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Rennes **Its Past, Its Present, Its Future**

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For the foreigner who dreams about visiting France, it is first Paris which awakens his curiosity. But among all the treasures which the country has, Brittany and its capital Rennes, should be considered of primary importance.

Brittany is a massive peninsula, with rocky and craggy coastline, which France projects towards the west as though intent on spanning the Atlantic in search of North America. Its historical and administrative capital, Rennes, is situated inland, that is:

—70 kilometers (43.5 miles) from the North Coast where the famous Mont Saint-Michel and the old Corsairs City of Saint-Malo are located,

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- 100 kms. (62 miles) from Nantes on the banks of the Loire river,
- 120 kms. (74.5 miles) from La Baule, the most beautiful beach of Europe on the Atlantic Ocean,
- 250 kms. (155.3 miles) from Brest, the most western point of Brittany, and last:
- 350 kms. (217.5 miles) from Paris to which it is connected by two main highways and a railway line.

This situation makes Rennes the center that dominates the whole of Brittany and links it with the other parts of France. Modern trends have further strengthened this position, bringing to the city of Rennes rapid developments that confirm its role as the “Capital of the West Part of France.”

The Historic Beginnings of Rennes

Each town has its past, its story, its titles of glory. As for each human being, a city is what centuries, from generations to generations, have made of it.

The story of Rennes endures in its houses, in its streets, in its memorial structures. One needs only to stroll through the streets to discover the living pictures of what it has been. Situated at the confluence of the Ille and Vilaine rivers, its first name was, in Celtic times, Condate, which means confluence. Rennes had its independence, its money (a wheel with four spokes, printed under a horse), and some control over near-by lands.

In Roman times, the city was the most important center of this region and took the name of the inhabitants: the Redones. This Gallo-Roman city, covering about eight to nine hectares (19.8 to 22.2 acres), was surrounded by ramparts built in the 3rd Century by the Roman legions (these ramparts were pulled down and rebuilt during the 9th and 12th Centuries). Made of granite and red bricks, they gave to Rennes its surname, La Ville Rouge (The Red City).

From this long past some vestiges remain more or less apparent. In the cathedral area, parts of this old rampart can be seen, specially Rue Nantaise with the Tour de Chêne (Oak Tower) and above all, opposite the cathedral, the Portes Mordelaises (Mordelaises Gates) which were rebuilt during the 15th Century. It is through these gates that the Dukes of Brittany used to enter the city on their Coronation Day in order to be crowned by the bishop in front of the high-altar of the cathedral which was decorated with a magnificent retable specially made in Anvers (Belgium) and which still can be seen in the cathedral.

In the 10th Century, the city had almost attained political supremacy of the region; it shared only with Nantes the honor of sheltering the Dukes of Brittany.

But this privileged position and geographic situation placed it in an enviable position; consequently on several occasions Rennes was the seat of bloody conflicts. In the 14th Century, it saw the battle of Jean de Montfort against Charles de Blois, in which the latter was helped by Bertrand du Guesclin who, in 1357, delivered the city from the English soldiers who besieged it. In the 15th Century, the armies of Charles VIII lay siege to the city, and finally the king, who preferred negotiating to fighting, annexed Brittany by marrying the Duchess Ann (1491).

Cedant arma togae (Weapons must give way to robes). The 16th Century saw the creation of the Parliament of Brittany. First, between 1551 and 1561, it convened in turn at Nantes and Rennes, where it has remained permanently from 1561. And Rennes emerged more and more as the administrative capital of Brittany. At the same time, it became one of the most important cities of the kingdom. The French king, Henri IV, was solemnly received there, on May the 9th, 1598.

But submission is not servility. The Parliament, that in the

18th Century, installed in the magnificent palace specially built for it by Salomon de Brosse, architect of the Luxembourg Palace (seat of the actual French Senate, in Paris), did not fail to oppose the excesses of central power. In 1675, when it launched *La Révolte du Papier Timbré* (Stamped Paper Revolt), the Parliament was banished to Vannes until 1689; after a new rebellion in 1765, the attorney general, La Chalotais, was imprisoned. Then again Rennes was in the vanguard of the French Revolution of 1789—Moreau, Bernadotte (founder of the Swedish dynasty), Volney, students in Rennes colleges, all took an active part in it—and Rennes was courageously defended against the bloody excess of Charrier by its mayor, Leperdit, and soon became the focal point of the struggle against the Vendée monarchic reaction. During the Consulate time, Cadoudal would try without success to rally it to the Bourbon dynasty.

The 19th Century saw the beginning of its great prosperity.

Already in the 11th Century, after the great fire of 1720, which lasted a whole week and destroyed the entire center of the city—more than 850 wooden houses were burnt—Rennes took on the appearance of a modern town. With the urging of King Louis XV, the famous architect Gabriel (the restorer of the Louvre Palace in Paris) and the civil engineer of government, Robelin, conceived a vast urban plan—it was a stroke of genius for the time—and, far more revolutionary, the first reconstruction plan developed in West France. This reconstruction effected a profound reshuffling of private property rights and the erection of joint property buildings. It also permitted the acquisition of ground to widen streets and to realize an architectural whole in which we find the wonderful design and ornamental unit of the Place du Palais (Palais Plaza), of the Place de la Mairie (Town-Hall Plaza), and of the neighboring streets.

At the same time, Gabriel built the new hall, one of the rare masterpieces which Brittany has preserved from that period.

The expressive lines of its front and the campanile surmounting its clock tower are characteristic of the Louis XV style. The central niche, now empty, once sheltered a statue of King Louis XV, who rebuilt the city from its ashes. From this vast work, the town has retained numerous vestiges of our ancestors' labor and taste: in ceramics, it saw the creation of a new ornamentation with manganese; in jewelry, Rennes masters of the 18th Century, heirs of an old tradition, competed with the most famous artists of the French capital.

During the 19th Century—wrongly called the stupid era—people were quite active in Rennes. Some blocks, though almost rustic, survived, and the perimeter increased slowly, but the urban works were constantly pursued. Between 1841 and 1846, the embankments were erected to control the flow of the Vilaine river. In 1857, the railroad station was dedicated, marking the beginning of a new and large quarter at the south of the city. In 1860, the old bed of the Vilaine was filled up, and, in its place, the city opened in 1862 a broad boulevard, the Boulevard de la Liberté.

The former gardens of the Benedictines' abbey of Saint-Melaine were enlarged and modified to become one of the most beautiful French parks. With its green grass, French-style gardens, English-style park, rose beds, no visitor ever tires of promenading through the famous Thabor.

During the 19th Century, Rennes saw the expansion of its university. From 1735, the School of Laws, created in Nantes in 1461, was installed in our city. A medical school had been opened before the Revolution. The Convention abolished each of them. But the First Empire officially created the university, which, through various vicissitudes, took root and grew so much that it assumed a preponderant place in the activity of Rennes' life. Rennes thus became the intellectual capital of Brittany. Seat of an academy, it developed law, science, and arts

faculties and a medical and pharmaceutical college, which became a faculty in 1955. In 1853, all the faculties met in the University Palace, at present the museum.

But because of its growth, the university had to separate. The Science Faculty settled on the north bank of the Vilaine where, greatly extended, it still resides. The Faculty of Laws found quarters in the former archbishop's house, Place Saint-Melaine, which it has just left for the huge building of the Avenue Jules Ferry. The Faculty of Arts with the libraries of the university and the town occupied Place Hoche, quarters of the former seminary. While the Medical Faculty had some buildings specially erected for it on the Boulevard Laënnec.

The First World War (1914-1918) did not change greatly the structures of Rennes, but the whole Province of Brittany paid a heavy debt in blood (240,000 Bretons, perhaps more, were killed!); the Panthéon Rennais memorial, erected in the town hall, commemorates the sacrifice. On the other hand, the bombings of the Second World War and the destruction during the Liberation battles severely scarred the city proper—a quarter of the town was destroyed.

Rennes was an active center of Resistance. Many Rennais were arrested, deported, or shot. On August 4, 1944, the Allied Armies, commanded by General Patton, triumphantly marched into the city. General Patton was solemnly entertained in the town hall by the mayor appointed at the Liberation, Mr. Milon, the present President of the Franco-American Institute of Rennes. Among the main personalities by his side were Mr. Fréville, regional delegate for information, and the author of these lines who was in charge of the radio management.

On August the 19th, reflecting the close and friendly cooperation of allied military authorities and local civil administrators, the first French voices in free territory were broadcast by Radio-Bretagne operating from an American transmitting truck. It is

impossible to describe how Rennes people welcomed Patton's Army. This experience greatly reinforced the friendly feelings existing between Brittany and the great American people.

But after relishing the joy of recovered liberty, it was necessary to rebuild. In a devastated France, where nothing was available, one had to make do with nothing. It was the first, the most urgent and thankless work of the first Municipality, presided over by Mr. Milon till 1953.

At that time Mr. Fréville succeeded in his functions, a position he still occupies today.

The Administrative Structure of Rennes

It is perhaps useful to review here some details about the administration of a French town. Every six years, the voters elect the Municipal Council which, for Rennes, has 37 members called "Municipal Councillors." They in turn choose the Mayor from among themselves and name several assistants of the Mayor. (In Rennes, because of the importance of the city, there are between 7 and 11 assistants, the Council choosing the number within these limits.) The Mayor is responsible for the city administration, but all the important decisions, and specially the budget, must be authorized by a vote of the Council and ratified by the Department Prefect, representing the French Government.

In the last twenty years, between 1945 and 1965, the structure of Rennes has been deeply modified. To its traditional characteristics new features have been added. This administrative, judicial, and university capital has now become, because of the increased population and the progressive equipment of Brittany, an economic center of growing importance.

The population of Rennes in 1856 was 45,000 and did not exceed 100,000 before the Second World War. By 1954, however, the city had 124,000 inhabitants; in 1962: 157,000; it now

has over 170,000, and will in 1970 reach 200,000. There are several reasons for this quick growth: its economic and industrial development attracts and retains an important segment of Breton manpower that the mechanization of agriculture leaves without jobs. They now settle in Rennes instead of in the Paris district where they went in the past; moreover, their high birth rate reduces the average age of the city's population, which is one of the youngest of France. Whereas, from 1954 to 1962 (official dates) the population of Rennes increased by 24.4 per cent, the number of children and teen-agers increased by 40 per cent.

All the causes and consequences of this rapid evolution are systematically and prospectively studied by research offices, such as the Société de Mathématiques Appliquées (SEMA), the Institut Régional de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques. Their findings have permitted the elaboration of varied plans and projects, such as the Urban Plan of Rennes, drawn up in 1958 by Mr. Arretche, chief architect-urbanist of our town, and the Program of Modernization and Equipment of Rennes, conceived in 1962 with the help of State great offices.

The administrative importance of Rennes was increased with the creation of provincial prefectures by the Vichy Government. Brittany remains divided in four departments, each one having its prefect and its prefecture: the Finistere (Quimper), the Morbihan (Vannes), the Côtes-du-Nord (Saint-Brieuc), and and the Ille et Vilaine (Rennes). But the Ille et Vilaine prefect is the upper prefect of the province (region) and his authority covers the whole of Brittany. A great administrative building was erected near the station. All the main offices of the State are gathered there under the prefect's orders. Already insufficient, it is to be supplemented by another building to be constructed near the Champ de Mars.

Opposite the Lycée de Garçons (High School for Boys) was

built the Broadcasting Building, head office of the Regional Direction of the O.R.T.F. (Office de la Radio Télévision Française, French National Broadcasting), which will soon be supplemented in the Cultural Building. Another building, which at present is under construction in the north of the town, will hold the tax-collectors' offices for the whole country (except Paris) and will employ 1200 people, principally women.

The judicial functions of the Cour d'Appel (the Court of Appeal) remain in the palace built for the previous Parliament during the 18th Century. Rennes, in addition, has a Conseil des Prudhommes (Conciliation Board) which settles controversies between employers and workers and a Tribunal de Commerce for commercial disputes. Rennes is also the Headquarters for the 3rd Military Region. Soon the army will create there an important seat of electronic research, working closely with the Science Faculty.

Education in Rennes

But it is the university which today as in the past contributes most to the reputation of Rennes. Set under the authority of the Recteur d'Académie (Rector of Academy), it includes all levels and kinds of teaching. At the top are four traditional Faculties: Arts and Humane Sciences, Laws and Economic Sciences, Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacy; each of the four has its Faculty Institutes, University Institutes, or Higher Schools.

At the Arts Faculty is the Center of Psycho-technic Studies.

At the Law Faculty: the Administration Institute of Firms and the Institute of Economic Studies, and a School of Notaries (private).

At the Sciences Faculty: the Higher National School of Chemistry, the Geology Institute, the Mineral Biology Institute, the Sea Institute.

At the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy: a School for Nurs-

ing and Social Advisers, a Dental School (private), a school for Kinésithérapeutes (kinesitherapy), and soon an Institute for Sports.

Training for the Second Degree, the Baccalauréat (diploma of secondary school education), is given in several High Schools either for boys or girls or mixed. One of them, the High School for Boys called Chateaubriand, has at present two young Rochester students studying there. Technical training is now supplied, leading to the Second Degree, by a High Technical School for Boys, as well as by a National Graphic Arts School and a High Technical School for Girls. Soon, a National Institute of Applied Sciences will offer superior technical training in conjunction with the Faculty of Sciences.

In addition, Rennes has a teaching institution, the only one in France, the Higher National School of Health, which provides educational opportunities to the administrative staffs of the Public Hygiene, Health and Population services and which receives trainees from several foreign French-speaking countries.

And last, the teaching of arts is given in three schools: a school of Architecture, a school of Arts (drawing, painting, sculpture, decoration), and a Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Art.

The Rennes inhabitants, Catholic for the most part, willingly send their children to private Catholic schools: two big High Schools for Boys, ten or so High Schools for Girls, a Technical High School for Boys, and several grammar schools. About 50,000 children are in the grammar schools. To assure their instruction, the town had to build, with the State's help, more than 500 new classrooms between 1956 and 1965.

The same problem must be solved for the other levels of teaching. The Faculty of Law has now been for three years in a new building, already too small. A new Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy is being built in the west of the city, with new

hospitals. At the same place there is a project of a new Faculty of Arts, with its annexes: Psychology Center, Library, etc. The Science Faculty will soon move to a campus near the Paris highway, a wide field of 130 hectares (321.24 acres) where it will bring together the Science Faculty, the National Higher Chemical School, the National Institute of Applied Science, as well as a scientific library and a wonderful University Students' House equipped with restaurants and 1500 bedrooms, and lastly a Convalescent House for students.

So the whole university, which has for a long time been clustered in the center of town, is moving to the suburbs, where it is possible to build rationally on accessible land.

The university, which now has 17,000 students, will reach 20,000 within two years in spite of an important decentralization of the university education. Although Nantes has an academy separate from that at Rennes, with its own Higher Teaching Schools, and even Brest now has several buildings equipped for higher education, such as university colleges for arts and sciences, medical school, nevertheless, Rennes still draws its students from the whole of Brittany and even from the former overseas territories in Africa, Madagascar, and so on as well as from foreign countries such as Germany, England, and far-off China and Japan.

The town and the university, owing to their frequent and close relations with the twinned universities or twinned cities, tend little by little to assume an international character. Besides several exchanges of students and teachers, there are important groups which come to Rennes and stay for varying periods of time. Thus, to mention only the United States, a group of teachers from Sister Mary-Philip comes for two months during the summer, 20 students from Beloit College are attending the Faculty of Arts lectures, and Professor Topazio of the University of Rochester is attached to our university for a year.

Commercial and Industrial Developments

It is not, therefore, an exaggerated statement to say that the University is the principal activity of the City of Rennes. However, located as it is in the center of a rich agricultural region, the most fertile in Brittany, Rennes has always been an important commercial center, surrounded by small industries and manual trades. Of course, the old ceramic and goldsmith workshops have now disappeared; on the other hand, during the last 15 years, the large industrial activity has been considerably extended.

In addition to the Oberthur printing-house, now more than a hundred years old, a number of new industries have been installed in Rennes: an important workshop for the construction and repair of railway equipment, a military arsenal, and paper factories.

The Chamber of Commerce (one of its representatives was a member of the first official Municipal delegation which was sent from Rennes to Rochester) opened an important railroad center for the goods and passenger traffic of the whole region and, 15 years ago, sponsored the development of an industrial zone of 120 hectares (296.4 acres) to the west of the city. A Citroën car plant was first built there, followed by other plants, such as a bottling factory for Coca-Cola and a processing plant for Kodak-Pathé; a large slaughter house is presently under construction with an annual capacity of 18,000 tons of meat—equipped with a cold storage depot, and an important national railway connection.

Several other developments merit attention. A second industrial zone, to the north of the city at Saint-Grégoire, covers a total surface area of 60 hectares (148.2 acres) where presently have been constructed the Société de Constructions Eternit, and a large oil storage plant for Esso. A third industrial zone is being developed to the south of the city covering 260 hectares

(642.2 acres) where a processing plant is under construction for the oil firm of Anter, connected directly to Saint-Nazaire by a pipe-line measuring 120 kilometers. Under the national program for the extension of industrial activity in the provinces, Citroën has opened at Chartres-de-Bretagne, on the outskirts of Rennes, a plant for the production of the 3 C.V. model, employing 5,000 workers; the present capacity is 500 cars per day, but the volume is to be increased to twice this figure.

This rapid industrial expansion has turned Rennes into a particularly attractive center for electronics, for which the new Faculty of Sciences is in a good position to supply not only an ideal center for research, but also a fully qualified personnel.

Civic Facilities and Progress

This economic expansion has involved other important problems which neither the government nor the local authorities have neglected. Thus, the rapid increase in population has, of course, given rise to grave housing problems. There are whole districts of very old apartment houses in which the lodgings are both unhealthy and even dangerous, and the bombings in 1944 destroyed or damaged much property. It was necessary to either repair what could be repaired, or to reconstruct whole districts of the city. Right in the heart of the city, on an old plot of ground, all buildings have been completely demolished and replaced by a beautiful new building, on the rue Jules Simon. Further south, several quarters are being totally demolished (rue de Nantes) and replaced by residential and commercial centers, to cover an area of 21 hectares (51.87 acres). A third particularly old and unhealthy district, rue de Brest, covering 11 hectares (27.17 acres) is at present being renovated, under particularly difficult conditions since parts of the river Ille have to be filled in, and the whole district levelled after removing and re-lodging the inhabitants and existing factories.

At the same time, a series of new districts have been constructed around the perimeter of the city. In the northeast lie the industrial sector of Maurepas, Gros Chêne, and Le Gast where thousands of apartments have been built to a particularly original design. To the south are the districts of Belleville, Binquenais, and Brequigny; to the southwest, Cleunay; to the west, Villejan-Malifeu, near to the new hospital and the future site of the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Letters. The total surface area of these districts represents more than 600 hectares. Over a period of 10 years 20,000 apartments have been built, and even so there are more than 5,000 requests still unsatisfied by the Municipal services.

The development of industries and the construction of these apartments naturally involved an increasingly elaborate urban system. The water supply system, which represented a length of 170 kilometers (105 miles) in 1956, was extended to 210 kms. (130 miles) in 1960, and to 240 kms. (149 miles) in 1964. This system, created in 1884, supplied 18,000 cubic meters (635,000 cubic feet) of water per day in 1955. Renovations to this system increased this amount to 24,000 cubic meters (847,000 cubic feet). This supply was evidently increasingly insufficient and other sources of supply had to be found: for example, a water conduit 38 kms. (23 miles) long bringing water for the city from the River Rance situated to the north of the city, double the total supply. But the city council must plan ahead to foresee the times when even this supply will prove insufficient—new supplies will be brought to Rennes reaching within a few years' time a daily capacity of 60,000 cubic meters (2,118,000 cubic feet).

The existing sewer system, which was already remarkable in its kind before the war due to the energetic measures taken by its former mayor, Mr. Jean Janvier, was extended not only to the new residential districts but also to other suburbs which had not yet been thus equipped. A waste-water filter plant, with a

daily treatment capacity of 30,000 cubic meters, was built within the last three years. This capacity will presently be doubled.

The extension of the public lighting network can be judged from the number of street lights in use: 1,700 in 1914, 4,600 in 1953, and 6,000 in 1964. At these same dates, the actual length of the streets within the city was as follows: 115 kilometers, 165 kms., and 245 kms. The water supply system was extended in the same way: 75 kms., 175 kms., and 240 kms.; and the sewer system: 41 kms., 175 kms., and 220 kms. In a period of ten years, from 1954 to 1964, more than 360 kms. of excavations were made for various public utilities.

As in all large towns, the increase in the number of private cars (an additional 25 every day) creates many traffic and parking problems. Despite the foresight of the city's architects, Gabriel and de Robelin, who rebuilt the city center in the 18th Century in proportions which were certainly in advance of their times, the layout of the city center tends to be more aesthetic than practical. The narrow streets and tiny squares create great difficulty for traffic. Whereas ten years ago none of the cross-roads were equipped with traffic lights, the city now has a complete traffic-signal system, carefully studied according to volume and accident statistics. A large parking facility has also recently been constructed in the center of the city. A private company financed this operation in agreement with the City Council.

Despite these modernizations, much still remains to be done. Eleven national highways merge into the city. In addition, the Citroën car plant now requires rapid and easy access not only by road but also by rail. In view of these requirements, a ring-road network around the city is under study and part construction.

Local and regional commerce is responding favorably to this intense activity. The annual Rennes Fair attracts many buyers from the surrounding region, as well as manufacturers from

the whole of France and abroad. The Fair specializes in agricultural machinery, domestic equipment, furniture, wines, and comestible products. Due to its increasing importance, the City Council has undertaken to build a permanent parking facility for the Fair with a capacity of 2,000 cars. Furthermore, the new residential districts growing up on the outskirts of the city have been equipped with modern, well-designed shopping centers.

Social and Cultural Provisions

Social and cultural facilities have not been neglected. For over half a century the city has housed schools of architecture, painting, and music, which are totally financed by the City Council. The city's artistic activity includes a six-months' operatic season, six symphony concerts, chamber music concerts. In the world of the theater, performances are regularly held throughout the season by a local group: the Comedie de l'Ouest, formed 15 years ago upon the instigation of Mr. Fréville, with financial support from the City Council and French Government. In addition, the city receives some of the best Parisian shows while on tour in the provinces.

The Fine Arts Museum, which was seriously damaged during the last war, has been rebuilt on most modern lines and now houses a section covering popular art and traditions; it has an exceptional quality and is of particular interest to visitors from abroad. Its administrators have frequently displayed itinerant art exhibits, and on many occasions American artists have figured there: thus, for the first time an entire exhibit was devoted to the works of Calder. The Museum recently housed an Iroquois Indian Art Exhibit, kindly lent by the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences; this exhibit was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. W. Stephen Thomas, its director, and Mr. Frank T. Lamb, Mayor of Rochester.

Apart from these traditional aspects of cultural life, the City

Council has encouraged the development of youth clubs and cultural centers enabling the young to participate in various healthy activities and at the same time be initiated in the field of art. The library, which likewise cares for the young in special departments for children and adolescents, is studying the possibility of organizing an itinerant booklending service. Most important of all, however, the Council has been authorized to build a large cultural center, to be one of the foremost in France, under the sponsorship of the French Government on the one hand and, on the other, the Administration of the National Radio and Television. In 1963, Rennes held the first National Music Hall and Variety Festival, which a year later became an International Festival to be held annually.

The development of sports facilities has not been neglected. A new sports hall has been constructed in the center of the city, holding 6,000 spectators; several sports grounds have been laid out on the outskirts of the city, and the construction of a large swimming pool for purposes of competitions is under study. The race course has been remodeled. A great number of sports activities are thus grouped under the Sports Committee of the local government. A Social and Cultural Office has also been formed by the Council to promote and encourage such activities throughout the city by means of the various social centers, youth organizations, etc.

For the older inhabitants of Rennes, special facilities have been provided in centers where they can live independently, yet at the same time benefit from special care. Three similar centers are now under construction. Thus the active population of Rennes (approximately 54 per cent of the total number of inhabitants) has undertaken the responsibility of making up for some of the deficiencies of the past and of preparing methodically for the future while sparing no effort for the youth and the not-so-young.

Broadening Horizons

But these local concerns have not made Rennes impervious to outside activities and contacts. The population suffered greatly during the war and during the German occupation, but they are convinced that a true and lasting peace can only be founded on a deep understanding between peoples. Thus over the last eight years, its mayor, Mr. Henri Fréville, has actively encouraged many cultural exchanges with foreign cities, and, to implement this policy, Rennes has established twinning relationships with six foreign cities: Exeter in Great Britain, Louvain in Belgium, Erlangen in Germany, Brunn in Czechoslovakia, Sendai in Japan, Rochester in the United States, and it is hoped that the list is not closed.

These jumelages are not intended as simple curiosities for tourists; they are a source of many cultural, economic, and other exchanges between the twin cities. As with Rochester, the corresponding universities exchange professors, students, and teenagers. For three years now, Rennes and Rochester have organized student exchanges, despite the distance and cost of travel. Being less expensive and more rapid, the exchanges with England and Germany are more numerous. These exchanges are organized under various forms, individual or in groups, for periods ranging from two to 12 months.

It was in this spirit that the Franco-American Institute was founded in agreement between the American Embassy in Paris and the City of Rennes. Its various activities include the teaching of English. In 1964, the students of all ages and professions numbered 450. One of its most recent activities was the promotion of a Franco-American week held in December, 1964, during which the city was honored by the visit of the American Ambassador's Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Robert McBride, and Mr. Frank Lamb, Mayor of Rochester.

The City of Rennes can now be truly proud of the foremost position it holds among all the cities in France for the rapidity of its recent development; long apparently slumbering in inaction, the city has suddenly awoken to the realization of the capital role it has to play in the economic, social, intellectual, and cultural life of Brittany. Due to its complete transformation during the last twelve years, it is now prepared for its future destiny. And France is not the only one interested in its extension. On March 4th last year, the firm of Fairchild chose the city of Rennes in preference to other more important French towns for the site for its future plant. Within six months its facilities will be completed.

Judging by the photographic documents of Rochester, which were shown in Rennes during Franco-American week, the two cities resemble each other in many ways, and have many affinities. Mr. Frank Lamb's visit last December, following many previous visitors who have come to Rennes since the first official delegation arrived from the City of Rochester in 1958, visitors who are becoming more numerous each year, all go to prove that these affinities lie not only in the cities themselves but in their inhabitants. The bases of their friendship are too sound not to be fruitful and everlasting.

The Rennes-Rochester Jumelage

BLAKE MCKELVEY

Secretary, Rennes-Rochester Committee

It was the Honorable Henri Fréville, Mayor of Rennes, France, who initiated the Rennes-Rochester Jumelage. Responding to an invitation issued by the Government Affairs Institute of Washington, D. C. (with the backing of the State Department), he made a trip to America in 1956 and selected Rochester as a worthy twin for Rennes. With three of his fellow

citizens he visited Rochester in November, proffering his city's friendship in person.

Deeply honored by Mayor Fréville's overtures, Mayor Peter Barry named a committee, headed by Mr. Sol M. Linowitz, to develop a meaningful twinning relationship. All of Rochester's major cultural institutions were invited to cooperate with this committee, and during succeeding years most of them have sent exhibits and, in some cases, representatives to Rennes to participate in appropriate exchanges.

In 1959, a Rochester delegation returned the official visit of the Mayor of Rennes.

Since that first exchange of visits, numerous citizens of Rennes and Rochester have journeyed back and forth renewing the friendly bonds. Mrs. Charles Payne, who has ably supervised a summer exchange of teen-age visitors between Rennes and Rochester, has succeeded Mr. Linowitz as chairman in 1964.

Rochester's most recent visitors to Rennes were Mayor Frank Lamb and Mr. W. Stephen Thomas. Responding to a formal invitation from Mayor Fréville they journeyed to Rennes to take part in the observance of its America Week in December, 1964. Inspired by the reception he received there from officials and citizens alike, Mayor Lamb has encouraged the Rennes-Rochester Committee to plan an appropriate commemoration of a Rochester French Week, which he has officially designated to extend from May 14 to 21.

It is in this connection that *Rochester History* is pleased to present the foregoing article on "Rennes, Its Past, Its Present, and Its Future" by Mr. Victor Janton, the Maire-Adjoint of Rennes. Humbled by the impressive cultural attainments as well as by the venerable age of our French twin, now approaching the end of a second millennium, we modestly salute Rennes for its resurgent vitality in recent decades and eagerly join its hopeful quest for international peace through mutual understanding.



CITY HALL OF RENNES (XVIII Century)



THE PARLIAMENT'S PALACE (XVII Century)



THE NEW BUILDINGS OF MAUREPAS



THE NEW FACULTY OF LAW



THE FRENCH - AMERICAN INSTITUTE



(From left to right): Mayor Frank Lamb, of Rochester;
M. Lecotteley, Interpreter; M. Graff, Deputy Mayor,
and M. Henri Freville, Mayor of Rennes.