

TRIP TO ENGLAND Nov-Dec 1988

Tuesday 29 Nov 1988

Went to airport from office at the end of the day. Flew British Airways to London. Uneventful flight.

Wednesday 30 Nov

Arrived first thing in the morning and zipped through the formalities. Fortunately had no luggage except carry-on. Weather nice but almost only good weather during whole stay. Took tube into London stopping first at Julia's Sloane Square office. Left my bag and wandered off in the way I've done pretty much in the past on the first day in London: Across Sloane Square to Peter Jones and then to Sandoe Books; up Sloane Street stopping at General Trading then Truslove & Hanson, which now has a new name. To The Grenadier for a beer and a sausage. Up to Mayfair and to the bank to get money. Across Curzon St to Heywood Hill--bought a book on port--then next door to Trumpers. Made an appointment for a haircut at 2 so with some time to spend went up to Berkeley Sq. and dropped in at Maggs to see what they had in the way of Antarctic books. Back to Trumpers where I had a so-so haircut by a lady!! barber. Prices now very high, ca. £10. Walked around Mayfair a bit: Bond Street, Conduit St, Sackville (Sotheran), Piccadilly (Hatchards, Fortnums, Cordings, Simpsons). Eventually back to Julia's office, then to her house on the 137 Bus. Jo Heathcote was there. We had drinks there and Jo cooked up a meal. Julia arrived later in evening. To bed reasonably early after a long day.

Thursday 1 Dec

Made some telephone calls and planned out my stay. Into London with Jo to Oxford Circus. Went to Sandersons about fabric for my chair. Arranged for some very nice William Morris "Golden Lily" stuff. Wandered down by British Library--went in to see exhibit on "Mapping the City" - good but terrible lighting. Late fish & chips lunch. Stanfords for maps. Moss Brothers (about to move). Cecil Court--bought some cigarette cards, 2nd Antarctic series. Back to Julia's. That night we went to Sally Rocke's flat for drinks--she has a new kitchen and now a fireplace; also she's pregnant! and has decided to keep the baby. Then to the fish and chip restaurant that used to be Leeks, near Julia's. Not bad but not as good as before.

Friday 2 Dec

Poked around London--Harrods, Royal Geographical Society, looked for tassels, lunch in Kensington Church Walk, antiques, etc. Back to Julia's. Packed and went into Sloane Sq. and caught bus to Waterloo. Got train to Andover where Jo picked me up. Out to Upton. Colder in the country. Had drinks and dinner. Beginning of several restful days: mostly rain or overcast. Up late, lots of reading, walking the dog--Sam died, the new one is Cleo--visiting the pub, insulating the attic, etc. Was there until Monday after lunch. Saturday morning Jo and I rode to Hungerford to look at antiques; bought a set of old silverplate silverware. Late morning drove with Pat Heathcote to Martin & Margaret Henderson's near Winchster, for lunch. Then on to Selbourne, but Museum was closed. Back to Upton. On Monday big lunch for Mrs Lawrence, Bubba Roberts, Xandra ?, Jo, Pat & myself. Then back into London. I then went to the Geographical Society for a talk by Chris Bonnington; had dinner there afterwards and talked with a nice Anglo-French couple. Martin & Margaret were at the talk too.

Tuesday 6 Nov

Had an appointment with Helen Mounsey at Birkbeck College to see a demonstration of the Domesday Machine, the computer based GIS system that covers all of England. Very interesting. A fish 'n chips lunch then some demonstrations of Macintosh GIS systems. To Sanderson to pick up my fabric. To Farlows to buy a shirt. Back to Sloane Square where I dropped off the material with Julia. Up the Kings Road looking for antiques. Found a nice silver letter opener/skewer for £11. To Janet Grant's for drinks at 5 then back to West End. Got ticket for Sherlock Holmes play at the Wyndham. Had a very good dinner at Sheekey's just around the corner.

Wednesday 7 Dec

In with Julia in the morning real early. Tube to Kings Cross then train to St Albans, arriving around 8:30 or so. Market day, the stalls were being set up as I arrived. Stopped at a MacDonalds for coffee and to use the loo. No quick way to get to Ayot St Lawrence and Wheathampstead so I hired a cab for ca. £8. Ayot about 15" away. Very tiny rural village: narrow lanes, a few houses, ruins of a church, nice looking pub and Shaw's Corner, GB's home. Walked around a bit then using Ordinance Survey found my way to what was the house of Cherry Garrard, fairly remote, low white house and complex of outbuildings. Presumably no longer in the family. Took some pictures then continued on, eventually reaching Wheathampstead about 10:30. There I visited the church where there is a memorial to Cherry-Garrard; took some more photos. many memorials to various Garrards going way back. Then back to St Albans where I looked around a bit including the cathedral. Lunch in a pub then by train back to London. Seems hard to believe such countryside is so close to London. Weatherwise this was the best day yet since arriving--blue & crisp all morning. Back in London I went to Sandersons to get VAT stamp then back to Farlows to buy more shirts and to order sweater then to Covent Garden where I wandered a bit. Then at 4:30 met Caroline Webb at Stanfords. She looked great. A very nice girl but only 26--is that too young for me? We had hot chocolate at Covent Garden then to the Lamb & Flag for a beer and conversation. She had to meet people so I wandered back towards Piccadilly then to Sloane Square. Met Jo at the Orange Brewery pub--their own beer--then off to Como Laurio for dinner. From there back to Julia's for final evening of drinking and smoking (I stopped chewing tobacco the day I arrived and have counteracted by smoking a few cigaraettes. That will finish tomorrow.)

Thursday 8 Dec

Up and packed and left Julia's about 9:30. Bus to Sloane Square, tube to Heathrow. A flew home in a very crowded plane. England seemed more expensive than ever before; most things the same or more costly then at home.