

Monday, March 1, 2010

Today Ernie and I ran around town doing errands. We ended up walking our little tootsies into the ground unexpectedly. At least it was a nice day, sunny and warm - about 40-50 degrees F.

We passed a little park and I decided to shoot a photo of the crocuses that are breaking through. They are pale blue and a bright yellow.



I know that winter isn't over completely, but spring is on its way. I was afraid we would miss spring but it seems we won't. We are scheduled to leave in the middle of April so maybe we will experience a little bit of the legendary "April in Paris."

While we were in Switzerland, we purchased a lovely poster and our friend Therese Chevalley gave us an original watercolor. Therese took up watercolor after she retired and is very prolific. She asked us to select one of the pieces hanging in the bedroom we used. While in Lausanne we were able to find poster mountings so Ernie is busy hanging bright colored items on the walls. Our bare walls have been a sore point about the apartment but his efforts are improving it.

He also hung the invitation to the Palmes Academiques reception at the Grand Salle of the Sorbonne, and, of course, the Diplôme (pretty certificate on heavy white paper) he was given for being a 50-year member of the Swiss Alpine Club on February 24.

One of today's errands was to stop at a ticket seller (FNAC) to buy tickets to various musical events during March. We wanted to get tickets to events at the various venues to experience them as much as to hear the music. So much of our experience of Paris has been enjoying the wonderful buildings and grand architecture everywhere. One of the concerts is at the Opera Bastille, but the tickets were far too

expensive. Yes, “The Bastille” has been converted into an Opera house. The young woman at FNAC advised us to go to the box office at the Opera Bastille to see if there were any available in the cheaper seats. Their ticket agency only gets the higher priced tickets. We might go there and see. The concert being performed there is Wagner.

After the visit to FNAC located on rue Rennes near the Montparnasse Train station, I took a picture of a contraption that is essentially an elevator on the back of a truck that parks in front of an apartment building. The elevator looks like a tall ladder with a flatbed lift on it. There is someone at the top unloading and someone at the bottom loading the furniture parts onto the flatbed and wrapping it carefully with blankets and stacking more pieces on top. It pretty rapidly lifts furniture into an apartment through the double windows. The elevator in our building has room for 3 small people, at the most, and the stairway is narrow and spiral. So the furnishings have to be lifted through the window. Amazing.

