

ALUMNI ADVENTURES

Explore the world with Carleton College

October, 2007

Dear Carleton Alumni and Friends,

The idea of cruising rivers so central to France's life and history has always been very tempting. Stopping at riverside villages, enjoying the food, the wine and the charms of riverine vistas and landscapes has been the high point of many a tourist adventure. This is especially true for the Seine. One of France's major waterways, starting at the Channel and the Atlantic at Le Havre, the Seine links up to the North-South route of the Oise and in Paris joins the Marne eastwards and by canal to the Rhine. Before the advent of the railroads it was Paris' lifeline, turning the capital into a port city. But there is more. There are the stories: the menace and romance of the Seine as invasion route for interlopers and liberators (the Vikings, Richard the Lion-hearted, and Patton's 3rd Army). It was (and is) a playground for modern day boaters, swimmers and houseboat owners and its picturesque villages and chateaux inspired generations of artists. More than that, the image of life upon the river haunts the imagination of French writers and film-makers. The Seine is not only a river; it is a state of mind.

On this adventure we will first explore the river with some films and books: Jean Vigo's classic film "L'Atalante" and George Simenon's Inspector Maigret, maybe even a historian or two. We will take ship after spending a day up on Montmartre (don't drink the local wine, it's horrible) and then down river to Vernon, Giverny, Chateau Gaillard (remember Richard!) Rouen (ok! Joan of Arc was burned there but it has a wonderful charnel house), Le Havre – Honfleur (great 16th century wooden church there), the great bridge at Tancarville, the Normandy beaches and finally Caudebec and the Abbey of St. Wandrille (for your digestion and your sins).

Ruth and I are looking forward to being with you on this trip. We hope that you can join us for some good talk and food and some inspired sightseeing.

Carl Weiner

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Ruth Weiner

Class of 1944 Professor of Theater and the Liberal Arts
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