



Probably the best set from the Joan of Arc Museum showing her first audience with the Dauphin.



This was the sword carried by Joan, displayed in the Rouen Cathedral.



French middle class, circa 1430.



Château de Blois marker.

# TRAVEL

## Jennie D'Arc Slept Here

by William Capps

Last spring, we traveled to France, Normandy and the Loire valley to sample the cheese and wine and to follow the trail of Joan of Arc. I still have not resolved why they call her Joan of Arc. Her name was Jehanne Darc of Domrémy (renamed Domrémy-la-Pucelle) south-east of Reims. Apparently, the English could not find "Jehanne" in their official book of names, so they called her Joan in their documents.

There is a wonderful golden statue of Joan across the street from the Louvre. Sadly, I do not think she ever got to Paris, but she certainly tried. I think that was her downfall.

Joan's better days were in the Loire valley. She did stay at some chateaus, like Chinon, where she met the dauphin. I suspect she developed some reluctance since she began having trouble getting out; the hospitality could be stern. She had this thing about taking part of the army to win a battle that was not officially sanctioned.

Joan's life ended in Rouen, burned at the stake, literally, for wearing men's clothing. The authorities had a difficult time getting rid of all of her for fear of her relics.

On the site of her burning sits the Church of Sainte Jeanne d'Arc. A previous church on that site was destroyed in WWII, but the stained glass was saved and now covers one side of the new church.

Across the street is the incredibly "cheesy" Joan of Arc Museum. Think of a series of 1950s dioramas, a la grade school.

Rouen has warmed up to Joan. She is now the patron saint of France, which honors her with many local references, including an alcove



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Joan by the Louvre, 1577.