as a means to a middle-class standard of living. The income was adequate and he had ample opportunities to travel. Gautier began contributing art criticism to obscure journals as early as 1831. It was not until 1836 that he experienced a jump in his career when he was hired by Émile de Girardin as an art and theatre columnist for *La Presse*. During his time at *La Presse*, however, Gautier also contributed nearly 70 articles to *Le Figaro*. After leaving *La Presse* to work for *Le Moniteur universel*, the official newspaper of the Second Empire, Gautier wrote both to inform the public and to influence its choices. His role at the newspaper was equivalent to the modern book or theatre reviewer. He also reviewed music, without technical terminology but with intelligence and insight, for instance into the work of his friend Berlioz, who set six of his poems (c. 1840) as 'Les Nuits d'été'.

- *The Travels of Theophile Gautier*
<https://archive.org/details/travelsofthoph02gautuoft/page/n7>

Students : Icebreaking activities **with an itinerant profession** : **Circus Artists**

PM : Sightseeing tour of the city : **Tarbes's strong military hallmark** :

- The International Museum of the Hussards (military men on horsebacks) –
- Marechal Foch – its native home and statue
- The Paratroopers Regiments

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DAY 2 : Tuesday 16th

Cultural excursion to the Pic du Midi

Encountering with previous « Pic du Midi » director and astronomer Mr Cabanac who travelled the world at the top of the highest Observatories (in Peru, Hawaï, ...) : being a scientist and a researcher « *at residence* ».



On our way back : **Itinerant professions in the mountains :**

- seasonal cattling and food production work –
- door-to-door salesmen -
- shepherds – sheep – cheese – transhumance : *it refers to an old tradition, when shepherds used to lead their herds of cattle high in the mountain, to green meadows ; they'd spend the whole summer there. By winter, same way back to the barn down in the valley.*
- Meeting with a « wooffer » from the United-States in a Pyrenneen farm

Transhumance is a type of pastoralism or nomadism, a seasonal movement of livestock between fixed summer and winter pastures. In montane regions (vertical transhumance), it implies movement between higher pastures in summer and lower valleys in winter. Herders have a permanent home, typically in valleys. Generally only the herds travel, with a certain number of people necessary to tend them, while the main population stays at the base. In contrast, horizontal transhumance is more susceptible to being disrupted by climatic, economic, or political change.



Traditional or fixed transhumance has occurred throughout the inhabited world, particularly Europe and Western Asia. It is often important to pastoralist societies, as the dairy products of transhumance flocks and herds (milk, butter, yogurt and cheese) may form much of the diet of such populations. In many languages there are words for the higher summer pastures, and frequently these words have been used as place names: e.g. Hafod in Wales and Shieling in Scotland.

The Pyrenees

Transhumance in the Pyrenees involves relocation of livestock (cows, sheep, horses) to high mountains for summer months, because farms in the lowland are too small to support a larger herd all year round. The mountain period starts in late May or early June, and ends in early October.



Until the 1970s, transhumance was used mainly for dairy cows, and cheese-making was an important activity in the summer months. In some regions, nearly all members of a family decamped to higher mountains with their cows, living in rudimentary stone cabins for the summer grazing season. That system, which evolved during the Middle Ages, lasted into the 20th century. It declined and broke down under pressure from industrialization, as people left the countryside for jobs in cities.

The Mont Perdut / Mont Perduto region of the Pyrenees has been designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site by virtue of its association with the transhumance system of agriculture.

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Cultural spots and specialties on the way :

- The Tourmalet cycling ascent

Eugène Christophe (born Malakoff, Paris, France, 22 January 1885, died in Paris, 1 February 1970) was a French road bicycle racer and pioneer of cyclo-cross. He was a professional from 1904 until 1926. In 1919 he became the first rider to wear the yellow jersey of the Tour de France .

Eugène Christophe rode 11 Tours de France and finished eight. He never won but he became famous for having to weld together his bicycle while leading. It was one of a series of events that coloured his racing career.



In 1913 Christophe was well placed to win when a mechanical failure cost him the race. He rode the first part, from Paris to Cherbourg and then down the coast to the Pyrenees cautiously. He was in second place when the race stopped in Bayonne on the night before the first day in the mountains, when the course featured a succession of cols: the Oschquis, Aubisque, Soulor, Gourette, Tourmalet, Aspin and Peyresourde. The field set off at 3am with Christophe 4m 5s behind Odile Defraye, of Belgium.

The French cycling federation in 1951 placed a plaque on the wall of the building that stands now where the forge once stood at Ste-Marie-de-Campan. Christophe, then 66, re-enacted the day that cost him the Tour de France. He carried his bike on his shoulder, the front wheel in his hand, to the forge. There, wearing race clothes, he played out the way he had repaired his forks. With him were the judge who supervised him that day, and Corni, who as an 11-year-old had helped pump the fire. They were joined by Mme Despiou, the first woman Christophe met on entering

the village.

The plaque on the wall reads:

Here, in 1913, Eugène Christophe, French racing cyclist, first in the general classification of the Tour de France, victim of a mechanical accident on the Tourmalet, repaired the fork of his bicycle at the forge. Having covered numerous kilometres by foot, in the mountains, and having lost numerous hours, Eugène Christophe didn't abandon the race that he should have won, showing a sublime example of willpower. Gift of the « Fédération Française de Cyclisme » under the patronage of *L'Équipe*.

Christophe's name was spelled the second time, as shown, with a missing H. The plaque stayed there until 2003, when it was replaced to mark the 100th anniversary of the Tour.

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- *Sculpted by the artist Edmond Chrétien of Bordeaux, and erected in 1926 at the front of the church, to the right of the Southern door, the monument to the dead of Campan is distinguished by its sober and touching appearance.*



Unlike the heroic soldiers who decorate many of the war memorials in France, the statue that dominates this monument represents a meditating woman, her face practically invisible, who wears the traditional clothing of the people of the valley. The memorial pays tribute to the dead of the wars of the Twentieth century from each of the sections of the commune: Le Bourg, Sainte Marie and La Séoube.

Finally, some bas-reliefs evoke 'peace rediscovered' through representations of the **three main goods of the**

place: wood, butter and wool.

- Les Mounaques of Campan

In the old days, when a man of the Campan valley got married in circumstances that were not normal, e.g., an old widower marrying a young girl, he was the object of a 'charivari' (i.e., pandemonium), an outbreak of very rough mockery. The couple was represented by coarse dolls, known as 'les Mounaques' (from the Occitan word 'monaca', meaning doll or puppet).



For some years, a workshop has been open in Campan manufacturing a collection of small 'mounaques'. Founded

by Maryse Bouyrie and Marie-Madeleine Ortéga, initially situated at La Séoube, it has been located since 1999 at the heart of Campan, in a house provided by the municipal council, « la Clairefontaine ». In Summer, displays of 'mounaques' can sometimes be seen around the town.

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DAY 3 : Wednesday 17th : Working on your interviews for e-book creation

PM : The Home of the Pyrenees National Park : **Itinerant professions (Monitor-Guard, shepherds)** - fauna and flora...

Place : Villa Fould - 2 Rue du IV Septembre, 65007 Tarbes

Videos to watch

<http://www.pyrenees-parcnational.fr/fr/videos/veilleurs-de-montagne>

<http://www.pyrenees-parcnational.fr/fr/videos/le-parc-national-des-pyrenees-une-montagne-aux-mille-facettes>

Conservatoire : School for Dancing and Music :

Welcoming by Mr Perpetue with a tour of the building and classes, ending with a concert by students (*some* studying in our high school as well...*):

- H. Wieniawski : "a la Zingara" 3^o mouvement du Concerto op 22 by Cécile Mons violin and Aurélie Samani Piano

- Vittorio Monti : Csardas by Tristan Provost et William Bernes violins

- Bohuslav Martinu : Allegro et Andante de la Sonatine for 2 violins and piano H 198 by Cécile Mons, Lucie Zambelli* violins et Antoine Espagnet piano

- Traditionnal "Rumeynisher Hora " and "At the Rabbi's fest" by Cécile Mons violin and Robin Hivet* alto (viola)

- James Pedersen : « February » extract from the 4 Seasons by Tchaïkovski

- Morrisson Gigue with 8 violin players : Cécile, Lucie, William, Tristan, Alycia, Louis, Guillemette, Alexandra

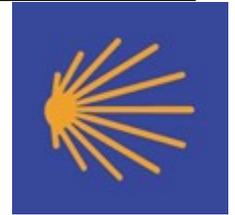
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DAY 4 : Thursday 18th : Lourdes : a stop-off on St James' Way (Camino de Santiago) – a religious Pilgrim place at the crossroads...

Welcoming at the Association and city tour by the President of this non-profit organization Pierre Hamon in relation to the 20th anniversary of the UNESCO-listed Santiago de Compostela and the 160th anniversary of the apparitions.



Lourdes : at the Parting of the Ways - Crossroads

Place : 16 boulevard de la grotte

Presentation for Erasmus exchange “Migration Matters” and St James Way over the Pyrénées by Pierre Hamon :

Introduction to the Non-profit organization

We are pilgrim friends, and friends of the way.

Our first mission is to listen. Pilgrims coming here appreciate very much telling their experience on their way and need to be listened to.

We mainly guide pilgrims to their next destination from Lourdes to Saint Jean Pied de Port or passing by Col du Somport, some of them are also walking on the reverse way.

We reassure pilgrims, give advice to the future ones and make sure that those who have never heard about the way can discover it.

Volunteers from all around France, Belgium, Switzerland, come to this office in Lourdes one after the other and fulfill the mission listed above.

A few figures

About 200 000 pilgrims arrive to St James each year

About 4 000 pilgrims for St James walk through Lourdes each year

Who are the pilgrims ?

Long period pilgrims who generally started from their home to Santiago

Generally they are walking but some of them are cycling, horse riding or sailing.

Some of them are completely autonomous with a tent.

Some are really sick, grieven, or in a career change or life conversion. An implicit rule on the way is to avoid the question “why are you walking?”

Some are doing it on their own, others in couple or also in organized group.

Believers or non believers in God. The moto is “Each one his own way”.

The way

This way is a way through life, each difficulty is a message, you will cross « La magica del Camino ». This is useless to walk against the way, this is useless to plan every detail. Everything can happen. This way is unique. It forces humility, patience, tolerance. The way knows also how to reward oneself with beauty, meetings, joy, help without asking, giving. Be careful you might get the way virus and a strong wish to go onwards and backwards on the way!

“You won’t come back the one who left”.

You might walk on the way 10 times, it always teaches you something different. For example, a change of life, an outstanding meeting, meeting love, gaining humility and/or confidence, self consciousness, undergoing a spiritual experience...

When the pilgrimage is finished you will hear : “Buen camino de la vida”

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DAY 5 : Friday 19th : Working on your interviews for e-book creation : Sharing our Storyboards.

Dinner prepared by a Women's Association aiming at integrating women coming from immigration through cooking : FIL (« *Thread/Link* »)

After twenty years of existence, the associative snack the FIL (Women Initiatives Laubadère) is now a story of women in the hands of women! Indeed, since the departure of Chief Gilles, a few months ago, Nadia has now been leading the troupe. She cooks and bakes, helped by Rabia and Séverine. The president of the association Odile Despert and the accountant are also women.

- The creation of this association.

It was born in 1997, twenty years ago. Odile Despert, then a training officer at the Young Workers' Center, was upset with other feminists about the number of women looking for work in the Laubadère neighborhood for a variety of reasons. Attentive and receptive to women's demands, they remember having launched a survey in the neighborhood to assess needs. A place of fast food was to be created for the community.

After several adventures and different forms of restoration, ranging from sandwich to serving the plate, the team of women cooks was given a room by the services of the Town Hall during the rehabilitation of the district, around the year 2000. Since then, they have been cooking every day of the week a different menu with vegetables from *Jardins de Bigorre, a garden with local food production*. A real challenge.

- Great opportunities

Rabia, in post from the first hour of the first service, speaks of luck. She arrived in France in 1986 from her native Morocco, she attended the school of literacy at Michelet, then various courses training in laundry, rotisserie, cooking, until a diploma to be able to exercise such jobs. She has gained autonomy and contacts thanks to them. She also built a family.

As for Nadia's career, it is atypical. She only spanned French soil from her native Algeria in 2015, with in her luggage three young teenage children, a cooking diploma and a literary baccaulaureate, letters and languages, which allowed her to express himself in a perfectly well-built French. Can we talk about chance or opportunity in her case ? Indeed, eager to get closer to her mom living in Paris, she quickly ran into housing problems. A friend from Tarbes invited her to spend a few days and it is finally in the Laubadère neighborhood that she definitely settled down, started the steps to find a job, established good contacts with the staff of Pôle Emploi - our Unemployment Agency- who found her smile beautiful ! Her immersion at the FIL proved conclusive and Gilles, the former chef, gave her the keys of the house with trustfully. "*This job is the culmination of a desire to cook that I have had in me since I was a child. It gives me autonomy, I was able to pass the driving license and I have a family stability.*" But the FIL is not only a place of food, it favors a social life, solidarity, meetings and socio and cultural exchanges.

