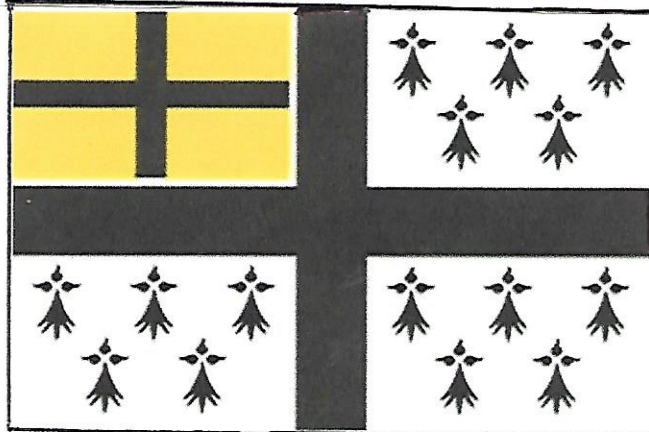


# THE 'PAYS DE RETZ' FLAG



This flag was created by Romuald Renaud,( Pornic 2000)

## DESCRIPTION

In the background, you can see a white field with a black cross in the middle.  
This cross refers to the facts and elements stated below :

1- The coat of arm of Harscoët de Sainte-Croix, a Lord from Machecoul, the capital city of the 'Pays de Rais' in the 11th century .

2- The oldest symbol of rallying for the Breton crusaders in 1188 (12th century).

- On the top left-hand corner canton, the Lord of Rais armorial bearings are shown.

Rais was the original writing till it became Retz in 1581.

These armorial bearings were known under the name of ' golden with sand cross ' . They were modernized with a bright yellow colour which emphasized the central Breton black cross.

- In the three other cantons, 5 weasel speckles are featuring. They represent the 5 former bishoprics of High- Brittany : Nantes, Rennes, Saint-Brieuc, Dol, Saint-Malo along with the 5 Breton ' départements ' (or counties) created in 1790 : Finistère, Morbihan, Côtes-du-Nord, Ille-et Vilaine and Loire-Inférieure.

## A FEW FACTS TO REMEMBER

- Pierre de Dreux or Pierre the first became Duke of Brittany from 1213 to 1237 according to his wedding with Alix of Brittany, heir of the Duchy.

He then became Lord of Machecoul, after abdicating, when he got married to Marguerite of Machecoul. At this time, he introduced the ermine speckles in Brittany armorial bearings.

- The 'pays de Retz ' , along with Rennes and Nantes territories has been attached to Brittany since the 9th century by the treaty of Angers signed in 851 by Erispoë King of Brittany and Charles le Chauve. (Charles the Bald) King of France.

- Alain Barbertote, in the 10th century, in 938, chased the Vikings from Pornic.

He ordered the rebuilding of Pornic castle and was named first Duke of Brittany in Nantes.