

lingua weekly

12th April 2007

Postcard from N.Y.P.D. and L!

By Wesley Trobaugh



More out of coincidence more than out of desire, though I thoroughly enjoyed them all, I have had the opportunity to take several trips in the first few months of this year. January found me in New York, February in Andorra, March in Dublin and Paris and April in Lanzarote.

I told you about Andorra, and though the anecdote was a somewhat negative experience, I really did have a good time.

New York was fabulous, as always; it is always the same yet always just as fascinating each time I go. This happens to me with Barcelona as well. The more times I visit certain cities, the more enchanting they become. The first trip is always a rush to see this monument and that landmark and this museum and that famous building. The second is a bit more relaxed, though there is always something you didn't do the first

time. Subsequent visits are for actually living the city, maybe seeing sights, maybe not. Many times they are showing someone you know around. I particularly like this, sharing my favorite spots.

Dublin, too, was a delight. Do go for a long weekend. The best thing about it was that people were so nice! I hate to use the word nice as it is usually either an understatement or sarcasm. But in this case it is true. People were friendly and helpful and they even SMILED! I'm sorry to say this, and I'm not exactly Mr. Nice Guy myself, but people in Spain are not very nice.

And they're not so nice in France, either. However, I love both Spain and France to death and in Paris, too, had a nice time seeing my sister and my mother, who were on a group school tour to London, Paris, and a few places in Italy. For an American, this is a big trip! It's a lot to see in little time but sometimes, because of Europe's high cost and a lack of vacation time, sometimes it's the best Americans can do to get a little of Europe in their lives! It was strange being in a group of Americans, as it had been a long time since I had been part of one, but it was fun. What I could not get over, though, was dinner at six! I love Paris in the springtime...

Lanzarote was warm and sunny, just as it was supposed to be (except for one day of rain), and the moon-rock landscape was much more pleasant and intriguingly beautiful than I had expected. I enjoyed Cesar Manrique's contributions to the island as well.

Travelling is my favorite pastime, thus I hope to be able to tell you about lots more. But for now, we have a pause and some time in Donosti, at least until next month!