

# ROARSHOCK PAGE

www.roarshock.net

Volume 9, Number 9

Rorschach, Switzerland

September 14, 2016

A moment has at last arrived for the first international edition of ROARSHOCK PAGE, and no better place for that to happen than from the town of Rorschach, in St. Gallen canton, in Switzerland, on the shores of Lake Constance (Bodensee). What a thrill for that to happen now, today September 14, 2016. A hot, clear day in late summer, and many people out to play by the lake in their light summer clothes. Here now for your consideration, and hopeful enjoyment, please join Roarshock in Rorschach in exploration and wonder.

## MONA LISA SELFIE

A funny thing happened (as in a peculiar thing) between my first visit to the Musée du Louvre earlier this century and most recent just a few days ago in 2016. What happened is that a huge percentage of the visitors now are viewing the masterpieces of art not with their naked eyes, but through their cell phones and tablets. It's not enough to view that most famous of paintings, La Gioconda (Mona Lisa) and let the power of Leonardo da Vinci's work hit you emotionally (which it does me, even at first glimpse from a distance, outside the gallery as I approach). One must not only take a photograph (because there are never enough copies of the original in the world), but also be *in* the photograph, so there they are blocking the view and grinning away. Marcel Duchamp famously put a moustache on a reproduction of the Mona Lisa, but that does not necessarily mean the world needs the selfie of some random guy with a moustache standing in the gallery in front of the painting. Ironically, I have heard some cranks and scholars argue that Mona Lisa herself is a selfie of Leonardo in drag. Venus de Milo is a wonder of the ancient world, but I wonder how one really sees it with ones back turned to it holding a selfie stick. It's the same thing at many museums in this modern day and age, like across the Seine in the Musée d'Orsay. There's something weird and a bit disturbing watching people take their selfie in front of Vincent Van Gogh's self-portrait, but maybe that's just how it seems to an older guy like me. When presented with the opportunity to view great art with one's own eyes and internalize that experience, that's not good enough anymore. A selfie is required, or it didn't happen, and it's all about "ME."

— D. A. Wilson



## THE MAP IS NEVER THE TERRITORY

On a train to Zurich following a most eventful first weekend in Paris, the high speed train rolls along through the French countryside towards the first stop in Dijon. I have never been to Dijon and would love to stop and look around, but that will have to be another time. The decisions as to where to stop on a journey such as this are usually difficult to make; there are so many places to see. This first trip to Europe in six years will return me to familiar places, and also add a few new ones. I return to Europe with greater knowledge than before, both what I experienced and learned on my three previous trips, and what I have read and studied since. The preparation and now experience have clearly reminded me how much has changed just since May 2010 when last I ventured overseas (the biggest,

most important change, being that my grandfather Julius and his wife Ingrid are now dead and gone, and not there to greet me this time in Geltendorf). Google Maps, in particular, has become an amazing tool for planning travel and discovering stuff like restaurants and shops even before arriving in a town or city. It offers access to websites when available, address information and hours of operation, and aggregated comments from customers, and even those pretending to be customers. Useful impressions and trends may be gleaned, but, of course, internet comments are best always consumed with several large grains of salt. The Google Maps Street View feature, where available, will allow the user to take a virtual tour. I had first used this feature before a trip to Omaha, Nebraska, and it was remarkable how confident I was when actually there after a virtual walk-around. They are the most detailed and sophisticated maps in human history, up to this point, and are constantly adding more and greater details, and yes they raise serious and uneasy questions about surveillance and privacy, but the usefulness of the new maps cannot be denied. Also, I have reviewed old historical maps of Paris and other old cities, digitized and housed on Wikimedia and elsewhere, and those help show how they evolved, and are now surrounded by urban sprawl. However, let us never forget that maps, even the most modern and detailed maps, always remain maps and are never the territory they depict. For that, you must actually go to a place and walk around.

— D. A. Wilson



D. A. Wilson in Rorschach, Switzerland

## SEPTEMBER ALMANAC

- 09/01 1772 The Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa was founded in California.  
2016 NEW MOON
- 09/02 1859 A solar super storm produced auroras and affected electrical telegraph service.
- 09/04 1957 Ford Motor Co. introduced the Edsel.
- 09/05 1992 Fritz Leiber died in San Francisco.
- 09/09 1930 3M began marketing Scotch tape.  
1979 Troll Empire founded in Berkeley, CA.
- 09/10 1823 Simón Bolívar named President of Peru.
- 09/11 1973 Chili's President Salvador Allende killed in coup led by General Augusto Pinochet.
- 09/13 -509 The Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus on Rome's Capitoline Hill was dedicated on the ides of September.
- 09/16 2016 FULL FLOWER MOON
- 09/18 1759 Quebec City was captured by the British.
- 09/19 1952 Charlie Chaplin barred from re-entering the United States after trip to England.
- 09/20 1946 The first Cannes Film Festival was held.
- 09/21 1937 J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* published.
- 09/22 2016 AUTUMNAL EQUINOX IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE
- 09/23 1845 The Knickerbockers Baseball Club was founded in New York.
- 09/26 1969 *Abbey Road* by The Beatles was released.
- 09/27 2015 A total lunar eclipse occurred during a supermoon visible in much of the world.
- 09/28 1066 William the Conqueror invaded England.
- 09/30 1207 Rumi, Persian mystic and poet was born.  
2016 NEW MOON

### Many More Almanac Items Online Now!

[www.roarshock.net/almanac.html](http://www.roarshock.net/almanac.html)

Calling for Contributions! ROARSHOCK PAGE invites submissions of art, photographs, poetry, and micro-prose, to be considered for inclusion in future issues.

ROARSHOCK PAGE, Volume 9, Number 10 will be available October 1, 2016.

ROARSHOCK PAGE

[www.roarshock.net](http://www.roarshock.net)

Published by:

Roarshock

North Beach Station

P.O. Box 330108

San Francisco, CA 94133-0108

[roarshock@aol.com](mailto:roarshock@aol.com)

Copyright © 2016, D. A. Wilson

