



### Get Colleen's Tips Now!

Follow Colleen's Paris on Facebook for the latest Paris information.



### Tons of Activities

- [Colleen's Paris Blog](#)
- [Calendar of Events](#)
- [Entertainment & Sports](#)
- [My Favourite Restaurants](#)
- [Shopping :-\)](#)
- [Visiting The City and Day Trips](#)
- [Potpourri of Paris Tips](#)
- [Paris Guidebooks](#)
- [Move or Stay ?](#)
- [Everything on All Transports](#)
- [Hotels & Apartments](#)
- [Specific Public](#)
- [Children in Paris](#)
- [Travelers with handicaps](#)
- [Layover information](#)
- [About This Site](#)
- [Home](#)
- [About Colleen's Paris](#)
- [Search Colleen's Paris](#)
- [Links](#)
- [Colleen's Advice](#)
- [I have a question...](#)



© colleensparis.com - 2010

### Paris metro tidbits

#### [RATP-maps and transportation information](#)

#### [Metro RATP story](#)

#### [Origin of metro names](#)

#### [Metro hours](#)

#### [Metéor](#)

#### Metéor

Line 14 (Metéor) is a mini TGV --- it zips you quickly between Bibliothèque François Mitterrand and Gare Saint Lazare!

It makes stops along the way at Gare de Lyon, Châtelet, Pyramides and Madeleine.  
A new station, Olympiades, one stop after the Mitterrand library opened in June 2007.

#### [Read more about it....](#)

#### Monument aux morts

Around Paris sculptured women in tunics are in doorways, decorate façades or commemorate the dead.



Carlo Sarrabezolles (1888-1971) sculpted the Monument aux morts (Monument to the dead) in 1931 in memory of the Paris metro agents who died for France during the First World War. The bronze sculpture itself was made between 1921 and 1922. You can find it downstairs in the Richelieu-Drouot metro station at rue Drouot and Boulevard Haussman.

The information includes the line number, name of the station and dates.

The monument is decorated with a *cariatide* in black marble. It represents a woman carrying a

heavy burden; death perhaps? The demi-circle is inscribed with the names of the metro employees who gave their lives during the war. On the bottom is listed the battlegrounds during the war between 1914 and 1918.

The word "Liberation" became part of this sculpture after the Second World War to commemorate the participation of deceased agents who were members of the Resistance network.

An exhibition of Sarrabezolles' work is being held in Reims. The « *De l'esquisse au colossal* » exhibition is at the Musée des Beaux-arts de Reims, 8, rue Chanzy, Reims, France between October 2008 and January 2009. He is considered to be among the great sculptures of his time.

#### Architectural definition

A *cariatide* is a statue representing a woman supporting a columnar system on her head; she replaces the classical column.

The figures are clothed in long tunics that disguise the column. It is said the name "cariatide" comes from the inhabitants of Caryes (city of Laconie) in Greece that was allied with Persia and during an invasion the inhabitants were exterminated by other Greeks and their wives were sent into slavery and condemned to carry heavy burdens. (translated from techno-science.net)

#### Renovations

Certain metro stations will be closed while the RATP renovates 200 metro stations.

They publish and update a calendar with the stations affected on their website if you need to make special arrangements.

#### Origin of local metro station names

(Translations from the RATP/Navily website)

#### Glacière (ice house)

In this neighborhood, the river Bièvre flowed to the Seine. Along the course were swamps and watering holes for the livestock.

These collections of ground water iced over in the winter. Wrapping and storing them carefully, they could be conserved until the summer in bricks.

**Denfert-Rochereau**

Pierre Philippe Denfert-Rochereau (1823-1878), was a French colonel who victoriously defended the city of Belfort against the Prussians between 1870 and 1871. This victory allowed the city of Belfort to remain French when the peace treaty was signed. The lion, sculpted by Bartholdi, in the roundabout is modeled after that found in Belfort. (Belfort remained French, while Germany annexed the rest of Alsace.)

This plaza was once called Place d'Enfer from 1760 to 1879.... A tax was collected here to enter Paris and one of the buildings still standing, is the entry to the Catacombes.... The rue d'Enfer, now Boulevard Saint-Michel, was once the Roman street, Via Inferior, which is really the origin of the name Enfer.

**Denfert-Rochereau - the train station/RER/Orlybus stop**

On June 23, 1846, the dukes of Nemours and of Montpensier, representing their father, King Louis-Philippe inaugurated the railway line between Paris and Sceaux. This is the oldest Paris railway station.

The building is circular so the trains could circle around and leave the area easily and head out in the reverse direction.

This original system was discontinued in 1895 when the rail line was extended to the Gare du Luxembourg, the oldest railway station in Belgium and Europe. <http://www.eurobru.com/monum070.htm> for more information.

**Saint-Jacques**

The Romans hadn't even built Lutèce (the Roman name for the Paris settlement) and the road Saint-Jacques was already well traveled. The street became the Roman route Genabum (Orléans) and was called "la Via Superior", then la Grand-Rue-Oultre-Petit-Pont.

The name Saint-Jacques became official in 1230 referring to the route of the pilgrims on their way to venerate the relics of the apostle, Saint-Jacques-de-Compostelle, in Spain.

**Montparnasse-Bienvenüe**

An artificial hill of rubble at today's Montparnasses-Raspail intersection, students used to call it Mont Parnasse, the residence of the gods of mythology. The hill was leveled in 1725 but held on to its name and became part of a series of intersections built under the orders of Louis XV.

Gulgence Bienvenüe (1852-1936), an engineer, was an inspector for the city of Paris and commanded the construction of the metro network. Until 1910, this metro station was called Maine because it led to the château of the duke of Maine, legitimate son of Louis XIV.

Between 1910 and 1942, the name was Gare Montparnasse, and trains were destined for Bretagne/Brittany in the northwest of France. Corvisart (755-1821)

Jean Nicolas des Marels, a baron, was Napoleon's personal doctor and heart and lung specialist. Rue Corvisart was once called Champs-de-l'Alouette.

If you are interested in more metro name trivia, let me know: [e-mail Colleen](mailto:colleen@colleensparis.com)

**Renovations from the past**

The following information comes from an article that I read in *Maison Française*. The article entitled "Baissez la tête" deals with the last 50 years of the **Paris metro's** renovations.

On opening day July 19, 1900, the 10,3 km between the Porte de Vincennes and Port Maillot, 30,000 tickets were sold.

The first renovations took place at the beginning of the 1950s. The first item on the agenda was lighting.

"In 1900 you couldn't read your newspaper while waiting for your train," according to Yo Kaminagai, director of the *Unité Design et Projets culturels à la Délégation général; Espaces de Transport et Intermodalité de la RATP*". One closed station, Saint-Martin still has the original lighting.

The name of the station Saint-Ambroise is written on the original white on blue tiles (as well as [Sèvres-Babylone](#), lines 10 and 12; [Saint Georges](#) line 12)

In 1957, the platforms of the station Franklin D. Roosevelt's advertisements were flanked by artistic panels done in gemmail\*.

After a renovation, these panels will be remounted in the entry hall of the station.

In 1968 the minister of culture, André Malraux, wished that the Louvre metro station could become the anti chamber to the museum. The result is the reproductions of a certain number of works that are exposed along the platform.

In 1968 the company that employed the *poinçonniers*/ticket punchers lost its contract.

About 30 metro stations received a face lift; their white tiles were replaced with orange (Oberkampf for example), a happier color but did not exactly brighten up the interior.

"At this time, the concept of preserving the past was not important", emphasizes Yo Kaminagai.

This was also the same moment that many of the Hector Guimard-designed entrances disappeared. Of the original 145, Malraux classified only seven: *Porte Dauphine, Abbesses, Pigalle, Ternes, Château d'Eau, Tuileries et Cité.*

In 1973, the vaulted ceiling once again became white in 85 of the stations with a decorative band with lively colors and tiled benches accented with shell-styled seats in 15 different shades.....

\*The technique used in these paintings is that used in non-leaded stained glass ("Gemail"). First used in 1939 by the painter Jean Crotti and the Physician Emmanuel Malherbe this art associates glass, colour and light in the same piece of work, without using fragile lead assemblages. -- *Museum Gemail in Lourdes*

---

#### Metro hours

As of February 2007, the metro will remain open an hour longer on Saturday nights.

Go to the *RATP* website for beginning and ending times for the exact lines (*lignes*) and the final train on Saturday/holiday (*les samedis et veilles de fête*).

This website will show the exact first departure and last departure for daily trains (*Premier Départ/Dernier Départ*).

The following is a general idea of the current open times and frequency from the *RATP* website:

#### Monday to Friday:

Approximate frequency (It seems as if when I am waiting, the train appears within a minute or two)

5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. 4 minutes (mn)  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 2 à 4 mn  
8:30 p.m. to 1:15 a.m. 5 à 8 mn

#### Saturdays and day before holidays - open until 2:00 a.m.:

5:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. 6 mn  
7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 3 à 5 mn  
8:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. 5 mn  
1:00 a.m. to 2:15 a.m. 10 mn

#### Sundays and holidays:

5:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. 8 mn  
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. 5 à 7 mn  
1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 3 à 5 mn  
8:30 p.m. to 1:15 a.m. 5 à 8 mn

---