



VIDE-GRENIERS by Sue Burgess

A «*vide-greniers*» is a car boot sale. It is a popular event during which private individuals «*particuliers*» display things that they don't need any more or which are superfluous «*superflu*» and sell them to visitors. The vendors «*vendeurs*» are often called «*exposants*». Different objects are proposed «*vêtements*» (clothes), «*livres*» (books), «*vaisselle*» (crockery), «*jouets*» (toys), «*disques*» (records), «*meubles*» (pieces of furniture).

You can also find :

- «*vide-armoire*» or «*vide-dressing*» a sale of clothes and clothing accessories.
- «*vide-maison*» because it is held in a garage or a garden of a private house and not on a public highway or square. A «*vide-maison*» must be declared at the town hall «*Mairie*».
- «*vide-poussette*» for children's clothes and baby things.
- «*Vide-greniers*» are different from «*brocantes*» because the latter are essentially stalls held by professionals.
- There is a similar phenomena on internet which is commonly called a «*vide-dressing*». This is a site or platform where people can sell mainly clothing and accessories.

In France the name «*vide-greniers*» comes from the fact that the sellers are supposed to sell things taken out of their attic «*grenier*». In Quebec you can find «*ventes de garage*» from the American garage sales.

A «*marché aux puces*» (flea market) is an open air market which does not sell food stuffs. It is often held weekly. Like in Saint Ouen near Paris, it is often called "Les Puces". «*Les marché aux puces*» are often frequented by collectors «*des collectionneurs*» and the objects are often very old and are worth more. Some flea markets are therefore closer to «*les marchés aux antiquités*» (antique markets) and sell things which are over a hundred years old and of higher value.

VOCABULARY / VOCABULAIRE:

braderie	jumble sale, clearance sale
foire aux puces	flea market
foire à tout.....	hotchpotch
bric-à-brac	white elephant
troc.....	exchange
chiner.....	to bargain hunt
un chineur.....	a bargain hunter
un collectionneur	collector
une bourse d'échange.....	exchange
faire du troc.....	to barter
marchander.....	to drive a bargain
faire une affaire.....	get a great deal/a bargain
faire baisser le prix.....	beat down the price
Quel est votre dernier prix?.....	What's your best price?
Quelle est votre meilleure offre?..	What's your best offer?

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