BIBLIOGRAPHY


BRITTANY

The Celts came from Ireland and settled in Brittany and brought with them a Celtic tongue which is Breton. The Celts are a curious breed who tend to have fascinating legends with a superstitious nature.

La Baule

La Baule has a very nice sandy beach which is washed by gentle waves near Nantes.

Camaret

The Alignements de Lagatjar at Camaret are some 100 menhirs arranged in intersecting lines forming a circle. The Pointe des Espagnols has a nice view of the coast. The Pointe de Penhir has a lovely view of cliffs, isolated rock masses, and crashing waves near Camaret.

Careil

The fourteenth-century Château de Careil has a very nice interior. The fourteenth-century timberwork, fireplaces, and ceilings are nice.

Carnac

The Carnac alignments are impressive alone for the extensive area they cover. The alignments at Carnac consist of a long parallel row of stones running for nearly four miles. They are even arranged in order according to
Dinan

Dinan most likely is Brittany's best-preserved medieval town with its cobblestoned streets and gabled fifteenth- and sixteenth-century houses of the vieille ville (old city center). The Château de Dinan is in excellent condition. The heavily fortified fourteenth-century donjon presently houses a museum displaying polychromed religious statuettes and medieval weapons and artifacts. The Tour de Coetquen has a collection of gisants (tomb sculptures) in its dungeon.

Huelgoat

Situated on a lovely lake, Huelgoat is a small town with grottoes, menhirs, and jumbled heaps of granite boulders. Nearby are La Roche Tremblante, the Grotte du Diable, and the solitary oblesik menhir de Kerampeulven.

Le Gouffre is the spot where the swift-moving Argent River plunges down into a rocky hole and runs underground. There is a sign telling of the old legend of a local princess who had her discarded lovers thrown into the hole.

Ile d'Ouessant

Ile d'Ouessant possesses a rugged beauty. There are many sheep on the island, thus giving the appearance of more sheep than people. As a result of its isolation, the island developed an interesting Breton subculture, including traditions of women proposing marriage to men and elaborate ceremonies for those lost at sea.
There is a statue of the legendary King Gradlon whose daughter, according to the Breton legend, had an affair with the Devil causing the city of Ys to sink beneath the sea. The statue of King Gradlon is in front of the steeple. Musée Breton houses folk art and local history. Musée des Beaux Arts has paintings, including some of the school of Pont-Aven, which made Gauguin famous.

**Rennes**

Rennes is considered the gateway to the Breton Peninsula. It is a French university town. Rennes was set ablaze in 1720, by a drunken carpenter who knocked over his lamp. Unfortunately, much of the beautiful medieval part of the town was destroyed in the fire.

**Saint-Malo**

Saint-Malo was formerly a town of privateers and merchants. Saint-Malo is now a fashionable summer resort. The vieille ville (old city center) is encircled by high granite walls and by magnificent beaches on three sides. It is possible to walk on the ramparts around the town. The Fort National is located on a small island which is only accessible while the tide is out. The poet Chateaubriand was born at Saint-Malo in 1768. In 1848, Chateaubriand was buried on the barren island, Ile du Grand Bé, which is also only accessible while the tide is out.
Trégastel

The Trégastel peninsula has strange rocks shaped by the sea and prehistoric menhirs and dolmen. There are also large boulders with natural caves under them. These caves have been inhabited since the earliest times. During World War II the fishermen living in these caves were driven out by the Nazis who used the caves as shelters for storing ammunition. The area is dotted with menhirs and dolmen. Grève Blanche has a lovely view of the coast dotted with wind-carved rocks.

Vitré

Vitré is a medieval village with ramparts and a château. The château is delightful. It looks like it did in the Middle Ages, and makes one feel as he were transported back to the Middle Ages.
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THE PYRENEES

Auch

The Gothic Cathédrale Sainte-Marie was destroyed by fire in 1483. In 1489, the cathedral was rebuilt in the flamboyant Gothic style. The rebuilding was completed at the end of the seventeenth century. Its Renaissance choir stalls are very nicely carved.

The Museum of Gascony displays clothing, farming equipment, and furniture depicting the local life of the region.

Axat

Axat is a pretty little town beside The Aude River complete with a ruined château above the town. There is a nice old arched bridge. The Gorges de Saint Georges are located above the town.

Bagnère-de-Bigorre

Bagnère-de-Bigorre was formerly a Roman town known as Vicus Aquensis. It is one of the small thermal spa towns of the region. The Abbey of Escaladieu is beautifully located at the confluence of the Lux and Arros Rivers. In 1136, the original Cistercian Abbey was founded at another location. In 1142, it was transferred to Bagnère-de-Bigorre. The Abbey church was completed in 1160. It was damaged during the War of Religion by the Protestants in 1567. The
thirteenth-century Château de Mauvezin was a stronghold of Gaston Phoebus. It was restored in the twentieth century.

**Bassoues**

The ruins of the fourteenth-century château are located at the entrance of the village of Bassoues. This château belonged to the Archbishops of Auch. The square keep is still standing. There are some interesting houses in the village which are held by wooden columns.

**Bayonne**

The large fortress at Bayonne is called la Citadelle. It was designed by Vauban. Soult used it as a garrison when Wellington advanced from Spain in 1813. The late thirteenth-century cathedral at Bayonne was burned down in 1310 and was rebuilt. It is in Gothic style and spires added in nineteenth century.

**Beaucens**

There are some interesting ruins at Beaucens. The château has a twelfth-century keep with a double line of fortifications. It was formerly the favorite residence of the Viscounts of Lavedan.

**Bidache**

The ruined château at Bidache has a haunting beauty with its air desolation.

**Castet**

Castet is a small village dominated by the ruins of the thirteenth-century Château Gelos.
Caumont, Château de

The Château de Caumont was built by Pierre de Nogaret La Valette in the Renaissance style in 1530. The Duc d'Epernon, the grandson of Pierre de Nogaret La Valette, a favorite of King Henri III, was born here. The château is close to the village of Cahuzac.

Foix

Foix is located at the meeting point of the Ariège and the Arget Rivers. Foix is one of those sleepy little villages dominated by a rock on which the ruins of the once impregnable Château de Foix stand. Only three towers remain today of this château.

Lescar

Lescar was originally founded by the Romans and then known as Beneharnum from which the evolved the name Béarn. The Moors destroyed this town in 850. The town was rebuilt in 980 as Lescarris. The cathedral is romanesque from the twelfth century. It was restored at the end of the fourteenth century. Excavations in the cathedral uncovered bones dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The bones are believed to be the bones of Marguerite de Navarre, Jean D'Albret, and Henry II de Navarre.

Lourdat

Lourdat is a small village at the base of a rocky peak where the ruins of the Château de Lourdat stands. The
The château was built from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries. Louis VIII demolished the château.

**Lourdes**

Lourdes is a famous pilgrimage site. Bernadette Soubirous, the eldest daughter of a miller, was born in Lourdes in 1844. February 11, 1858, she wandered into the Grotto of Massabielle while collecting firewood with her sister, Antonia. She had a vision of the Virgin Mary speaking to her while she was in the Grotto. She had this vision eighteen times in the Grotto. During her ninth vision the Virgin Mary revealed to her a spring with waters which are believed to have miraculous curing powers. In 1862, the ecclesiastical authorities declared that her visions were genuine. Devotions were then authorized for this place.

Bernadette became a nun at the Convent of Saint Gildard at Lourdes. In 1879, she died at the age of 35. In 1933 she was made a saint.

The Basilique du Rosaire was built in front of the Grotto in 1889. The Château de Lourdes is a medieval château with a drawbridge and a fourteenth-century keep overlooking the town. The château presently houses a museum of the Pyrenees.

**Montesquiou**

Montesquiou is a fortified town on a small hill above the Osse River. There is a thirteenth-century château in
ruins. The Marshal Montesquiou, a son of D'Artagnan, was born in this château.

Montségur

The rocky peak of Montségur with the ruins is an impressive sight. At the Beginning of the thirteenth century the Catharists rebelled against the too-worldly practices of the church and were being hunted down by the Inquisition. Thousands of Catharists were tortured and killed. The people living at Montségur were left untouched until the church's army in 1243, surrounded the base of the high rock and lay siege to Montségur for nearly a year. On March 1244, the 210 people of Montségur surrendered. They were taken to a field and tied to long piles of firewood and burned to death. Now, only the ruins of the long, narrow church remains of this horrible siege.

Nérac

Nérac was the headquarters for Henri de Navarre during the War of the Lovers in 1580. The Château de Nérac was partially destroyed during the French Revolution. Only one of the four wings survived the French Revolution. The Fountain of Fleurette is in the gardens of the Garenne. Fleurette was supposedly a young girl who worked in the gardens and was seduced by Henri. After Henri left her, she drowned herself. The section of Petit Nérac has lovely old houses dating from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.
Orthez

The château at Orthez was built by Gaston VII, Count of Béarn. The keep is called Tour Moncade and was built by Gaston VII, known as Gaston Phoebus, in 1242. Gaston Phoebus killed his son and heir. The leading barons of Béarn and bishops of Lescar and Oloron did not like that Gaston Phoebus recruited almost exclusively from his own family for his administrators. They were able to persuade his son to conspire against his father. The plot was discovered and the ones who did not escape to Spain were executed. The prince was imprisoned in the château. Gaston Phoebus tried to change his son's mind. His son refused to eat or speak. After many visits, Gaston Phoebus lost his temper when his son refused to speak and held a dagger to his son's throat and cut him. About fifteen minutes later a messenger informed Gaston Phoebus that his son was dead. He had cut an artery, and boy had silently bled to death. Some of the curtain walls and the tower are still standing as a sad reminder of this tragic story.

Pau

The château at Pau stands on the edge of a ravine in the center of town. The oldest parts of the château are from the thirteenth century. In 1370, Gaston Phoebus built three walls and the keep with stone from the hillside. The large tower near the entrance of the courtyard was built of brick which was a new method of construction in the
fifteenth century. King Henri II d'Albret, of Béarn-
Navarre, and his wife, Marguerite d'Anglouéme, lived in the
château. From 1529 to 1535, Henri II enlarged the castle.
Henri IV was born in the château. Napoléon III and Empress
Eugénie were the last crowned heads to rest in the château.

The rooms of the château are beautifully preserved and
restored. The huge tortoise shell which served as a cradle
for Henri IV is still there. There is a very nice
collection of Gobelin and Flemish tapestries from the
fifteenth to seventeenth centuries. The Béarn museum is
housed in the southern wing of the château.

Pibrac

The Château de Pibrac was built in by the father of Gui
de Faur-de-Pibrac in 1540. Gui de Faur-de-Pibrac was the
Chancellor for Marguerite de Valois. The château consists
of three main buildings and two round towers. It has been
well restored.

Saint Jean Pied-de-Port

The ramparts and citadel of the château was restored by
Vauban in the seventeenth. Napoléon's general, Soult, used
the château as a garrison. The castle was not attacked by
Wellington's armies since the garrison had been withdrawn
earlier. There are beautiful sixteenth and seventeenth
centuries houses with the dates of erection inscribed over
their front doors.
Saint Lizier

Saint Lizier is a pretty little town with a stone bridge, a château, and a cathedral. The château served as an episcopal palace.

Saramon

The Château de Saint Elix is two miles outside of the town of Saramon. The château was built in 1540. Parts of the old fortified walls of Saramon are still standing.

Sauveterre

Sauveterre is a picturesque small town with old ramparts and the Tour Montréal. Gaston Phoebus died in this small town.

Sainte Mère

Sainte Mère is a fortified village. The thirteenth-century château, on the hilltop, was built by Geraud de Monlezu, Bishop of Lectoure.

Tillac

Tillac is a picturesque old village in the valley of the Boues. The main street is lined with old houses which are held up by wooden columns under their overhanging frontages. There are also two defence towers.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


PERIGORD

Albi

The large Basilique Sainte-Cécile has some very nice Italian frescoes. The garden of the Église and Cloître Saint Salvy is very lovely. Albi was the childhood home of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec. The Musée de Toulouse-Lautrec has a good collection of his works. It houses the complete collection of his posters, including 600 other works, showing his candid view of Paris in the 1890's.

Beynac-et-Cazenac

The stern thirteenth-century château at Beynac-et-Cazenac sits high upon the cliff looking down the Dordogne Valley.

Béziers

Béziers was the scene of a very horrible massacre. Simon de Monfort was appointed by Pope Innocent III to stop heresy in the Languedoc area during the crusade against the Cathars. Monfort attacked Béziers. He demanded the townspeople to turn over several hundred Cathars to him to be executed. When the townspeople refused, on July 21, 1209 he captured the city. He turned his soldiers loose on the town with the orders to kill everyone. The ones who were
not hacked to death were herded into the churches which were then set ablaze. During the massacre one officer told the Papal legate that the soldiers were on a rampage slaying everyone, the Catholics as well as the heretics. The Papal legate coolly told him to kill them all and that God would know his own. After the horrible massacre of the population of Béziers, the Cathars who were captured afterwards were slowly and cruelly murdered. Monfort ordered for all the captured Cathars to have their hands cut off and their tongues cut out. The other pains inflicted on the Cathars were being blinded and deafened by hot wires pushed into their ears. After they were tortured in this manner, they were turned loose to walk the streets with a sign around their necks declaring death for anyone giving them aid. They painfully and slowly died. Their bodies were left where they fell to rot since everyone feared to help them. The crusade against the Cathars ended in 1244.

In 1218, Simon de Montfort did come to a much deserved nasty end at Toulouse when a catapulted stone ripped his head off. Legend says that his headless body immediately turned black since he was so evil.

Cahors

Cahors is on the Lot River. The Romanesque Cathédrale Saint-Étienne is surrounded by charming narrow ancient streets. The medieval bridge, Pont Valentré, was built in 1308. It is a fortified bridge with three tall stone
towers. The local legend tells that the Devil helped to build it. The Devil's usual fee is the architect's soul. The Devil was supposedly wittily tricked out of his fee by the architect who told the Devil to bring up water in a sieve which he failed to do. There is even a small statue of the Devil on the middle tower commemorating the legend.

Carcassonne

Carcassonne is a medieval walled fortress city. The exterior wall was finished under Louis IX. Some of Carcassonne's fortifications date from the third century before Christ. The large citadel of Carcassonne is approximately one mile in circumference. It has two encircling walls and about fifty towers.

Carcassonne has enjoyed a long history of attacks and sieges. The Volcae Tectosages, an ancient tribe of Gauls, built a fortress called Carcaso. The Romans took over in 118 B.C. In 350 A.D. the Franks took it from the Romans. The castle was taken by Theodoric, King of the Visigoths, in 436. Sarcens invaded it in the eighth century. The Franks then attacked the Sarcens. There is an amusing legend of the Franks' attack on the Sarcens. The Sarcens were supposedly in desperate straits, on verge of starvation. They were down to their last sack of corn and one pig. A very cunning lady, Dame Carcas, luckily had an idea. She fed the remaining pig the corn and then threw the pig over the rampart to make the Franks believe that they had plenty
of food. The Franks supposedly fell for this ploy and ceased attack since the siege was useless because the Sarcens had pigs to throw away even.

The Basilique Saint-Nazaire combines a Romanesque nave with a Gothic transept and apse. The fourteenth and fifteenth-century stained glass in the cathedral is very nice.

**Castelnaud**

Castelnaud is a lovely cliff-side village overlooking the joining of the Dordogne River and the Cère River. The Château de Castelnaud is a large walled fortress built in the eleventh century. It is in ruins with its red stone towers and ramparts still standing.

**Cordes**

Cordes is a medieval walled town sitting high above the fertile valley of the Cerou River. It was a haunt of Jean-Paul Sartre and presently a lively community of artists and artisans.

**Cougnac**

The Cougnac cave has prehistoric paintings and nice stalactites and stalagmites. The cave was discovered in 1952. The paintings were of ibex, mammoths, and giant elk.

**Domme**

Domme is a strongly fortified village perched high on a steep cliff overlooking the valley. Below the village are
caves with stalactites, stalagmites, and other formations made from water deposits in caves.

Les Eyzies-de-Tayac

The numerous caves at les Eyzies-de-Tayac contain interesting prehistoric paintings and carvings. In 1868, at les Eyzies in an excavation skeletons were found of homo sapiens who replaced the Neanderthals in France about 35,000 years ago. The National Museum of Prehistory is housed in a restored fortress-castle halfway up the cliff.

La Mouthe is an unspoiled cave. It was discovered in 1895, when the entrance was cleared of rubble, exposing a tunnel behind the rubble. There are figures of bisons, woolly rhinoceroses, reindeer, and mammoths on the walls. One interesting drawing is of a hut which gives a representation of a human dwelling at that time.

Grotte de Font-de-Gaume is an electrically lighted cave. There are approximately 200 engravings and paintings on the walls of lions, woolly rhinoceroses, bison, mammoths, and reindeers.

Grotte des Combarelles consists of two long, twisting tunnels hollowed out of the limestone. It is narrow with occasional low ceilings. There are hundreds of engravings cut into the sides of the twisting tunnels. It has been known for many years and at one time used as a stable. The engravings on the wall were discovered in 1901.
Cap Blanc is an overhanging rock. In 1909 excavations were done revealing an impressive frieze of six horses modeled in high relief on the back wall. The traces of pigment found on the frieze indicate that the frieze had been done with color.

Montignac

The exhibit Lascaux II at Montignac is an interesting re-creation of the contents of the Lascaux cave. The Lascaux cave famous for its prehistoric drawings are no longer open due to damage resulting from exposure.

Pech-Merle

Pech-Merle is a large cave. Skeletons have been discovered of the extinct cave bears who had inhabited this cave. Footprints of humans living before the civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia have been found preserved in the clay floor. Strangely these footprints show that these people's feet were the longest from the heel to the tip of the second toe instead of to the end of the big toe. The cave paintings were of the subject of the hunt. These cave paintings give insight into the culture of early man. One of the paintings shows a cow falling from a height. This shows that the prehistoric men drove animals over the cliffs to kill them and obtain the meat.

La Rocque-Gageac

La Rocque-Gageac is a pretty cliff-side village on the Dordogne River. It is huddled between the river and a high cliff.
Rocamadour

Rocamadour is a striking town carved into the face of a cliff. Rocamadour is comprised of three levels. The fourteenth-century château was built in defence for the town at the top of the cliff.

For centuries Rocamadour has been a pilgrimage site. The Cité Religieuse is halfway down the cliff. L'Escalier des Pélérins is the long flight of 216 stone steps leading to the Cité Religieuse. The devout pilgrims used the steps when they went to the shrine on their knees. The Cité Religieuse is a complex of chapels including the Chapelle Miraculeuse housing the venerated Notre-Dame de Rocamadour and the chapelle Saint-Michel where the supposed sword of Roland and the rock in which it is lodged hang above the door. There is a bell which according to legend rings by itself when a miracle occurs. During the Middle Ages thousands of pilgrims came from all over Europe and camped in the meadow below the city awaiting their turn to worship at the shrine. Even Kings and Queens were among the penitents who undertook the long, difficult pilgrimage journey. In the valley the business section is located.

Nearby Rocamadour is the Gouffre de Padirac. This is an extensive system of caverns and crystal formations toured by boat along an underground lake.
Rouffignac

There is a large cave at Rouffignac which visitors tour on a narrow-gauge electric train following the course of a dried-up underground stream for almost a mile. The cave was inhabited by cave bears, and it is possible to see the scratch marks made on the wall by their claws. The cave was discovered in the sixteenth century. There are many drawings and engravings by prehistoric man on the walls.

Saint-Sacerdos

La Lanterne des Morts at Saint-Sacerdos is a tall, conical twelfth century tower on a hill. It is believed that this tower was used to house corpses overnight before they were buried in the cemetery.

Sarlat

Sarlat is a nice town with a restored medieval quarter. There is also a cathedral at Sarlat.

Souillac

There was an abbey with a large domed twelfth century church at Souillac. During the Wars of Religion the church was badly damaged. Some of its Romanesque sculptures were built into the walls when the church was repaired but in different places. The elaborate pillars with the grotesque forms of women, men, and beasts in the church are interesting.
Toulouse

Toulouse is the fourth largest city in France. It is known as "La ville rose" describing its red-brick architecture and its leftist politics. The Basilique Saint-Sernin is one of the best Romanesque cathedrals in France. The Église Notre-Dame-du-Tour is named after the first priest of Toulouse who was martyred by being tied to a bull's tail and dragged to death. The Musée des Augustin has a good selection of Romanesque and Gothic sculpture. The courtyards of hotels particuliers (mansions) near the Garonne River were built before the seventeenth century.
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PROVENCE

Provence is a lovely region in France with its mild climate, blue skies, and balmy days. This region was important to the Roman Empire. Provence has a wealth of Roman ruins and monuments which still endure today. Provence, in modern times, has been popular with the painters, such as Gauguin and Van Gogh who have captured it on canvas.

Aigues-Mortes

Aigues-Mortes, "the City of the Dead Waters," is a medieval walled town built on flat marshes. In 1240 Louis IX, Saint Louis, started building it for a port to launch the Seventh Crusade in the Holy Land. He enlarged an existing tower, the Tour de Constance. He sailed for the Holy Land from Aigues-Mortes in 1248 and the second time in 1270. Only the donjon and the Tour de Constance were built by him. His son, Philip the Bold, built the fortified town. The town is completely surrounded by its rectangular square fortifications.

Aix-en-Provence

The Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur at Aix-en-Provence is an interesting combination of styles going back to a fourth-century baptistery up to a thirteen-century cloister. The Musée Granet has a collection of Roman sculpture, French and
Dutch works and several small paintings by Cézanne. Paul Cézanne was born in Aix-en-Provence in 1839 and died there in 1906.

**Arles**

Arles was a Roman city. There are many Roman ruins in Arles. The Théâtre Antique, the Roman theater, could hold 12,000 spectators. The theater was destroyed in the fifth century and buried. It was excavated in the nineteenth century.

The Arènes, the arena, was built in 46 B.C. which could hold 20,000 spectators. During the tenth century it was fortified, and houses were built on the inside. During the Roman days gladiators were pitted against animals and animals against animals. The large cities got tigers, lions, and elephants, and Arles as a smaller town most likely got bears, wolves, and bulls. Often gladiators had to fight each other. If the loser did not please the spectators, the winner would slit his throat. In case of this occurring, the ground was always covered with red powder in advance. It is believed that the arena was even occasionally flooded, and the gladiators had to fight crocodiles and seals. There are also the ruins of the Roman baths.

Les Alyscamps was the ancient Roman cemetery. The Roman patricians were buried in sarcophagi, sculptured stone coffins, in the Alyscamps. There is a long avenue lined of
ancient moss covered sarcophagi between two rows of cypress trees from the ruined church of Saint Honorat.

The church of Saint Trophime is interesting. The carved portal is of the Last Judgement. Ancient stonework was built into the interior since Roman marble and early sarcophaguses were used as building material.

The Musée d'Art Chretien has an excellent collection of early Christian sarcophagi. The museum also includes a tour through the dark passages and into rooms which were used for grain storage in the Roman days. The Musée Reattu has contemporary art and paintings of the Camargue by Henri Rousseau and some Picasso drawings.

In 1888 Vincent Van Gogh moved to Arles. He painted scenes of Arles. His health worsened, and he increasingly became insane. It was in Arles that he cut off his ear and gave it to prostitute. Nearby in the town of Saint-Remy Vincent Van Gogh stayed at the sanatorium.

Avignon

In the fourteenth century Avignon became a very important center for the Roman Catholic Church. Seven French Popes held court at Avignon from 1305 to 1370. Le Palais des Papes, the Palace of the Popes, is where the Popes held their courts. In World War II the palace was an air raid shelter. Six hundred people sought shelter during one bombing. After the bombing, 602 people left the palace because two ladies had given birth during the air raid.
The Petit Palais was built in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries as a residence for the Bishops of Avignon. It now houses a collection of primitive Italian and Renaissance paintings.

The Pont Saint-Bénézet spans the Rhône River and is remembered in a children's song, "On the bridge of Avignon..." The bridge was built at the end of the twelfth century. In 1670, it was almost destroyed by a flood which swept away most of the bridge. Only four of the original twenty-two archways are still standing. Between the third and fourth archway there is a small Roman chapel dedicated to Saint Nicholas, the protector of sailors, and to Saint Bénézet, the protector of builders.

Les Baux

The ruined fortress is perched upon barren rocks. During the Middle Ages it belonged to the house of Baux. The legend is that this house descended from King Balthasar, one of the Three Magi from the Orient. Due to this legend they placed the Star of Bethlehem on their coat of arms. In 1632, Richelieu ordered for the fortress to be demolished. Now Les Baux is deserted.

Beaucaire

Beaucaire has a fortress in ruins towering on the rocks above the town. It was the stronghold of the Montmorencys. Duke François was the last one to live in it. He was
beheaded at Toulouse upon the order from Richelieu. After his death the castle was practically demolished.

Cagnes

The town of Cagnes is located in a valley by a river formed by a circle of hills. Above Cagnes is the château of the Grimaldi. The streets steeply rise up from the valley. There are old ruins and walls around the village.

La Calanque d'En-Vau

La Calanque d'En-Vau is the beautiful high chalk stone cliffs towering above the sea between Marseilles and Cassis. The sea carved out these narrow and winding gorges from the steep cliffs.

Camaret

Camaret is a delightful fortified town a couple of miles from Orange. The entrance is lined with an avenue of limes, and the town is encircled by ramparts complete with large gates and flanking towers.

Evenos

The small village of Evenos is dominated by the old château from the twelfth century. The château is built on the solid rock, and the outer walls are flush against the rock. There are small narrow streets and ruined houses on this desolate rock.

Fontaine-de-Vaucluse

Petrarch, an Italian poet, spent 16 years at Fontaine-de-Vaucluse after first seeing Laura in a church Avignon.
He immortalized Laura in his poetry. One of the largest springs in the world is at Fontaine-de-Vaucluse. There is a large funnel shaped cave.

**Gordes**

Gordes is an authentic stone village which is one of the 'beaux village' of France. There is a medieval château.

**Les Gorges du Verdon**

Les Gorges du Verdon is a beautiful twelve mile stretch of scenic gorges carved by the Verdon River. Sometimes the gorges reach a depth of up to 2,275 feet.

**Grignan**

In the Middle Ages the château de Grignan was a residence for the noble family of Adhemar de Monteil. The château sits towering on a steep rock.

**Lérins**

Saint Patrick came from Lérins and went to Ireland. There is an abbey on the island. Saint Patrick founded this style of monastery life in the Celtic Church in Ireland. In the eighth century the Sarcens massacred the monks at the abbey. The Château de Lérins was built in the twelfth century for protection against attack.

**Marseilles**

The Phoenicians settled Marseilles and built their trading centers here. The ancient church of Saint Victor is the remains of the ancient abbey that was founded in 410. It is a fortified church with towers resembling a fortress.
Château d'If is the island fortress which was used many years as a prison. The Man in the Iron Mask was confined there. He was imprisoned at numerous places for forty years until he died in the Bastille in 1703. Alexander Dumas wrote about the Count of Monte-Cristo escaping from Château d'If.

Mont Ventoux

Mont Ventoux, reaching the height of 6,224 feet, towers over the Vaucluse Valley. From its summit one can see all of Provence from Marseilles to Mont-Blanc.

Montmajour

The Abbey of Montmajour was built in the tenth century by Benedictines on a hill between Arles and Les Baux. The monastery was demolished during the Revolution.

Moustiers-Sainte-Marie

The small village of Moustiers-Sainte-Marie nestles between two steep cliffs. This village has been making the Moustiers porcelain since the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Nîmes

The Jardin de la Fontaine at Nîmes is a very lovely park. It was built in the eighteenth century around the ruins of the Roman Baths. The ruins of the Temple of Diana are in the park. The Temple of Diana was most likely a nymphaeum. It is of the period of Augustus. In 1577 during the War of Religion it was partially destroyed by the
townspeople when threatened with a siege by the Crown's troops. The townspeople wished to prevent the enemy from seeking cover from it. The Tour Magne, the oldest Roman monument in Nîmes, is on a hill overlooking the park. It was built for the victory of the Roman general Domitius.

The Maison Carrée is a religious temple built at the end of the Roman period in 2 A.D. It rivals the temples at Paestum and Segesta for perfection. Napoléon wanted to move it to Paris, but the townspeople protested. Napoléon modelled the church of the Madeleine after the Maison Carrée.

Les Arènes (the arena), a small colosseum, is better preserved than the one in Rome. The arena seats 24,000 spectators. It was built of stone with no cement. In the fifth century, the Visigoths turned it into a fortress. The portals were then closed off, and houses were built into the walls, and it was a village for 2,000 people. It was restored in the nineteenth century as a historical monument. In World War II it was used as an air raid shelter because the people believed that it would be spared from the bombings. The Nazis then began to fortify it.

Orange

Orange was a Roman colony. It was the seat of a principality from which the Royal House of Holland takes its name. The triumphal arch is well preserved. Its reliefs show Caesar battling victoriously. The theatre was most
likely built during the reign of the Emperor Augustus. It had a semi-circle of rows of seats for 7,000 spectators. The theatre has had several uses over the years. It was used as a castle by the princes of Nassau. There is not much left of the Roman temples and baths because during the early seventeenth century the stones were used to build the castle on the hill.

Remoulins

Le Pont du Gard is a perfectly preserved Roman aqueduct not far way from Remoulins. It was built in the first century B.C. as aqueduct to carry water to Nîmes. It was most likely built when Agrippa, son-in-law of Augustus, lived in Nîmes so that the water would be carried from the Eure River to his palace. Agrippa governed Gaul.

Rousillon

Rousillon is a small picturesque town resting on the summit of a hill between the Coulon valley and the Vaucluse. The houses have tiled roofs.

Saint Remy

"Les Antiques" are the triumphal arch and the mausoleum. The arch was built around 40 B.C. as the entrance to the town. The mausoleum was built in memory of Augustus's grandsons, "youthful Princes," who were killed in battle during the imperial campaigns.
Salon

The thirteenth-century château stands on the top of the hill looking down at the town of Salon. Some of the ramparts of the town are still standing along with a sixteenth-century gate. The tomb of Nostradamus, Michael de Nostre Dame, is in the old Church of Saint Laurent. In 1566 he died and was buried in Salon.

Sainte-Marguerite

On the island of Sainte-Marguerite there is a château on the rock. The man with the iron mask was imprisoned in the château.

Tarascon

The Château at Tarascon was the fortress of King René the Good. Alphonse Daudet made this town known in Les Aventures Prodigieuses de Tartarin. His hero, Tartarin, was supposed to have lived here. There is a legend of "Tarasque", a wicked dragon who devastated the country until Saint Martha vanquished it. The last Sunday in June Tarascon celebrates a festival for the saint's victory over the dragon.


BIBLIOGRAPHY


