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PARIS

The City of Light celebrates its 2,000th anniversary in 1971. Handicrafts were thrust into the city by the Seine. The Seine flows through the capital—dividing it into Right Bank and Left Bank.

The massive memorial begun by Napoleon in 1806 and finished 30 years later, rises 160 feet above the town of France. Boats of the *Compagnie des Bateaux Parisiens* ply the river.

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STRAZBOURG

The spire of Strasbourg's sandstone cathedral, dating from the 11th century, rises 466 feet. On its astronomical clock elaborate figures strike the quarter hours.

Opera, drama, and ballet are staged in the Grand Théâtre, which first dates from the very first century A.D.

THE NORTH

Cultivated plains and rolling hills, fringed with rivers and canals, mark the heart of France. The old harbor of Dunkirk, built in 1609, was destroyed by the British Royal Navy, assisted by scores of small private craft, in May 1940. The harbor's remains are still intact.

France's tallest church rises 495 feet above the 13th-century Gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame.

ROUEN

Mosaic flagstone marks the spot where Joan of Arc was burned at the stake in 1412. An extensive collection of Rouen ceramics is housed in the city.

A huge arch, built in 1527, supports the great clock on the Rue des Gros Horloges. A night hand shows the time of other devices show the moon's phases.

September 25 miles up the Seine, Normandy's historic capital was settled by Celts in 500 B.C. and was a Roman city. Though heavily bombed in World War II, it still holds much of medieval interest.

LYON

Settled by the Romans in 43 B.C., Lyon spread across the strategic junction of the Saône and Rhone Rivers. The city, hub of France's 18th-century silk industry, also produces machines, clothing, and chemicals.

Life preserves one of France's most important collections of paintings in the *Palace of Fine Arts*.

THE SOUTH

Timbered houses along the banks of the Garonne, a 6th-century fortifications guard the river.

A statue commemorates the capture of the city by the British in 1763. It is believed to have inspired the printing press here.

CHARTRES CATHEDRAL

glorious testament to medieval faith, rises above the fertile plain of La Beauce. The church features the Virgin's Veil, a cloth believed worn by Mary; its celebrated windows glow with stained glass that dates from the 12th and 13th centuries.

First town in France liberated in World War II. A stained-glass window in church depicts the American parachute landing the night of June 6-7, 1944.

"City of Corsairs" recalls the days of pirates and adventures who once sailed from the port. As if following in their wakes, the town's modern fishing fleet steams each February to Newfoundland's Grand Banks for cod.

THE ATLANTIC

Westernmost tip of France, Brittany thrusts into the sea where the Atlantic Ocean and English Channel meet. Shipbuilding centers, fishing villages, and resorts dot its 1,750 miles of jagged coastline, inland lies rolling farmland.

Enigmatic menhirs—vertical blocks of granite—stand in rows extending for two and a half miles. Erected by unknown people more than 4,000 years ago, some of the stones are 13 feet high and weigh as much as 150 tons.

THE EAST

At the August, Alsatian storkers rendezvous in the town of Ribeauvillé. The storks are believed to fly from the Alps to Africa.

Palmer preserves medieval half-timbered houses, narrow, crooked streets and an ancient clock tower. The latter is known as the "Little Tower." The latter is known as the "Little Tower." The latter is known as the "Little Tower."

LE HAVRE

World War II bombs severely damaged the city and port facilities. Magnificently restored, the harbor has regained its position as one of France's major ports.

From this fishing port, Samuel de Champlain discovered the Gulf of St. Lawrence. His ship, the *Saint-Jacques*, was wrecked here in 1606 to vanish forever.

A local museum features a delicate point of ancient lace.

TOURNAI

Bliss ornate winding staircases within an octagonal tower, ascended by Catherine de Medici's courtiers when she fled here in 1567. The tower's Gothic Chapel of St. Hubert.

Still occupied by descendants of the builders, the chateau—open to the public—has changed little since the 16th century.

Upon his death, his wife Catherine de Medici force used the tower as a prison for the 15th-century bastion of Chaumont.

TOURNAI

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