

GREEN'ING in the South of France

Natural colours and spring waters

As we mentioned in our previous newsletter, **GREEN'ING has moved to the South of France at the end of 2017**. After these first months in our new home, does appear the outlines of a path within the history of natural dyes, of which we would like to bring you the first highlights.

At the beginning, we wanted most of all to move back to the place where we were born and to landscapes that we appreciate so much. We were interested in the countryside north from the Mediterranean Sea but we also wanted to preserve the quality of service of GREEN'ING, our reactivity, logistics, our travels...



Looking for a new place to live and work, we settled in the small city of **Bédarieux** (a city of the Regional **Natural Park of Haut-Languedoc**), in the tiny village named "Hameau des Douze". This name comes from "dotz" (= spring water in the local language Occitan) since this village is crossed by the stream of Courbezou. This stream along our property, the nice music of flowing water, the bridge of stones, a beautiful surrounding landscapes and direct access to main roads are among the criteria for our choice for this place.



The Courbezou stream and the bridge of hameau des Douze, seen from GREEN'ING.

Our new home is located just by this old tiny village.

In **Bédarieux**, we knew that we were coming back to an area with a **rich past in textile** and in a valley formerly part of the **network of Royal Manufactures of Languedoc** (5 former royal manufactures are located in the current department of Hérault). Villeneuve, the closest of these manufactures, and one of the most important, is only 20 km far from Bédarieux.

Driven by the natural curiosity of researcher, our interest for the ancient heritage and know-hows, we wanted to learn more on our new living place, that we were presuming of high value. At the local bookshop the new book – and well documented – Bedarieux l'industrielle, provided us essential facts, as links with our activity.

While reading, we learned that in 1677, by the time where Villeneuve got the title of Royal Manufacture, Bédarieux hosted 41 companies producing or selling sheets, and several [natural] dyehouses. Fulling mills, established around the city, were working on sheets.

The **mill of Bouquier** was operating **in the Hameau des Douze**, a few steps from our current studio. Over the times, this company has been a wheat mill, then a fulling and sheets working factory.

We learn then that **a dyehouse was established in 1819 in the Hameau des Douze, and was using the water from the Courbezou stream.**

Today, this stream, mainly coming from the spring water of Douze, is used for the water supply of our city and the overflow crosses our property and provides water to our studio (and garden).

1819-2018 : What an emotion to reconnect with natural dyeing at Les Douze and **use the same water, almost 200 years later.** Emotion, but also motivation to rely on the past as a base for innovation, pursuing the renewal and development of natural dyes of the XXIst Century.

Coming back to our native area, we were sure to come back to the heart of history of natural dyes. Chance [or maybe not] brings us even closer!

By putting a foot in this history, we want to learn more and we will give you new elements that we could obtain in the coming newsletters.

We will also share with you some historical data of our area, some lowly known, related to the natural colours that make our eye shining.

BEDARIEUX, a living environment and preserved conditions

Here are some of the features, among others, that we want to highlight and that meet our values and commitments.

The group of municipalities Grand Orb (about 22 000 inhabitants) and the city of Bédarieux (about 6 500 inhabitants) are part of the **Regional Natural Park of Haut-Languedoc**.

Conscious of enjoying a privileged environment and geographical location, we find there a strong community aware of Environment and communities committed to sustainable development:

- The whole needs of electrical power of the territory is covered by photovoltaic plants (rehabilitation of landfills or old mines), wind or hydroelectric power;
- The city of Bédarieux has maintained a municipal service for water management and uses local spring waters (including the one of Les Douze)...