

DIARY: 1976

JULY

[Trip to Europe]

28 Wednesday

Took off about 30 minutes late on the British Caledonian 707. Landed in Karachi 7 ½ hours later and had to wait in a hot room.

29 Thursday

Arrived in London on time at 7.15 am. All arrivals from HK were given 'special' treatment at customs and immigration. Peter Foulds was waiting for us and took us on the 1 ½ hour ride across to his place. Very tired. Had a rest for a couple of hours then took the bus 186 to Canous Park and the underground (60p) to Victoria station. The train journey took about 40 minutes. Bought two excursion tickets to Calais (£10.50 each) then walked along to Buckingham Palace where guests were arriving for a garden party. Then we walked through St James' Park to Parliament Square. Looked through the small church next to Westminster Abbey (can do brass rubbings inside) but not the Abbey. Then along the Embankment to Cleopatra's needle, then to Trafalgar Square and Piccadilly Circus. Train back to Peter and Pam's arriving at about 7 pm.

30 Friday

Still a little tired. Bought a one-day Red Rover bus ticket (90p) and took Bus 186 to Edgware then a slow Bus 113 to Oxford Circus. Looked at one or two shops then down to 'France' in Piccadilly for tourist information. Then to the circus and Trafalgar Square. Bus to St Paul's [cathedral] – went to the top (30p each). Bus over London Bridge. Had lunch (fish, chips, beans, ham, egg, and soup for 96p). Walked to the Tower and went around (80p entry). Then by bus (refusing to buy a 7-Up for 35p) back to Oxford Circus, jumped on a faster Bus 113 and back. Went for a drive with Peter and Pam to Harrow School then to a nearby pub for a drink. Back to their district and to a Chinese restaurant for a meal.

31 Saturday

All afternoon and evening on a grand circular tour. At lunch time, we set off for Oxford (helped with £5 towards petrol). Walked around the town and had lunch in a covered market place. Then we set off towards Warwick, arriving at 5 pm. The castle was closed. Continued to Stratford-on-Avon and walked around looking for ice-creams; never found any! Called in for a snack (two ice-creams. two pots of tea 88p) then drove round to Anne Hathaway's

cottage. Back via the Cotswolds and the small village of Broadway to Burford(?). Had a 'basket' of chips and prawns (£1 each!). Back home at about midnight.

AUGUST

1 Sunday

Peter and Pam left to pick up David by the time we had go up. Had some breakfast then went to Victoria [station] and joined the thousands going to the continent. Took the 10.30 am train to Dover. Fine day, water only slightly choppy. Bought two double sandwiches (22p for two, and soup 10p per cup) and finished off someone else's chips!

On arrival in Calais, took a long time to get off the ferry. Got the Eurailpass tickets filled in by a guard and then took a first-class compartment. Arrived at Amiens at about 5.45 pm. Walked to the 'hostel', given lousy beds and then walked around the old part of town, had a drink of milk and lemonade (F 2.40 total) then back to the hostel after a rest by the lake

2 Monday

Bed rather dirty. Slept in a bit because the shutters were down. Bought food at a local store (bread F1.05 for a long roll, milk F1.70 a litre, tomatoes) and made breakfast at the hostel. Walked to the cathedral after checking out (F8 each) where a 'beggar' asked us for money for breakfast (I think). From there back to the railway station and found we'd missed a train to Paris by three minutes!

Bought lunch (yoghurt F3 for four, carrots 2.40F per kg, peaches 3.60F per kg). Caught the 1 pm express and had lunch in the compartment. At the station [in Paris], got a hotel booking at the "Hotel St Roch" close to the Tuilleries gardens (F42.50 for the room + breakfast). Cleaned up then went for a walk through the gardens along the riverbank and up round the northern side. Had 'dinner' (F17.50 total) and YF lost our map. Never mind! Sat in a street for a few minutes then back to the hotel by about 8.30 pm.

3 Tuesday

After a good night's sleep, got up at about 8 am for a continental breakfast. Cool when we left for the day, going first to the Opera house, then cashed cheques (US\$40 → F 194) and got aerogrammes. Down to La Madeleine and the Place de la Concorde. Yuen Fong had a 'leak' under a tree at the beginning of the Champs Elysée which we then walked up, passing palaces and shops on the way. Bought a small bag of chips (2F) then went to the Arc de Triomphe. Walked down to the Eiffel tower where, this time, I had a 'leak' under a tree (illuminated at night). Had our lunch (bread, tomatoes, carrots, yoghurt) by the tower. When it opened [after lunch] at 2 pm, paid 5F each to walk to the second stage (only 3F to the first stage). Took a lift down nearly an hour later. Through the gardens and down a boulevard to Napoleon's

tomb and the Military museum (saw a World War I tank). Then slowly down the south bank of the Seine to the Notre Dame cathedral (very dark inside). Then past a house with opera music being played, then across to the north bank again. Through a department store and a 'red light' district where we thought we would try to 'tempt' a prostitute (unsuccessful). To the same self-service restaurant as last night then back to the hotel.

4 Wednesday

Up at 8 am for our breakfast of tea and bread. Then we walked through the Place de la Concorde to the Gare des Invalides for the 20 minute ride on the suburban train to Versailles. From the station, we looked round for the main station. Then we hurried with our packs on to the palace. Walked through the grounds for a while then caught an express to Chartres arriving at about noon. Walked up to the cathedral where we had lunch before having a look through. Then we caught another express to Le Mans intending on arrival to look around but instead picking up a rail-car to Tours, arriving soon after 4 pm. Took a bus (~F1.90) to the hostel and checked in (56F – 14F B&B, 11F dinner, 3F sleeping sheet).

The dinner was superb – vegetable soup, meat, salad, ice-cream and bread rolls. After this we went for a walk through the park area that surrounded the hostel. On returning, bought a 2F (!) bottle of orange [juice].

5 Thursday

Up for breakfast of milk and bread at 7.30 am. After doing the dishes, we took the No 2 bus to town (F1.70 each) and enquired at the information office about châteaux. Took a train to Azay-le-Rideau then walked to the town to look at the château. Cost 5F each and the tour through the building was only in French. As they didn't take our tickets, we sold them outside at 2F each! Thought of hitch-hiking to Chinon but gave up after a few minutes. Bought milk and biscuits then walked back to the station and rested till our train arrived. Back in Tours, we intended to go to Amboise but the return trains were not suitable, so set off window shopping then down to the [River] Loire where we rested. It was still hot and dry when we walked through the old parts of town, then back to the hostel.

6 Friday

After breakfast, we set off for town and caught the 8.51 am train to Lyon. We had a compartment to ourselves all the way for the 4 ½ hour trip. Very warm. On arrival, everything was shut with most offices and shops not opening after lunch until 3 pm. Tried unsuccessfully at the railway station to ring the hostel. Went to the square area and bought food and cashed cheques. Saw a 'fight' between an elderly man and a 'drunk' (?) in the square. Both were then 'interrogated' by the police. Took a No 53 bus (F1.70) to the hostel but the driver forgot to tell us the stop so we were (with two English girls) went all the way to the

terminus. Eventually we got back to the hostel at about 5.45 pm and checked in for two nights. After a shower, we went to a [bulk] supermarket for about two hours and bought a lot of stuff [food] for the weekend. It was the biggest supermarket I have ever seen. Got to bed at about 11 pm. (Hire of sheet cost 9F for both of us.)

7 Saturday

After breakfast (bowls of hot milk, bread rolls and jam), we took No 23 bus (F1.70 each) to Bellcour Square then walked across the River Soane to the old part of Lyon, through the narrow streets and even up corridors into buildings themselves. (Before this, we had walked through an open market on to the banks of the river – things were remarkably cheap, e.g. a tray of 24 peaches for only 6F!) Walked to the station and took the 10.45 am train to Vienne. On arrival, walked to the Roman ruins on the far side of the river then via an old church to a beautiful park where we had lunch and a long rest. Then to an old Roman temple and an amphitheatre. Walked up a hill for the view (very hot) then back to the station where we took the 5 pm train back to Lyon. Walked slowly up the hill to the cathedral then back down to Bellcour. Bus 23 back, going again to the supermarket for food. Had a late dinner. Found out that there are no buses after 8 pm on Sunday so decided against staying another night. Got the light out at about 11.30 pm. Hot.

8 Sunday

Decided to go to Geneva. Bus down to Bellcour again and walked to the station. Caught a train to Grenoble, getting there at 11.30 am. Walked up a hill through a park and had lunch (carried all the way from Lyon) there. Back down and a brief look round before getting a train to Geneva. Had to turn our watches back an hour on arrival. Walked to the hostel and checked in (F7 each per night) for two nights. Had a shower. Went for a walk round the rivers after that; quite cool, then came back and went to bed. At the hostel, all lights are switched off at 10 pm!

9 Monday

After a good sleep, we made our own breakfast of cornflakes, milk, boiled eggs then set off firstly to the old city of Geneva. Past the reformation monument and up to the old town square and market. Visited the church of St Peter and after a look round some of the streets, walked back down, cashed cheques, then had a look at the Jet d'Eau. Watched the swans for a few minutes then bought milk etc. and had lunch in the "Jardin Anglais". After lunch and a visit to the tourist office, we went for a 2 ½ hour trip on a paddle steamer on the lake. Visibility was not too good. Then came back and bought things for dinner (getting to a supermarket just as it was closing) and had soup, macaroni, beans, fish fingers and milk. Rained in the evening.

10 Tuesday

Up a little earlier but didn't have the 'formal' hostel breakfast as we wanted to catch an early train. Walked to the station in the drizzle and took the 8.31 am express to Montreaux. Cloud lifted a little to see the mountains. Walked around, bought food and had to rush back to the station to catch the 10.52 am [?bus] to Montbovon. Stuck at Les Avants because of a road accident. Reached Montbovon late and had to wait until 1.41 pm for the next connection. Had lunch outside a cow bail. Took the train to Bulle, waited another hour then took a half-passenger half-freight train to Romont. It stopped at every station and loaded and unloaded things. Got annoyed at its speed. Got there on time however then caught the express [train] to Bern. Walked to the hostel with two Americans and joined the queue for check-in. Bought a 5F dinner (sausage, potatoes, cabbage and soup) which we shared together with the 5F chicken bought in Montreaux. In the evening, had a walk along the river-front and around the cathedral.

11 Wednesday

After a good sleep, made our own breakfast then walked up to Parliament Building (next to the hostel) for a guided tour (given in three languages!). Then across the square where we saw a game of 'giant' chess in progress. Down the main street to the bear pit for a while. Back and bought a pair of 19F sheets for YF. To the station next to enquire about trains to Lucerne. Then bought lunch (~8F!) and caught the 12.44 pm train to Lucerne, eating lunch on the way. On arrival, walked around the lake area. over the 'bridge' (and watched a dog diving into the river and swimming) then up the hill to the old city walls and tower. Down to the Lion monument and back to the station for the 1 ½ trip back [to Bern]. Bought and shared another 5F dinner and finished off the chicken. Had a walk before going to bed. Some noisy blokes kept us awake before they were 'scolded' by the girl at the hostel.

12 Thursday

Up a little earlier and caught the 8 am train to Thun arriving there about 20 minutes later. Walked to the lakeside where there is a château and park and had our breakfast. Back to the station for the trip to Brig. Passed through a beautiful valley with high mountains. At Brig, took the train (parked at the station square) up to Gletsch and over to Goshenen – spectacular. Then by express train up to Zug. Bought food at a supermarket then walked to the hostel. Tried to have a shower together but the water was cold.

13 Friday

Had breakfast at the hostel then caught the 8.30 am train to Zurich arriving at 9 am. Put our packs in a locker (1F) then walked across the river to the old part of town, which was not

terribly interesting. Had a game of chess outside the old church (with occasional encouragement from onlookers) then walked around a bit more. Eventually back to the station for the 1 pm train to Schaffhausen, getting there about 1.50 pm. Didn't quite know where we were but walked to the boat pier and eventually took a bus from there to the Rheinfall (1F each). Decided to stay at the hostel there. Walked around the falls area then checked in. (A group of cyclists was refused accommodation.) No dinner there so later walked to town and had a ham omelette (4.50F) and a pork cutlet with chips and carrots (F7.50). Had a look at the lit-up falls on the way back. We had a room for eight people to ourselves.

14 Saturday

On getting up. found we had to have breakfast. Still, the total cost wasn't as much as I'd thought (15F for both). After the chocolate drink and bread, walked to Neuhausen and caught a bus to Schaffhausen. Decided to go to Innsbruck via Zurich so returned on the train. Had an 'argument' with the conductor about reservations on the fast train so took an alternative. Arrived at Innsbruck at about 4 pm then walked to the youth hostel and checked in. Walked around the town for the rest of the night. Spent a lot of time looking for a restaurant and eventually had dinner at 100/- (soup, stew and potatoes, meat and chips). Walked back to the 'centre' of town, listened to boys singing then went to a park to hear Austrian folk music played by an orchestra. Then back to the hostel (cost: 26/- + 4/- tax, 15/- sheet). Went to sleep almost straight away even with the light son.

15 Sunday

Light very early due to Austrian time the same as London time. Later, chimes from the church bells. No breakfast, so spent an hour walking around looking for food and eventually bought some fruit and biscuits. Took the 9.48 am train all the way to Venice having an American couple as company. Clocks changed forward an hour at the border. Changed money during the train stop at Verona. A man was taken off the train there and put into an ambulance. On arrival [at Venice], couldn't make any hotel reservation. Met a couple who wanted to 'sell' their night so they took us to the hotel. Couldn't do that. Checked in ourselves for two nights and had a wash. Then we had dinner downstairs for about 3000L each (soup, fish and veal, roast potatoes, salad and pears). Then walked to St Mark's square area and along the sea front. The square was a hive of activity. Returned after 10 pm, to the strains of a gondolier passing along a canal near the hotel.

16 Monday

Both had quite a good sleep. Set off without breakfast walking to the Grand Canal and then over the Rialto Bridge doing a bit of 'window shopping' on the way. Had our breakfast of

milk and cornflakes in a little square then proceeded in the general direction of the railway station, buying food on the way. Had lunch in the same park as I'd done four years ago – together with cats and, of course, pigeons. Walked then to the station and checked times to Salzburg. Got a map then took a No 1 boat (L75 each) around the Grand Canal to Saint Marc's square. Looked through St Marc's cathedral (which is showing definite signs of sinking) then came back to the hotel for a rest. After that, went shopping but never managed to get anything before the shops closed – disappointing. Bought a chicken (L2600) and chips (L600) (both cold!) for our dinner, eating them in the hotel room. After a clean-up, went to St Marc's square again for a final look around.

17 Tuesday

Didn't sleep so well. Up at 7 am and after getting dressed, walked to the station; 10 minutes to spare. Sat in a compartment with a group of Chinese until being told it was reserved. Moved further down into a 'smoker' but only had one smoker all the way and he got off early. Train parked 30 minutes at Venice M. Later, north of Udine, we passed the areas affected by last month's big earthquake. Changed trains at Villach, sitting with a Canadian family all the way. The weather was overcast and cool. Arrived in Salzburg at 4 pm and walked to the hostel. Had dinner there for 26/- (total for dinner, bed and breakfast 70/- each). Good meal! After that and a very quick shower, had a walk down to town and back.

18 Wednesday

A little cold during the night. After a breakfast of hot chocolate, bread and jam. set off. Walked through the Mirabelle gardens then across the river and over to the old town where we looked at Mozart's birthplace (and saw the Canadians again), the churches, etc. Then walked to the station and took a train to Hallein. The cable car to the salt mines costs 36/- each and the mines themselves 65/- each. Eventually decided to go. Rather interesting in the mines, riding the [former salt] chutes and so on. Came back [to Salzburg] and walked to the base of the castle before returning to the hostel for another good dinner (including three bowls of soup!). Rather tired.

19 Thursday

Up a little earlier. After breakfast, walked to the station in the drizzle and caught the 8.40 am express to Vienna, again having a compartment to ourselves. Arrived at 12 noon. After a few enquiries, put our luggage in a locker (5/-) and walked towards the city centre window shopping. Returned and took a local tram then walked to the hostel [on the outskirts of Vienna]. Had dinner there (≈8/- each). Walked [several kilometres] to the Schonbrunn palace and saw [the evening performance of the opera] “The Barber of Seville” [though this was not the version by Rossini!] in the small theatre (just as I had done done eight years ago [before

my visit to the Soviet Union]). It finished at 10.30 pm then walked back to the hostel (taking 45-50 minutes) and straight to bed. Took a little medicine this evening.

20 Friday

Didn't get too much of a sleep-in. Breakfast was tea, bread and jam. After this, took the train to town and walked down to the 'Ring'. Looked at the Hoffburg Palace area, had 'lunch' in a nearby park then continued round the 'ring' to the Danube canal, thinking it was the river. Back to St Stephen's church then to the Opera House where we took a guided tour (25/- each). Walked round to the Belvedere Gardens – rather disappointing – then to the Sudbahnhof. We were thinking of going to an open-air concert in a park but changed our minds and walked back to the Westbahnhof and came back to the hostel.

21 Saturday

After breakfast, bought food for tomorrow's lunch. Set off in the drizzle for the Stadtbahn and bought day tickets (36/- each) which last for 24 hours. Got off at Schonbrunn and then the rain started. Walked to the palace and looked at the beautiful gardens. Rain eased so we took a No 58 tram to the 'ring'. Walked round towards the “Theatre der Wien” buying fruit, etc. and a sausage (15/-) then got two tickets (60/- each) [for the operetta “The Merry Widow”]. To the Stadtpark and Johann Strauss statue for lunch (in a shelter from the rain). Then another tram to the Prater, over the bridge, past the atomic reactor and by bus 40A into the centre of the Prated. Walked across to the Danube and took a tram back to town. Then took trams (5, 6) to Beethoven's houses. Walked then along to Bus 38 but couldn't get on as it was 'outside' the city area and the validity of the ticket. Took tram 38 / Stadtbahn back to the hostel. After one dinner which we shared, went to see “The Merry Widow” in town. Got back at about 11.15 pm.

22 Sunday

Up a little earlier. After breakfast, set off. Missed a Stadtbahn so took a train (which was late). Got to the Westbahnhof with a few minutes to spare to get the train to Germany. Got passports checked more closely this time, especially going into Germany. Changed money at Passau (DM 200). Arrived in Regensberg at 2 pm. After collecting information, walked around the old city – first a church with beautiful art work (and a couple of skeletons in clothes) – then slowly down to the old stone bridge. Then to the hostel where we checked in OK. After a shower, had a DM 3.80 cold dinner of meats, cheese, bread and tea. Then we walked around the town area for a while in the evening.

23 Monday

Had a good sleep; YF in a room by herself. Didn't take breakfast at the hostel but bought milk, etc. and sat down on the side of the Danube and made the meal ourselves. Then we walked to the cathedral but didn't go in because a service was in progress, down to the park and Kepler monument then caught the 10.39 am train (15 minutes late) to Munich. On arrival, inquired at the information office then walked to Newmann House and checked in (DM 10 each per night). After a 'rest', walked around the old town and city centre. Warm in the sun, cool out of it. Firstly, down towards the Marienplatz where there were lots of people, then to the Viktealien Markt where we bought chips (DM 1.1) and fish cakes and potato salad (DM 3.95) at a stand-up restaurant followed by peaches. Over to the Frauenkirche then towards the station, watching street 'concerts' on the way. Bought a map (DM 0.30) and two day tickets for trams (DM 5 each). Came back to the hostel for milkshakes!

24 Tuesday

Good sleep. After our own breakfast, we set off on a beautifully fine day. Walked through the English Garden then began using our one0day tickets. by taking a bus to Munchen Freiheit. Looked around unsuccessfully for a castle (*) then back to the U-Bahn and S-Bahn to llok at timetables. Tram abck to Karlsplatz and a hurried walk to listen to the Glockenspiel at 11 am in the Marienplatz. Then we took the U3 to the Olympic village. After buying food (*) we had lunch in the park then visited the main stadium (DM 0.50) (*) and the swimming pool. Walked back to the tram stop No 7 then bus 53 and tram 21 to the Nymphembourg Palace (*). Hot and tired! Then by tram 17 to the Bavarian statue and Hall of Fame. Soon after this, we met a German with fluent English who talked with us for a few minutes then we took the U-Bahn back to the centre of town where we bought chips, pizza and a 'stand-up' dinner of noodles, liver and goulash. S-Bahn to the Isatar Gate and tram 19 to the Arabella housing estate (*) - dark by this time. Tram 20 back for another strawberry milkshake.

* = 'pees' during the day (had another two before leaving, one before going to bed!)

25 Wednesday

Up a little earlier to another hot dry day. U-Bahn and S-Bahn to the station to catch the 9 am train to Nuremberg – quite crowded. The trip took two hours. Walked through the old walled city to the hostel. Dropped our packs and made lunch. Then walked around the old town but eventually felt tired and exhausted. Rested on a little island in the river. After checking in, bought one dinner (DM 4.20 for potato, cabbage, sausage and a banana). Walked down town again and ate half a chicken (DM 3.50). NB: At 12 noon on our way to the hostel, we saw a lot of people in the market place waiting for the glockenspiel and moving figures.

26 Thursday

Up early. Couldn't get the [youth hostel] cards early as the office did not open until 7.20 am! Then we hadn't been given tickets for breakfast. Anyway, we took the 8.08 am train to Ansbach then to Steinach and after a wait, the small 'rail-bus' for the 15-minute ride to Rothenburg. Spent nearly four hours looking around the town. Bought food at supermarkets and had lunch (including half a chicken for DM 3.20) in the old moat. Then by rail-bus back to Steinach and a D-Zug to Wurzburg after experiencing two trains shooting [the station] simultaneously. Then we took an inter-city train to Frankfurt, arriving at 4.52 pm. After inquiries, took a No 16 tram to the hostel. Had a DM 0.50 'hot' shower followed by a DM 4.70 dinner each (soup, meat, carrots and potatoes), followed by pineapple and meat left over by a group. After dinner, went for a walk around the "beerhaus" area of Frankfurt. Warm and dry weather.

27 Friday

Not such a good sleep for either of us. After breakfast, we went to a nearby bank and cashed DM 300 (and had to pay DM 3 bank tax!). Walked to the railway station and bought two tickets (DM 57 each) for the ferry and train back to London [Travel in the UK was not covered by Eurailpass]. Then we took a tram to Heidelberg and walked all the way to the old part of the city. Spent time too looking for supermarkets and loos! Walked up to the castle and had a picnic lunch. After a quick look at the castle, walked all the way back to the station and returned to Frankfurt.

28 Saturday

Up before 7 am. Didn't have such a good sleep due to light shining through the doors. Walked to the station and caught the 8.28 am train to Giessen where we (hurriedly) changed to a train to Kassel. Not a very nice town. Election campaign and a religious crusade under way. Bought food then sat in the square and ate it. Walked along a path overlooking the huge park then returned to the station, catching a 2.33 pm express to Gottingen. Thunderstorm as we left but it cleared soon. Walked to the hostel taking much longer than anticipated. A group was having trouble because of lack of food they thought they would be getting. Bought a 'dinner' (just bread, etc.) for DM 3.30 and supplemented it with our own stuff. Had a shower together in a 'communal' shower. A 'drunk' bloke returned from the local weinfest and woke us all to tell us about it!

29 Sunday

After breakfast, we set off with our two packs into town, had a look around then caught an earlier train (10.30 am) and went all the way to Hanover. Looked around a new shopping area for about 40 minutes then caught a slow train to Hameln. The initial impression was not so good – rather dirty. Left our packs at the station and walked to the town centre, past a Pied

Piper statue and then around the old town. Over the bridge and back but couldn't lie on the grass. Went back to another stretch of grass for a rest then walked slowly to the hostel. A group there. The warden gave us a room to ourselves. Had 'dinner' (DM 3.30 each) which included plum (?) juice. I went for a brief walk while YF stayed in bed. Beds very comfortable.

30 Monday

Up early after a good sleep. No breakfast. Collected our cards and hurried to the station and took the 7.50 am train to Altenbecken. Took a new rail-car to Paderhorn and spent about an hour there walking into town and buying lunch. Then another E-train to Wuppertal where we went for a 15-minute ride on the Schwebebahn [an upside-down hanging railway] to the next station. Caught a D-train at 1 pm to Koln where it rained hard for a while. Had a look at the cathedral then took an inter-city train to Koblenz arriving 15 minutes late. Jumped on a train to Trier and after walking up and down the carriages, sat in a compartment with the guards. Journey up the Moselle [river] was interesting. Talked with the conductor about Eurailpass. Arrived at 5.45 pm. Had a good warm dinner (DM 4) at the hostel and then a shower (with YF getting locked inside!). Had a walk along the river for a while.

31 Tuesday

Last full day in Europe. Good sleep. Didn't have breakfast but walked to the station, making a brief detour through the town square on the way. Took the 8.29 am train, arriving in Luxembourg at 9.15 am. Had to wait for our late train which eventually left at 9.50 am; had an old Italian carriage. Got to Brussels late. Changed some money then walked along the main (?) road to the Grand Square but didn't think much of it though. Walked further to station "Brussels Midi" and took a train (the last on our Eurailpass ticket) to Ostende. Walked along the promenade to the hostel taking one hour to do so. Had to take off our shoes before walking up the stairs. Cost 200F (both) and 90F each for dinner; the best we've had – soup, salad, red cabbage, sausage, beefburger, roast potatoes and ice-cream. Then we went for a walk along the beach and fed [?seagulls] with stale bread brought in Heidelberg.

SEPTEMBER

1 Wednesday

Good sleep. Got a ride to the station instead of using the bus. After boarding the ferry, we had to wait until 10.30 am before it left. Took until 2 pm to get to Dover. Train to London arrived at nearly 4 pm. Bus 185 to Forest Hill where we waited five or six minutes before Ron and Erica and girls arrived.

1976 trip: Overall expenses:

Start: DM 1050; US\$ 200; HK\$ 2000

Date	Cashed (cumulative amount in US\$)	Remaining	Spent	Budget (US\$ 20 per day; cumulative)
28/7	103	18	0	20
2/8	143		95	100
3/8	183	(F263)	120	120
6/8	223	71	152	180
9/8	323	131	192	240
17/8	353	63	290	400
20/8	383	46	337	460
22/8	463	-	-	500
23/8	- “-	67	396	520
27/8	583	83	500	600
31/8	- “ -	47	536	680