

## Thursday Jan 26

We wakened about 9:30 and had to hurry to get ready to meet Mme. Villedieux. We walked to the Réamur-Sébastopol station and got to the Opéra station in time for our appointment at 10:55. It was an exciting trip and we arrived a little breathless.

Outside, the sky was dramatic with dark clouds but sun shining brightly in many places. The way it caught the gilded figures on top of the Opera Garnier was a photo op.



We were instructed to go upstairs to her area and she came out and took us to the cashier. The cashier then directed her to a man with white hair at the entry. He is in charge of the cash. He had been alerted and was ready for us. He showed us into a locked room where we sat while he made out a check and had Ernie sign it and initial it. Then we went into another locked room and came out with the cash we had requested. He counted it and then had Ernie count it. Then he wrote out a receipt, which Ernie signed and that was that. He pointed Ernie to an envelope and suggested he put the cash into one.

It was an interesting process.

Then we returned to the Opéra Metro station and took it to Europe station to go back to Alienor. The young lady waited on us and gave me a packet of rosin to go with my rented cello. Then back to Opéra where we stopped and looked for the shop selling foulards. We couldn't find it after walking from one shop to another. I finally stopped and asked one of the shop keepers to point to our right. We walked back where we had just come from and there was the shop! He had been closed up and the shop keeper had just opened it. It was after noon. When those garage doors are down, there is no name or indication of the hours of the shop hidden behind it. I sorted through and found a scarf of the color I wanted and Ernie picked out a new tie.

We went home and on the way stopped at the bakery on Montmorency to pick up a baguette and a loaf of pain de campagne.

I went out the Post Office to buy an envelope to send Pamela the gift I got her for her birthday. The greeter helped me select the proper envelope to go overseas. I also mailed a request for an orthopedic pillow to be sent to me here in Paris. I called Mme. Fresnel for an appointment next Wednesday Feb 1 for an acupuncture treatment. I'll go ahead and pay for 3 to insure I avoid another sinus infection. Little by little I am taking care of my tasks. Next I need to call the Pilates studio to start my individual sessions and maybe find a mat class I can participate in.

Gerald came over to bring us champagne flutes. He was only able to find 5 and we have 5 for a total of 10. He will rummage around and find some more since we are currently expecting about 14 people.

Once home, we had trouble with our internet connection and struggled with that until dinner time. After dinner Ernie called Numericable and finally got through their voice mail menu and talked to a technician. He wanted us to open the router and he would walk us through a "repair" process. Neither of us was able to understand the technician's rapid fire French. He said it was important to have someone fluent in French who he could talk through the procedure to fix the router. We hung up and decided to call Gerald in the morning and ask for his help.

For dinner we ate some dried ham slices with bread as a starter then the left over pasta that I warmed on the stove. As a side I opened a can of marinated artichoke hearts and chopped up the rest of the red pepper. We had a salad of mixed greens plus water cress. It was a nice dinner. We discussed Sally's time table for coming to visit us in Paris and to see Rome, all in 7 days.

It was 9:30 when we finished so we sat down and watched the second DVD. This time we started it up with no problem. It was an Italian movie with French subtitles. We have learned how to use the DVD player.

### **Friday, Jan 27**

We were up a little earlier than yesterday. I set the clock for 8 a.m. but didn't get up until 8:30. Ernie was already up. The Internet was working initially so we each were able to load the messages from overnight (daytime in the US.) I had a message from Barbara Rivenes and I took some time to answer her.

Then I went on line to get prices for plane fare Paris to Rome and time tables for the TGV. I learned it is a 2-hour flight to Rome (plus travel time to and from the airport and time at the airport for a total of 4 hours each way.) The TGV takes 10 hours with stops in Milan. The regular train takes 20 hours.

I wrote to Sally and suggested she either extend her trip to 10 days or plan to only stay in one city. She will spend a day of her 7 traveling and 3 days is really hard to do justice to Paris, and I imagine Rome, too. I told her I will be accompanying her alone. I'll call her when I return from the evening with Barbara.

I am to meet Barbara at 5:30 p.m. at the Louvre standing in line for free tickets. She has invited me to a conference she is attending, which is on the development of the theater in Paris. The lecture last week was on the theater before the revolution. The one tonight covers the period after the revolution. I think it is at 7 p.m. so I should be home about 9:30 or 10. So I'll plan to leave the house about 4:45 to get to rue de Rivoli and find her in the queue.

Fortunately, I had already looked on line at Paris to Rome connections because the Internet went down again this afternoon. Ernie called Gerald and asked him to help. Gerald called Numericable and learned that they are having lots of different problems and are working on them. It is not our modem causing our problems. (so it is a good thing that Ernie didn't take a screwdriver and attempt to open it up)

In the meantime, the service was up long enough to send my message to Sally. I just leave the email software on and when service comes on; it loads messages and beeps at me.

I left with plenty of time to arrive. It is close enough that I simply walked on rue Beaubourg to rue de Rivoli and across town to the Louvre. Her instructions were specific and I had no trouble finding the line. I was there before her. Finally she arrived about 15 minutes after I did and we waited. I heard her tales of woe over a woman she is working with to develop an architectural tour of Bordeaux.

Barbara discovered that her friend Dominique was also in line to hear this lecture. She was ahead of us and saved us a couple of places. The room was nearly full. This is a free series of lectures on the theater in France over the ages. Today's lecture was on the theater during the time shortly after the Revolution and included information and images of Talma a famous actor of the time. Wow, what a handsome man he was.



It was mostly women in the audience. On the screen it said that a full house was expected and so please fill all the seats. Here are Barbara and Dominique.

