

CrossTalk

April CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

MOULIN ROUGE

Paris, “city of light”,... and dark. In the early to mid 19th century, Paris was indeed a city of darkness. The population doubled between 1800 and 1850, and the resulting pressure brought with it **unsanitary**, dangerous and suffocatingly **congested** conditions. The streets were littered with **refuse** of all kinds and two thirds of Paris’ population were living in poverty. Epidemics broke out. In 1820, 45,000 people died of cholera. Cholera reappeared again in 1832 to claim 3,500 lives in just one week! This second epidemic only subsided after a total of 18,500 lives were lost. Yet again, in 1849, another outbreak claimed more lives – 9,000 this time. In addition to disease and **squalor**, Paris suffered continuous riots and revolts from its **discontented** citizens. Paris was, at this time in its history, deeply in trouble and in need of help.

Attempts had been made at urban reconstruction, but it was not until Napoleon III came to power in 1851 that Paris really started to take on the look of “the city of light”.

In 1853 Napoleon made Georges-Eugene Haussmann Prefect of Paris, and it was Haussmann’s city planning that made Paris the envy of the world at that time. He opened up, and cleaned up, Paris in **unprecedented** ways. Wide boulevards were cut through the city centre, sewerage systems were greatly up-graded and parks and other open areas were created in and around Paris’ centre. Paris became the world’s first “modern city”. For the first time ever, an urban centre with suburbs was created.

Of course all of this **upheaval** had its negative effects on the populus too – especially those who were the original inhabitants of the old city centre. Many of these people migrated to the “suburbs” just on the outskirts of Paris - Clichy, Le Villette, and “the hill with a view”, Montmartre.

Montmartre was officially outside the city limits and, therefore, free of city taxes. And, as the nuns in the area made the wine, it became **renowned** for cheep booze too! As a result, Montmartre soon developed into *the* place to go for cheep, free-wheeling and **decadent** entertainment. Many dancehalls and cabarets opened, including the most famous one of them all, in 1889, the Moulin Rouge!

Moulin Rouge literally means (in English) “red mill” and to this day a red windmill **adorns** the facade of this establishment still **beckoning** patrons to come and enjoy a taste of the carefree life, **fickleness** and *Joie de Vivre!* And, the dance of choice is still the Can-Can.

The ladies who entertained their patrons with the Can-Can (and other favors) in the early days of Moulin Rouge were among the most famous entertainers of their time – the “pop stars” of their day. Many other famous characters worked at, or frequented, the Moulin Rouge, including the painter Toulouse-Lautrec. The term “bohemian” stems from this period:



Next month, more on Moulin Rouge!

Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

unsanitary 不衛生な	congested 過密した	refuse ごみ	squalor 不潔
discontented 不満をもった	unprecedented 空前の	upheaval 激変	renowned 有名な
decadent 頹廢的な	adorns 飾る	beckoning 引き寄せている	fickleness 気まぐれ

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: Well, you are really getting good at this “performance thing”! Last month we had our second Performance Night here in our new building, and it was terrific! Two classes wrote and performed this time – In(b)1 and last term’s performers, In(a)1. Both plays were very funny and I am sure the students who participated learnt a lot. Other performers were Adrienne’s piano students, Iain’s magic students and Alice’s singers. Check out the report on the Notice Board, P3.

Junko Says: It’s campaign time and we are offering you a special gift if you introduce a new student to Crossroads. There are discounts for our new students as well. I am hoping that everyone will support this campaign and help Crossroads to grow even bigger and better – the more people we have to share our lives with while we study English, the more interesting and enjoyable will be our time together! Please ask me about the details next time you come to your class.



Alice Says: Questions, questions, questions... our lives are filled with questions everyday, such as: What do I have to do today? What’s for breakfast? What time is the next train? How much is a car park? Who will I meet in my English class? Perhaps you don’t even notice them, but questions are a really important part of conversation. Think of some questions to ask your classmates next class and see how much it improves your speaking skills!!!

Adrienne Says: There are many kinds of “abductions”. In Japan, a number of people have been abducted to Korea. In America, a number of people believe they themselves have been abducted by aliens from outer space. As for me, I believe that one of my cats was abducted by neighbours during O-Higan. He was seen being petted by strangers in front of the house, and then he vanished mysteriously! Four days later he appeared at the back door with a strange cut on his leg. We were overjoyed to see him again!



Greg Says: There must be something in the water!! A few of my close friends from Australia have decided to finish their long term stints in Japan and head back home. It is a sad time because part of the ability of being able to stay in a foreign country for so long is to have a network of close friends to help you through the difficult times....Who do you turn to when you have some problems? I am surprised that when I ask Japanese people this question very rarely do they turn to anyone. They say they bottle it up inside and work it out by themselves!!!!!!

Iain Says: What a great performance night. I am really starting to enjoy these events. They have such a great family atmosphere. Everyone did a fantastic job with their performances. It is so nice to see people get together and share their talents. Let’s make an even better one next term!



Dean Says: So, spring is upon us at last after another short spell of icy cold weather. It's time for Cherry blossom parties and a return to warm weather at last. It is being said that this year will be very hot. Australia has just had a very hot summer with record maximum temperatures being recorded across the country and a continuing drought in many areas. I wonder what summer will be like in Japan this year? Well, we will soon find out! You had better buy plenty of sun-cream!

Yuka Says: Time passes so quickly and it’s already March. Just 8 years ago, I came back from Tokyo. Since then I’ve been enjoying my life here in Matsuyama. Staying in one place is comfortable because moving requires a lot of time and energy. But there is a problem, and it’s quite serious. I feel my house is getting smaller and smaller. I mean I am surrounded by a pile of things. Now is the time to start cleaning and doing away with unnecessary things.



A Word From You

Check out these shots of last month's Performance Night. As you can see, we had a great time - can't wait for the end of this term when we do it all again!!

Notice Board

Performance Night 31-03-'01



Piano-English St's: Mika, Ayaka and Yumeko



Singing in English are Ryoko, Eri, Yumiko and Naoko



A play by In(B)1 "At the restaurant"



A little "tag-team" Magic with Shigiku and Katsumi



A play by In(A)1 "The Airport"



Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

A history of the Moulin Rouge can be found here: <http://www.simplytaty.com/history/moulinrouge.htm>

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

- 2 x's 60mins / week
- 1 x's 90mins / week
- Private 1 x / week
- Semi-Private 1 x / week

- MOTHER & CHILD: group or private
- KIDS: group or private



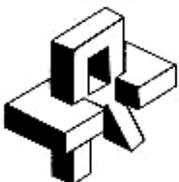
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

- "Singing in English" with Alice
- Yoga with Dean
- Guitar with William
- "Cooking in English" with Alice & Dean
- "Magic English" with Iain
- Piano with Adrienne
- Acting with Alice



- FRENCH with Natacha
- SPANISH with Patricio
- RUSSIAN with Natasha
- GERMAN with Marita & Matthias
- CHINESE with Noriko
- KOREAN with Kum Fa

NETLESSONS:
group or private



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