

Basque Traces in the Toponymy of Newfoundland and Various Coasts of Atlantic Canada

Christian Weyers
Germany

Abstract

Whereas the first and undoubtedly most important toponymic stratum of the island of Newfoundland and adjacent waters is Portuguese, the presence of Basques from the 1530s to the late 17th century on the South and West coasts of Newfoundland, the islands of Cape Breton, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and on the left bank of the Saint Lawrence River had relatively little impact on the geographical nomenclature. Documentation is rare and not readily accessible, and the omnipresence of French during this period was not at all favorable to the development of appellations given by French and Spanish Basques. Many names are now extinct, others have been Frenchified and Anglicized (*Port au Port, Port au Choix, Ingornachoix*).

The most complete repertory of Basque names (although many of them are mixed or hybrid appellations) is to be found in Pierre Detcheverry's edition of the rutter of Martín de Hoyoçabal (Bayonne 1677). In contrast, his map of 1689 and that of Denis de Rotis (1676) offer only a relatively small number. An accurate comparison of maps and charts from the 16th and 17th century until today will show to what extent Basque names – including those of minor geographical features – have stayed, been altered or vanished completely.

Other categories, e.g., the commemorative names (*Lac de ~* and *Anse de l'Échafaud du Basque, Basque Island*, etc.) and name transfers of places of origin with reference to the Basque Country (*Amuitx, Plasencia*) – some of them hypothetical (*Cape Breton*) – will also be discussed in this paper.

According to known records the presence of mariners from Brittany, Normandy and other parts of France in Newfoundland waters and around Cape Breton Island developed from approximately 1504 or 1510 (cf. Ganong 1929: 169; S. Barkham 1978: 14) only after the Portuguese and British explorations of the east and south coasts of Newfoundland. From 1526 particularly Basques from the French shore¹ are attested as organizers of a whaling industry on the southern Labrador coast; in the 1560s also Basques from the Spanish shore remained in this area from June to January.

However, the remarkable speed with which they were able to take advantage of these marine resources can hardly be explained if they had known nothing about Newfoundland before the landfall of Cabot (Rowe 1980: 46–47). Between 1301 and 1353 four treaties had been signed with the English Crown to guarantee Gascon and Spanish Basque fishermen free mutual trade and fishery rights around British and Irish coasts, which could lead to the speculation that they had reached some part of Northern America at least by 1372,² if not long before, either driven by the Labrador Current or following the “Basque route” which – presumably going back to the 12th century (cf. de la Roncière/Mollat du Jourdin 1984: 261) – was applied by all pilots in Spanish and Portuguese services. It has been claimed that it was a Basque rutter or log-book that enabled Columbus to undertake his discoveries.

1. Basque Toponyms (cf. Figures 1 and 2)

Throughout the seventeenth century the west coast of Newfoundland was almost exclusively a fishing preserve of the Basques. They seem to be the first Europeans to give names to capes, bays, anchorages and other geographical features on this coastline which on previous maps had been almost completely nameless. One or another already existing name may have been adapted to the Basque language or translated.

The principal interest in the west coast matches with its far better cartographic representation on the three manuscript maps of Newfoundland and Atlantic Canada by two pilots from St. Jean-de-Luz, Denis de Rotis (1676) and Piarres Detcheverry edo Dorre (1689).³ In both cases nomenclature and explanatory notes are generally in French, but on the southern and particularly western shores of Newfoundland and on the left bank of the St. Lawrence River names containing Basque descriptives are intermingled. As to Newfoundland, on the Detcheverry map there are, besides *ferrol*, *miquelon/miqueloun* and *pleçance*, at least four appellations of major importance that have survived to the present day. These are, from southeast to north: *p: burie/p: bourie* with neighbouring *bourie*, present-day *Burin* (Bank, Harbours, Inlet, Island, Passage, Peninsula [also *les Burins*]); from *buru* ‘head, cape’, on the west coast followed by *ophorportu* (meaning either ‘port of rest’ or ‘port of wooden bowl, vase, milk vessel’; now *Port au Port*), *aingurachar/anngurachar* and *portuchoa* (sometimes referred to as *portucho* without the article), meaning ‘bad anchorage’ (*aingura* ‘anchor’, *txar* ‘bad’) and ‘little harbour’ and having finally been changed to *Ingornachoix* and *Port au Choix* (also *Port Choice* on 18th century maps) respectively.

A series of these names is now extinct, but some of them are still documented on maps of at least the following centuries: *barrachoa*, *sascot portu* (*P. Sasquot*)⁴ near Cape Ray, on the west coast *ul(l)y çillho*, another *barrachoa*, *bayaederra/ḅ: ederra*, *p: amuix/amuix*, which was later recorded in 1694 as “la pointe d’amouitch” by Louis Jolliet and repeated twice on the north eastern coast, then *echayreportu/p: dechaire* and *antonportu* with commemorative value, and finally *miariz* on the north western tip of Petit Nord, a Basque variant of *Biarritz*. This place name appears again on a map by Herman Moll drawn after the Treaty of Utrecht as *P[ort] de Miaris*, although located further south on the southern bank of the *Great Bay* entrance. On the other side of the Strait of Belle Isle *baleabaya/bayedebalene* (which recurs in the latter form on the south shore of Cape Breton Island) and *babachulho/babacholho* west of Brest have to be mentioned. *Ul(l)y çillho*, apparently on the site of modern St. George’s Harbour, has been translated as ‘fish hole’ by Manuel del Valle (1892: 76 note 3) and as ‘fly hole’ by Selma Barkham (Standard *euli*, Northern *uli*, *ül(l)i* ‘fly’); it had not been recorded by Denis de Rotis, who in turn had, a little further up north, a *portu charru* (‘bad port’) instead. If there was no preceding form in any other language, the inlet which is now known as *Bonne Bay* (and was also called *la Belle Baye* on maps around 1755) bears a name literally translated from Basque *baya ederra* recorded by Detcheverry. Also, *legrand bay* (in the second version of his map), otherwise *gran baya*, has been considered as a Basque appellation for the the Strait of Belle Isle or the entire Gulf of St. Lawrence (cf. S. Barkham 1984: 515; du Pasquier 1984: 536), although it referred clearly, as *Grand(e) Baye* or *Grand(e) Baye aux Balènes*, to a bay a little north of Cape Pointu on several 17th century maps.⁵ Near the south western tip of Burin Peninsula and on the west coast north of *Ophorportu* a small creek is marked with the term *barrachoa*, a third *barrachoa* is located on the northern shore of actual Cape Breton Island. The first one seems to have lived on as *Little Barrysway* (cf. S. Barkham 1989: 14) on the Cook/Larken map of 1767, although located on the other side of the Peninsula, on the south bank of Fortune Bay; written with an *-e-* it recurs, on the same map, on the coast facing the Burgeo Isles where it is still present today as *Barachois* ~ or *Barasway Bay*.⁶ In French the common noun *barachois* means ‘little natural port, shallow basin, suitable for small boats; platform’, but the *Trésor de la Langue*

Française (4 [1975]: 153–154) offers no confident etymology. It is clear to me that this word descended directly from Basque *barratxoa* (documented as *barachoua* in 1662; literally meaning ‘little bar or sand bank’), since its application as a geographical term is concentrated in those parts of the New World which were frequented by Basques; remember the *Barachois* as the inner port and in the south eastern and south western parts of Saint-Pierre as well as in the northwest and south (*Grand Barachois*) of (Grande) Miquelon. There are also many examples of the type *Barachois* in the coastal toponymy of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and on the St. Lawrence River; it has only secondarily spread into the creole of Mauritius and La Réunion.

2. Historical Basque appellations

Although the two versions of the Detcheverry map which had been dedicated to governor Parat are mainly based on the official language, French, the Basque element can be observed at least in the following aspects; first of all, the typical Basque word order of nominal compounds in contrast to the Romance (*Sascot portu*, *baleabaya*, *ang(e)lesportu* vs. *P[ort] Sascot*, *bayedebalene*, *Port aux Anglois*), however interchanging Basque, Spanish and French elements (*baleabaya* of the first version of the map is then *bayedebalene* in the second; *Tres Irlac* in Detcheverry’s book is rendered *trro(a)is Isles* on his maps; cf. also *les Irlots* instead of *les Islots* on the Labrador coast); and secondly, the direct interference of the Basque phonological system. The port of *Renews* that for a long time had been recorded as *Rougnouse*, *Reneuse* and similar forms is represented by de Rotis as *vrugnus* and by Detcheverry as *vrui[?]nus/vrrunnus*. These forms of a name which had been present at least since the Portuguese map of Bartolomeo Lasso (c. 1588) show the stereotypical Basque phenomenon that an initial (and always doubled) /r/-sound has to be preceded by a vowel, hence *Urru(g)nus* instead of *Rougnouse*. So in this case there is no need to go back to a transfer of a place name from *Urrugne* (*Urruña*) between Ciboure and Hendaye on the French Basque shore, as Egaña (2000: 59) presumed (cf. del Valle 1892: 76 note 3).

On the other hand, in his 1677 Basque edition of the rutter of Martín de Hoyarçabal which contains two additional sections on the south and west coast of Newfoundland (cf. S. Barkham 1989: 7; M. Barkham 2003: 108) Detcheverry uses many more adapted or translated Basque names, perhaps because the book was compiled particularly for Basque mariners: *Ternua* instead of *lisle de Ternnufe* (1689 map), *Sen Pierretaco Irlac* ‘îles de Saint-Pierre’, *Santa Mariaco burua* ‘bout/cap de Sainte Marie’, *Placençaço buruat* ‘bout/cap de Plaisance’, *Sen Pierretaco vesteco burua* ‘bout/cap ouest de Saint-Pierre’ and so forth. But whereas in *Cadarrayco hegoaco burua* (‘South Cape Ray’), Basque *hegoalde* ‘south’ (in compounds *hego-*) was used, the example *Norteco burua* ‘North Cape’ (for *Cape Anguille*)⁷ contains Spanish *norte* instead of original Basque *ipar-* (in compounds contracted from *iparralde* ‘north’). Detcheverry possibly used the Germanic terms of the compass points in a Spanish shape (*est*, *vest*, *nordest*, *susudest*, *noroste*, *sueste* etc.) in his maritime instructions, but in his geographical nomenclature he combined them with the maritime Basque equivalents which coexisted with western and northern variants and were thus not universally used in the Basque sphere either.

Basque or Basquoid names are to be found also in diverse documents of the 17th and 18th century. For instance, a “Información juridical” of 1697 guarded in the *Colección de Documentos de Vargas Ponce* of the *Museo Naval* (Madrid) and a “Reglamento” on the use of Portucho of 1767, reveal that the major harbours of present-day Burin and St. Lawrence were divided into two port areas each, into *Buria Chumea* and *Buria Andia* in the first case and into *San Lorenç Chumea* and *San Lorenç Andia* in the second (Gelcich 1883: 278–279), today *Little Burin* ~ and *Great Burin Harbour*; *Little St. Lawrence* ~ and *Great St. Lawrence Harbour*. Finally, the names *Nouvelle Biscaye* for a region north of the St. Lawrence between Québec and the Saguenay (e.g.,

1666) and *Monts Pirénées* close to the mouth of this river also recall the presence of Basque settlements.

3. Commemoratives

A third group does not only comprise “Basque” names in the strict sense as many of them were not necessarily created by Basques; for instance, the tiny and relatively inaccessible *Basque Island(s)* two miles off the east coast of Cape Breton Island (cf. Bruemmer 1965) with the *Basque Shoal* one mile south, the *Cap aux Basques* on Miquelon and – recorded by Champlain – the *pot aux Basques* as well as another *ille aux Basques* close to this island, the *Pointe aux Basques* at the western entrance of *Anse à Ravenel* (south coast of St. Pierre), and of course [*Channel-*] *Port aux Basques* (formerly also *Port Basque*, *Port au Basque*) near the south western end of Newfoundland, named for a sheltering and watering place.⁸ Two other groups of geographical features in the St. Lawrence basin comprise, in the Baie de Sept-Îles, the *Récif du Basque* lying in mid-channel between *Île Grande Basque* and *Pointe-aux-Basques*, and in the confluence region of the Saguenay, the *Île aux Basques* (*I. au Basq[ue]* [Jefferys 1775], *Basque I[island]*) facing, with the *Récif aux Basques*, the mouth of the (Trois-)Pistoles River (cf. the modern name *Les Basques* of the “municipalité régionale de comté”), the *Anse aux Basques* (48°19'N 69°25'W), the *Montagne ~*, *Lac ~* and *Rivière du Basque* that flows into the *Anse de l'Échafaud du Basque* or *Anse du Chafaud aux Basques*⁹ near the *Île du Chafaud aux Basques* 1.4 miles north of *Cap du Basque* (called *Cap du Chafaut aux Basques* by Champlain) and finally the *Basque Road*. On a map showing the Mingan road by Bellin of 1755 a shoal ambiguously named *le Bonnet Basque* (otherwise *le Pain de Sucre*) extends southwest of the “*Isle de Tecayaoufkae* ou *Isle au Bouleau*” (*Île à/aux Bouleaux*).

Within this category there are also appellations formed by *portu* and a personal name, such as *echayreportu/p: dechaire* south of *ferrol* (Ferole/Férolle), after Joannes (Juan) de Echaide or Echaire, who discovered this port if not – according to an older tradition – the island of Newfoundland itself, and *Havre de Lizardie* (today *Lisardie*) on St. Pierre after Juanes de Liçaurdi who worked for Adam de Chibau from St. Jean-de-Luz between 1602 and 1611, who in turn was honoured, on the map of Denis de Rotis (1674), with an island of his name located close to the northwest coast of Newfoundland, apparently the later *I[sle] blanche*. Even in the name *Miquelon* the conservation of the *k*-Sound can be explained either as a Norman-Picard hypocoristic form of the personal name *Michael*, or as a Spanish-Basque derivation (*Mikel*), since Normans and Basques were the first settlers of the island. Recent historiography seems to favour the Basque theory, according to which Miquelon got its name “about 1579”, because it had been mentioned that year in the book of Hoyarçabal (in the forms *Micquetō* and *Micquelle*), but as a cartographic legend in its modern form it does not seem to appear before the maps of Detcheverry (cf. de la Roncière/Mollat du Jourdin 1984: 261).¹⁰

4. Name transfers

The fourth group seems to be even more problematic. These are names of places related to Basque cod-fishery, sealing and whaling, as, for instance *Ferolle/Férolle Island*, ~ *Point*; *Old ~ Harbour* and *Old ~ Island*; *New Ferolle/Férolle Cove*, *New ~ Peninsula*, *New ~ Point*, for [*El*] *Ferrol*, a Galician harbour with an important operational base for Basque mariners; *Placentia* (*Bay*, *Gut*, *Harbour*, *Junction*, *Road*, *Peninsula*, *Sound*) and maybe also *Cape Breton*.

Modern *Placentia* (*Plaisance*), as of 1660 the French capital of the island, could have been inspired by either of the two villages of *Plasencia* in the provinces of Santander and Guipúzcoa and particularly by the latter, *Plasencia de las Armas* (Egaña 2000: 58–59), but both are situated a considerable distance from the coast. A more suitable candidate seems to be the port of *Plentzia* (*Plencia*, *Plenzia*) northwest of Bilbao, formerly *Plasencia de Butrón*, also written *Plaisance*

(Hoyarçabal), *Plazencia* (Detcheverry) and *Valencia* (e.g., in the *Neptune François*). Well known for its important shipbuilding and commercial activities in the past; this port became more and more difficult for trade vessels in the 16th century because of a sand bank at its entrance and was thus abandoned (Egaña 2000: 57).

For *Cape Breton* and the homonymous island and cove there are at least three different explanations. As one of the oldest European names in Northern America, maybe even the first to have survived until today, it was explained as a reflection of the presence of Bretons in the first decade of the 16th century, who crossed the Atlantic on the more difficult Northern route leaving from les Sables d'Olonne approximately at parallel 46°30'N counting on favourable winds; they also served as pilots for trans-Atlantic cruises. This simple explanation was defended by Henry HARRISSE against a second possibility, a reference to Britons of the British Isles (Marcus Beneventanus: “atque Britannorum quos Anglos nunc dicimus”) and probably an allusion to the Cabot voyages and/or the Bristol expeditions between 1480 and 1504. Some convincing arguments that Britons instead of Bretons had been meant were made by Ganong (1930: 173; followed, for instance, by the *Encyclopaedia Canadiana* 2: 230–231). He reminded that *Bertois*, a form very close to the earliest known legend “terra q̄ foy des/cubierta por/bertōmes”¹¹, had been used for the harbour later called *The English Port* (1597)/*Port aux Anglois* (1607), now *Louisbourg (Harbour)*. In fact during the 17th and the 18th century the forms *Cape Briton* and [*Island*] *Briton* appeared on maps mainly of English production;¹² John Mason (c. 1616) used the form *C. Brittain*, Samuel Holland (1768) the variant [*Island of*] *Cape Britain. Britain* and *Brit(t)any* both developed from a choronym which was applicable, as *Bretaigne* or similar forms in the 15th and 16th century, to the countries on both sides of the English Channel. Some maps of the 1700s (as de Fer 1718) even seem to indicate that the appellation *New Bretaigne* (later *New Britain*) for Labrador preceded French *Nouvelle Bretagne* in cartography; it may then have been originally related to the British, not the Breton explorers, although these historically indistinct forms are not suitable for any proof.

According to a third theory *Cape Breton* was transferred from the Atlantic port town *Capbreton* (Département Landes) (cf. for instance Bond 1965: 71; LeHuenen 1984). It seems to be supported by the presence of *Gabarus Bay* and *Gabarus Point*¹³ near Louisbourg, a name possibly chosen for a Capbreton townsman of this surname (Bond 1965: 71), who named Cape Breton according to LeHuenen.¹⁴

In this theory it has often been neglected that *Capbreton* in Gascony is only a modification of an older *Capberton* which had evidently been formed by *Cap* ‘cape’ and a personal name *Berton* (cf. *TGF* III: 1677 No. 29369) and was recorded thus (also written *Capbertou*) still in 1541.¹⁵ A name transfer must definitely have taken place long before that date and would probably have then affected the original form. There are in fact a considerable number of early 17th century maps in which the variants *Berton*, *Perton* or *Bertan* instead of *Breton* are used in this connection – as well as with *Puerto* or *Port* on the southeast Labrador coast, even though in preceding maps the form *Breton* had been at the same places.¹⁶ Also Detcheverry had written *cap de Berton* in his Basque edition of the Hoyarçabal rutter, whereas in his map of 1689 he used modern *c: breton*. So this name variation may eventually be an argument in favour of a name transposition from the French Basque Country after all, also considering that Capbreton was a very important place of origin of Basque whalers and an important fishing port at least until 1579. The toponym could then have been altered by metathesis on either side of the Atlantic, apparently by influence of the ethnic *breton*, occ. *bretoun*.

Coming back now to the role of Basques and Bretons in early explorations, whereas the toponymy of the southern Labrador coastline between Belle Isle and the St. Paul River was based in earlier times almost exclusively on names imported from Brittany,¹⁷ maps of the 17th century reveal an interesting mixture of Breton, French and Basque. Even on the southern Newfoundland

coast there is, with *Penmarcq/Penmark* (*Pesmarcq* on Detcheverry and others), at least one transferred Breton name. Since the participation of Basques in the early Breton or Breton-Norman voyages as mentors or pilots is a historical fact,¹⁸ it cannot be ruled out that Basques were also involved in the name transfer of Breton toponyms in the 17th century. This may also mean that the rough chronological order of Selma Barkham (e.g., 1978: 14) and others needs to be revised in that Bretons and Basques did not necessarily explore the coasts in two independent groups separated by three decades. In the case of the *Mingan* Archipelago, where in 1972 a hoard of Spanish coins and remains of habitations indicated a Basque whaling base, among various etymologies¹⁹ also a Basque hypothesis had been offered at least one year before by René Bélanger.

5. *Baccalaos*

To conclude this paper, a name chosen for continental and/or insular parts of North America is very closely related to the fascinating history of the word *bacalao* ‘cod’. Used by Cantino in 1501, mentioned by Pietro Martire d’Anghiera in his *De orbe nouo Decades* (1516) and attributed to Sebastian Cabot during his 1508/1509 voyage, *Baccallaos* or *T(i)erra de Bacallaos* came to refer particularly to Newfoundland on maps of Spanish and Portuguese production. In cartography it was sometimes combined with the *Terra Nova* type until the beginning of the 17th century²⁰ and also applied to Eastern Labrador or – by Cornelis Wytfliet (1597) – even to both on the same map and finally – by Marc Lescarbot (1609: 238) as *Bacaillos* – also to Cape Breton Island, in which position it could be found until the mid-18th century (on the map *Carte d’une Partie de l’Amérique Septentrionale* [...] published by Schreuder and Mortier 1755). At the northern entrance of Conception Bay *Baccalieu Island* and *Baccalieu Tickle* have kept this appellation in several variants from the first Portuguese maps to the present; the original Portuguese form itself survived in two *Bacalhao Islands* on the east coasts of Newfoundland and Labrador respectively.

Although a direct Basque origin of the Spanish word *bacalao*, in spite of several unsuccessful attempts (ultimately by Egaña/Loewen 1995), could not satisfactorily be proved, its dispersion into Spanish and Portuguese is nevertheless related to the Basque cod fishery. *Bacalao*, which did not come into use before the first decade of the 1500s, must have denoted exclusively the Newfoundland cod in the beginning, as the chronology of Dutch *bakeljauw* besides the older *kabeljauw* (1163 *cabellauwus*) clearly shows. Curiously enough, the word is reported to have been retransmitted to European visitors by Acadian Mi’kmaq (Souriquois). The records of Marc Lescarbot and Pierre Briard have shown that a Basque-Mi’kmaq Pidgin had been in use between Europeans and North American natives in the early 1600s (Bakker 1989).²¹ However, the name may also have been given by the first Portuguese explorers or even long before, if we consider the still curious legend *Stocafixa* (*Storafixa/Scorafixa*) which appeared on the Andrea Bianco atlas of 1436 as “*stoc.fis.*” which in turn – even as a mere descriptive note – could well have been communicated by Basque explorers (Bolton 1935: 78).

It is interesting to observe that on several maps with basically French nomenclature, instead of the traditional <-ll-> or <-lh-> a third graphic variant <-ail(l)-> has been used, particularly when referring to Cape Breton Island and to *Baccalieu Island* (cf. *y de bacaille* [Wytfliet 1597]). This is the genuine Basque spelling of the palatal fricative which is still present in the modern standard word *bakailao*.

6. Conclusion

Theoretically, Newfoundland and the coasts of Labrador had been ascribed, by the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), neither to the Portuguese nor the French nor the English, but only to Spain. Maybe because the location of the Tordesillas meridian in the Northern hemisphere was uncertain

(instead of being drawn through Cape Farvel it ran either through Halifax or cut Newfoundland into two pieces on many maps) and maybe also due to a general lack of interest in the island, the Portuguese and English activities could develop unchallenged, and Basques seem to be the only people from the Spanish territory to take advantage of the Spanish privilege, although they were not the initiators of the great whaling enterprise in the 16th century, but only followed their compatriots of the other side of the Pyrenees, with whom mutual relations were not always very friendly (S. Barkham 1984: 518). After a short recovery of the Basque fishery after 1714, their activities ceased completely with the outbreak of the Seven Years' War.

The most stable name category seems to be the exogenous commemorative names, whereas of the genuine Basque appellations only a relatively small number survived, altered considerably by the French and English-speaking administration.

Notes

1. There are particular references of encounters between Bretons and Basques, e.g., by Jacques Cartier during his second voyage (1534/1535).
2. One year before it had been stated in the *Cuadernos de Cortes de Toro* that “la pesca [de la ballena] se hacía de tiempo inmemorial [...]” (Gelcich 1883: 253). There are at least several indications, e.g., on the map *Extrema Americæ Versus Boream, ubi Terra Nova. Nova Francia, Adjacentiaq[ue]* by Ioan[nes] Blaeu (various editions as from 1662) that fishermen were the first explorers of the North-American coasts when visiting the *Grand Banks*.
3. [Version 1:] “Faict A plesançe par pierre Detcheuerry dorre = pour Monsieur parat gouverneur de plesance & lisle de terreNeufe =1689=”; [Version 2:] “Faict A' plaiçance par Pierre detcheuerry dorre de S^t. Jan de luz pour mons.^r Parat gouverneur de plesançe et lisle de Terre-Neufe= =1689=” (Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Cartes et Plans, Ge S.H., Portefeuille 125, Div. 1, pièce 1–2). The first version of this map has been reproduced in Litalien/Palomino/Vaugeois 2007: 122–123, the second version in Roncière/Mollat du Jourdin 1984: plate 97.
4. At this position Coronelli's map of c. 1693 shows the legend “Lascot”.
5. On Samuel de Champlain's map of 1632, the legend *La grande baye* is attached to the opposite Labrador coastline. It is not impossible that Basque *bai*, older variant of *ibai* ‘river’, intervened in the etymology of French *baie*, Spanish *bahía*, which should be considered seriously at least in this particular case. The *Grand(e) Baye* gave its name to a big whale species (*granbayako baleak*).
6. On the same map (and partially also on some other subsequent British maps) in this bay *Little Berrysway* is followed in the western direction by *Great Berrysway*, *Cowlest Berrysway* and *Berrysway P[oin]t*. Today *Barasway Bay* (47°37'N 57°44'W) is entered between *Little Barasway Head* and *Barasway Point*, four miles west. *Big Barasway* is a large lagoon containing several islands (*Newfoundland and Labrador Pilot* 2006: 189). On modern maps (as of the *Newfoundland Topographical Series*) these names have been partially reverted to their French form as *Big ~* and *Little Barachois*.
7. The name *Codroy* for the valley, village and rivers in the vicinity of Cape Anguille is obviously a later amalgamation of *Cape (de) Ray(e)* in English, through the variant *C[ap] de Roy* via *Cod-Roy* or *Cod Ray* used by James Cook in maps and sailing directions. An influence by Basque *Cadarrai* cannot be ruled out here; it has also been presumed a Basque origin of the name of the cape itself (cf. del Valle 1892: 76 note 3): Basque *arrai(a)* denotes several fish species, as ‘trout’, ‘ray’, and – in a 15th century Gascon document – also ‘whale’. Examples of the type *Raye* had preceded those of the *Roy* type with *-o-*; but on the 1689 Coronelli map edited by Tillemon(t) there are, apart from the south western *C. de Raye*, two more on the Western shore, a *C. Roy* at the entrance of *Baye St. George* and a *C. du Roy* above *C. Pointu* in the *Grand Baye* area. There is at least a dualism of two similar appellations on the western coast on several maps.
8. Apparently the toponym has been moved westwards. According to the information given on some websites (e.g., <http://visitnewfoundland.ca/channelportauxbasques.html>) the name “was first shown near its

correct location [...]” in 1687, but it had appeared as early as 1661 (if not before) on the *Pas-caerte van Terra Nova* [...] by Gieles and Jan van Loon, although much further east close to present Burgeo.

9. Also *Baie Échaffaud du Basque* or simply *Baie Basque*; formerly (*l’Echaffaut aux Basques* (17th century) and *Scaffold Basque* (Jefferys 1775).

10. The variants present on these maps (*miqueloun/miquelon*) maybe followed the form *Miquellon* used only a year before (1688) in a letter of governor Parat.

11. *Kunstmann Atlas* IV (ca. 1514?–1520). The geographic reference was transferred to C[abo] *dos bretões* on the Reinel and Reinel/Miller maps (1516, 1520/1521). Also, the name (*do*) *breton* appeared for a small island south of Newfoundland.

12. Cf. the map of Atlantic Canada published at London in 1755 by Thomas Jefferys which uses the legend *Cape Britain* for the island (but not the cape). On the Cook/Larken map of 1767 a small insert map is entitled *Harbour Briton* instead of *Harbour Breton*.

13. 1631 *Gabor*, 1685 *Gabari*, ca. 1700 *Gabarose B.*; 1753 *Baye ~*, *Pointe de Gabarus*, 1795 *Gabarous Bay*.

14. *Gabarus* (or *Cabarus*) could be derived from gascon *cap arrous* ‘tête rousse’ (in personal names) or ‘cap roux’ (in geographical names) but it has been explained as going back to a pre-Roman geographical term (**gabarū* or **gabarrū*), documented as *gabarus* at the end of the 8th/beginning of the 9th century meaning ‘water course [running down the mountains in the Central and Western Pyrenees]’ (modern French *gave*).

15. The two alternative etymologies of the place-name given by LeHuenen (1984: 521), *Caput Bruti* ‘the head of Brutus, Cato’s nephew who was sent to Aquitaine by Julius Caesar after the battle of Parasala in 48 B.C.’, and *Caput Bretonnum* ‘cape of the Bretons’ are much less convincing.

16. Cf. 1585/1585 *Puerto (de) Breton*, 1610 (Plancius) *P. Bertan* (S. Barkham 1977: 6).

17. Some of these names, as for instance *Brest* and *Blanc-Sablon*, had already been in use before Cartier’s voyages (S. Barkham 1977: 8).

18. Basques had been present in the southern part of Brittany already from the 11th century on, when Bretons themselves did not yet take part in maritime ventures. During the 14th century Basques were invited by the Duke of Brittany to settle in Bourgneuf, les Sables d’Olonne and other places of the Vendée (Egaña/Loewen 1995: 236). Evidently there was also a close partnership between Bretons and Normans from various ports such as Honfleur, Dieppe, etc. Later in the 17th century many Basque whalers, instead of returning to their ports of origin, unloaded their cargo in Le Havre or Honfleur in order to have it sold to Rouen or Paris (cf. du Pasquier 1984: 533).

19. 1. Possibly related to the tribal name *mahi(n)gan*, *mahi(n)ganak* ‘Mahican’, deformation of the place-name *Muhheakunnuk* (according to the tribe traditions) and interpreted by the Algonquians as ‘louis des bois’ because of the resemblance to montagnais *maïkan*, *minkan* (Brasser 1978: 211; Gauthier Larouche 1981: 77); 2. Breton *maen gwenn* ‘pierre blanche’ (*Noms et lieux du Québec* 1996: 440) or *maen kamm* ‘pierre courbe’; 3. Basque *mihî*, *mingain* ‘langue’, p. ext. ‘flèche ou pointe de sable’ with reference to the coastal strip of Longue-Pointe (Gauthier Larouche 1981: 78–79; Couillard et al. 1983: 18).

20. Used from about 1504, *Terre Neuve/Terre Neufve* was generalized, in spite of its English origin and recent introduction, in the Dieppe school (as on the map of 1546 by Desceliers).

21. On 14 May 1602 Bartholomew Gosnold met, shortly after his arrival in the Cape Cod area, eight Indians in a “*Bafke fhallop with mast and faile* [...]” who signalled him that Basques from St. Jean-de-Luz had been fishing and trading in these waters before (cf. Bereton 1602: 4).

Illustrations

Figure 1. Eastern Part of the Detchevery map of 1689 (Version II) showing Newfoundland, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Cape Breton Island (from Roncière/Mollat du Jourdin 1984, plate 97). The green arrows indicate Basque geographical names.



Figure 2. Basque names on the maps of Denis de Rotis and Piarres Detcheverry.

DE ROTIS (1676)	DETCHEVERRY I (1689)	DETCHEVERRY II (1689)	Present
South/West			
<i>sascot :p</i>	<i>p: burie/bourie</i>	<i>p: bourie/bourie</i>	<i>Burin</i>
<i>p charru [?]</i>	<i>miqueloun</i>	<i>miquelon</i>	<i>Miquelon</i>
<i>opphor portu</i>	<i>barrachoa</i>	<i>barrachoa</i>	<i>Barachois B.</i>
	<i>sascot portu</i>	<i>sascot portu</i>	
	<i>ully çillho</i>	<i>uly çilho</i>	
	<i>ophorportu</i>	<i>ophorportu</i>	<i>Port au Port</i>
	<i>barrachoa</i>	<i>barrachoa</i>	
<i>bonne bay [?]</i>	<i>bayaederra</i>	<i>Ď: ederra</i>	<i>Bonne Bay</i>
<i>aingurac</i>	<i>aingurachar</i>	<i>anngurachar</i>	<i>Ingornachoix</i>
<i>portuchoa</i>	<i>portuchoa</i>	<i>portuchoa</i>	<i>Port au Choix</i>
	<i>p: amuix</i>	<i>amuix</i>	<i>Anchor Point</i>
	<i>echayreportu</i>	<i>p: dechaire</i>	
<i>ferrol</i>	<i>ferrol</i>	<i>ferrol</i>	<i>Ferolle, New Ferolle</i>
	<i>anton portu</i>	<i>anton portu</i>	
	<i>miariz</i>	<i>miariz</i>	
East			
<i>i. d. chibau</i>			
<i>baçaillau</i>	<i>i: de bacqallau</i>	<i>bacallau</i>	<i>Bacalieu I.</i>
<i>vrrugnus</i>	<i>vrrui[?]nus</i>	<i>vrrunnus</i>	<i>Renews</i>
Labrador			
<i>balene bay</i>	<i>baleabaya</i>	<i>bayedebalene</i>	
<i>babaculho</i>	<i>babachulho</i>	<i>babacholho</i>	
Cape Breton I.			
	<i>balea baya</i>	<i>Ď: debalene</i>	
	<i>angles portu</i>	<i>angesportu</i>	
	<i>barrachoa</i>	<i>barrachoa</i>	

References (including maps and charts)

- Bakker, Peter. 1989. "The Language of the Coast Tribes is Half Basque": A Basque-American Indian Pidgin in Use between Europeans and Native Americans in North America, ca. 1540–ca. 1640. *Anthropological Linguistics* 31, 3–4, 117–147.
- Barkham, Michael M. 2003. New Documents Concerning the French Basque Pilot, Martin de Hoyarsabal, Author of the First Detailed Rutter for the "New Found Land" (1579). *Newfoundland Studies* 19, 1, 103–131.
- Barkham, Selma Huxley. 1977. The Identification of Labrador Ports in Spanish 16th Century Documents. *The Canadian Cartographer* 14, 1–9.
- Barkham, Selma Huxley. 1984. The Basque Whaling Establishments in Labrador 1536–1632 – A Summary. *Arctic. Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America* 37, 4, 515–519.
- Barkham, Selma Huxley. 1989. *The Basque Coast of Newfoundland*. Written and researched [...] for the Great Northern Peninsula Development Corporation. [Plum Point.]
- [Bellin, Jacques Nicolas.] [1764.] *Idee de la Rade du Mingan Suivant le Journal de la Fregate du Roy La Diane en 1755*. [Paris] [c. 1: 25,000].
- Bereton, John. 1602. *A Briefe and true Relation of the Discoverie of the North part of Virginia; being a most pleasant, fruitfull and commodious foile: Made this present yeare 1602., by Captaine Bartholowmew Goshold, and diuers other gentlemen their affociats, by the permission of the honourable knight, Sir Walter Raleigh, &c.* [...] Londini, Impenfis Geor. Bifhop. Reprint Ann Arbor: University Microfilms 1966.
- Blaeu, Io[annes]. [1669.] *Extrema Americæ Versus Boream, ubi Terra Nova. Nova Francia, Adjacentiaq[ue]*. Amstelēdami [c. 1: 5,400,000].
- Bolton, Charles Knowles. 1935. *Terra Nova. The Northeast Coast of America before 1602. Annals of Vinland, Markland Estotiland, Drogeo Baccalaos and Norumbega*. Boston: F.W. Faxon Company (Useful Reference Series, No. 56).
- Bond, C[ourtney] C. J. 1965. The Mapping of Canada, 1497–1658. *Canadian Geographical Journal* 71, 68–77.
- Brasser, T. J. 1978. Mahican. In: Sturtevant, William C. (General ed.); Bruce G Trigger, (Volume ed.), *Handbook of North American Indians*. Volume 15. *Northeast*, 198–212. Washington: Smithsonian Institution.
- Bruemmer, Fred. 1965. The Grey Seals of Basque Island. *Canadian Geographical Journal* 71, 92–95.
- Carte d'une Partie de l'Amérique Septentrionale Pour servir à l'Intelligence du Mémoire sur les prétentions des Anglois au sujet des Limites à regler avec la France dans cette Partie du Monde*. 1755. Amstelod[ami]: J. Schreuder; P[ierre] Mortier Jun. [c. 1: 5,000,000].
- Cook, James [Designer]; J. Larken, [Engraver]. 1767. *A Chart of Part of the South Coast of Newfoundland including the Islands St. Peters and Miquelon with the Southern Entrance into the Gulph of S^t Laurence from actual Surveys Taken by Order of Commodore Pallisser [...]* Published [...] by I. Mount and T. Page [...] Tho[ma]s Jefferys [...] And[re]w Dury and Carrington Bowles [...] London [c. 1: 225,000].
- Coronelli [Vicenzo Maria]. 1689. *Partie orientale du Canada ou de la Nouvelle France, ou sont les Provinces, ou Pays de Sagvenay, Canada, Acadie etc. les Peuples, ou Nations des Etechemins, Iroquois, Attiquameches etc. Auec la Nouvelle Angleterre, la Nouvelle Ecosse, la Nouvelle Yorck, et la Virginie, les Isles de Terre Neuve, de Cap Breton etc. le Grand Banc etc. Drefsee sur les Memoires les plus Nouveaux [...]* Corrigée et augmentée Par le S^r Tillemon; et Dediée A Monsieur l'Abbé Bavdrand [...] Paris [c. 1: 7,000,000].
- Coronelli [Vicenzo Maria]. [c. 1693.] *Canada Orientale nell'America Settentrionale descrittta dal P. Mrō Coronelli M. C. Cosmografo della Seren[issima] Republica di Venetia dedicata Alli M^o Reuerendi Padri Li P.P. Minori Conuentuali del Monastero insigne di S. Francesco di Bologna*. Venetia [c. 1: 3,700,000].

- Couillard, Line, Pierre Grondin et collaborateurs. 1983. *Les îles Mingan des siècles à raconter*. [Québec:] Gouvernement du Québec.
- Detcheverry edo Dorre, Piarres. 1677. *Libvrvhauda [=Liburu hau da] Jxasoco Nabigacionecoa. Martin de Hoyarabalec egiña Francezes. Eta Piarres Detcheverry, edo Dorrec efcararat emana, Eta cerbait guehiago abançatuba*. Bayonan: Fauvet, Imprimerian Carmellëteco aldean.
- Detcheverry edo Dorre, Piarres. 1689a [untitled]. Faict A plesançe par pierre Detcheuerry dorre = pour Monsieur parat goueneur de plesance & lisle de terreNeufe.
- Detcheverry edo Dorre, Piarres. 1689b [untitled]. Faict A' plaïçance par Pierre detcheuerry dorre de S^l. Jan de luz pour mons.^r Parat gouverneur de plesançe et lisle de Terre-Neufe.
- Egaña Goya, Miren, et Brad Loewen. 1995. Dans le sillage des morutiers basques du Moyen Âge: une perspective sur l'origine et la diffusion du mot bacallao. In: Bourgoïn, Jean, et Jacqueline Carpine-Lancre (eds.), *L'aventure maritime, du golfe de Gascogne à Terre-Neuve*, 235–250. Paris: Éditions du CTHS (Colloques du CTHS 12).
- Egaña Goya, Miren. 2000. Los puertos vascos del Golfo de Bizkaia. Reutilización de sus nombres en las pesquerías del Atlántico Norte. S. XVI y XVII. *Oihenart* 18, 49–62.
- Fer, N[icolas] de. 1718. *La France occidentale dans l'Amerique septentrional ou le cours de la Riviere de S^t Laurens Aux Environs de la quelle se Trouvent le Canada, l'Acadie, et la Gaspasie Les Esquimaux, les Hurons, Les Iroquois, les Illinois & La Virginie, La Marie-Lande, la Pensilvanie, Le Nouveau Jersay, La Nouvelle Yorck, la Nouvelle Angleterre et l'Isle de Terre-Neuve [...]* Paris [c. 1: 4,600,000].
- Ganong, W. F. 1929–1930. *Crucial Maps in the early Cartography and Place-nomenclature of the Atlantic Coast of Canada*. I (Read May Meeting, 1929). *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada Section II, Series III*, Vol. XXIII, 135–175. II (Read by title at May Meeting, 1930). *Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada Section II, Series III*, Vol. XXIV, 135–187.
- Gauthier Larouche, Georges. 1981. *Origine et formation de la toponymie de l'archipel de Mingan*. Québec: Commission de toponymie (Études et recherches toponymiques, 1).
- Gelcich, Eugen. 1883. Der Fischfang der Gascogner und die Entdeckung von Neufundland. Nach den „Disquisitiones nauticas“ von Cesareo Fernandez Duro bearbeitet [...] *Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde zu Berlin* 18, 249–287.
- Harrisse, Henry. 1900. *Découverte et évolution cartographique de Terre-Neuve et des pays circonvoisins 1497–1504–1769. Essais de géographie historique et documentaire*. Paris: H. Welter, Éditeur; London: Henry Stevens Son & Stiles.
- Jefferys, Thomas [ed.]. 1755. *A New Map of Nova Scotia, and Cape Britain, with the adjacent parts of New England and Canada. Composed from a great number of actual Surveys; and other materials regulated by many new Astronomical Observations of the Longitude as well as Latitude; with an Explanation*. [London] [ca. 1: 2,000,000].
- Jefferys, Tho[ma]s. 1775. *An Exact Chart of the River S^t Laurence, from Fort Frontenac to the Island of Anticosti, showing the Soundings, Rocks, Shoals &c. with Views of Lands and all necessary Instructions for navigating that River to Quebec*. [...] London: Rob[er]t Sayer [c. 1: 600,000].
- LeHuenen, Joseph. 1984. The Role of the Basque, Breton and Norman Cod Fishermen in the Discovery of North America from the XVIth to the End of the XVIIIth Century. *Arctic Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America* 37, 4, 520–527.
- Lescarbot, Marc, Jan Swelinck [Designers]; Jean Millot [Engraver]. 1609. *Figvre de la Terre Nevve, Grande Riviere de Canada, et Côtes de l'Ocean en la Novvelle France*. In: Lescarbot, Marc, *Histoire de la Novvelle-France* [...], between page 480 and page 481.
- Lescarbot, Marc. 1609. Histoire de la Novvelle-France Contenant les navigations, découvertes, & habitations faites par les François és Indes Occidentales & Nouvelle-France souz l'avœu & autorité de noz Roys Tres-Christiens, & les diversës fortunes d'iceux en l'execution de ses chofes, depuis cent ans jusques à hui. En quoy est comprife l'Hiistoire Morale, Naturele, & Geographique de ladite province [...]. A Paris Chez Jean Milot.

- Litalien, Raymonde, Jean-François Palomino, et Denis Vaugeois. 2007. *La mesure d'un continent. Atlas historique de l'Amérique du Nord 1492–1814*. Ouvrage préparé en collaboration avec Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. Sillery (Québec): Les Éditions du Septentrion. Paris: Presses de l'Université Paris-Sorbonne.
- Loon, Iohannes van, and Gieles van Loon. 1661. *Pas-caerte van Terra Nova, Nova Francia, Nieuw Engeland en de grote Rivier van Canada*. In: Joannes van Loon (ed.), *Klaer Lichtende Noort-Ster Ofte Zee Atlas; Waer in vertoont wordt De gelegenheydt van alle Zee-kusten des geheelen Aerdtbodems*. Amsterdam: Ioannes van Loon/Gillis van Loon 1661. [No.] 34.
- Moll, Herman. [1732.] *A New and Exact Map of the Dominions of the King of Great Britain on y^e Continent of North America. Containing Newfoundland, New Scotland, New England, New York, New Jersey, Pensylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Carolina. According to the Newest and most Exact Observations [...]*. [London]: Tho[mas] Bowles, John Bowles, I[ohn] King].
- Commission de toponymie du Québec (ed.). 1994. *Noms et lieux du Québec. Dictionnaire illustré [...]*. Sainte-Foy, Québec: Les Publications du Québec.
- du Pasquier, J. Thierry. 1984. The Whalers of Honfleur in the Seventeenth Century. *Arctic. Journal of the Arctic Institute of North America* 37, 4, 533–588.
- Roncière, Monique de La, Michel Mollat du Jourdin, et al. 1984. *Portulane. Seekarten vom 13. bis zum 17. Jahrhundert*. München: Hirmer Verlag.
- Rotis, Denis de. 1674 [untitled]. *Faict a saint Jea[n] deluz par moy Denis de Rotis*.
- Rowe, Frederick W. 1980. *A History of Newfoundland and Labrador*. Toronto; Montreal etc.: McGraw-Hill Ryerson.
- TGF = Nègre, Ernest. 1990–1991. *Toponymie générale de la France*. I–III. Genève: Librairie Droz (Publications romanes et françaises CXCI–CXCV).
- Trésor de la langue française. Dictionnaire de la langue du XIX^e et du XX^e siècle (1789–1960)* [1–7:] publié sous la direction de Paul Imbs. 1971–1994. 1–10. Paris: Éditions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. 11–16. Paris: Gallimard.
- The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (ed.). 2006a. *Newfoundland and Labrador Pilot. Coasts of Newfoundland including Île Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, Strait of Belle Isle and Coast of Labrador to Cape Kakkiviak*. Twelfth edition. [London] (Admiralty Sailing Direction NP 50).
- The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (ed.). 2006b. *St Lawrence Pilot. Gulf and River of St. Lawrence, east coast of Cape Breton Island, Cabot Strait and Strait of Canso*. Fifteenth edition. [London] (Admiralty Sailing Direction NP 65).
- Del Valle, Manuel María. 1892. *Precedentes del descubrimiento de América en la Edad Media. Conferencia[...] pronunciada el día 11 de Marzo de 1891*. Madrid: Establecimiento Tipográfico «Sucesores de Rivadeneyra» (Ateneo de Madrid).
- Visscher, Nicolas. [c. 1700.] *Carte nouvelle contenant la Partie d'Amérique la plus septentrionale, ou sont exactement décrites les Provinces suivantes Comme le Canada ou Nouvelle France, la Nouvelle Ecosse, la Nouvelle Angleterre, les Nouveaux Pais Bas, la Pensylvanie, la Virginie, la Caroline et l'Île de Terre Neuve avec les profondeurs le long des côtes et sur les bancs*. [Amsteldami:] Petrus Schenck Junior [c. 1: 5,000,000].
- Wytfliet, Cornelis. 1597. *Nova Francia et Canada* [ca. 1: 9,000,000]. In: *Descriptionis Ptolemaicæ Avgmentvm, siue Occidentis Notitia Breui commentario illustrata, Lovanii Typis Iohannis Bogardi*. Tabula No. 18.

Christian Weyers
 Technische Universität Dresden
 Geinitzstraße 5 C
 D-01217 Dresden
 GERMANY
 ch.weyers@gmx.net