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International

VOICES



The History of Coffee

By Anna Goldina

Coffee - a drink which imparts vivacity, inspiration, raises productivity, and stimulates the imagination. Without coffee most of the intellectual activities we know could not be done. In addition to everything, properly, with soul prepared coffee possesses a wonderful, incomparable aroma. Imagine, coffee in its abundance, its variety of nuances of odor, leaves even French wines behind. Coffee's aroma is chemically produced by coffee oils (*caffeol*) encased in the roasted coffee bean. Over time, coffee has achieved a predominance in cultures all over the world, but its complete history is still imbued with an air of mystery. Perhaps coffee's role in our societies is primarily because of its ability to facilitate conversation, to remove weariness, and most of all, because it is a source of pleasure. For this reason, it is useful to investigate how people first learned about the amazing properties of this beverage and how its use and appreciation has grown over the centuries.

There are many theories and legends about the origin of coffee. The first mention of coffee dates from the 9th century B.C. The native land of coffee is Ethiopia. A certain Caldi, a shepherd from the province of Kaffa in Ethiopia, long ago noticed that his goats, having eaten strange leaves and red berries from an unknown bush all day, behaved too actively at night. Caldi mentioned this to the prior of a local monastery. They were interested in the strange fruit, and decided to study its effects. After many researches they began...(continued on page 8)

My Life as an ESL Student

By Roya S. Pargou

This story is a narrative by an Iranian student at IELI center. Unlike many other students at this center who have eagerly started studying, she has come a long way, struggling with a lot of conflicts in her mind, to start studying. The following passage is part of her experience that she would like to share with you.

"I am Roya, an Iranian ESL teacher with several years of experience, who became an ESL student at Hunter College. The first time I realized that I was going to come to the United States, and live here, it was as if I was living one of my long-lasting dreams.

Once, I was teaching a video about the interesting places to visit in New York. At that time, I never imagined that I would one day be visiting these places myself. Let me explain..."(continued on page 2)



A Portrait of James Willimetz

By Silke Nuetten



I met James Willimetz, one of the 33 English teachers of the IELI Department, in a classroom at Hunter College. It was a warm and sunny Friday afternoon, and James had planned to go jogging in Central Park, one of his favorite places in New York, after our interview. James is a busy man, teaching levels 4, 5 and 9, plus a TOEFL workshop and conversation circle, and so I was grateful that he took the time to speak with me. James' life could fill a book and it is difficult to summarize, but clear is that his parents, friends, beautiful women, South America, and a passion for teaching played a very important role in his development. "I was a bit shy," he said at one point, a surprising statement considering that his students described him as a go-to person, very funny, and a great teacher....(continued on page 6)

Page 2

My Life as an ESL Student

Page 3

We Have the Right to Have Affordable Nutritious Lunches at Hunter !

Page 4

See Historical Moments on the Front Page of *The New York Times* !

Page 5



Street Art beyond vandalism

Page 6-7

Portrait of my teacher, James Willimetz

Page 8

The history of coffee preparation and enjoyment

Page 9

French gourmet dishes and the stories behind them

Page 10

(International Views) The Real China

Page 11

(International Views) Norway - Cold Weather, but Warm People

Page 12

Cartoon

MY LIFE AS AN ESL STUDENT

By Roya S. Pargou

(Cont'd from the front page)

I was not one of those people who believed that the United States was utopia, nor was I blinded by the lure of this country. I never wished to see the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, or any oth-



er landmarks that I talked about in my classes in Tehran; I would fantasize about improving myself in an English-speaking country; I wanted to test my knowledge and become a better ESL teacher for my future students who would depend on my English.

I had high ambitions; I wanted to do my PhD or at least another MA in another major, linguistics, for instance. However, because I had other responsibilities as a mother of two little kids, my dreams did not come true.

I never considered taking part in an ESL class, because, for me it was as if my status had declined. How could I sit in an ESL class while I had been an assistant professor a few months before in Iran?

I spent the first few months web surfing in order to find a way to start studying. I would run into dead-end alleys. It was like being stuck in a labyrinth I couldn't get out of. At last, I desperately gave in. I stayed at home, wasting my precious time, occasionally visiting my Iranian friends, and being hooked on Iranian TV channels. It was exactly as if I was living in Iran. My invaluable time was flying by, and my motivation was withering away. My mind was preoccupied to make the best justifications for not making the most of my time

in order not to feel guilty.

For two years, I was lingering in the world of puzzles, stagnating and struggling to find my way toward learning.

There came a time when I realized that I was regressing since I was not learning anything, and I had lost the opportunity to teach English as well. Struggling with my hesitations, I registered in an ESL class. It was not easy to explain this to my shocked friends who did not understand what on earth had caused me to end up in an ESL class after my continual boasting about doing my PhD. I told them that even if I did not learn anything, I could get new ideas about new methods of teaching.

The first few sessions, I kept repeat-



ing to myself that I was not learning anything new in order to preserve my pride. However, the reality was something else; I was learning; I was enjoying the class. It was the time to overcome the conflicts in my mind and put an end to them. I started to feel like a student who wanted to learn as much as possible. I was not daunted by not knowing many things.

Today, nearly four months have elapsed. I have learned a lot of things, a small part of which is related to English. I have learned that arrogance brings about ignorance; as long as I felt proud of my knowledge, I did not learn anything, but when I admitted that there were a lot of

things unknown to me, I started learning.



In the hectic life of today, few people can take advantage of stopping for a second and look back. I was one of those people who was lucky enough to enjoy this rare opportunity to stop teaching for some time and go back to being a student again. I could observe a class from two different points of view, through a teacher's and a student's eyes. When I felt myself in the position of a student, I realized how I would feel when I got disappointed, discouraged, or stuck, and what the best reaction of the teacher would be at those times. I needed to know all those things in order to be a better teacher in the future.

I got acquainted with people from different nationalities and cultural backgrounds, and I knew once more that I could see these people as fellow citizens, and that humanity is not associated with religion, nationality, or race. I also realized that there were many closed doors of opportunity before everybody. In order to open them, I needed to hit the first door hard, or do something to open it, which would cause the other doors to be opened automatically. For two years, I was lingering in the world of puzzles, stagnating and struggling to find my way toward learning. No doors opened. The ESL class was the first door that I knocked at, and it opened. The other doors behind it were showing the path on which I needed to step in order to improve. Therefore, I learned that I should never miss any opportunities, even the smallest ones.

Everybody is hungry, but there is no place to sit. Students do not have enough money to buy expensive food. The cafeteria in Hunter College is always crowded with myriads of people having lunch.

“I have been waiting for 10 minutes to use ONE microwave.” Kim SooJin, an International English Language Institute (IELI) student from South Korea said grudgingly. “I have a class after lunch time, so I am always wondering that why there is only one microwave in the cafeteria.” At noon, there is always a long line to heat lunch. Some students just give up because they do not have enough time.

Furthermore, to have lunch in the cafeteria actually costs a lot. Everybody wants to save their precious money. Even more, most students at Hunter College are full-time students. “Food at school should be cheap” said a Professor Fiore Sireci, “I always bring my lunch to save money.” This problem is not only Mr. Sireci’s. Some students try to make lunch to save dough. Ms. Sara, from Kew Garden, Queens, has to wake up early in the morning. She says, “If the prices were reasonable, I would eat there. I wish I could sleep in the morning.” That is true that the cafeteria is more expensive compared to delicatessens off campus. However, students and professors who are in a hurry cannot go out to buy lunch. Also, students want to concentrate on their studies without worrying about their meals. Gary Sasala, an IELI instructor, mentioned “The sandwiches are ridiculously expensive. The company should change the policy.”



We Have the Right to Affordable Nutritious Lunches at Hunter!

On the 3rd floor corridor at noon, a lot of people are sitting on the floor or standing with their food and chatting with others. “There are not enough places to sit in the building,” said Mr. Ryaco, a visitor from Spain, “moreover, the food is too greasy.” Indeed, the main selections in the are mostly unhealthy. There are deep fried chicken and french fries or hamburgers, and pizza. Nevertheless they sell some kinds of sushi, they put some reddish spicy sauce on the rice. Takayuki Yamada from Japan said, “It is not a real sushi. It’s fake.”

The only healthy food there is fresh fruit, such as bananas and apples. The salads also are very cold and are almost \$7, highly expensive. Everybody needs high quality meals. “We do not need junk food at the school cafeteria. We need more healthy food that nourishes our brain.” Kang JiHyun, a former IELI student from Seoul, explained. “I gained a lot of weight because of the cafeteria food. I never tried the food after I decided to lose weight.”

Another problem is that the menu has never changed, so people are sick of the same food. “I wish the cafeteria had various cuisines from all over the world,” Anna from Italy complained, “It might be a good idea for the menu to change daily: Monday Italian, Tuesday Korean, Wednesday Brazilian,” said smiling, “and it might be more enjoyable.”

“Some food outside is too salty, unhealthy and expensive. I wish restaurant food had the same value as homemade food,” Ms. Spencer, the Academic Coordinator of the IELI, remarked.

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Cover Pages of the New York Times in the 19th and 20th Centuries

By Kay Law



The New York Times, founded by Henry Jarvis Raymond and George Jones in 1851, was one of the most popular

New York and U. S. daily newspapers. The technological enhancement during the 20th century allowed

The New York Times to announce news with illustrations more vividly. The most well-known American and international historical events in the 20th century that The New York Times printed include: the Titanic disaster (1912), the American armies entering World War One (1914) and landing in Europe (1918), the Wall Street Crash (1929), the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt (1945) and John F. Kennedy (1963) and, of course, the first men walking on the moon (1969).

The main style of The New York Times has not changed too much from the 19th century to 1976, with an eight-column format which was then switched to six. The traditional 54 inches (1.4 m) broadsheet style was addressed to the 48-inch web width in order to save over ten million dollars each year for the paper. Black and white illustrations were first often used on the main page to emphasize the event. The earliest color photograph with or without a main headline on the front page appeared on October 16, 1997.

The most important occasions in the 21st century printed by The New York Times are: The 9/11 Attack (2001), the appearance of the revolutionary i-products - the iPhone (2007) and iPad (2010), the first African American president (2009), the death of the King of Pop - Michael Jackson (2009), and the permission of same-sex marriage in New York (2011). And since 2008, The New York Times created an app for the iPhone and iPod touch users. In 2010, an additional app was launched for Android smartphones. This leads the paper to be more digitalized and mobilized.

The New York Times has a high reputation among the printing enterprises. It won 106 Pulitzer Prizes. The New York Times also won three awards in the 2010 version of the proceedings. The New York Times has consecutively printed news, except during the strikes in 1962, 1965 and 1978 and will continue to report future current affairs and all interesting stories.



Street Art beyond Vandalism



In modern times, street art, sometimes called graffiti, express opinions by using paint spray or marker pens in public spaces. That's why some people think graffiti is vandalism, damaging public and private property. However, it is also true that graffiti is a big part of pop culture.

Keith Haring, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Banksy are famous graffiti artists, and probably you may have heard of them or have seen one of their works. Only one of these artists is still alive and he is working all over the world. Banksy is that person, and he makes controversy. If you take one look at the picture here, you can see that he is trying to make you think about the nature of war and the difficulty of attaining peace. I am very impressed by his methods and would like to introduce him to you.

Banksy, who has changed public opinion about graffiti art turned from vandalism to become a recognized but anonymous English graffiti artist. He has never revealed his identity. However, there are a lot of rumors about his real name and face. Some say he was originally born in Bristol, England. He was trained as a butcher, but in the late 1980s he started doing graffiti. In October, 2007 BBC reported that a passerby took a picture of Banksy, while he was working with his assistant. Since then, it is guessed that he may be a man called Robin Cunningham. After that, many clues, that make it believable, have been found. He talks about his identity on his website: "I am unable to comment on who may or may not be Banksy, but anyone described as being 'good at drawing' doesn't sound like Banksy to me"



Picnic

On the other hand, even if he has been anonymous since 1980, what really makes him famous? His work has been

displayed in famous places such as Israeli West Bank barrier, between Israeli and Palestine. Additionally, he has hung his paintings at MOMA and the British Museum without permission. Moreover many celebrities have paid huge amounts for his paintings. For instance, in April 2006 Christina Aguilera bought an

original of Queen Victoria as a lesbian and two prints for £25,000. Angelina Jolie spent over £120,000 on a painting called *Picnic*. After this many people wanted to buy his paintings. As the price increases, so does his popularity.

In 2006, he held his exhibition, "Barely Legal," in Los Angeles. It lasted only 3 days, but it evoked a big controversy. During the exhibition, he displayed a live elephant painted pink and gold. Because of this, many people raised the issue of animal rights. However, "Painted Elephant" attracted great attention, and Banksy gained even more popularity. Also after this big exhibition,



Picture : One of pictures on Israeli West Bank barrier, called *Near Bethlehem*

people's view toward street art has changed and now see it as another important form of pop art.

In 2010, he made a movie *Exit Through the Gift Shop*, but he didn't initially intend to make a movie. He just let a person, Thierry Guetta who followed him, take a video, because street art has a short history compared to other art forms, and he thought it would be good to have a permanent visual record of art which is by nature temporary. However, after he watched Thierry's footage, it is influenced him to make it all into a movie. This became *Exit Through the Gift Shop*. When the movie was released, people expected to finally discover Banksy's identity, but this movie has more important aims than that. It shows how a guy who only documents street artists becomes a famous street artist himself. The plot indirectly criticizes capitalism in the art world. Who decides what is the art or not? Who decides the prices of art? With this film, he successfully debuted as director. Also it was nominated for the 2011 Academy Awards.

In the movie people mentioned "I do not know what it means to its enormous success in the art world. Thierry is perhaps a genius from the beginning. It may have been Hopefully. Art is perhaps a bit of a joke." So, what do you think?

Hongdae, the most famous place of Street art in Korea

In Korea, there are a bunch of street art places. I'd like to introduce one of the most famous place, which is Hongdae. A university, famous as art major, is placed in Hong-dae, also a lot of clubs are placed in these area. That's why this place is so popular for street art. Arts and club culture is combined, and that makes new culture all over the places.

This inclination brings new events. Every summer in Hong-dae, they hold a exhibition called



as street art exhibition. Since 1993, many artists and students join and display their works. It consists of paintings, sculpture, video

arts or installation arts. Every street fill with many kinds of arts, and everyone enjoy during exhibition.

However, not only during the exhibition, there are many street art pieces painted. Every alleys has an good paintings or graffiti on a wall. Sometimes it just beautiful or pretty, but also it has deep-meaning about politics or world problems. Those makes this place more abundant and enjoyable to public.

Portrait of James Willimetz

By Silke Nuetten

Continued from front page

I can only assume that shyness was one of the reasons he didn't pursue his initial career inspiration to become a photographer like his father. James was born in Tennessee, where his father and his mother, a nurse, were fighting for workers' rights and civil rights, probably a reason for James' sense of justice. When he was 6 years old, his father got a job in Peru and the family emigrated. After high school, James came back to the US and went to college.

"I spent one year at Columbia College in Chicago to study photography. However, my major was already education. My problem as a photographer was that I was a bit shy, and it was worse when I came back from Peru. I felt more foreign than most foreigners. I spoke the language but I didn't know a lot of the cultural and everyday things here. People thought I was putting them on when I didn't know things that everybody did."

In 1969, the end of the hippy days and James' college time, James had long hair, a beard and no clue what to do. He imagined himself living with a friend in a cabin on the top of a mountain until they had more inspiration. Things turned out very differently. At the very last minute, he got a place at the School for International Training in Brattleboro and did a Master degree in teaching English and Spanish. I think it's interesting that started out by studying French for 3 weeks, but he only had eyes for his beautiful French teacher, but on the same time realizing he wanted to become a teacher himself. In his first job he had to overcome his shyness.



Photo: Suny Kaltenhaeusser

As a promoter for a student exchange program, he travelled around the country visiting schools and had to talk a lot in front of people. After a year, he decided to go back to South America. He gained his first teaching experience in Colombia and then followed a friend who got married in Brazil. "Friends and beautiful girls, beautiful girls ..." was his answer, when I asked him why he went to Brazil. After 6 years there, and now speaking English and Spanish, he came back to the States and got hired by Hunter College in 1984.

James' top 3 tips for improving your English

- 1. Pay more attention to your vocabulary!** Unfortunately, English has a very big vocabulary (estimated to be 700,000), but knowing more words is a very effective way of significantly improving your English skills.
- 2. Live total English immersion!** Watch US television, read English books and newspapers, talk to Americans whenever you can, etc. Many students pay a lot of money to live and learn here, and then spend too much time in their own language. The longer the time of total immersion, the better your English will be.
- 3. Think outside your own box!** Make sure your learning techniques are the ones that work best for you. Each student needs to find his individual way of learning a new language. Try out different approaches.

"It's rewarding to see students achieving their goals"

You have been teaching at Hunter College for more than 25 years, that's a very long time. Yes, it is. The only time I left, I took a year off and went back to Peru. I did teacher training for a Peruvian English teachers. There I met a young beautiful woman, who is now my wife.

Being married to an English teacher, your Peruvian wife must be perfect in English. She is, but at home we do not speak a word of English - we speak Spanish.

Why does everybody want to learn English? I think the director of Priceline gave the best answer to this question. While giving a presentation about Englishmania on my favorite website www.ted.com, he said, "The world is demanding it." English has become the language of opportunity and business. China has recently become the largest English-speaking country in the world. Maybe not perfect, but more people speak English in China than here. For better or for worse, English has become the language of the world. It's pretty convenient for us who speak it. At this moment, it becomes clear that due to our work and the IELI program, they have made extraordinary progress in English and that's why they are here.

What is your teaching method?

My teaching method is eclectic. I take a little bit of all different theories and techniques. I am more of an intuitive teacher. I try things and I develop things that seem to work. I am not good at theories. Generally a teacher needs to work with what he has. In my case, it's probably humor. I assume most of my students would say that I am a funny teacher. Indeed, I use a lot of humor to keep students awake and interested. Furthermore, humor helps to create a relaxing atmosphere in class and encourage students, who are less willing to speak up in class because of their culture, to feel more comfortable talking. However, it's important to find the right balance. Humor is only a vehicle or a tool; you also have to provide the content. When you overuse fun, there is a risk that students relax too much, and then I have to use discipline again.

Is there anything you are less good at?

I might be sometimes a bit disorganized, but I assume my funny nature counterbalances this a bit. Also, in the very beginning of my career at Hunter College, I was forced by one of my evening classes of mostly Chinese students to learn a lot of grammar. When I tried to explain a rule, they often corrected me by referring to a particular page in the grammar book, where a different wording or explanation was used. They really forced me to be very accurate with grammar.

Who make up the biggest group of IELI students?

The majority of IELI students come from Asia. In 1984 we had mostly Chinese students, but over the last 20 years Koreans have been the dominant nationality in our classrooms. However, recently, it looks like more Chinese and Japanese are registering again. **Why do you think more Asians come to New York to learn English?** Take a country like Korea; if you want a high positioned job, you need to be good in English. And I think it is true in a lot of countries today, certainly in Asia and South America. Furthermore, a lot of Asians do their degree here, and if you want to study in the US, you have to do the TOEFL Test. A US degree offers Asians better job opportunities.

Besides the nationalities of students has anything changed over the years?

Over time, we became more academic, and focused on teaching students to be good readers and writers. Nowadays students are requesting better speaking skills and we have adjusted the program to dedicate more attention to their oral skills. I do a lot more speaking in all of my classes than I used to do in the past.

What about today's behavior of students in classroom, is it appropriate?

Usually most students want to learn and behave very well and respectfully. What I dislike are students who come late all the time and you know it's not because of the subway or so. It is just because they do not care. Although I don't like when students seem uninterested in the class, I try to talk to them and figure out what the issue is. Mostly it is related to a personal situation and has nothing to do with the class.

I see you have an iPhone. Do you like it?

I am addicted. I use it for everything. It's my phone, my GPS, my calendar, I watch a lot of movies, write and read emails and I use it in class for teaching purposes. Often I ask my 17-year-old daughter and her friends to do a conversation and I record their speech for my class, it's a perfect demonstration of native speech.

What do you like to read?

My favorite authors are Gabriel García Márquez from Colombia and Jorge Mario Pedro Vargas Llosa, a Peruvian-Spanish writer. There are many other good authors, but because I write a lot myself, I have a bit of a problem with reading. Once I figure out an author's strategy I lose my appetite. For example, I like the first book of Stieg Larsson's "Millennium series," but I enjoy the second and third much less, because I grasped Larsson's writing structure. However, sometimes writers can reignite my interest like Stephen King with his latest book about Kennedy - I loved it.

Before I let you go jogging, I would be interested to know, if you feel like an American now? I don't feel a stranger here anymore, though definitely there is this foreigner side to me.

Any idea what you would like to do after you retire in a few years? Yes, teaching. (laughing)

Many thanks for your time and openness James. It was a great pleasure. Maybe our paths will cross again soon, in Central Park - it's my favorite place too.

Wanna learn more about and from James Willimetz?

Take one of his classes or visit his website *Go English, a website for learners of English* at www.goenglishing.com. Here, he offers a bunch of useful information, free online English lessons, New York quizzes etc. Since I did the interview, I have become a frequent visitor and big fan of his site.

THE HISTORY OF COFFEE

By Anna Goldina



(continued from front page)

Beginning a victorious world conquest coffee spread from the Arabian peninsula coffee to the entire Muslim world, and Turkish diplomats brought it to Europe. It had been brought to Istanbul in 1555 by two Syrian dealers, where it soon became known as the “milk of chess players and thinkers.” Nowadays

coffee in “eastern style” is one of the most popular methods of preparing this drink. In Turkey, coffee first of all is a “dialogue.” Coffee in coffee houses is served on a small tray, in a small cup with a glass of pure cool water. Coffee is quickly poured from the *cezve* (a kettle) to the cup. It is then drunk quickly and each cup is washed down with water so that you are ready to enjoy the taste again. The eastern styles of preparing coffee are endless. There are a lot of secrets of how to prepare Arabic coffee. Everyone who uses these secrets is sure that his recipe is unique. In brewed coffee it is possible to add any spices, to use any order of steps. There is only one strict rule – the coffee should not begin to boil. Otherwise, coffee masters are free to use any methods they like.

In Europe coffee appeared in the first half of the 16th century and it became as popular as in the Muslim countries. London, Paris, Milan, Vienna, among many other cities, opened coffee houses. They quickly became popular seats of meetings, and contemporary centers of culture and science. Among their customers were Voltaire, Rousseau, Diderot, Beaumarchais, Napoleon, Hugo, and other historical figures. It is necessary to tell, that the history of coffee is closely bound with progress of the whole continent. Soon after the appearance of coffee in Europe, we see an artful propaganda campaign. For instance, the croissants which are usually served with coffee are shaped like the “crescent moon,” which symbolized the victory over the Muslims at Vienna.

The next country on our tour will be Italy. The contribution of Italians to the progress of coffee traditions really is difficult to overestimate. This nation is known for the love of fine coffee, by temperamental customs and ability to do all they undertake with passion. In Italy coffee houses are the places of meetings, reading fresh newspapers, books, or catching a wave of inspiration. Venice the native land of a very rare and interesting preparation of coffee. The coffee is usually prepared in a kettle mixed with water. A traditional combination is coffee topped with whipped cream. Such method not only is effective but also spectacle. Another method is the world renowned “espresso,” which requires mathematical accuracy, complex mechanisms and the skill of human hands. Everything is standardized– temperature, the pressure of the water passing through the coffee, the temperature of the cups, the portions, preparation time, the size of the grind and even such factors as humidity and air temperature are crucial. Espresso is served in a small cup named a *demitasse*. Unlike the preparation of coffee in Turkey, when experiments only are encouraged and there is no wrong way to brew coffee, in espresso the procedure is much more complex. The serving size is no more than 30 ml. Espresso is a concentrated drink fully expresses the aroma of freshly ground coffee and offers brightness, power, harmony, like a classical symphony.

*“Coffee is to wake up , coffee is to work with,
coffee is to live with, coffee is life”,*

Tim Parsons

There is an interesting tradition, that comes from Naples, the second “native land” of coffee, named *un caffè sospeso* (suspended coffee). When you have drink coffee in a cafe, you can pay for extra cups so that someone can drink for free. There is a good chance for people who are not well off. The client pays for “the suspended coffee,” the barman records on a board how many cups are available to the first person to ask for it.

Our next destination station is France. “Coffee falls into the stomach ... ideas begin to move, things remembered arrive at full gallop ... the shafts of wit start up like sharp-shooters, similes arise, the paper is covered with ink ...”-Honoré de Balzac. Coffee arrived in France in 1644, but only 15 years later it won some popularity among Frenchmen. On the streets in French cities there are a lot of cozy coffee houses, where you can sit, relax, drink a small cup of coffee and enjoy your life. The typical breakfast for residents of this country - a croissant with a lot of butter, which is dipped in a cup of coffee.

And now our last point of destination is America. The first mentions using of coffee in the North American continent is 1668, and soon after in many cities, including New York, Philadelphia and Boston opened their first coffee houses. Coffee was first brought to America by the Dutch at the beginning of the 18th century. The first coffee houses in America appeared in 1691, in Boston. They were called “London coffee houses.” In New York the first cafe appeared in 1696 and was called the “King’s Arms.” But the most famous was the “Green Dragon,” which was the seat of meetings of instigators of revolt against the hated tyranny of transatlantic king. Firstly, coffee in New York was available only to exclusive classes of society. America is the indisputable champion of the quantity of coffee houses. As we all know, America is a commercial country, and life in the cities moves in a mad rhythm. That is why the preparation of coffee is speedy and simple. American coffee is dark, hot, and bitter. Tourists from Italy are in cultural shock when they see the way coffee is brewed. When espresso is diluted with water, it is called “Americano.” Nowadays, the most important ‘brand’ of coffee, which known all over the world, is Starbucks. American residents usually use disposable cups. It keeps drinks hot, and saves time, because there is no time to sit in coffee houses and enjoy their time. “I had some dreams there were clouds in my coffee,” sang Carly Simon.

After such an interesting tour through the most famous coffee-drinking countries, like Turkey, where coffee is a “dialogue,” in Austria, where you can drink a cup of coffee with chocolate and read a newspaper, in France, where you can sit in a cozy coffee houses and relax, in Italy, where coffee is a source of inspiration, or in America where the disposable cups with “Starbucks” logo are a kind of holy vessel. Today we can feel the magical qualities of coffee first hand. There are a lot of places like Bel Ami, Sicafe (right here near Hunter College), Joe’s (some of the most intense coffee in the city) where you can feel the magic qualities of coffee first hand.

(continued on the website...<http://ieligazette.wordpress.com>)



The Tatin sisters did it all wrong !

Did you ever dream of turning your mistakes into successes? That's what happened to Caroline and Stephanie Tatin in the fall of 1898. They owned a restaurant in Sologne (south of Paris). They cooked very authentic cuisine and glorious apple pies. Instead of simply baking the apples in a crust, they would sauté them at first with brown sugar and butter.

On the first day of the hunting season, the restaurant was full, the sisters were very very busy and one of them forgot the apples which started to caramelize. Stephanie decided to keep the caramelized apples and she placed a pastry crust on top of the apples to avoid them being burnt. She served it lukewarm.

As you know tarts usually have a bottom crust and no top crust. The hunters tasted this upside down tart and loved the wonderful caramel taste of the apples.

La tarte des Demoiselles Tatin or *Tarte Tatin* was born !



My name is Ghyslaine. I'm French, retired and a new-comer to New York and Hunter College. My motto is "No Regrets" and food for me is a best part of life.

Gourmet dishes and stories behind them

By Ghyslaine Viollaz

I would like to introduce some of the classics of French cuisine. Some dishes are specifically linked to France and honor its cooking and its chefs. Some were accidental baking inventions, others were modest dishes which became an important part of the *cuisine bourgeoise*. Some were created to honor someone or, resulted from the import of new vegetables thanks to the beginnings of globalization in the 16th century.



A mix of flavors

La Ratatouille is a wonderful summer dish that you can eat warm or cold depending on your mood and magical too, because it tastes better the day after you cook it. Originally from south of France, and more specifically from Nice (*La ratatouille nicoise*), you also find this dish with others names, all around the Mediterranean sea. It was prepared with vegetables that came from far away countries in the XVI c., the result of an early globalization. Look at : tomato from Mexico, eggplant from India, zucchini and bell pepper from America, olive oil from Asia and then Greece, onion and garlic from France. But it took a long time before *La Ratatouille* became the flavorful dish people appreciate so much now. In the past, it was considered as a rough mixture of vegetables with beans and potatoes served at the army. The soldiers called it *rata* which means bad food. Today, it's the best way to invite Provence at your table !



From rags to riches

La Bouillabaisse, the best known French fish soup started as a very modest dish. Between Marseille and Toulon, fishermen prepared it in a cauldron, full of sea water, with the fishes they couldn't sell. The bouillon was poured on croutons rubbed with garlic and they ate the fish on the side with two specific sauces : *la rouille* and *l'aioli*. Then over time this soup was improved and became a subtle dish. The Provence writer Marcel Pagnol (1865-1974) flew into a rage when one day a chef presented him with a royal *Bouillabaisse* with crayfish, shrimps and mussels ! So in 1980, at Marseille, a charter was written to protect the recipe and the taste of the genuine *bouillabaisse*. If you go there, make the right choice and while waiting for your order don't forget to drink a fresh *pastis*, and to speak with your hands!

The Real China

By: WENJIE HUANG

With the development of technology, China has become a stronger and stronger country. But some people have outdated ideas about China. For example, they think there are a lot of poor people, old housing and old thinking. Therefore, I would like to introduce some of the developments in my country.



WANGDA PLAZA

First of all, I want to introduce the biggest shopping mall of my city. It is called WANGDA PLAZA. It was built in 2009. There are a lot of stores inside, and offers all the major international brands, such as Louis Vuitton, Prada, and Gucci, Burberry, and others.



THE GREAT WALL

Third, I introduce the symbol of my country—THE GREAT WALL. It begins in Beijing and is long, it was built in the QIN dynasty, about 2221 years ago. It is a wonderful structure. If you have a chance to go to China, you must go The Great Wall, because in China we have one saying: “不到长城非好汉”. It means if you go to China, you must go there, if not you are not a good guy.

Second, there are a lot of modern skyscrapers in my country. For example, there is a very tall building in GUANG-ZHOU city. It is the tallest television tower in the world, at about 600 meters. There are dinner rooms, movie theaters, meeting rooms and so on. By the way, there is also one entertainment you can do directly on this structure—bungee jumping — a crazy sport. It can make visitors have fun.



GUANGZHOU TV TOWER

Fourth, I want to let you know the education in my country, because nowadays, education has become a very important thing in China. For example, when I was a high school student there are a lot of equipment of our studying. The teachers helped students into a good university. On the other hand, we also have some of the top 100 universities in the world, such as QINGHUA university, BEIJING university, and HONGKONG university. After graduating university a lot of students go to study in the other countries, and come back to help develop China.



QINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Finally, I want to tell you about a famous road in my country. It is Chang An Street in Beijing. In the past, it used to be part of the imperial palace. The people who work in the palace can cross this street. But now it is for all of us. It has become about 100 meters wide. If you arrive there, you can see a very wonderful view.



CHANG'AN STREET

Norway

Country with Cold Weather, but Warm People



As they say “home is where you heart is”. After having lived in this beautiful country, Norway, and spend most part of my life there, I found it my pleasure to write a few lines about my real home .

1) **People and Culture:** Norway is located on the North West of Europe and has an area of about 385 square kilometers with about 5 million population.

2) **The Capital and languages:** Oslo is the capital city of Norway and there are 3 languages used: Bokmaal, Nynorsk, Samisk.

3) **Nature:** It is a country of natural beauty. F.ex., you will find lots of deep fjords and high mountains.

4) **Norwegian life today:** Our society is based on democracy, and freedom of expression. At the personal level, informality of manner and conversation, punctuality and getting to the point along with



modesty and calm courtesy and politeness are typical characters and values practiced in our society.

5) **Welfare:** Norway has one of the best welfare system in the world. If you are unemployed for whatever

reason, you are given support to be able to live with dignity until you establish yourself.

6) **Education and Health Care System:** We have a strong, free public education and health care system. Furthermore, United Nations has consistently ranked Norway as the best country to live, in recent years.

7) **Travelling and dinning:** You should know we love coffee than anyone else in the world. During your day at the university, lots of the discussions take place during coffee breaks, “Let’s go and talk over coffee”.



8) **The typical Norwegian food:** Lutefisk(a kind of jelly fish) and laks(Salmon). Indeed, Smoked Salmon, “Røkt Laks “ in Norwegian, is one of the most delicious and popular choice from the many foods of Norway which we eat for breakfast.

9) We also have a kind of cheese,



“Brunn ost”(Brwon Cheese), which

is another traditional cheese used for breakfast which is very healthy, but you should not forget having “ostehovel”(handy Cheese slicer)as well.



10) **Norwegian Constitution Day** is the National Day of Norway and is an official national holiday observed on May 17 each year. Among Norwegians, the day is referred to simply as “*syttende mai*” or “*syttande mai*” (both meaning May Seventeenth), *Nasjonaldagen* (The National Day) or *Grunnlovsdagen* (The Constitution Day), although the latter is less frequent.



By: Sara Khodayari

These adorable cartoons were drawn in Michele's class to express our emotions while we are struggling against English. They would like to say that "Indomitable persistence is the road to accomplishment!"



JongSun

Jun : I really liked Jong-Sun's cartoon because it reminded me of the intensive process of learning; it's complex, labor-intensive, and sometimes obscure. His story helps us better understand what's behind the art.

JongSun :

I have been here for four months and my English improved a lot. At the beginning of the semester, I felt frustrated because of my lack of language skill. I imagined that our brain worked like a factory and that's what my cartoon depicts. I have to switch my brain from Korean to English first like somebody pushed the power button. I think to have a good atmosphere is very important to acquire English. I would like to be immersed in English, but it was a little bit difficult to do this with the deluge of Korean people in this city. I am going to move to Maryland where there are no Korean people, so I hope that my English will improve more in the future.

Jun : This cartoon shows us the same feelings that almost every language learner has had. Some students get easily irritated with their limitations, but Melissa wanted to demonstrate that it is also significant that to have confidence and perseverance.

Melissa

You might wonder what my four-panel cartoon is all about. At first, two months ago, when I arrived in New York City, I was too scared to speak in English. I have a lot of funny episodes about that. At the store, I was not able to communicate with a clerk, so I just said "yes, yes," repeatedly. I am staying here with my relatives who have lived here a very long time, so of course their English is excellent. While we were watching TV, I was the only one who could not understand American humor. It made me feel frustrated but I gradually became more confident. I think New York City is the greatest place to learn English. I agree that English at class is also important but I have learned more things from the outside. I am always trying to explore, so I am not afraid of English anymore. I do not care about my mistakes either. It is another part of the process of improving my English.



Melissa