

London Trip 23 September – 1 October 2001

DIARY

Sunday 23 September 2001.

A lovely day in Jaffrey. At 6pm Gene Pokorny picked me up and we drove together to Boston, to their house on Marlborough Street, a stupendous house. Margaret, Gene and I then drove to Bulteco, the Brazilian restaurant in the West Fens. Had fejioda. Good but too much of it. Back to their house and a chat with more wine. Went to bed with the prospect of getting up at 5am in order to get to the airport 3 hours before 8:30 flight.

Monday 24 September 2001.

Up at 5am and Gene drove me to the airport. There by 5:30. Waited at least until 5:45 for the British Air counter to open. Check-in was very fast and no more security than before the terrorist attacks on 11 September. Waited by the gate for more than 2 hours and onto the plane and off before schedule. About 50% full. Uneventful. Worse food ever. Arrived at Heathrow about half an hour early and was at Julia's after a tube and bus ride by 9 or so. Had a couple of drinks and caught up with Julia, Sarah and Sarah's boyfriend, Michael. To bed by midnight. A noisy fox in the garden.

Tuesday 25 September 2001.

Up by 8:30 or so. Breakfast and a bath. By bus to Hyde Park Corner, then walked to Sotheran's and saw Stuart Leggett. We walked together over to Christie's to preview the polar sale set for 2pm that day. Met up with Wendy Driver, Jonathan Shackleton, Jonathan Mandelbaum, John Simper, Rhod McEwan, Roger Putt, Kelly Tyler, Cathy Cooper, Richard Kossow, Jan Piggott, et al. Also, new friend and Antarctic, Susan Kiner. After previewing, most of us went across the road to the Golden Lion for a beer and lunch. Tuna sandwich and 3 beers (a mistake! Had to leave the auction a couple of times for the gents). Back to Christie's and the sale which began at 2pm. Others who showed up: Margot Morrell, Zaz Shackleton. Bob Headland, Keith Richards, William Mills, David Wilson, Judy Skelton, Sandy Macklin, Jim McCarthy, Ben Burdett, and others. Many lots under estimate. Wendy, Roger, Zaz, Cathy, Jan got lots. I missed out—every lot well over the estimate. Auction ended at 5:20. We then went across the road back to the pub and drank and chatted for a good two hours. Thought we'd get dinner: Rhod, I, Jonathan Shackleton and his friend Joe, and Margaret O'Riordan (Athy Museum) went to a place in Piccadilly and had dinner. All but Rhod and I left early to try to get to Stansted to fly to Dublin. Doubt they made it. Rhod and I leisurely finished up, then walked west on Piccadilly to get the bus. I got off at Sloane Square and picked up the 137 to Lavender Hill. Back about 10:30. To bed. Fox in garden again.

Wednesday 26 September 2001.

Up, breakfast and bath. Went off at 9:30, bus to Pimlico Road and walked from there to Julia's new office—quite nice. After a visit walked up to Victoria Street and took the bus to Bank and walked around the area for awhile. At 12:45, went to Martin Henderson's office—very nice—on the top of a Mies van der Rohe type building. We walked past the Lloyds Building across the way to an Italian restaurant—Trattoria Issimo!—where I had a terrible veal scallopine. Walked back to his office via Leadenhall Market (very Victorian) where Martin tried to find a contact at Marsh McLennan which took over Bowring Brothers which Antony Bowring told me had models of the Aurora and Terra Nova on display. Headed off to where I remembered the Bowring Brothers building to be near the Tower, to find it must have been demolished—a new March McLennan building rising in its place. Walked to Cannon Street station and got the #15 bus to the Strand. Got off and walked to Stanfords where I got a map that includes Wortham

Manor, an Antarctic book (*The White*), and a couple of globes, one for Julia. Then to the nearby 'Lamb & Flag' for a pint where I'm writing up these notes.

Walked down to the Strand and to the Savoy. Judy Skelton and Cathy Cooper were there and we had a walk-through of the hotel—very nice. The men's room is lovely, with glass shields at the base of the urinals to prevent "splashback." We went back to the Savoy Theatre entrance where Wendy Driver was waiting. Into the theatre, an interesting art deco design. The play—*Antarctica*—was not very good although the staging was interesting. Afterwards, we parted and I took the tube from Embankment to Sloane Square then by the 137 bus to Gowrie Road. To bed. No more fox sounds.

Thursday 27 September 2001.

After breakfast I spoke with Jo-Del Gaeth and arranged to meet her at Sotherans. Took the bus to Hyde Park Corner and walked to Christ Church on Down Street. This may have been the church where the Shackleton's were married (it wasn't; it was on Victoria Street and may have been bombed). Took photos. Looked inside and there was an Ethiopian orthodox service in process! Got to Sotherans and soon after Jo-Del arrived. We looked at some books then walked down to Christie's where I asked about a lot that didn't sell. Unfortunately, it had since sold privately. We then found the Overseas-League and inquired about Susan Solomon's talk there that evening. Then a quick look at Jo-Del's flat at the end of St James's Street. Fantastic place. I left her there and got myself to Victoria Station where I got a train to Dulwich where I attended a poetry reading by Melinda Mueller of her poem on the *Endurance*—*What the Ice Gets*. Enjoyable. Margot Morrell was there. Also Jan Piggott, Frank Wild's niece, Greenstreets' nephew (Richard), Patrick Fagan. Went back to Victoria with Richard Greenstreet and Margot, then Margot and I took the tube to Covent Garden. Had a drink at the 'Lamb & Flag' then next door to Stanfords where I had a map made of Gowrie Road for Julia. From Stanfords I went to Embankment tube station, by tube to Sloane Square, then by bus to Gowrie Road. Had a drink and waited for Julia. We took a mini cab to Hammersmith, 'Junior' our driver again. Went to Anarkari the Indian restaurant where I had been before. Michael and Barbara Smith arrived and we had a marvelous meal which Michael ordered. Good conversation. By another mini cab back to Gowrie Road. To bed.

Friday 28 September 2001.

Up and after breakfast made several phone calls. Close to noon I took the bus and tube to Bank and the Docklands Light Railway to Greenwich. Had lunch at the 'Gipsy Moth' pub then walked over to the Maritime Museum to see the 'South' show for the 3rd time. The 'James Caird' was there. Afterwards spent a little time looking at the Queens House. Back to Bank the same way and by tube to Piccadilly. Walked down Regent Street to the British Tourist office and got some brochures on Dartmoor area for next year's Wortham trip. Then to Sotherans where I found Stuart Leggett and bought a couple of books. By bus to Sloane Square and by foot to Habitat to buy a frame for Julia's map. By bus to Gowrie Road. Had a drink. At 6:30 or so, Doug and Jo-Del arrived and we had a drink. Then Julia got back from Ascot where her horse—*Flute*—had been racing. In time the four of us plus Sarah walked down the road to Le Bouchon restaurant for dinner. Jo and Doug took a cab home and we walked back to Gowrie Road and to bed.

Saturday 29 September 2001.

Up sometime after 9am. Had breakfast with Julia. Finished framing her map and planted her pansies. Read the papers. A little before 1pm I took the bus and tube to Kings Cross and took the train to Cambridge. Walked to SPRI but it was closed. Continued into Cambridge and bought underwear at Marks & Spencer and bubble bath at Boots. Had a look around the market, then stopped for a beer at the 'Red Cow,' the pub near the Arts Theatre, where I'm writing these notes. Walked down towards SPRI and had another beer and a packet of nuts at the Panton Arms. At about 6pm went to SPRI and met Charles Swithinbank there. We walked to Browns where I treated him to dinner—very good chicken pot pie and excellent mashed potatoes. Back to SPRI for Susan Solomon's excellent talk on her new book, 'The Coldest March.' Lots of

friends there: David Yelverton, David Wilson, Bob Burton, Bob Headland, Regina Daly, Phillipa Foster-Back, William Mills and probably others. Afterwards, coffee and biscuits. Then to Charles' house where I stayed the night. Had a beer and a chat then to bed.

Sunday 30 September 2001.

Up about 8. Had a shower then breakfast, after which I worked on my photos which Charles had taken out of SPRI. About 1 or so, Charles drove me into Cambridge to the station where I caught the train to Kings Cross. Had lunch at McDonalds, then tube to Sloane Square and bus to Lavender Hill. Julia and Sarah were at Gowrie Road when I arrived around 3:30. Drank some wine, watched racing with Julia and later we had a pizza delivered and afterwards watched the US Grand Prix auto race, then a good mystery. To bed.

Monday 1 October 2001.

Up about 6am, Packed and had breakfast. Left Gowrie Road at about 7. Caught the bus to Sloane Square (no traffic at that time) then tube to Heathrow. Checked in easily then sat around until about 10:30 when I boarded the plane. Excellent flight. Was in World Traveller Plus, excellent roomy seats. Terrific Indian lunch. 2 bloody marys and 4 red wines. Arrived at Boston right on time (ca. 1pm). Took T to South Station where I'm writing these notes. Rang Mary Payson who will pick me up at Keene at 6:40pm. And she did.