

Paris Journal 2011

Wednesday 3-16-11 – concert at Hôtel Soubise.

We attended a Midi (noon) Baroque Concert (part of the Concerts Jeunes Talents series) at the grand Archives Nationale, Hôtel de Soubise, in the chamber du Prince.





When we arrived, the tuner was working on the instrument. She must have worked on it for an hour.



Romain Bertheau, played parts of Bach's L'Art de la Fugue on the clavecin (harpsichord). The art of the fugue is an incomplete masterpiece by Bach composed for a keyboard instrument, most probably the harpsichord. There are various versions but one of them consists of 14 fugues and 4 canons. The governing idea of the work is an exploration in depth of the contrapuntal possibilities inherent in a single musical subject, a deceptively simple subject in D minor. The various movements are roughly arranged by increasing order of sophistication of the contrapuntal devices used.



As we walked out of the Hotel Soubise, I had to take a photo of the rooftops over the wall of the Hotel.



We went on errands. On our way to the Seine we passed the Hôtel de Ville where the Tulip trees are blooming. Each time we pass the Hôtel de Ville, we see other details of the massive building.



Our destination was Gibert Jeune, a huge bookstore on Place St. Michel. We were sent from one store to another. There are at least 3 Gibert Jeune stores with different collections in them.) Here is the second one we walked into before finding the French grammar Olivia needs for her French lessons.



After that expedition stopped at the Pizza Marcano on the Place St. Michel for “lunch.” Had a table (inside) but right on the street going past the south bank of the Seine. Both of had Caprese Petit Salade. OD had a salad with chicken, ham, cheese and other good stuff and a glass of pinot grigio and Badoit eau gazeuse. EM had a 4-cheese pizza and draft beer.

Then walked home in absolutely gorgeous warm weather. Stopped near our apartment on rue Rambuteau to pick up some pasta at the Italian traiteur and a baguette.