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# HOLIDAY GREETINGS

auction of John Levinson's major polar library. I spoke on Antarctic collecting the night before at a reception at Swann Galleries. This was followed in June by a trip I did with Carl Lindbloom, out to Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater* in western Pennsylvania and afterwards to Washington and Rehoboth, Delaware. Then this fall I travelled to Europe twice. The first trip in September started with a reunion of some of those I drove through Africa with 35 years ago. This was at Gargunock House in Scotland. The following week found me in another grand Landmark Trust house south of Glasgow. Auchinleck House was built by James Boswell's father. After those two house parties, four of us continued on to southern France where we enjoyed the old farmhouse of Conrad Paulus and the rural countryside of her region. Not long after, I was back, first in Ireland for a week (the annual Shackleton conference at Athy and then at Jonathan and Daphne Shackleton's farm in Co. Cavan). Then to England for more Antarctic gatherings and visiting friends. Spent the last five days in Cambridge mostly in the library and archives at Scott Polar Research Institute. Have a look at <http://home.comcast.net/~rs41/index.html> to see photos and commentary on some of these trips. ¶ Likely trips in 2008: In June the 140th anniversary of Captain Scott's birth is being celebrated in Plymouth, England. And in the fall the triad of Athy, James Caird Society dinner and the annual meeting of the Friends of Scott Polar Research Institute may draw me across the pond. 🐧🐧🐧

BEST WISHES for 2008!

THANKSGIVING has come and gone (spent in Providence, RI) and Christmas is just around the corner, but unlike last year we have snow on the ground and it's well below freezing. ¶ The year has been filled with the usual local activities: Village Improvement Society events (I'm now Treasurer); chairing the Cemetery Committee; caretaker of the Meetinghouse; grants manager for the Historic District Commission; member of the Energy Committee, TEAM Jaffrey Design Committee and the board of the Park Theatre (Jaffrey's old movie theatre that we're trying to renovate and re-open as a regional theatre and performance space); master plan update committee; and on and on. ¶ My latest project involves the weathervane pictured on this card. It used to be atop the Baptist Church which came down in 1968. Since then it's been on the post office which was being built next door. It's been disintegrating for years. With the building owner and the postmaster on board, I got up there and removed it; actually had to be saved off. It will now be a good winter project for Walt, our local sign painter, who will repair it and gild it. ¶ After many years of updates in this space, there's not much to say about progress on my house. It's officially finished and I'm now just waiting for things to wear out. The roof will probably be the first to go. ¶ I've done a fair amount of travelling this year. The first trip was out to Ohio State University for the periodic gathering of the American Polar Society at the Byrd Polar Research Center. I drove out this time, picking up David Stam along the way. The next excursion was in May to New York, mostly for the



On November 28th I removed the weathervane from atop the Jaffrey Post Office using an 80-foot platform lift. It's off to be restored; you can see it needs it. For many years this weathervane graced the Baptist Church which was built in 1830. Sadly, the church was demolished in 1968 at the same time that the new Post Office was under construction just beside it. The weathervane went to the Post Office; the granite steps became the entranceway to the War Memorial Park; the Paul Revere bell was moved to the United Church; and the belfry went off to Concord and later Acton, Massachusetts.



In June Carl Lindbloom and I visited Frank Lloyd Wright's *Fallingwater* in Bear Run, western Pennsylvania. The setting and siting are what make it such a masterpiece. Also toured the nearby *Kentuck Knob*, also by Wright and now owned by Lord Peter Palumbo.

On the way we stopped at *The Coffee Pot*, ca. 1925, in Bedford, Pennsylvania.



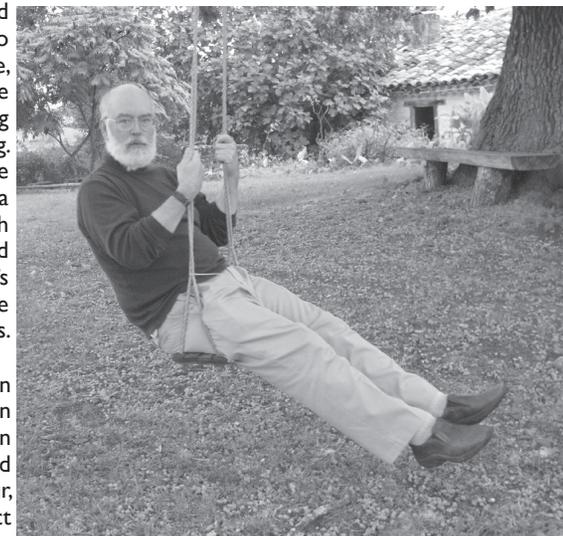
*Gargunock House*, near Stirling in Scotland, was the site of our SIAFU reunion. Thirty-five years ago we drove from London to the Kenya Coast, a total of 8,525 miles. Here we are in our official Reunion T-Shirts! We spent most of the week reminiscing about the trip and showing our now-digitized slides. Day trips here and there and lots of cooking, drinking and yakking. Next likely gathering: Australia in 2010. (SIAFU is Swahili for a type of army ant—just like us back in 1972, there's no stopping them!)



*Auchinleck House*, the later home of James Boswell, south of Glasgow. After a week at Gargunock, I went on for another week to this lovely Landmark Trust house. Here we are in the dining room enjoying a lifestyle we all aspire to. There were 13 of us from in and around Jaffrey and from Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey and Rhode Island, nearly all veterans of past Landmark Trust house parties.



Mary Payson, Dave Fogle and I went from Auchinleck to Conrad's farmhouse in France, not far from Cahors, where nearly a week was spent enjoying the region. Even time for a swing. Mary and I left for home via Paris. Here we are in a neighborhood restaurant with Maria (sadly cropped), a friend from Tehran days, and Maria's friend, Madame English. We're enjoying raspberry soufflés.



Once again I went to Athy in Ireland for the annual Shackleton Autumn School. Jonathan Shackleton and I attended and stayed with his brother Arthur, standing on the left, at his perfect place, *Fruitlawn*, near Abbeyleix.

