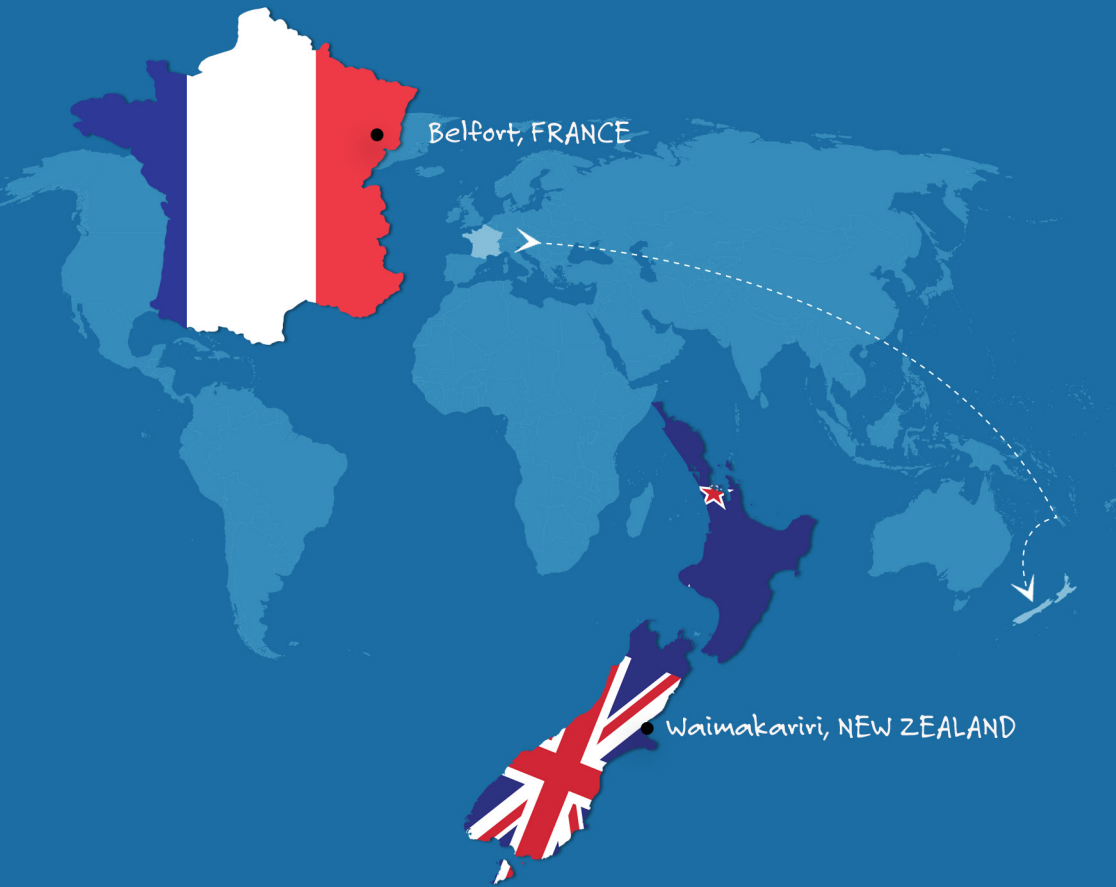


# PACKING for a new life



## **Migrant Suitcase** **Stéphane Pannoux**

France to Nouméa, New Caledonia  
year 1994, to New Zealand,  
year 2009

## The Story

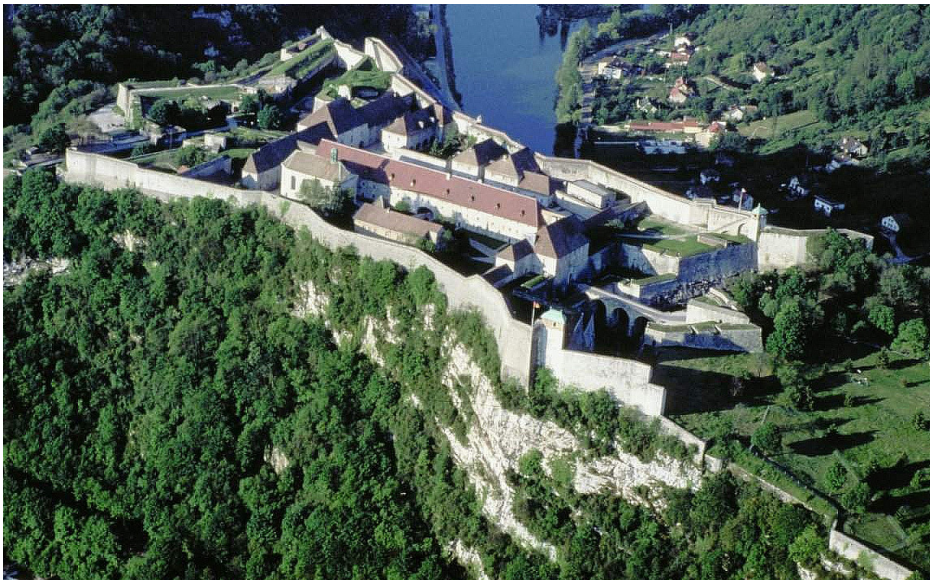
This suitcase was filled as time goes by with things that I miss, which captures for me the French culture of which I am proud. I am not really a migrant. I have just chosen to work and live in foreign countries. I was born in a craftsman family. My ancestors, stained glass or tailor masters, have moved to work from town to town, from Italy, Switzerland, Savoie and Bourgogne to Belfort. In my time I have taught in Greece, Madagascar, Besançon before landing in South Pacific in New Caledonia and then in Aotearoa.



Saint-Christophe catholic church ,Belfort



Sur la route de Tiendanite



Citadelle Besançon

## Food

I am missing some French food, especially cheese, wines, bread and cooked meat like Foie gras. I like to cook specially marmalades, may be because I like to stir with a wooden spoon the fruits and the sugar boiling in a big pot.

## Way of life

What I miss the most is the French way to spend time with friends; invite or be invited by relatives to share a simple meal at home sitting around a table; take a cup of coffee playing cards during a rainy afternoon.

**The French fashion and luxury brands** represent an important industry and cultural export. I enjoy wearing colourful clothes especially after 10 years living with Kanak people who wear clothes made in colourful cotton.



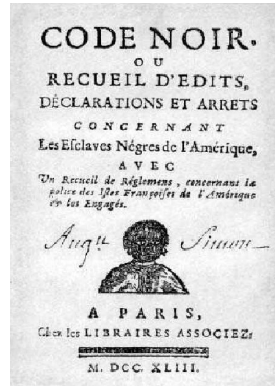
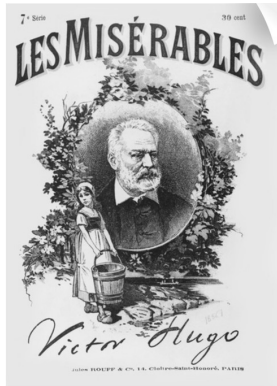




## Philosophic items

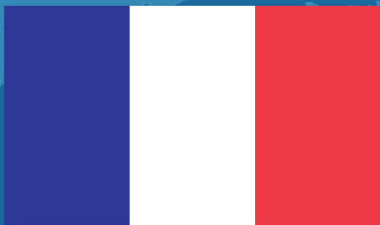
The Declaration of the Right of Man and the Citizen, the “Code Noir” (Black Code) or the “Code de l’indigénat” (Code of the indiginate) that defined the conditions of the slaves or of the natives in the French colonial empire, are representative of the philosophies and political debates in the French society. France is the country of revolutions and manifestations, from the French Revolution to the Gilets Jaunes movement.





**“The Miserables”** is a book written by a French author Victor Hugo. Reading in French is for me a real pleasure. I miss going to the theatre even to see a classical play that I learned at school as “The Learned Ladies” of Molière.

**France is a multicultural country** where people don’t forget their roots and culture and adopt the French way of life. The French society is very proud of their celebrities, sons or daughters of (im)migrants. The most known is the soccer player Zinedine Zidane.



The flag Since 1794, the French flag has 3 vertical bands coloured in blue, white, and red. White represents France, blue and red the town of Paris.

**The French motto is:** Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.



## Country and its history

**The French Republic** is a country whose territory consists of metropolitan France in Western Europe and several overseas regions and territories which include French Guiana in South America and several islands in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans like New Caledonia. The country's 18 integral regions (5 of which are overseas) span a combined area of 643,801 Km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of 67.3 million. Paris is the capital.

France has historically been and is a large producer of agricultural products and is the 1st touristic destination in the world with 90 million tourists per year. France is an immigration land. The oldest traces of human life known in France date from 1.8 million years ago. In its ancient history, Greek sailors, Romans from Italy, Franks and Wikins from the North, Huns from Hungary and Arabs from Spain came. In the Middle Age, French King Charlemagne who was in control of Europe and France sent a Norman as King of England. The French colonial history starts with the navigators in the XVI and is built in the end of the XIX when France became the 2nd colonial power in the world after Great Britain.

The French industries since the XIX century brought workers from China, Vietnam, Algéria, Senegal, Mali, Yugoslavia, Turkey, there descents are all French citizens today.

**France is a country of controversy:** French Revolution invents the Declaration of the Right of Man and the Citizen, but build a colonial Empire in which the natives had not the same right and abolish slavery.

***This Suitcase exhibit is prepared by Stéphane Pannoux***



Belfort, France



Paris, France





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