

# THE GREATER JOURNEY

## AMERICANS IN PARIS

BY DAVID McCULLOUGH

### Cast of Characters



**JAMES FENIMORE COOPER**, whose *The Last of the Mohicans* had made him the best-known American novelist ever, even before his arrival in Paris. Cooper brought his entire family to Paris in 1826, stayed for seven years, and wrote eight novels that cemented his reputation. He was hailed as the American Walter Scott by the French.



**SAMUEL F. B. MORSE**, arrived in Paris as an accomplished portrait artist on New Year's Day, 1830, and stayed for two weeks before leaving for Italy to study the classics. But he returned to Paris in September 1831, where he stayed for over a year and formed a deep friendship with James Fenimore Cooper. Cooper visited him each day as he worked on his masterpiece, *The Gallery of the Louvre*—despite the raging cholera epidemic in Paris. Morse was disappointed by his painting career, and eventually gave it up. He would go on to focus his time on something he had come up with in France: his idea for the telegraph.



**OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES, SR.**, went to Paris to complete his medical training in Spring 1833. Upon his return to America, Holmes became a lead professor of anatomy at Harvard Medical School, co-founder of the *Atlantic Monthly*, and a distinguished poet and essayist.



**CHARLES SUMNER**, stunned to observe black students being treated as equals while studying at the Sorbonne in 1838, he returned home to become the most powerful voice for abolition in the U.S. Senate. After being attacked in the Senate Chamber on May 22, 1856, after delivering a particularly contentious speech against slavery, he returned to Paris for his recovery.



**HARRIET BEECHER STOWE**, became the most influential voice speaking on behalf of the enslaved after writing *Uncle Tom's Cabin* in 1852. She went to Paris in Spring 1853, where she was briefly able to escape her newfound fame.



**MARY CASSATT** was the first foreign painter to join the Impressionism movement. Her family moved to Paris in Summer 1851 when she was just seven years old. She returned there on her own at age 21, to study and paint. She went on to spend a few years living in America, but she settled in France in 1874, where she remained until her death in 1926, and painted works such as *Little Girl in a Blue Armchair*, and *Reading Le Figaro*.



**JOHN SINGER SARGENT** was just in his twenties when he dazzled both Europe and America with his psychologically groundbreaking and visually arresting paintings, including his scandalous *Portrait of Madame X*, which depicted the frank sensuality and ambition of an American woman from New Orleans who conquered Paris society.

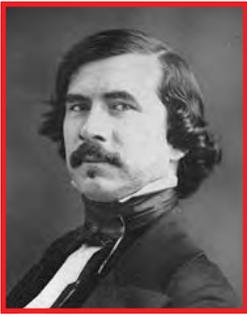


**AUGUSTUS SAINT-GAUDENS** was the American-born son of a French immigrant shoemaker who settled in New York. Augustus went to Paris at age nineteen in 1867 to see the Exposition Universelle. He was the first American sculptor to be admitted to the École des Beaux-Arts and by the age of thirty-five, he had become the most renowned American sculptor of his era. Working in Paris much of the time, Saint-Gaudens gave form to the Civil War in major public monuments in New York, Boston, and Chicago.

**ELIZABETH BLACKWELL**, the first female physician in the United States, went to Paris in Spring of 1849 to study medicine. She returned home to found a hospital in New York run entirely by women.



**ELIHU WASHBURNE**, the American ambassador to France for eight and a half years, indelibly documented the horrors of the Siege of Paris and the Commune revolt of the 1870s.



**GEORGE P. A. HEALY**, an Irish-American Bostonian with little money or education, who managed to become one of the most respected portrait painters of the day, and whose subjects would include luminaries like Abraham Lincoln. He went to Paris in 1834 when he was twenty-one and did not move back to the United States until the Fall of 1855. He returned to Montmartre with his family in 1872, after the Chicago Fire of 1871, and remained there for twenty years.

**GEORGE CATLIN**, a painter of American Indians of the Great Plains, who created a sensation in Paris with his pictures and his retinue of fearsome “Ioways” in native dress in Spring 1845.



**EMMA WILLARD**, the founder of Emma Willard's Troy Female Seminary in upstate New York, was the first woman to take a public stand for higher education for women in America. She visited Paris from the Fall of 1830 until Spring of 1831, where she admired men and women studying and copying the masterpieces in the Louvre.

**WINSLOW HOMER**, arrived in Paris in December 1866 and shared a studio in Montmartre where he studied painting. His painting *Prisoners from the Front*, which depicted three Confederate prisoners under guard stand before a Northern general, was shown in the Fine Arts Department of the 1867 Exposition Universelle.



**P. T. BARNUM** and his great discovery **TOM THUMB**, the most lucrative (and diminutive) American performer ever to appear on a Paris stage in spring of 1845.



**HENRY JAMES**, who first came to Paris at the age of twelve, and with his brother William ran through the gardens of the Tuileries and gazed at the paintings in the Louvre. He returned to Paris 20 years later to write his novel *The American*.

**THE MARQUIS DE LAFAYETTE**, the French hero of the American Revolution, who astonished many of the Americans in Paris with his personal welcome and warmth. He was greatly mourned when he died in May 1834.

**LOUIS MOREAU GOTTSCHALK**, a pianist from New Orleans who debuted in Paris at fifteen and was proclaimed the greatest pianist of the age by Chopin.

**MARGARET FULLER**, the famous feminist and transcendentalist, who was the first American woman writer to visit and describe Paris.

**WILLIAM WELLS BROWN**, a fugitive American slave who became the first black American novelist and playwright.

**WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS**, one of America's most distinguished men of letters, who on a visit to Paris told a young friend, "Live all you can. It's a mistake not to." This famous speech found its way into Henry James's *The Ambassadors*, one of his novels set in Paris.

**LOUISINE ELDER HAVEMEYER AND HENRY O. HAVEMEYER**, who under the guidance of Louisine's longtime friend Mary Cassatt became two of the great art collectors of the era and the first to bring Impressionist works home to America.

**HENRY ADAMS**, the autobiographer, historian, and descendant of presidents and diplomats, who at first disliked Paris and the French but soon surrendered to their allure.

**NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE**, came to Paris in January 1858 with his wife and three children and stayed at the luxurious Hotel du Louvre, just across the rue de Rivoli from the museum.

**ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE**, the author of *Democracy in America*, befriended many of the Americans and became France's minister of foreign affairs during the Second Republic.

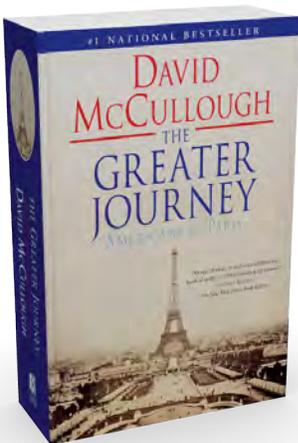
**KING LOUIS-PHILIPPE**, king of France from 1830-1848, who also knew and liked many of the Americans, had seen more of the United States than almost any of them during his years in exile there. Fluent in English, he had worked for a time as a waiter in a Boston oyster house.

**PRINCE LOUIS BONAPARTE** proclaimed the restoration of the monarchy as well as the start of the Second Empire, and took the name *Napoleon III* in an 1851 coup.

**THOMAS W. EVANS**, Napoleon III's dentist, was a leading figure of the American expatriate community in Paris. He received the French Legion of Honor. At great risk he helped spirit *Empress Eugénie* out of France when Napoleon III was overthrown following France's humiliating loss in the Franco-Prussian War.

**FRÉDÉRIC-AUGUSTE BARTHOLDI** designed and built the Statue of Liberty in Paris, where it drew huge crowds before it was dismantled and shipped to stand in New York Harbor.

**GUSTAVE EIFFEL** designed the tower that bears his name for the 1889 Universal Exposition in Paris, which confirmed that the world's center of science and technology had shifted west, from France to America.



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