

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter May, 2013

The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo



Nobody has ever bankrupted the casino at Monte Carlo, but a few have “broken the bank” there. The first to do it was a British engineer, Joseph Jagger – actually a distant relative of Sir Mick of Rolling Stones fame - in 1875. Jagger gained a practical experience of mechanics working in Yorkshire’s cotton manufacturing industry. In 1873 he hired six clerks to watch and record the outcomes at all six roulette wheels at the casino in Monte Carlo. He discovered that one particular wheel favored a certain set of numbers, so on 7th July, 1875 he placed his first bet, on his preferred wheel, and won! By the time he had finished he had amassed the equivalent of over \$4,000,000 in today’s money. He went back to England, quit his job and retired to a life of leisure.

In 1892, Fred Gilbert wrote a song titled *The Man Who Broke the bank at Monte Carlo*, but the inspiration for this popular song was not Joseph Jagger. The song celebrates the exploits of another Englishman who achieved the feat, Charles Wells.

Wells was a “con-artist” who, throughout his lifetime, had swindled a number of investors out of large sums of money. In 1891, Wells went to Monte Carlo with £4,000 that he had defrauded from investors with a bogus invention, a “musical jumping rope”. With his £4,000 stake, he began to place bets at the roulette wheel. Eleven hours later, he had “broken the bank” twelve times with winning streaks of up to 23 out of 30 successive spins of the wheel! He left Monte Carlo a rich man. Wells returned to Monte Carlo in November later that year and won another fortune.

In the winter of 1892, Wells again went to Monte Carlo and, again, started out on a winning streak – he broke the bank six more times before starting to lose. In the end he lost everything, including more investor funds that were supposed to be used to finance another of his “inventions”, a fuel-saving device for steam ships.

Finally, the law caught up with Wells and he spent many years in prison. He died in 1926 in Paris. He had put his success at Monte Carlo down to simple “luck”.

So, what does “breaking the Bank” mean, other than winning in Monte Carlo?

The term, “faire sauter la banque” (French for “blow up the bank”) was coined by the owner of the casino in Monte Carlo at that time, Francois Blanc. It applies when a gambler wins more chips than are on the table. Blanc wanted to advertise the exploits of big winners like Jagger and Wells so that more patrons would come to his casino. Their successes actually helped the casino’s business. And Gilbert’s song, inspired by



Wells, also added to Monte Carlo’s fame.

Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?....Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

For history buffs, here is a site on Monte Carlo’s casino:
http://www.crapdicecontrol.com/monte_carlo.htm

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: This month Matthew is taking a sabbatical and is travelling around the U.S. He'll be back for our Semester Party on the 1st of next month and refreshed and ready to help you with your studies from June. We also have a new teacher, Dylan, joining us from this month. If you haven't met him yet, come to the party and chat with him. We have some surprises install for the party, so don't miss it!

Junko Says: Recently I have started to watch "American Idol" again. I really enjoy this program, along with another one called "Britain's Got talent". I especially enjoy watching the contestants' journey from their first auditions to the top 5 or so. They go through a lot of changes along the way, not only in their art, but in their lives as well. It is fascinating to watch them grow as they strive to improve their art.



Matthew Says: Hi everyone! I am currently in America at the moment and so far I have been to L.A., San Bernardino, San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., Buffalo (Niagara Falls) and Boston. I also saw the President of Korea in person at the Korean War memorial near Lincoln's memorial in Washington! I will be going to Toronto, Montreal, San Diego and back to L.A. over the next two weeks. I hope you all had a great Golden week and I look forward to seeing you all again in June!

Dylan Says: It's a very sad day for football fans, especially those who support Manchester United. Sir Alex Ferguson has announced his retirement as manager, ending the most successful managerial career in football. Ferguson won 49 trophies during his 27 years at United including 13 Premier League titles. I have been offered the managerial position by the club, however, due to my loyal commitments to Crossroads I have publicly declined their offer!



Arnaud Dit: Ce mois ci, c'est mon anniversaire! pour fêter ça, j'espèrais boire une bonne bouteille de vin,avec mes amis. Chez moi, j'ai une bouteille qui a 21 ans!!! Du vin français, bien sur. Elle doit couter cher, surtout au Japon. Qu'en pensez-vous: je devrais peut-être la revendre?

NOTICE BOARD



Yufuko Ooura's New Sewing Machine

I have a dream of becoming a good tailor. I like sewing very much. Every day I sew something. It's so interesting and makes me feel happy.

I have a sewing machine, but I was thinking it's not enough for me and I wanted a better one.

One day my friend came to my house with his friend who said that his father had been a tailor for many years, but his father died three years ago. He still had the machine his father used for many years. It was so old, but if I liked it, he could give it to me.

We went to his house right away and I saw the wonderful! We carried it to my house and he told me

His father's house was close by my old house. to each other, but we didn't know it! I often used to house. His mother always decorated their window with looking at them, so when I passed by their house can still remember the window of their house. Latter, I moved to another house where I have been living for over a year now.

His father became sick, stopped working and moved to a nursing home. Later he died there. His family moved to another place and sold the house where his father had worked. He kept the old sewing machine in memory of his father. The sewing machine had been sleeping for a few years in their barn. Then it came to my house here I have a big room for sewing.

I put his father's machine by a window. When I open the window, I can see a building 25 meters from my place. It is a nursing home. And it is the same nursing home where his father had lived!! When we noticed this, we were very surprised! We had some strange feelings about this.

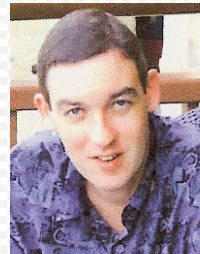
I think my friend's father loved his job, and his machine. Maybe he enjoyed making clothes and, maybe, he wanted to make more. The machine knows his mind because they worked together for many years. They had a special partnership. I think the machine wants to stay in the place where its owner lived and it came to me guided by his spirit.

I am sewing many things with this old machine every day. We will become good new partners and I want to use this machine for many years from now on, just like its old owner did.



machine. It was so about his father. We had been living close pass in front of his homemade things. I liked I always looked in. I

MEET DYLAN, EVERYONE



Dylan is our new teacher, taking over from Craig. He comes from West Wales

and has taught English in Thailand, Spain and Bulgaria before arriving here in Matsuyama to teach with us.

Dylan is a keen golfer and likes to follow his favorite soccer and rugby teams back in the UK.

Check out his "promo" on our notice board for more details about his hometown, or just ask him when you run into him around the school.

FIRST SEMESTER PARTY - 2013

Everyone is welcome to join our 1st Semester Party **on Saturday, June 1st, at 8:00pm.** Come and have some fun, relax and chat with your classmates and teachers. Invite all your friends to join in too!

Sample Dishes from Overseas. Enter the Cooking Competition!

and...

Games



- There will be prizes for the winners and for the best Karaoke singer!!



Karaoke

- Anyone can enter the cooking competition! Bring an example of your best cooking and win a prize!!



- Our teachers will also "cook" dishes from their home countries for you to try out!

- Meet your new teachers!



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.