

Re: History of French

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2004-08/3545.html>

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Date: 08/27/04

Date: Fri, 27 Aug 2004 08:02:38 -0400

Miguel Carrasquer wrote in message ...

>On Fri, 27 Aug 2004 14:35:14 -0700, Jacques Guy

><jguy@alphalink.com.au> wrote:

>

>>Harlan Messinger wrote:

>>

>>> Isn't that begging the question? If the French had used the *passé*

>>> simple for the more recent past

>>

>>Well, we never did. We used, and still use, the *passé composé*

>>for the recent past, rather, the past that still echoes

>>in the present. Since the past of daily conversation is

>>usually a recent past...

>>

>>I'll try telling my wife, out of the blue "Jules a

>>franchi le Rubicon" when she comes home. I'm sure

>>she'll contemplate buying me long-sleeved pajamas

>>for Father's Day.

>

>And she wouldn't were you to say, out of the blue, "Jules

>francha le Rubicon"?

Yes, but not "Jules franchit le Rubicon"? ;~)

But are contemporary Gauls on a first-name basis with their conquerors? Perhaps indeed, considering how they refer to Buonaparte. I pass over more embarrassing examples. ;~)

Fr. O'Malley