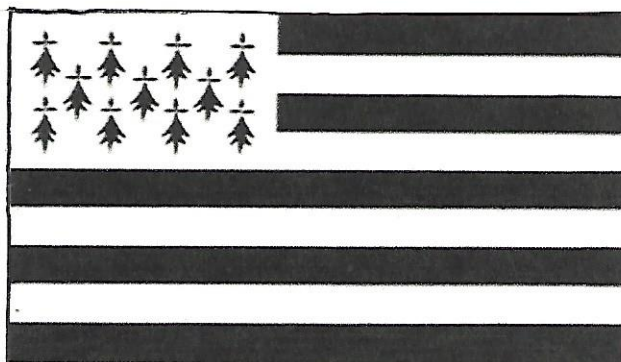


THE BRETON FLAG OR GWENN HA DU



A- General Information

The GWEN ha DU means white and black in Breton .
It was created by Morvan Marchal, an architect from Rennes in 1923.

This flag is considered to be ‘ the modern emblem of Brittany ‘ .
Although it was conceived to be apolitical, it was nonetheless forbidden for a long period of time.

It could not be put up again on public buildings until the middle of the 1960s. (mid-60s)

The first known Breton flag was the ‘ Kroaz du ‘ (black cross on a white background) .
It was the flag of the Breton crusaders during the third crusade in the 12th century.
The black colour was traditionally found on the shields used by the first Breton fighters
in the 12th century. Later, it became the Breton navy flag until it was replaced by a uniform banner
with weasles added on it .

B-Historical background

The top left-hand quarter corner is a uniform field sprinkled with weasles.
This reminds of the banners of the Dukes of Brittany which were originally in white black-tailed
weasel fur.

Generally speaking, there is a total of eleven weasel speckles but there is no specific rule .

The nine bands represent the nine historical parts of Brittany(BREIZH in *Breton language*),
corresponding to the nine former Breton bishoprics. Nowadays we say lands (*broioù*)

The four white bands represent the parts of Lower Brittany (*Breizh Izel*) :

Cornouaille (*Bro Gerne*), Léon (*Bro Leon*), Trégor (*Bro Dreger*) and Vannetais (*Bro Wened*)

The five black bands represent the parts of Upper Brittany (*Breizh Uhel*).

Nantes(*Bro Naoned*), Rennes(*Bro Roazhon*),Dol (*Bro Zol*),St Malo(*Bro Sant Malou*),
St Brieuc (*Bro Sant Briec*).

The Breton of celtic original language near to the Welsh language, is still spoken and taught in whole
Britanny .There is a second language in Brittany named Gallo of roman origin used in local areas.

Today,it is essential to talk about a strong Brittany with 5 “departements” symbolized by our
GWENN ha DU.