SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, D. C.

October /2, 1912.

Mr. Walter Deane,

29 Brewster Street,

Cambridge, Massachusetts.

My dear Deane:

I have been intending ever since my return to write to you regarding the bridges of Paris. Your two letters were duly received while I was in Europe and when in Paris I made repeated efforts to obtain pictures of the bridges you wanted, but unfortunately I was not able to find any of them. I did pick up, however, a few photographs of some other bridges, and these I am sending to you. I have a few pictures of bridges in Rome and some other European cities which I shall be glad to send to you if you would care to have them.

Yours very truly,

Hose

The Pont-Neuf.- * * * In the 17th and 18th cent. the Pont-Neuf was the favorite rendez-vous of news vendors, jugglers, showmen, loungers, and thieves. To this motley crowd Tabarin, a famous satirist, used to spout his witticisms, from a platform which he set up between Nos. 13 and 15 in the Place du Pont-Neuf. One of the first hydraulic pumps, the 'Samaritaine', was erected on this bridge (model at the Musée Carnavalet). Near by are the swimming-baths of 'La Samaritaine'. Down below, behind the statue of the king, is the Jardin Henri IV or Jardin du Vert-Galant. The best view of the bridge is obtained from this garden or from the banks of the Seine. Secondhand book stalls line the quays.

Opposite the equestrian statue, a few paces distant, is the Place Dauphine (Called Place de Thionville under the Revolution), partly surrounding which are some 17th cent. houses of brick, with festoons of white stone.

The Pont de la Concorde (Pl. R, 15, 14; II), which crosses the Seine from the Place de La Concorde to the Chambre des Deputes was built by Perronet in 1787-90, the material for the upper part being furnished by the stones of the Bastille. The piers are in the form of half-columns, and were adorned with statues (now at Versailles).

The view from the bridge is very fine. It includes the Place de la Concorde, the Madeleine, and the Chamber of Deputies; then, upstream, to the left, the Tuileries Garden, a pavilion of the Tuileries and one of the Louvre, the Pont Solferino and the Pont-Royal; to the right, the Gare du Qaui-d'Orsay, in front of which is the little dome of the Palais de la Legion d'Honneur; farther off are the dome of the Institut, the towers of Notre Dame, the spire of the Sainte-Chapelle, and the dome of the Tribunal de Commerce. Downstream, to the right, appear the Palais in the Champs-Elysees; then the Pont Alexandre Trois, and the towers of the Trocadero; to the left the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the inevitable Eiffel Tower. The dome of the Invalides can be seen only from a little below the bridge, to the right of the Chamber of Deputies.



Rose, J. N. 1912. "Rose, Joseph Nelson Oct. 12, 1912." *Joseph Nelson Rose letters* to Walter Deane

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