

SABBATICAL LEAVE REPORT

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JULY 1977 - JUNE 1978

During my sabbatical leave, July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978, I travelled in twenty countries of the world, encircling the globe. For one who had never been outside of the Americas, this was an immensely rewarding journey. I gained innumerable new perceptions of the world: its people, its history, its geography, its rich cultural treasures; and my own person was strengthened by this process.

Reporting on such a journey within the narrow confines of this report is a frustrating task, for I'd like my readers to feel the things I felt, know what I know as a result of my experiences. Since this is clearly impossible, I shall limit myself largely to listing countries and cities on my route, along with major (1) cultural centers visited, (2) events attended, and/or (3) contacts made.

Mexico

Mexico City

Extensive regional textile display

Street demonstration by thousands of university employees

Oaxaca

Evening folk dancing program

Visit to Mixtec ruins at Mitla

Rufino Tamayo Museum

Extensive native markets

San Cristóbal de Las Casas

Na-Balom - an archaeological station/guest house where I stayed three and one half weeks, contains an extensive research library on the Maya Indians and the state of Chiapas. I spent considerable time in this library. Many valuable activities originated at Na-Balom.

1. Two slide presentations of the Lacondón Indians (nearest living descendants

- of the Maya) Families of these people at meals with other guests.
2. Visits to numerous churches, to native markets and the Mexican circus, as well as to the remarkable city cemetery
 3. Visits to neighboring Indian community centers of Amentenango, Chamula, Zinecantán, and Tenejapa
 4. Six day horseback trip to three Indian community religious fiestas, areas not accessible by automobile. Trip was preceded by slide presentations of events we were to witness; during the trek we were privileged to hear lectures by our 76 year old leader, Mrs. Gertrude Blom, widow of noted archaeologist, Franz Blom. This trip proved to be one of the highlights of my whole sabbatical - a hard act to follow
- Dr. Annette Lynch of Mt. SAC's English Department joined me as I left Mexico, and we travelled together during August.

Guatemala

Quetzaltenango

Casa de Cultura - local history museum and a library, used mainly by students

Native market

Panajachel

Native markets

Guatemala City

Cathedral visit

Ecuador - One-day narrow gauge rail trip from Guayaquil to Quito

Quito

Walking tour of the city, including cathedral and government buildings

Flute-guitar concert

Trip to Saquisilí (village) and its extensive Indian market

Peru

Lima

Museo de Oro

Museo de Antropología

Cuzco

Indian market

Walking tours of the city

Pisac tour - village church procession, large Indian market, Inca ruins

Museum of Folk Art

Machu Picchu trip

Bolivia - Bus trip from Cuzco to La Paz, Bolivia, via Lake Titicaca

La Paz

Tiahuanaco tour

Museums

University library visit

Return to the United States via Mexico City, where we visited the Palacio Nacional with its impressive Rivera murals, also National Anthropological Museum

U. S. A.

Washington, D. C.

National Geographic Building

Museum of Natural History

Dinner in Virginia at George Washington's old club house

Washington, Lincoln and Jefferson Monuments

Library of Congress

National Cathedral

White House

National Gallery

Washington, D. C. (Cont.)

Capitol building

House and Senate buildings while these bodies were in session

New York City

New York Public Library

United Nations Center

Rockefeller Center

Art Museums: Guggenheim, Metropolitan, Whitney, Frick Collection

Exhibit of Spanish paintings at Spanish Institute

Exhibit of Andean weaving

Museum of Natural History - exhibit of Gold of Peru

Two Broadway shows, one was "Man of La Mancha," set in a prison in Seville, Spain

Brookhaven, Long Island

Brookhaven Laboratory and Library

Boston

Faneuil Hall and Freedom Trail walk

Azores Islands

Terceira

Five days living with a family

Extraordinarily beautiful City Library

History and art museums in old church/convent

Watched Portugese bull fights on television

Spain

Madrid

Prado Museum

Retiro Gardens

Rastro (famous flea market)

Madrid (cont.)

Museo de España del Arte Contemporanea - exhibit of Thirty Eight Centuries of Mexican Culture

Archaeological Museum

Museo de Américas

Plaza de Cristóbal Colón, and beneath it Centro de Cultura de Madrid

Palacio Nacional, including its library

Museum of Ceramic and Decorative Arts

Trips from Madrid to other cities

Toledo

Segovia, Granja and Avila

Cuenca - Museum of Abstract Art, and its library, Norman cathedral

Granada - City tour of cathedral, old Jewish section, and gypsy caves, Alhambra, lunch at adjoining parador

Córdoba - Museum of Córdoba and Bullfighting Art, Mesquita, Museum of Fine Arts, Roman bridge, castle at Almodóvar del Río

El Escorial and Valle de Los Caídos - library containing many valuable illuminated manuscripts from many places, in several languages, tapestry of Bosch triptich seen in Prado museum, Madrid, El Greco canvases

Seville

Archivo General de Indias

Cathedral, with its tombs of Isabella and Ferdinand

Columbia Junior College (private American school). Over a period of two months I volunteered time at this small school, reorganizing the card catalog.

Conversations with both American and Spanish staff members, as well as with students from many countries, expanded my appreciation of Spanish life.

Seville (cont.)

Hospital de La Caridad

Alcázares Reales

Museum of Popular Arts and Customs

Fine Arts Museum

University Library

British Institute, including its library

City Archives

John Fulton Studio (renowned American bull-fighter)

Archaeological Museum

Intercambio. This language experience was arranged by staff at the British Institute. Two residents of Seville, elementary school teachers, alternating evenings, met with me for about an hour and a half per day for two months. During half of each period we conversed in Spanish, the other half in English. This format produced an exchange of ideas as well as improved language skills.

Flamenco dancing

Trips to outlying areas:

Itálica - Ruins of Roman amphitheater and restored mosaic floors

Huelva and La Rábida - the area from which Columbus left for his first New World journey

Torremolinos - Flamenco dancing, folk singing

Málaga - Cathedral, Museum of Fine Arts. Signs of recent Andalucía riot here

Morocco - One week package bus tour, including stops at Fez, Marakesh, Casablanca,

Rabát and Tangier

England

London and environs, two weeks. Stayed with family of student I met in Mexico last July. Traditional Christmas celebration, visits to pubs, including one built in 1535, New Year's Eve party featuring country dancing, drive through country village areas, Boxing Day observation

London School of Economics and Political Science, including its libraries

Walking tour with student guide

Two stage plays

National Gallery

Tower of London

Westminster Abbey

Museum of Mankind - including exhibit of turquoise mosaics of Mexico

British Museum, including its library

Exhibit of Leonardo's Anatomical Drawings

France

Paris and environs, one week

Art museums: Louvre, Jeu de Paumes, Petite and Grand Palaises

Tuileries Gardens

Eiffel Tower

Notre Dame

Madeleine Church

Walking tours from Michelin Guide of Paris

One day tour to Versailles and Chartres

Bibliothèque Nationale

Greece

Athens and environs

Athens and environs (cont.)

Greek Orthodox Church service

Changing of the guard at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier

National Historical Museum

Tours: Acropolis

Sounion Cape - temple to Poseidon

Islands, including Hydra

Delphi

National Gallery

Byzantine Museum

Handicraft Museum

Benahi Museum

U. S. Information Service Library

National Library and accompanying Cultural Centre

Turkey

Istanbul and environs

Blue Mosque

Sulyman Mosque

Santa Sofia

Topkapi Museum, including an unusually beautiful exhibit of illustrated manuscripts

Ancient aqueduct, cistern

Bosporus tour

Israel

Tel Aviv

Old and new sections of Jaffa

Museums: Glass, Ceramics, Alphabet

Tel Aviv (cont.)

Concert at Mann Auditorium - Russian Jewish immigrants, smashing display
of folk dancing and singing

Lived with Israeli couple whom I met last July in Mexico

U. S. Information Service Library

Jerusalem

Souk (Arabic market), bargaining for Bedouin dress

Day trip by bus to Bethlehem

Israel Museum complex, including the Sculpture Garden and Shrine of the Book

Jerusalem Theatre concert

Mosque of Oman

Walk through Meah Shearim, Hassidic section

Tiberius

Boat trip on Lake Kinnereth (Sea of Galilea), visited Capernaum, Ein Gev
(fishing kibbutz), lunch of St. Peter's fish

Tour - Kibbutz Deganyya and ruins at Beit Shean (museum and Roman amphitheater)

Sinai Trip, sponsored and led by the Society for the Protection of Nature in

Israel, six days

Many long conversations with Kibbutzniks

Hikes through blowing desert sand

Walk through Bedouin areas, including villages and date groves

View of Egypt across the Gulf of Suez

Sleeping on the beach by the Gulf of Aqaba two nights

Slide presentation on Bedouin Women

Coral Island Museum

Iran

Tehran

City tour of fantastically tiled former mosque and Crown Jewels display

Walks around city - incredibly choked with traffic for the New Year festival

Enlightening encounter with a Librarian of Congress at the airport

Afghanistan

Kabul

City tour - second century mud wall still standing, mosques, National Museum,

University of Kabul, American School

Afghan night at hotel, celebration of New Year

Painted Afghan trucks

Airport - strange to see people leaving directly for Moscow

India

Golden Triangle Tour: Delhi- Agra (Taj Mahal) - Jaipur - Delhi

Bombay and environs

National Museum and Art Gallery

National Institute for the Handicapped

Educational and Medical Center for "street dwellers"

University theatre ("street" theatre production)

British Society Library

High tea party with relative of one family with whom I stayed

Day of village life - home of professional family, visits to schools

Poona and environs

Archaeological Museum

University Library

"Women's Sunday" market

Poona and environs (cont.)

Extraordinary Buddhist, Jain and Hindu cave temples at Ajanta and Ellora

Thailand

Bangkok

National Museum

Chulalongkorn University Library

Tours: City, Temples, Klongs, Thai Classical Dancing

Jim Thompson House

Thai Hill Crafts Foundation

British Institute Library

Chiang Mai

Tour - Hill temple and Meo Village

Local bus trips by myself to outlying villages

Hong Kong

Bus trip to New Territories

Concerts: Cantonese Opera, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Folk Dance

Tour: Island "Bun Festival"

Exhibit: Archaeological Finds in the People's Republic of China

U. S. Information Service Library

Victoria Peak, via funicular

Bus trip around Hong Kong Island

Shopping!

Connaught Centre

Hong Kong History Museum

Municipal Art Museum

People's Republic of China

Canton - Three and one half day package tour

This was another highlight of my sabbatical. Our tour group of one hundred persons was given frankly curious stares as we filed out of the new train station. It is difficult to imagine this city of some four and one half million inhabitants which has no neon signs, no advertisements, unless one counts a few large political posters. A tour of an agricultural commune was intriguing, both to us and apparently to our hosts. Visits in Foshan included short trips to craft factories and ancient Buddhist temples - "Chairman Mao exhorts us to make the past serve the present." It should go without saying that the Cantonese food was superb!

Taiwan

Taipei

Tour of the city and nearby village

National Palace Museum

Grand Hotel, where I stayed, a museum in itself

U. S. A. again

Honolulu

East-West Center

Handicraft Museum

Sailing trip, four days, touching on islands of Lanai, Maui, and Molokai.

I found myself following history back through time as I travelled from the Spanish colonized areas of the New World to Spain itself. There I found the prototypes of architecture copied so often in Latin America. Pushing on into the land of the Moors, conquerors of Spain and its occupiers for seven centuries, I found unmistakable evidence of influence on Spanish life, from facial features to ceramic tile forms. Greece gave its evidence of a yet earlier impact on Spain, olive trees being one example. These insights have helped me to understand better the heritage of the considerable number of Hispanic students on our campus. Conversations with residents of both Spain and Latin American countries gave me a better perspective of these cultures and their influence on students here.

Historical time receded even further as I walked in Israel's Biblical lands, crossing the Sea of Galilea to ancient Capernaum, stopping at a modern kibbutz before returning to Tiberius. I was not able to make arrangements to live in a kibbutz, but visited two, and spent much time during the Sinai peninsula trip talking with kibbutzniks of a wide span of ages, coming from many countries, as well as those permanent residents of Israel. I left with an increased appreciation for this unique way of life.

I felt most remote from home during a brief stay in Afghanistan. Life there seemed incredibly harsh, partly because of the severe cold; Kabul was still in the grip of winter when I visited it in March. Men carried great heavy burdens; women went about in totally enveloping robes. The still extant second century mud wall bespeaks the ability of this area to survive whatever life delivers. Several weeks later when I read of the political coup, with armed tanks rolling down the main streets of Kabul, I was glad to be gone.

India was an incredibly intense experience for me. Friends I stayed

with wanted me to make the most of every hour in their country and scheduled my time quite closely. My main impression was that of a terrible and incessant crush of human bodies, which were always going some place, doing something. I was caught up in this activity and eventually found it exhausting.

Much of my satisfaction came through personal encounters. It was an unbelievable surprise to meet Jim Chisholm in Hong Kong, especially after running into him by chance in Granada, Spain, the previous fall. In places as divergent as Tenafly, New Jersey, Terceira, Azores Islands, Tel Aviv. and Bombay, individuals opened their homes to me and made me as comfortable as possible. It was through such experiences that I was able to know better what those countries' people are like. A spirit of camaraderie pervaded contacts I made with librarians in several countries. It's good to feel a part of this company.

RESULTS

As anticipated, I returned from the sabbatical with a broadened and enriched perception of the world and its peoples. Facts in the political and economic arenas assume added depth of meaning. I now read the newspaper with greatly increased comprehension of the interrelatedness of daily events. A heightened awareness of the world's art treasures sprang from this journey, an appreciation of such beauty as the Impressionist paintings in Paris' Jeu de Paume, as well as the centuries old carved Buddhist cave-temples in India.

Struggling through the Intercambio experience improved my facility with the Spanish language, as did the necessity of securing budget priced food, lodging and tour services in Latin America. Watching movies and television in Spanish language was challenging and rewarding in many ways. "Airport 77" with Spanish language dubbed-in was an unforgettable experience - Jimmy Stewart

speaking that fast?

During the year I developed a considerable film library. Also I purchased numerous examples of handicrafts and written materials relating to the areas visited. These resources have already been used to enrich one of Dr. Lynch's English 1A classes. I made a short slide presentation of Latin American culture to these students as an introduction to a class on how to utilize the library for their research papers. In one of the library display cases there is currently an exhibit of "Costume of Southern Mexico," items from my collection. During the coming year I plan to display other objects from my recent travels. I returned to the United States last June, appreciative of the opportunity to have travelled for the year, happy that I'm a citizen of this country.