Britain, France Boost Anti-Terrorist Cooperation

Following the July terror attacks in London, French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin met with his British counterpart, Tony Blair, on July 25 to discuss Franco-British cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Villepin expressed “the solidarity and the friendship of the French people” toward the British in the wake of the deadly attacks in which more than 50 commuters were killed. The two ministers agreed on several measures that will increase security in both countries, such as exchanging the names of British in the wake of the deadly attacks in which more than 50 commuters were killed. The two ministers agreed on several measures that will increase security in both countries, such as exchanging the names of individuals who have been trying to incite Islamic extremism, and sharing information on how to best protect targets like public transportation networks. The Paris metro system suffered several terror attacks in the eighties and early nineties, and its experience should prove helpful to the London underground. Telecommunication firms will also be required to keep longer records, in order to better track the communications between suspected terrorists.

The two countries also discussed the roots of Islamic extremism and how they can prevent the radicalization of young Muslims. Villepin expressed specific concerns regarding the return to Europe of young Jihadists who have been trained in Bosnia or Afghanistan and who could carry out attacks in the West. Villepin once again requested the extradition of Rachid Ramda, who is being held in Britain and is accused of being the financial support behind the terrorist attacks in the Paris metro during the summer of 1995.

France Calls on Iran to Suspend Nuclear Activities

France Calls on Iran to Suspend Nuclear Activities

Face with Iran’s decision to resume operations in its Isfahan uranium conversion plant, French Foreign Affairs Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy called on the Iranian government to pursue its negotiations with France, Britain and Germany. He emphasized that Tehran should carefully study the proposals of the European troika and that Europe does not favor U.N. Security Council sanctions, although it has not ruled them out.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom, like the United States, adamantly oppose nuclear proliferation, and have made proposals that would enable the Iranians to suspend their sensitive nuclear activities while pursuing the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

“We think that it is still possible to negotiate so that the Iranians are able to suspend their sensitive nuclear activities,” said Douste-Blazy to the press after meeting with his Spanish counterpart about Iran on August 9. “Our hand is still outstretched.”

After meeting to discuss the new steps taken by Iran, the International Atomic Energy Agency’s (IAEA) Board of Governors unanimously adopted a resolution on August 11 calling on Iran to once again suspend its uranium conversion activities. Douste-Blazy expressed France’s satisfaction with the resolution, which he called “clear, firm, and devoid of any spirit of confrontation. It opens the way for a rapid resumption of talks with Europe.”

He noted that its unanimous adoption fully demonstrates the international consensus that exists on the matter, and the need for Iran to prove its peaceful intentions. He added that France will continue to work closely during the coming weeks with its international partners and the IAEA in order to push forward Europe’s diplomatic solution to the crisis. “We hope we shall be able to find a common solution to preserve the positive spirit of [last year’s] Paris agreement, which may yet be saved,” Douste-Blazy said.

ZIDANE, THURAM AND MAKELELE RETURN TO LES BLEUS

Zinédine Zidane, the famed soccer midfielder, announced that he will return to les Bleus, the French national team. Zidane, affectionately known as Zizou, plays for Real Madrid but retired from international competition after France lost to Greece in the quarter finals of the 2004 Euro. Claude Makeléle quickly followed Zidane in returning to les Bleus, as did ace defender Lilian Thuram. The latter explained “France gave me a lot and I would not be grateful by refusing to wear its jersey again.” All three players hope to help the struggling French team return to the golden era marked by its 1998 World Cup and 2000 Euro wins. Zidane, a three-time FIFA world player of the year and the winner of numerous soccer awards, said Raymond Domenech, the French national coach, convinced him to return to les Bleus after visiting him several times in Madrid. “I have always said that the French team is the most important thing that has happened to me,” Zidane said. “I thought deeply about it and I want to play for France again.”

March of the Penguins, a French documentary directed by Luc Jacquet, has just become America’s second highest grossing documentary, surpassing Michael Moore’s Bowling for Columbine (Fahrenheit 9/11, also by Moore, continues to hold the number one spot). The film follows a pack of Emperor penguins as they surmount incredible obstacles (including temperatures of 80 below zero, savage storms and leopard seals) to trek 70 miles across Antarctica, find mates and raise their young. The film is the surprise independent hit of the summer, and its U.S. distributor, Warner Brothers, more than doubled the number of North American theaters playing the movie on August 5, from 778 to 1,867.
Franco-Israeli Ties Reinvigorated

ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER Ariel Sharon and French President Jacques Chirac hailed the strong relations between their two countries as Sharon visited France from July 26 to July 28. It was Sharon's first visit to France since July 2001. The two leaders had a very warm two-and-a-half-hour meeting, at the end of which Sharon invited Chirac to visit him in Israel. Sharon also met with Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy and representatives of the French Jewish community.

Both nations share a common interest in reinvigorating their relations in order to achieve peace in the Middle East. New developments in the region, including the election of the moderate Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas and the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon, have given a new impetus for peace in the Middle East.

Prime Minister Sharon thanked President Chirac for his staunch fight against anti-Semitism. "I would like to thank the French president for his firm struggle against anti-Semitism. Israel considers Jacques Chirac as one of the world's great leaders." The French Ministry of the Interior released figures on July 25 showing that the number of attacks and insults directed at Jewish targets has fallen dramatically over the last year. The Israeli government also appreciates France's uncompromising stance toward Iran with regards to its possible development of nuclear weapons.

Chirac praised the Israeli leader for his courageous decision to withdraw from the Gaza Strip, saying that, because of this Israeli initiative, the world "is witnessing a renewal of the peace process, which must lead Israelis to live in peace and security."

According to Douste-Blazy, "Prime Minister Sharon has made a historic and very concrete decision. We told him how much we support this initiative, how much we hope it takes place peacefully."

The two leaders announced their intention to set up a France-Israel foundation that would promote bilateral ties in the fields of business, culture and education. The foundation would start its activities by early 2006, and a "French week" would likely be organized in Israel that same year. Sharon also expressed his desire, seconded by Chirac, to see Israel join the organization of French-speaking countries (known as la Francophonie), as Israel is home to a large community of French-speaking Jews.

New Measures Against Terrorism (continued from page 1)

The French government has already taken several measures in the wake of the London attacks. Border controls were reinstated, and the terrorism alert was raised to red—the third level on a scale of four. Villepin also held a meeting with Defense Minister Michèle Alliot-Marie and Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy to discuss other anti-terrorism measures, including increased video surveillance, the monitoring of mobile phone activity and greater identity card security.

Nonetheless, Villepin insisted that "we are anxious to find a balance between the need for security and the need for liberty." He emphasized that the Commission Nationale d'Informatique et Libertés, an institution that monitors the government's respect of privacy rights, and other interested parties will be consulted before any measures are enacted. "Our ambition is to get a consensus, because our greatest assets against terrorism are democracy and the rule of law."

France Flies Aid to Niger

FRANCE HAS STEPPED up its aid to the west African state of Niger, one of the poorest countries in the world, in response to the devastating famine that is affecting up to one third of the country's 12 million inhabitants. President Jacques Chirac announced on July 30 that France would triple its food aid to $5.7 million, as well as double its contributions to the World Food Program, of which one million euros will be used to supply school canteens in the most affected regions. French citizens are also increasing their private contributions, and the western city of Rouen declared it would donate 100,000 euros to help children suffering from the food crisis.

As President Chirac made his announcement, French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy arrived in Niger to oversee the distribution of thousands of tons of food and medication and to determine what more is needed. The U.N.'s World Food Program, the French army and the French charity "Réunion" have joined forces to successfully deliver 2,000 tons of rice, 500 tons of peas, 80 tons of vitamin and mineral-enriched biscuits, 28 tons of oil, and 1.7 tons of medication.

The famine is the result of a terrible drought coupled with a locust invasion in 2004, which provoked the widespread destruction of crops and the outbreak of deadly diseases such as cholera. Poverty and hunger kill one in four children under the age of five in Niger. France hopes to improve the lives of the 800,000 children threatened by famine, of which 150,000 suffer from serious malnutrition.
A World of Friends Fighting AIDS

A benefit dinner, organized by the Friends of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention (FWFARP) and presided over by Prince Albert II of Monaco, will be held on September 28 in Houston, Texas. The event, entitled “A World of Friends Fighting AIDS,” will be co-hosted by the General Consulate of France and the French-American Chamber of Commerce, and co-chaired by social doyenne Lynn Wyatt.

FWFARP, a Houston-based charity, promotes the activities of the World Foundation for AIDS Research and Prevention, an international NGO founded by Professor Luc Montagnier, the French co-discoverer of the HIV virus. The foundation seeks to establish clinics and research centers in the areas most affected by the AIDS epidemic. In 2005, a new center in Yaoundé, Cameroon, will be the first step in the extension of its network from its existing center in Abidjan (Ivory Coast).

Both Montagnier and the American co-discoverer of the HIV virus, Dr. Robert C. Gallo, who serves on the FWFARP’s scientific board, have dedicated their lives to combating the AIDS epidemic. Gallo and Montagnier are working together on the “Families First Africa” project, which is aimed at preventing mother-to-child HIV transmission.

Over 250 donors are expected to attend the dinner and silent auction at Houston’s Intercontinental Hotel. For more information, or to make a donation, please send an e-mail to worthworldxs@sprintmail.com or call (713) 256-8965.

Nobel Winner to Speak at Memory Conference in D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Area science buffs will soon have a chance to deepen their understanding of the complex and ever-broadening field of neural studies with two of the greatest scientists in physics today. On September 13 at 6:30 pm, Professor Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, the 1991 Nobel Prize winner in physics today. On September 13 at 6:30 pm, Professor Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, the 1991 Nobel Prize winner in physics, and Professor Jean-Didier Vincent will discuss recent developments in a conference hosted by the CNRS and the Office of Science and Technology at La Maison Française. The conference, presented in English, will focus on the themes of the brain and memory, and specifically on how modern imaging techniques are used to study the mind in ever more detail. Professor de Gennes received the Nobel Prize for his work on how liquid crystals and polymers behave when transitioning from ordered to disordered states. Vincent is renowned for his work on the interactions between hormones and the nervous system.

To reserve a seat at the conference, please e-mail Elise.Yakuboff@cns.usa.org before August 26.

French Executives Thriving in the U.S.

MORE AND MORE French businessmen are succeeding in the American market, according to a study by Transmark Partners, a business development and management company. In a survey of 90 French managers working in the U.S., 91 percent said they considered their career in the U.S. a success.

In seeking to identify the key factors in the success of these French businessmen, the study found that it lies in their ability to share American values (particularly a strong work ethic) without forsaking their French heritage or the importance of striking a balance between work and family.

"It is not necessary to sell your soul to succeed in the United States," says Yves Coléon, president of Transmark Partners. "The majority of French professionals have discovered a balance between French culture and the American socioeconomic dynamic."

For two-thirds of those surveyed, the driving factors in their desire to pursue careers in the U.S. were a sense of adventure and the thrill of the American dream.


U.S. HOLDING BUYS TAITTINGER AND CRILLON HOTEL

The U.S. real-estate firm Starwood Capital, owner of the Sheraton and Westin hotels, will purchase France’s Group Taittinger, which controls Taittinger champagne (as well as the iconic Hotel Crillon in Paris and other high-end French brands) in a deal worth over $2.59 billion. Starwood says it will develop Taittinger’s three budget hotel chains into Europe-wide brands and refurbish the group’s luxury hotels, including the Crillon.

E.U. AND U.S. WINE REGIONS DEFEND APPELLATIONS

Representatives from prominent European wine regions, including the Champagne region in France, and their counterparts from California, Oregon and Washington came together in Napa Valley to forge the “Napa Declaration” on August 2. The pact’s goal is to better educate consumers about the different wine regions so that they can learn to avoid wines falsely professing to be from premier regions.

DASSAULT DONATES EXHIBIT TO DETROIT SCIENCE CENTER

French software developer Dassault Systèmes, a subsidiary of Dassault Aviation, will donate an exhibit it created for the French Pavilion at the World Expo 2005 in Japan to the new Detroit Science Center. The $1 million exhibit, scheduled to open in January, demonstrates the firm’s high-tech design and manufacturing software as well as its 3D simulation tools.

LAW AND ORDER, FRENCH STYLE

For the first time ever, a French television station, TF1, has decided to remake an American TV show. The show in question is Law & Order: Criminal Intent, and the new “Frenchified” version will be based on the original series but will be adapted to the French judicial system. Dick Wolf, the original producer of the American hit, will fly to Paris several times in order to oversee production.
The History of French Gardens

Throughout his reign, Charlemagne, the first king of France, experimented with plants in his private garden and gave detailed gardening instructions for his numerous royal estates. Since that time, France’s gardens have become world-renowned for their beauty, grandeur and innovation.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, gardening was first revived in the Ile-de-France region in the 13th century, culminating in the creation of the famous gardens of Versailles and Villandry during the Renaissance. French Renaissance gardens built upon the Italian model, but created more expansive designs. The French Renaissance style is particularly known for its parterres—low plants and shrubs arranged in elaborate patterns. The ornamental love gardens of Villandry evoke splendor and perfection in the art of gardens. The French Renaissance gardens of this 16th-century chateau were restored in the early 20th century by Dr. Joachim Carvallo. The ornamental gardens, just above the kitchen garden (with its tasty vegetables), can be fully appreciated from the bedrooms of the castle and symbolize an allegory of the “Gardens of Love.”

The mere mention of the name Villandry evokes splendor and perfection in the art of gardens. The French Renaissance gardens of this 16th-century chateau were restored in the early 20th century by Dr. Joachim Carvallo. The ornamental gardens, just above the kitchen garden (with its tasty vegetables), can be fully appreciated from the bedrooms of the castle and symbolize an allegory of the “Gardens of Love.”

The French Renaissance gardens of Villandry are characteristic of urban areas. As a result, the number of gardens in France has grown exponentially, inspired by Asian and Mediterranean landscapes. As a third generation landscapist, he was taught the practice of landscape design at an early age by both his father and grandfather. He received a classical education and academic training, studying architecture and art with Simon Vouet and François Mansart.

The garden designs at both Versailles and Vaux-le-Vicomte perfectly illustrate André Le Nôtre’s reliance on classical ideas and his belief in the dominance of man over nature to create a harmonious and picturesque landscape. His celebrated royal gardens possess a standard of geometric and mathematical design, as well as tiers, walls, waterways and pools that create optical illusions of infinite space.

Though his gardens at the palace of Versailles and at Vaux-le-Vicomte constitute his most celebrated works, he also designed gardens for the Tuileries, Saint-Cloud, Marly-le-Roi, Chantilly, Fontainebleau and Saint-Germain-en-Laye.

For more information, visit www.lenotre.culture.gouv.fr
**Biologists Allowed to Import Stem Cells**

**Despite remaining ethical concerns, French scientific authorities have given biologists the green light for the importation of embryonic stem cells in order to advance scientific research.**

Nine decrees from the Ministry of Research and Health, published in the Journal Officiel, dated July 24, authorized several research teams at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM), and the University Hospital Center of Montpellier, to import stem cell lines.

Originating in the U.S. (Wicell Research Institute) and in Israel (Technion Research and Development Foundation), the cells were retrieved from discarded human embryos (only a few days old), conceived in vitro in a fertility clinic. Researchers will cultivate them for five years in order to deepen their understanding of auto-renewal mechanisms as well as the process of differentiation that gives these cells the capacity to give rise to all the tissues in the human body.

The legal use of stem cells was granted under the provisions of the French bioethics law of August 8, 2004 (see NF 04.12). Researchers are, however, still eager for a more sturdy framework under which to work, one that would allow them more control over such studies in the future. They are also hoping to create their own stem cell lines as soon as doing so becomes authorized.

**Study Suggests Circumcision Helps Prevent AIDS Transmission**

Circumcision may be on its way to becoming a bona fide health measure after a study conducted in South Africa concluded that the procedure may help reduce the likelihood of AIDS infections. The study, directed by Bertrand Auvert and his French team at the National Institute for Health and Medical Research (INSERM) in Paris as well as Adrian Puren of the South African National Institute for Communicable Diseases, recruited over 3,000 volunteers between the ages of 18 and 24, half circumcised, half not. Both groups were given condoms and information on STD prevention. After 21 months, 51 cases of infection were found among the non-circumcised group compared with just 18 in the circumcised group (both groups reported similar sexual behaviors).

Researchers say, however, that this preliminary study is not conclusive as it does not explain how the risk of transmission is reduced by circumcision. Additional studies are to be carried out in Kenya and Uganda. To learn more, visit www.inserm.fr.

**France Telecom Buys Spanish Mobile Operator Amena**

France Telecom expanded its foothold in Europe with the announcement of its $7.7 billion acquisition of 80 percent of Amena, Spain’s third-largest mobile telephone operator, with 9.7 million clients and a 24 percent market share. The deal will make France Telecom the second-largest operator in Spain, after Telefonica.

Spain is Europe’s fifth largest telecommunications market with an estimated growth potential over the next three years of approximately 6 percent for mobiles and more than 10 percent for data and internet services (higher than the forecast European average in both cases).

“The merger of France Telecom España and Amena confirms our strategy as an integrated European operator,” said Didier Lombard, France Telecom’s chief executive. France Telecom is also present in Belgium, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Poland.

After the sale of Amena’s cable operations, France Telecom will merge Amena and its Spanish subsidiary, France Telecom España. It is likely the new company will take the Orange name used in France Telecom’s other markets. By 2008, the acquisition should generate more than 130 million euros in free cash flow.
Balloon Bonanza

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED record in hot-air balloon history, exactly 261 hot-air balloons took to the sky simultaneously as part of the July 24 kickoff of the ninth ballooning event in Chambly, France. Chambly, with its biannual "Mondial Air Balloons" show, is the site of one of the largest gatherings of hot-air balloons in the world. About 10,000 spectators watched with delight as the sky filled with colorful orbs and the amazing display entered record books.

The 261 balloons formed a line that stretched nearly two miles along a former American military base. The base's large size and the area's generally favorable weather conditions permitted such a large synchronized flight. Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the only other major ballooning center with similar favorable conditions for mass takeoffs.

"This exercise isn't without its risks," explained Thierry Villey, the flight director. "The wind conditions must be ideal so that all of the balloons leave at the same time and in the same direction; if one takes off faster than the others, the wind could make it deviate from its course and put it at risk of a collision with its neighbor."

Ballooning teams came from all over the world to participate in the events, which also included a re-enactment of the Montgolfier brothers' first hot-air balloon flight in 1783. The French inventors were the first to demonstrate practical lighter-than-air flight, and hot-air balloons are still called montgolfières in France in their honor.

To learn more, visit www.pilatre-de-rozier.com.

Beurger King Launched

Beurger King, a new fast-food restaurant launched this summer in the Paris suburb of Clichy-sous-Bois, is catering directly to France's large Islamic population. The restaurant's name is a play on both the huge American chain and the French word beurr, slang for a second-generation North African living in France.

The menu at Beurger King Muslim (BKM) offers standard fast-food burgers and fries; however, the beef and chicken burgers are all halal—made with meat butchered and prepared in accordance with Islamic dietary laws. The waitresses don't sport baseball caps with a flashy logo, instead they wear plain Islamic head scarves, just like many of their customers.

Three Muslim friends from near Paris saw a need for a clean, family-friendly halal fast-food restaurant and started this restaurant after seeing the success of similar ones in Thailand and Algeria. Although Muslim fast food can be found throughout France, BKM is the first to recreate the décor and atmosphere of the American-style fast food joints that are so popular with French youths.

Beurger King has already met with success; its stocks have tripled in its first three months of operation, and its managers expect to add eight new employees to its staff of 20 this fall.

Revolutionary Maritime Researcher Alain Bombard Dies

Dr. Alain Bombard, a French biologist famous for having voluntarily journeyed solo across the Atlantic without food or water to prove the potential resilience of shipwrecked sailors and passengers, died July 19 at the age of 80. The Paris-born doctor, inspired when a shipwreck often meant imminent doom for those involved.

"He saved hundreds, if not thousands, of people at the risk of his honor," said French navigator Jo Le Guen, remembering Bombard. "When he talked of surviving at sea in this way, people made fun of him, no one took him seriously, they thought him a joker."

In his fifties, he entered politics, serving briefly as secretary of state for the environment under president Mitterrand in 1981, and later as a European deputy from 1981 to 1994. Bombard received France's prestigious Legion of Honor.

Death of Judge Thierry Jean-Pierre

Thierry Jean-Pierre, the French judge who was among the first to fight corruption in the political system in the 1990s, died July 27 at the age of 49, having succumbed to cancer. During his judicial career, he resisted the obstructionism of his superiors and unveiled political dishonesty at the highest levels. A right-wing politician and conservative liberal, Jean-Pierre was elected to the European Parliament in 1994. He wrote several books, including Taiwan Connection.

Harry Potter Gets French Kids to Read English

Rather than waiting for the translation of Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, many young French fans have decided to read it in English. Indeed, the English-language version is currently the 5th best-selling book in France. This situation is of particular interest to English-language teachers in France, who have happily used the series’ strong appeal to teach English to their students. Unfortunately, reading one book in English does not necessarily lead to an interest in reading more books in the language of Shakespeare!

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall

Looking into the mirror is a feel-good factor for the majority of French people, who check out their looks in a mirror at least once a day. Indeed, 8 out of 10 French people look in the mirror at least once a day and like what they see, according to a poll recently released by BVA. The poll also revealed that women do more looking than men—81 percent versus 74 percent—and while a whopping 88 percent of men were delighted with the man in the mirror, women were a bit less self-satisfied, with 73 percent declaring themselves pleased with their image. Of all the age groups, 18- to 24-year-olds proved to be the most narcissistic, with 84 percent consulting a mirror at least once a day. Despite high levels of overall satisfaction, 70 percent of those surveyed said they worried about their weight, and 42 percent want to lose weight. For the majority, however, this desire arose from health concerns, rather than anxiety about appearances.

Scrabble: A French Champion

In this year’s edition of the francophone Scrabble World Championship in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, Frenchman Antonin Michel came out triumphant in a field of 800 contestants from 15 different countries. At this high level of competition, the chance factor is eliminated as each competitor receives the same letters and has to come up with the best combination in 2.5 minutes every round. The French version of scrabble was developed by Belgians, and quickly became dominated by the French. Only in 1978, and between 2002 and 2004, have non-French players won the competition. To learn more, visit www.scrabble2005.ch.
Saudi Prince Donates $21 Million for Islamic Art Wing at the Louvre

The Louvre, the world’s largest museum, announced it will open a new wing to showcase its vast collection of Islamic art. The project was born at the instigation of French President Jacques Chirac. One-third of the $69 million project will be financed through a multi-million-dollar gift, one of the largest in French history, from Saudi Prince Al-Walid Bin Talal, while the French state will contribute 26 million euros and French oil company Total 4 million euros. Prince Bin Talal is a generous philanthropist who says he wants to mend ties between Arabs and the West, an imperative that he considers all the more pressing since the September 11 terror attacks. French Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres thanked the prince for his gift, saying “your gesture is a testament to the generosity of the Islamic world.” This gift, he added, “expresses the special friendship between France and Saudi Arabia.”

“Les Visiteurs:” Mixing Modern and Traditional Treasures

Culture Minister Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres declared the summer of 2005 a time to celebrate France’s heritage and contemporary art with the launch of modern art exhibits in 20 historical buildings throughout France. This series of exhibits, entitled “Les Visiteurs” (“The Visitors”), encourages people to participate in both the old and the new through the autumn of 2006 (exact dates vary for each venue).

Works of contemporary art will be displayed thematically in castles, palaces, fortresses and monasteries. These exhibitions seek to establish relationships between the past and the present, as well as between history, architecture and contemporary fine arts. Indeed, special attention was given to the choice of the sites and works in order to best establish a dialogue between the architecture and history of the selected buildings and the contemporary nature of the works of art.

Examples include the exposition “Chasses le Naturel…” at the Chambord chateau, which explores the themes of the forest and of nature in an imaginative style. At the radiant and airy Chateau de Tarascon (in southeastern France), the theme of space and light is examined through works by artists James Lee Byars, Jeppe Hein and Bernard Moninot. The artwork on display at the palace of Tau in Rheims constantly alludes to the cathedral’s emblem, the angel. To learn more, visit www.lesvisiteurs.culture.fr.

Jazz at la Villette Celebrates John Coltrane

This summer the “Jazz à la Villette” festival pays tribute to both legendary U.S. saxophonist John Coltrane and to the new wave of jazz influenced by electronic, rock and hip hop music. From August 30 through September 10, the Cité de la Musique in Paris’s Parc de la Villette will present some of the biggest stars in the world of jazz, along with numerous up-and-coming artists. Performances will take place both inside the renovated factory and in the open, beneath the night sky. The festival will also host several documentary showings, workshops and master classes.

Ravi and Alice Coltrane will headline the festival. Son and wife of the late John Coltrane, Ravi and his quartet, accompanied by his mother, Alice, on the piano, will perform their unique blend of jazz and classical Indian music. Other highlights include the Saxophone Summit, a saxophone trio that will pay tribute to their mentor Coltrane; Jeff Shabel and Julien Lourau, who will perform a mix of jazz, house and techno; and the Anthony Baxton Trio from Chicago.

Coltrane’s influence will be obvious throughout the festival. Coltrane, who, despite his short career was a prolific recorder, has inspired generations of jazz musicians with his dedication to his art and constant experimentation.

For a detailed schedule or to find out more information about the festival, please visit www.villette.com.
Modern Marketing Expo in Delaware

A MODERN MARKETING exhibit at the Delaware Art Museum, "Consuming Desires: Modern Marketing Posters," features European and American posters from some of the world's earliest marketing campaigns. These bold, striking and elegant images, which represent the turn-of-the-century revolutionary strategy of selling products and ideas to the public through art, will be on display through October 2.

The exhibit includes posters by French artist Jules Chéret, who created this new art form in the 1880s, and was the first to feature colorful, eye-catching images to advertise goods. By the early 1890s, the poster movement spread all over the world to promote products such as books, magazines, art exhibitions and even ideas. The "Consuming Desires" exhibit includes international posters from France and America, as well as from Belgium, Germany, and England.

Posters were artistic advertising tools designed specifically to be posted on the walls and kiosks of popular city streets. They seized the attention of passers-by with bold lines and flat color, defined by sharp outlines, a style that became known as "Poster style." These posters provide a window into the artistic styles, fashions and cultural debates of the late 1800s and early 1900s. At the time, just as today, "poster girls"—stylishly dressed women—were used to sell almost everything.

In the 1890s, posters became extremely popular not only to sell goods but as works of art. Poster artists and publishers began to overprint commercial editions and sell them through print dealers. Collectors acquired posters by taking them from walls and shop windows as well as through purchase. Collecting turn-of-the-century posters regained popularity in the 1920s, and in the 1970s, interest in these posters emerged once again and continues today.

For more information, visit www.delart.org.

Matisse: the Fabric of Dreams in New York

A NEW EXHIBIT explores the role of fabrics and textiles in Matisse’s artwork at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City through September 25. The exhibit, entitled "Matisse: The Fabric of Dreams—His Art and His Textiles," features over 80 of his works, along with pieces from his personal collection of fabrics from all over the world, pieces that heavily inspired his art. This is the first time the textiles have been publicly displayed since the artist's death in 1954.

Matisse, whose family had been involved in textiles for generations, spent the first 20 years of his life in the north of France where textile production was a key industry. This influenced his use of fabrics, not only as background drop but as the focus of his works.

The exhibit is organized chronologically, with the artworks displayed next to the textiles that Matisse used in his paintings. Among the materials that inspired Matisse’s works are an Islamic prayer mat, Parisian dresses, African Kuba cloth, Romanian blouses and Tapa cloth from the South Pacific.

"This whole idea of thinking like a textile artist is ingrained in Matisse," says Rebecca Rabinow, one of the exhibit curators. "These fabrics just inspire him in certain ways to push his painting just one degree further."

Please visit www.metmuseum.org for more information.