

## FLAX IN FIELDS AND GARDENS

### FLAX IN GARDENS (5th part)

*'LINUM GRANDIFLORUM'*

#### A LITTLE STORY

Joël Raguénès - Regionalist novelist from Brittany: "And the land became ... a sea of blue flax". This book recounts an epic surrounding flax and hemp, two plants which, in the middle of the 17th century, made Brittany the foremost textile region of Europe. It is also a romance of love and adventures, a dazzling fresco of the life of a Breton family.



Extract: "Look Jan, look at those blue flowers. These are blue flax flowers. God gives them to us once a year, to teach us about beauty and how ephemeral it is. Tomorrow, after a dazzling day, they will disappear and the flower will lose its spring finery, leaving us its useful parts. ... "

#### DISCOVERING FLAX

Thanks to unique soil, expertise and climate, flax planted in the Seine-Maritime produces a fibre of high quality which is highly sought after. Flax cooperatives can be found throughout the *Pays de Caux* of the Seine-Maritime, but pretty shops and workshops also abound. A visit to the *Écomusée Tradition du Lin* museum will open your eyes to flax and its multiple uses.

A tip at the end: plan a stay in the Seine-Maritime in the month of June, to contemplate fields covered with a bright blue carpet against the magnificent backdrop of the Alabaster Coast...

*End*