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The Agricultural Exposition - March 28

I took us to the Porte de La Villette because there is a grand hall there left over from when it was the slaughterhouse for Paris. I was wrong; it turned out to be at the Porte de Versailles. Ernie was a good sport and we changed directions and went there. There is a huge exposition center there with several buildings that accommodate displays from all over France.

I was amazed at the size of the exposition halls. Here is a picture of the arena in the livestock hall. The youth in the middle are doing a dance with flags and the two on bareback and prancing around them to recorded music.



The horses are coming toward us in this part of the show. In this next photo you can see the monitors above the arena.



Here are signs to the right of the arena. The signs are identifying the area where the mules and asses are on display. In the far corner it says “Chats” which means cats. We missed that area but as you can see, it wasn’t easy to move from one place to another.



I think these two photos give you an idea of the size of the place and the amount of audience. The Expo was held during a school break so there were lots of children with their families. I got the definite

impression that the Expo was partly to market the future of farming to young people. Someone has to grow the wheat for all those baguettes and make the cheese and cured meats for the first course.

Since I enjoy draft horses, we went to that area next. The signs said that they are used for plowing fields and in the vineyards. There were stalls after stalls of horses from Normandy, Auvergne, Provence, and all over France.

As we walked around every once in a while there were shouts warning us to stay out of the way. They were moving livestock from a pen to the arena or back. We came across this big guy who has ribbons all over him. When he moved, his muscles rippled. What a specimen! He was huge!



As at the Draft Horse Classic held at the Nevada County Fairgrounds, the animals were being groomed for presentation.

I watched as a young woman shaved one layer of brown hair off the horse. The undercoat was white. That's how she got this effect. Also, notice the braiding of the mane.



And more plow horses. These are from Bourgogne. (Burgandy)

We stopped at another arena where a man was talking about a goat who was on a platform. There was a herd of goats running around the arena entertaining the children and adults as the announcer kept talking for quite a long time. I could pick up a few words here and there and finally realized he was talking about the goat's udder. He went on and on very eloquently talking about how wonderfully her teats were shaped and how much milk she could give every day. Apparently, she had been genetically

engineered to make her more easily milked. The shape of the teats fit a human hand better making it easier to milk her. Later, in the cheese shops I saw how much cheese is made from goats and got a better appreciation for the importance of the shape of those teats.

In the mean time, the billy goat was wandering around pushing around the nanny goats. Some of the nanny goats didn't let him bully them. It was quite a show and we must have been entertained for 20 minutes by the goats while the announcer continued to talk about the poor goat on display. From her extended udder, it was high time someone milked her.



We couldn't get near the chicks the crowd was so thick. Also the rabbits were impossible to see.

But I did get to see some of the chickens. Here are two pictures of some very handsome chickens and a rooster.



There were lots of pigs too. This didn't come out too well because of the light but it is possible to make out that there are lots of piglets sleeping peacefully.

