

When in Paris, Look for Parrots!

By Sue Ferrara, PhD, Photos by E. M. Hume

Most students who travel to Paris go to visit all the sites they might study in French class. That's what I wanted to do, having studied French from 6th to 12th grade. I wanted to see the Eiffel Tower, walk down the Champs Elysees—the famous avenue filled with stores and restaurants, and anchored at one end by the Arc de Triomphe. The Champs Elysees is a must-see tourist attraction for the American student of French; it even has its own website! (<http://www.champselysees.org>).

Other must sees are usually the Cathedral of Notre Dame with its flying buttresses, the Louvre with the Mona Lisa, and maybe the Opera House, home of the Phantom. And, in order to guarantee a return visit to Paris, superstitious travelers find and stand on the Zero Mark near the cathedral—the point from which all distances in France are measured.

However, my youngest daughter and I had been home-schooling for almost ten years. Birds had become the portal for lots of learning. For example, we had studied France and other countries by collecting bird stamps. The first question I asked her was, of course, *what shall we see while we are in Paris?*

She had a one word answer. *Parrots.*

Parrots? I asked.

Yes mom, let's find Parrots in Paris.

So, in March 2012, we spent a week in Paris on an

educational scavenger hunt; and, we found a Plethora of Parrots in Paris! We even made it to the Sunday morning Marché aux Oiseaux—the open-air Paris Bird Market!

Our hunt began at the quickest and easiest place to find parrots—along the Quay de la Megisserie on the Right Bank of the Seine—the river which divides Paris. Along the Quay are a number of pet stores, called Animalerie in French. In addition to parrots, the stores also had fish, ducks and chickens. One store was even selling chipmunks!

The other quick and easy place to find Parrots in Paris is the zoos. We went to La Ménagerie du Jardin des Plantes, home of the remaining menagerie of King Louis XIV and to Le Jardin D'Acclimatation.

Of course, the birds at the pet stores and zoos were alive and well. But some Parisians prefer to enjoy the beauty of birds without the noise and mess. Thus, we visited two different taxidermy shops, Deyrolle (www.deyrolle.com)—the oldest, dating back to 1831, and a newer offering, Claude Nature (www.claudenature.com) The offerings at Deyrolle are larger and more often rented out for window displays. Claude Nature provides birds, bugs and fish for home décor.

There were parrots in the Louvre, including drawings by Pieter Boel, an artist who sketched the animals in Louis XIV's zoo. Next to the Louvre, in Les Arts Décoratifs (Decorative Arts) we found parrots on tapestries, plates, furniture and



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1. A pet store in Paris, called *Animalerie*. *Chiens [dogs], Chats [cats], Oiseaux [birds] (Parrots are *parroquets*), Rongeurs [rodents]* Inside one store were a variety of parrots—macaws, greys, cockatoos and a myna bird.

2. Stuffed parrot- *Claude Nature*. The owner of *Claude Nature* told us that many of his parrots have died and are brought to him by breeders.

3. This sign reads: *Young parrot Grey of Gabon- Steps to Hand 1580 Euros Date of birth 26 December 2011.* As of the writing of this article, one Euro cost \$1.37. So, that Grey would cost about \$2,138 USD. Baby white Cockatoo—*Bebe Cacatoos Alba*--very tame-*tres apprivoise*, and steps to hand, and very *cute-tres mignon*, cost nearly \$4,000 USD.

4. Display at *Deyrolle*.

5. A doll at the *Musee de la Poupée*—a doll museum.

6. picture from a box containing a doll and parrot. *Je parle* means, I talk.

7. Pictured is an optical store which had a *monocle*.



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

8. A book at a children's toy store.

9. A bird watering pitcher, found at a toy store in Paris.

10. *La Maison de Chocolat* (*The House of Chocolate!*)

11. and 12. On a Sunday morning visit to the *Marché aux Oiseau*, vendors sold seeds, cages toys and treats.

13. and 14. Vendors at the *Marché aux Oiseau* also sold birds such as these. Many of the birds had signs on their cages reading: *Grand Chanteur—great singer!*

glassware. We found more parrots across the street from these two museums in one of the largest antique malls in Paris, the Louvre des Antiquaires.

But an alert visitor didn't even have to work hard, or seek out museums or unusual places to find Parrots in Paris.

While standing in line at Orly airport waiting for our flight back to the states, we met several American tourists. One woman asked if we had enjoyed Paris.

We loved it! Came our reply.

Really? She said.

We told her we had come to Paris on a mission to find

parrots and find them we did. As we recounted our adventures, she seemed envious. She was surprised at all we had done and seen.

Well, what did you get to see? We inquired even though we knew the answer.

The Eiffel Tower, the Arc de Triomphe, the Mona Lisa, and Notre Dame. And, she exclaimed, *everywhere we went it was crowded with tourists!*

My daughter and I chuckled. We hadn't seen a tourist until we arrived at the airport for the trip home!

**Specializing in
Hyacinth Macaws and Golden Conures***

406-933-5704
Call for availability and information

*ESA permit required for out of state sales

Bompert Farm

For the love of Golden Conures



Queen of Bavaria

Queen of Bavaria Print
Original work by Nicole Peretta
22 x 28 / \$40

www.ftlgoldenconures.com
flsandiego@gmail.com

"Turacos in Aviculture"

by Kateri J. Davis

**Full Color, 246 pg Book
Only \$29.95
& Ebook \$15.99**



Birdhouse Publications
sites.google.com/site/birdhousepub
birdhousebooks@aol.com



Quality Birds at Affordable Prices!

Singing Wings Aviary
31 Old Wire Road East
London, Arkansas 72847



Finches - Canaries - Parrots - Doves

479-293-4994

Email: mandy@singing-wings-aviary.com
Website: www.singing-wings-aviary.com

**PAUL HANCOCK
MANDY TUCKER**

