

possible task. There are so many of them –most of them being the names of houses– that the Basque Country is one of the places with more surnames in the whole world. Moreover, apart from those we can find here among the inhabitants of the Basque Country, we have to consider those which have disappeared here but are still alive in places like Madrid, Valencia or South America. And to cap it all, Basque spelling also varies, and especially in Iparralde. That is why the surnames of that area have not been included in the Nomenclature for “the differences the French language has between spelling and pronunciation are such that the names have been considerably altered and it is very difficult to determine the primitive form”, as the directors of the publication explain. For example Iza-girre can appear in ten different forms, with one “s”, with two, with a final “e”, without it, etc.

Although in most cases the Nomenclature only substitutes “v” by “b” and “ch” by “tx”, there are some surprises in the list. For example the correct spelling of Arzalluz is **Arzallus**, and that of Sarasola is **Saratsola**. In general the final “z” of the Spanish spelling becomes in most cases, although not always, “tz”. Abaiturrioz, for example, is written correctly in Basque **Abaiturriotz**, and Irioiz is **Irigoitz**. “C” becomes “k” and “ch” becomes “tz”. So Calparsoro is Kalparsoro and Arichaga is **Aritzaga**. But the fricative **ts** and **tz** have not been the only problematic ones, the Spanish **j** has also brought about many doubts. Under this letter sometimes an **x** can be found, but sometimes there is a **iota**. So, in the case of Múgica Euskaltzaindia has chosen **Muxica**, the name it comes from, and the correct spelling of the surname Gogenola will be **Goienola**. ■

All those interested in the Nomenclature and wishing to receive one issue can request it in the Press Office of the Justice, Economy, Work and Social Security Department of the Basque Government. Duke de Wellington 2 Lakua 01010 Vitoria-Gasteiz, FAX: 945 189109 and telephone: 945 18 80 00. All Basque Centers will shortly receive an issue.

THE BASQUE DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE CAN ALREADY BE CONSULTED IN INTERNET

Badator is here

From now on it will be easier for everybody to learn about the habits of the Basques in the Middle Ages, or to discover how the slave auctions took place in Euskadi during the 17th century. The Badator program, launched a short while ago by the Culture Department of the Basque Government, provides the opportunity to consult through Internet the Basque documentary heritage.

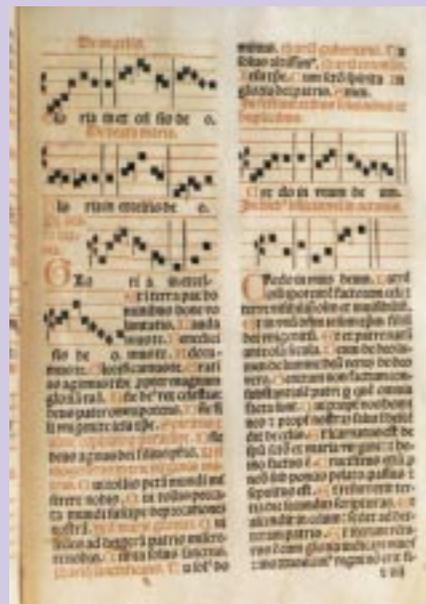
At present the users of the net will only have to type the address www.irargi.org to have access to 46 files from in and out of the Basque Autonomous community, containing lots of documents about Euskal Herria since the year 1164, the date of the first documents, to the present.

For the moment the service offers about 115,000 descriptions corresponding to as many documents, amounting to about 15 million pages. With a pleasant and easy finding system the users of the net will be able to choose Euskera, Spanish, English and French to obtain free information on any matter.

The organizers of this new database expect the number of descriptions to reach 300,000. In their opinion in five years time more than 90% of the Basque documentary heritage will be accessible for any citizen. Gradually all the Town Councils files, the foral files, the church files and even those belonging to particular families will be introduced in the net.

12 YEARS OF WORK

12 years of hard work have been necessary to launch this service, which is a pioneer in its gender, for it is the first one of this description in Europe. The Center of Documentary Heritage



of Euskadi-Irargi, located in the Rekalde Palace of Bergara, has been in charge of this job. But this is only the beginning. The organizers of the new service plan to create a net with several European countries in order to bring to Irargi all the information about the Basques existing in the files of Bruges, Antwerp, Louvain, Paris and London, among other places.

For some months Badator will function experimentally, therefore the users will have the chance to give their suggestions and preferences in order to improve the service. ■