Hello. Since putting out DOTTY'S DIMENSIONS: THE PREFACE in 2000 and the regular issues of DOTTY'S DIMENSIONS, I have received letters and e-mail asking me for more information about my past overseas trips. Thus, I've divided this zine into two main sections: London and Other Places (because I spent more time in London than anywhere else overseas). Again, as I have said in DOTTY'S DIMENSIONS, this zine is meant to be a supplement (not a substitute) to standard guidebooks. As you begin to read about these 64 places I've visited overseas, you will notice that I wasn't an impulse shopper, a nightlife party animal, or a sports nut. I loved visiting museums, historic places, and walking around different neighborhoods.

I. LONDON
London has been my second favorite city in the world (after New York City). In 1976, I visited London for my first overseas trip. At that time, I was naïve and 20; nowadays, I'm faded and jaded in my mid-40s. Anyhow, I divided those 32 London attractions by neighborhood. I've always preferred guidebooks that grouped attractions by neighborhood. That way, I avoided zigzagging across town (unlike guidebooks that listed attractions in a strict alphabetical order). I have also visited London in 1982, '84, and '98 as well as '99, 2000, and 2001

A. WESTMINSTER
From the 11th century to after WWII, the British Government had ruled her Empire from here. Nowadays, Britain keeps in touch with her Commonwealth of Nations from Westminster.

1. HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, SW1. The only way I could really see this place from inside was to sit in on a debate at either the House of Lords or Commons. Because I wasn't interested in listening to those debates, and I've seen pictures of the interiors of this building, I photographed the outside of that lovely Neo-Gothic building (completed in 1870). Then, I took a boat tour of London on the River Thames from nearby Westminster Pier to Tower Pier (020-7515-1415). After all, the Thames played an important role in London's history.

2. WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Broad Sanctuary, SW1 (020-7222-5152). Here, I saw the setting for the coronations of Britain's monarchs and the final resting place of several past members of royalty. Throughout the Abbey, I noticed many monuments commemorating famous people from the past: politicians and military men as well as writers, poets, and people from other occupations. This place contained plenty of tombs, monuments, and chapels. The earliest parts of the Abbey dated back to pre-1400, and it would be more correct to say that this building served as both a house of worship and a national museum.

3. TATE GALLERY, Milbank, SW1 (020-7887-8000). I saw British art in paintings and sculptures from about the mid-1500s into the 20th century. This museum held the world's largest collection of British art.

B. PICCADILLY
Piccadilly and nearby Mayfair have been very high-class areas where it seemed as though all five of my senses detected the money flowing. Above Mayfair, Oxford Street has been London's main shopping street where several department stores and smaller shops sell their merchandise.

4. BUCKINGHAM PALACE, SW1. During the summer months, the public can tour the State Apartments for an expensive admission charge (subject to change). I chose to see the outside of the palace via a bus tour that also gave me a quick look at London. The tour company was Frames Rickards (020-7837-3111).

5. FARADAY MUSEUM at the Royal Institution, 21 Albermarle St., W1 (020-7409-2992). When Physicist Leon Lederman said, "Michael Faraday did more to change the lives of people on this planet than all the kings of England rolled up into one," I had to find out for myself more of what Michael Faraday (1791-1867) did to change peoples' lives so much. In this small museum, I saw the reconstructed 1850s lab that Faraday worked in, and in another room, I noticed his scientific apparatuses and personal items. Faraday's greatest work showed how to move machinery by using electricity in strong enough currents. (His picture is also on the back of the 20-pound note.)

C. TRAFALGAR SQUARE
For the tourists, the square has been a very popular section of London showing fountains, a column commemorating Admiral Lord Nelson (who died in the 1805 Battle of Trafalgar against Napoleon's navy), and countless pigeons. Two of my favorite places are on the square's north side.

6. NATIONAL GALLERY, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (020-7747-2885). At this museum, I saw European paintings from some very famous artists to artwork by painters that are more obscure. Arranged chronologically, these paintings dated from the mid-1200s through the late-19th century.

7. NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, 2 St. Martin's Place, WC2 (020-7306-0055). Most travel guides seldom list this place with London's main attractions, and others said that this museum had been as interesting as looking at someone's high-school yearbook. Nevertheless, I strongly disagree. In many ways, I found my visit here very interesting; I could place the faces in

these portraits with people I have read about in British history, arts, and sciences.

D. COVENT GARDEN
Until 1974, the center Piazza housed a wholesale-flower market. Nowadays, there are upscale shops and a few museums.

8. LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM, The Piazza, WC2 (020-7379-6344). This museum revealed the history of the city's transport via pictures, model-sized exhibits of busses and trams, and the front of a full-sized bus as well as a full-sized Underground train and other full-sized vehicles. Meanwhile, videos and pictures showed the different ways Londoners got around throughout most of the 20th century.

9. THEATRE MUSEUM, 7 Russell St., WC2 (020-7836-7891). A large collection of theatrical memorabilia included props and costumes as well as the interior decor of past theaters and pictures showing actors and scenes from plays. This museum covered the history of the British theater from about the time of Shakespeare into the 20th century.

10. THEATRE ROYAL: DRURY LANE, Catherine St., WC2 (020-7494-5040). Back in 1982, I saw *The Pirates of Penzance* at this theater. As much as I enjoyed the show, I equally enjoyed seeing the theater's interior during intermission. There has been a theater here since 1663, but the existing building dated from 1812. (The public can take guided tours of this theater.)

E. BLOOMSBURY
This neighborhood was the closest I had to a home neighborhood because during my last few visits to London, I have stayed in hotels here. Because this area has been home to both the British Museum and the University of London, I could sense the intellectual air.

11. BRITISH MUSEUM, Great Russell St. WC1 (020-7636-1555). With an average of 5 million visitors a year, this has been the most popular attraction in London. The museum with its objects, items, and exhibits presented a very comprehensive Story of Civilization. Forget about trying to see everything in a day here; just pick your favorite sections to see first. Some of those theme areas included Early Britain, Medieval & Renaissance, and Western Asia as well as Ancient Egypt (with the second largest collection of Egyptian objects after the National Museum in Cairo, Egypt), Ancient Greece & Rome, Oriental Art, and so on. Whew!

12. BRITISH LIBRARY, 96 Euston Rd. WC1 (020-7412-7332). A few years ago (late-1990s), this library moved from the British Museum into the present, more spacious, building. Although there was a charge to see the temporary exhibits, no charges applied to see the main exhibit room, Treasures of the British Library. In this room, I saw many works of literature displayed from the Magna Carta to music compositions written by the Beatles. In another room, I could use a computer screen to read and turn the pages of those same works of literature.

F. HOLBORN
The location of the nearby Royal Courts of Justice and the Inns of Court has made this area a neighborhood for the legal profession. I visited this neighborhood, however, for a totally different reason.

13. SIR JOHN SOANE'S MUSEUM, 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields WC2 (020-7430-0175). Making this one of the smallest national museums in the UK, Sir John Soane bought these three adjoining townhouses and lived in a section of the one house. He made the rest of his property into a museum in the hope of inspiring future artists, sculptors, and architects. On all three floors, from floor to ceiling, I viewed pictures and paintings as well as sculptures and other objects. Some of those pictures and paintings hung on hinged panels, and the security guards removed them to reveal more pictures and paintings. The museum staff maintained most of this museum the way Soane wanted it to remain around the time of his death in 1837. Meanwhile, the words "pack rat" kept running in my mind.

G. THE CITY
Because it was here in 43 CE where the Romans founded the city of Londinium, this has been the oldest section of London. Currently, it is also the financial section of the city.

14. ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, Ludgate Hill EC4 (020-7236-4128). After a much older St. Paul's Cathedral burnt down in the Great London Fire of 1666, Christopher Wren drew up plans to rebuild the current cathedral. Although completed in 1708, other people changed certain sections of this cathedral's interior in later years. The cathedral held some historical events, especially Winston Churchill's funeral in 1965 and the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981. This place, too, contained many tombs and memorials. Thus, it also functioned as both a house of worship and a national museum.

15. TOWER OF LONDON, Tower Hill EC3 (020-7709-0765). The Tower has to be one of the most historic places in London. Within the compound, the White Tower, completed in 1097, became the tallest building in London at that time. I saw the crown jewels nearby, and in other parts of this compound, I learned the story of what the prisoners endured. That place did live up to the guidebook hype.

H. SMITHFIELD
Located right outside of the old Roman-Londinium wall, this was another very historical area. I saw parts of that wall near the Museum of London.

16. MUSEUM OF LONDON, London Wall EC2 (020-7600-3699). I had a good look at London's past here because each area of the museum covered a different time in her history: Prehistoric, Roman, and Saxon as well as Medieval, Tudor, Stuart, Georgian, Victorian, and the 20th Century. Displaying objects, pictures, and period rooms as well as shop fronts, costumes, street scenes, and so on, this lively place became the next best thing to a time machine.

I. SOUTHWARK
This has been the second oldest section of London, and it's located across the Thames River, directly south of the City. From Roman times until 1750, only London Bridge crossed the Thames within this city.

17. DESIGN MUSEUM, Butler's Wharf, Shad Thames SE1 (020-7378-6055). I visited this unique place because this was the only museum I knew about that devoted itself to the history of mass-designed objects. Thus, I learned how these objects started their design from the drawing board (or computer screen, nowadays) to the final product.

J. SOUTH BANK
This area held docks until it was badly bombed in World War II. Then, in 1951, this neighborhood held the Festival of Britain and became a center for the arts ever since.

18. MUSEUM OF THE MOVING IMAGE, South Bank Centre SE1 (020-7401-2636). I found this museum more impressive than the American Museum of the Moving Image, Astoria, Queens, New York. By way of pictures, films, and videos as well as equipment, hands-on areas, and other objects used in the making of a film or TV show, the history of moving images covered time periods from the earliest shadow images to a modern film and TV show. Employees who dressed up as film and TV actors added to the amusement of that place.

K. CHELSEA
Back in Tudor times, this was a fashionable neighborhood, and Sir Thomas Moore once had his home here. In the 19th century, this became a popular area for artists and writers. Then, in the Swinging 1960s (and into the 70s & 80s), fashionable young shoppers (the under-25 group) bought their "threads" at several shops along King's Road. Currently, some clothing shops are still here along with art galleries and antique stores.

19. PETER JONES DEPARTMENT STORE on King's Road (near Sloane Square) SW1 (020-7730-3434). Even a non-impulse shopper such as I bought a few things here because the prices, compared to fancier department stores, were low cost to moderate. Their lunch counter provided a nutritional break as well as some relief for my feet before I attempted to walk up and down King's Road (from about Sloane Square to Beaufort Street).

L. SOUTH KENSINGTON
With three major museums and some famous department stores in nearby Knightsbridge, this area competes with Mayfair as the most expensive neighborhood in London.

20. NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, Cromwell Rd. SW7 (020-7942-5000). Built in a Victorian-Gothic style, this place reminded me of a cathedral devoted to natural science. On the building's exterior, statues of both extinct and non-extinct animals replaced the usual cathedral gargoyles. Inside, Life Galleries and Earth Galleries are the two main sections of this museum. After riding an escalator through a globe, I viewed several exhibit areas in the Earth Galleries. By pictures, text, and models as well as samples, computers, audio presentations, and videos, I learned more about the history and formation of the Earth. Life Galleries displayed the usual exhibit areas: animals (both extinct and non-extinct), plants, and rocks and minerals.

21. SCIENCE MUSEUM, Exhibition Rd. SW7 (020-7938-8000). There are seven floors of exhibits here. Again, I had to pick my favorite section to see first: The Exploration of Space. Meanwhile, this area alone took up to three or more hours to see. The rest of the museum covered many diverse subjects: air travel, water travel, and land travel as well as the history of domestic appliances, computers, medical science, food science, and so on.

22. VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM, Cromwell Rd. SW7 (020-7938-8500). This museum, containing seven miles of galleries, had one of the largest collections of applied art in the world. The largest collection of Indian art outside of India was here along with several other areas: clothing, furniture, and Chinese art as well as medieval objects, sculptures, ceramics & glass, metalwork, paintings, and so forth. I wore my most comfortable shoes at that place.

23. HARRODS, Knightsbridge SW1 (020-7730-1234). I don't usually recommend too many retail establishments, but Harrods isn't just a retail establishment. It has been as much a sightseeing attraction as a department store. In fact, this is the largest department store in the United Kingdom. While it is not in the same elite league as some Bond St. boutiques, it's not cheap either. Anyhow, even I fell to

temptation and bought some things here. (Don't try to browse in the Food Hall on an empty stomach! Have something to eat first, or you will be doing more than browsing.)

M. HOLLAND PARK
Holland Park and nearby Kensington were somewhat familiar to me because I stayed in a hotel in Kensington during my first trip to London. Kensington High Street has been a busy shopping street, but the side streets have been much quieter.

24. LEIGHTON HOUSE, 12 Holland Park Rd. W14 (020-7602-3316). Running parallel to noisy Kensington High Street, this house was on a quieter street. Built for the artist, Lord Leighton, in 1866, the Victorian interior stayed nearly intact. Although I looked at paintings by Victorian artists, the highlight of my visit became the Arab Hall, installed in 1879. Here, I saw a lovely room of tiles in a predominantly blue & gold theme with a fountain located in the center of that room.

N. MARYLEBONE
This area south of Regent's Park had a large concentration of Georgian housing. North of Regent's Park flowed a canal from Camden Town to Little Venice.

25. MADAME TUSSAUD'S AND THE PLANETARIUM, Marylebone Rd. NW1 (020-7935-6861). Almost everybody has heard of this famous wax museum where you could get up close and personal with famous people of the past and present--or at least their wax images. Many of these images displayed royalty, celebrities in entertainment, and statesmen as well as world leaders, writers, artists, and other people. The Chamber of Horrors showed reenactments of famous crimes, and the Planetarium presented events going on in the sky at night.

26. BROADCASTING HOUSE, (home of the BBC Experience) Portland Place W1 (0870-603-0304). Although the management of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) still has offices here, most of the studios moved elsewhere. At the BBC Experience, I took a guided studio tour. Therefore, I learned the history of the BBC's radio and TV broadcasts. Other sections of this tour demonstrated how the BBC produced a TV show and radio broadcast, and in the museum, plenty of display and hands-on exhibits helped me to better understand the history and function of the BBC. (Because this is a very popular attraction, it is advisable to reserve for a tour here.)

27. REGENT'S CANAL, near the Warwick Avenue Underground Station W9. My favorite way to see this canal was by taking a guided walking tour of Little Venice via The Original London Walks Company (020-7624-3978). On this tour, the tour guide talked about the history of the canal as well as life in general for those who worked on the canal. Then, she also described some history about the neighborhood. (Little Venice is one of the nicest neighborhoods along the canal.) Later, I took some other tours with The Original London Walks Company, and I highly recommend these tours with their very knowledgeable tour guides. Those are the tours to take if you need to know the details and nooks & crannies about different areas of London.

O. HAMPSTEAD
Here, I walked through a rather tree-lined, village-styled area of London as I passed several Georgian mansions and townhouses. There were some very quiet side streets.

28. BURGH HOUSE, New End Sq. NW3 (020-7431-0144). The house dated from 1703, and since 1979, it served as the Hampstead Museum. At this small museum, I learned about the history of this neighborhood and its former residents via pictures, text, and exhibit items. (Many artists, writers, and poets lived in Hampstead.) Then, I explored the surrounding area, especially Flask Walk and Hampstead High Street.

P. GREENWICH
Here in 1884, Greenwich Mean Time was established. This area avoided industrialization in the 19th century; currently, it is a lovely neighborhood of museums, antique shops, and bookstores.

29. NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, Romney Rd. SE10 (020-8858-4422). Because Britain has been an island nation, it's only natural that this maritime museum has been one of the largest maritime museums in the world. The museum showed almost every kind of water travel: from primitive canoes to models of present day cargo, naval, and passenger ships. Videos presented life at sea (both in the navy and civilian), and one of my favorite sections of this museum displayed full-sized royal barges. Other exhibits covered almost everything to do with nautical life.

30. OLD ROYAL OBSERVATORY, Greenwich Park SE10 (020-8858-4422). Originally, this place served as the official observatory from 1675 to 1948. After this, the London lights hampered stargazing, and since 1948, the official observatory has been in Sussex. Millions of people have visited the outside of the Old Royal Observatory and had their pictures taken as they straddled its brass strip (myself included) placed at the Meridian (0 degree longitude) that divided the earth's eastern and western hemispheres. I also visited the inside of this place and saw their collection of astronomical instruments, clocks, and chronometers.

Q. IN THE GREATER LONDON AREA
This area, surrounded by the M25 motorway (similar to the Interstate beltways in the

USA), used to be a rural countryside. Nowadays, most of this former countryside contains sprawling suburbs that surround many interesting attractions.

31. HAMPTON COURT, Surrey KT8 9AU (020-8781-9500). Here was one palace where I looked at the lifestyles of the rich and famous of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Outside, some lovely gardens (designed in the late-1600s and 1700s) displayed different plants, trees, and walkways as well as fountains, a maze, and so on. Inside, the interior designs of this palace changed from Tudor to English Baroque, and it showed some interesting artworks as well.

32. KEW GARDENS, Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, TW9 3AB (020-8332-5655). Covering 300 acres, I couldn't see the entire Kew Gardens in a day. Thank goodness for the Kew Explorer tram: this vehicle toured most of the grounds and stopped near the main attractions. Along with its gardens and woodlands as well as the museum and galleries, I visited my favorite four attractions: (1) Evolution House, (2) Temperate House, (3) Palm House, and (4) Princess of Wales Conservatory. The botanical gardens at Kew were the largest that I have ever seen. When I was there, I definitely learned how plants provided us with food and fuel as well as shelter and oxygen. In the words of the late Dr. Carl Sagan: "We need the plants more than they need us."

II. OTHER PLACES
Except for 1985, when I took a trip to Paris, France; and Geneva, Switzerland; all of my overseas trips have been to England (where I spent most of my time in London). Either some of these places in England were day-trips from London, or I stayed over for a night or two. As for Paris and Geneva, I spent about half a week in each city.

A. WINDSOR
This town has been home of the most famous castle in England. The town itself included a few streets lined with shops and pubs in buildings that mostly dated from the Victorian times.

33. WINDSOR CASTLE (017-53-868-286). In 1982, when I visited for a day at this castle, I found the exterior and interior very impressive. Inside, I noticed plenty of fine and decorative arts, furniture (much of it gilded), and several murals on the ceilings. Included in a combination ticket, I saw Queen Mary's Dollhouse (given to Queen Mary in 1923). Created on a scale of 1 to 12, many of these scaled-down appliances actually worked in those exquisitely decorated, tiny rooms. This dollhouse included a working elevator (lift), running water, and electric lights. In the final stop in the castle compound, I toured St. George's Chapel. Founded in the late-1400s, this chapel had its share of tombs for different members of royalty from the 1400s through the 1800s.

B. CANTERBURY
The ecclesiastical capital of England had seen much history. The most famous event was the murder of Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas à Becket, in 1170. After this, the shrine holding his body became a popular tourist attraction (hence the *Canterbury Tales*). Then, in 1538, Henry VIII ordered the shrine torn down. Nowadays, Canterbury's High Street has some interesting shops, restaurants, and pubs, with a few historical buildings here and there.

34. CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL (01227-762-862). There was a Christian place of worship here since 597 CE, but the oldest part of the present cathedral dated back to the 1100s. This place consisted of many statues, tombs, and lovely stained-glass windows. Most of the cathedral looked Gothic except for the crypt. Being the oldest part of this building, the crypt was in a Romanesque style. Overall, you don't have to be Anglican (Episcopalian) to enjoy your visit here.

35. CANTERBURY HERITAGE MUSEUM OF THE CITY, Stour St. (01227-452-747). Back in 1982, when I visited Canterbury for a day, I stopped into a small museum on High Street. Inside, I saw a "hodgepodge" mixture of items and a few exhibits having to do with the history of Canterbury and Kent County. I found the place interesting even if it looked a bit disorganized. When I mentioned my visit to some of my British friends, they told me that the museum mentioned in the above title opened in 1987. At that time, the museum staff removed the exhibits from the High Street building and placed them in this new museum. From what my British friends told me, and from checking the museum's web site, this new museum sounded much more impressive. I learned that the museum displayed the exhibits much better nowadays, and they've added some state-of-the-art technology to present several highlights of Canterbury's history much better (via videos, holograms, and computers).

C. YORK
The city of York has also seen much history. Before the industrial age, York was the second most important city in England. There are enough sightseeing attractions to keep a visitor busy from a few days to a week. Anyhow, I only visited for a day in 1984.

36. YORK MINSTER (01904-639-347). There has been a place of worship here since the 7th century; parts of the present building, however, dated from the 13th century. Although the inside of the cathedral itself showed a lovely Gothic fantasy of interior

design, the best part displayed the stained-glass windows in many beautiful colors: reds and blues as well as greens, ambers, and so on. (Windows such as these taught lessons from the Bible to most of the illiterate worshippers during the Middle Ages.) This has been the largest cathedral north of the Alps.

37. YORK CASTLE MUSEUM, Eye of York (off Tower St.) (01904-653-611). There was once a castle and prison here; nowadays, it has been a sizable museum that highlights different eras in York's history. Besides the usual exhibits of pictures and items, I viewed period rooms that dated from Georgian times to the mid-20th century. In addition, the museum displayed some craft workshops, a costume gallery, and even some recreated streets! (I especially liked the Victorian street.) I only regretted that I didn't have more time to see this place.

D. STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Because of a certain playwright, Stratford has been the second most visited town in England for overseas visitors. It has been a very commercial town as well with several shops selling almost every kind of item having to do with William Shakespeare. Despite this, it is still worth visiting the two main sights in this area, as I did for a day in 1984.

38. SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE, Henley St. (01789-204-016). Even if you are not interested in William Shakespeare (1564-1616) and his plays, this place has been worth visiting to see how the son of a glover and leather worker lived in the 16th century. After all, only a very small minority of people lived in castles and palaces, both then and in the present.

39. ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE, Cottage Lane, Shottery (01789-292-100). Here, you could see how Shakespeare's future wife lived. (She was the daughter of a yeoman farmer.) This very lovely thatched cottage was about a mile away from Stratford. I took a local bus from Stratford to this place.

E. PARIS, FRANCE

I'm sure many people who have never been to Paris have preconceived ideas about what this place will be like if they visit. I also had my preconceived ideas when I visited in 1985. Some of these ideas proved to be true and some didn't. Paris has been more of an international city with people from many ethnic groups than a French city (except in language). Despite what others told me, the French citizens weren't rude to me; in fact, many were very polite. It has been true (or it seemed that way) that every other person in Paris could understand English. I think I could count on my fingers how many times I finished a sentence in French when I was there. Most of the time, the person I talked to (or the person next to him or her) answered me in English before I finished my sentence in French. (The same went for Geneva, Switzerland.)

40. TOUR EIFFEL, Champ-de-Mars, 7e (01-44-11-23-23). This must be one of the most recognized towers in the world. Built in 1889, this much beloved landmark, at first, received a lot of bad criticism. Because I traveled in the shoulder season (November), I couldn't go to the top level of the Eiffel Tower. (The staff closed the top level to the public.) Instead, I went to the second level, and even here, I received a great bird's-eye view of the city. At that moment, I realized Paris did indeed live up to the guidebook hype!

41. HOTEL DES INVALIDES (NAPOLEON'S TOMB), Place des Invalides, 7e (01-44-42-37-72). I wasn't too much into military exhibits, but I saw this museum and learned a little about military life in the past. Anyhow, the main thing that I came to see was Napoleon Bonaparte's tomb in all of its marble glory. The nearby tomb of his brother, Joseph, proved equally impressive. After this, I walked along Bd. St. Germain to "absorb" the Left Bank with its shops and galleries as well as its cafes and bistros.

42. MUSEE DE LOUVRE, 1er (01-40-20-53-17). The Louvre is one of the largest palaces in the world, and it holds the largest art museum in the world. I made a beeline to see the highlights of this place: *Mona Lisa*, *Venus de Milo*, and *Winged Victory*; then, I picked my favorite sections of the museum to visit, especially different eras of French art. (Repeat visits will be necessary to see most of this museum.) The glass pyramid was under construction when I visited, but I did get to see a video about it that described the museum's future plans in both French and English.

43. CENTRE POMPIDOU, Place Georges-Pompidou, 4e (01-44-78-12-33). Built in the 1970s, and like the Eiffel Tower in 1889, it too received many nasty remarks. I have to admit that it did look strange to me seeing this building of brightly colored pipes, ducts, and glass. Inside the art museum (Musee National d'Art Moderne), I saw some artwork that seemed equally as strange. The most impressive piece of art was Alexander Calder's 1926 wire picture of *Josephine Baker*. Much of this museum displayed Abstract pictures and sculptures; nevertheless, I also noticed some interesting paintings by Salvador Dali.

44. ARC DE TRIOMPHE, Place Charles-de-Gaulle-Etoile, 16e (01-55-37-73-77). I looked at another panoramic view of Paris from here that seemed just as lovely as the view from the Eiffel Tower. Inside, a video presentation in both French and English explained the history of this arch. Afterward, I walked

along the Champs-Elysees to "absorb" the Right Bank with its share of shops, cafes, and bistros.

45. MUSEE D'ORSAY, 1 rue de Bellechasse, 7e (01-40-49-48-14). Back in 1985, I concluded my walk along the Champs-Elysees by visiting the Galerie du Jeu de Paume. The museum displayed Impressionist paintings from some of the most famous artists of that era (late-19th and early-20th centuries) from France and other countries. I came away from this museum very impressed. Then, in the following year, the museum closed, and the Musee d'Orsay replaced it in 1987. Again, some of my British friends have visited this place, and I checked the museum's web site. From what I've learned, this museum, in a former rail station, not only displays Impressionist paintings but it also shows furniture and objects of the Belle Époque era. My British friends told me that it is an even more interesting place to see nowadays.

46. CATHEDRALE NOTRE-DAME, 6 place du Parvis Notre-Dame, 4e (01-42-34-56-1). This famous Gothic cathedral proved just as interesting to see outside as inside. Most of the cathedral dated from the 13th century, especially the sculptured portals in front of the building. Inside, I saw an impressive display of tombs, sculptures, and stained glass. My favorite sculptures displayed reliefs around the cathedral's interior showing the Stations of the Cross.

47. SAINTE-CHAPELLE, Palais de Justice, 4 bd. du Palais, 1er (01-53-73-78-50). As impressed as I was with Notre Dame, I became even more impressed with this place of worship. Inside, I noticed an even more fantastic Gothic fantasy of almost complete walls of stained glass in the upper chapel where the French royal family once worshipped. In the lower chapel where the palace servants worshipped, I saw an interior painted in bright reds and blues with gold fleurs-de-lis; this part of the chapel looked very pretty.

F. GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

After being in Paris for the first half of the week, I took the TGV Train to Geneva to spend the latter half of the week. Unlike London and Paris, Geneva is not the kind of city most people would want to make a return visit. Nevertheless, it is worth your time to see once. If you only want to see the main attractions, then you would only need to visit from a few days to half a week. If you wish to see more (some minor attractions and some of the towns in the canton of Geneva), then a full week would be plenty of time. As the second largest city in Switzerland, Geneva will not quite look like a quaint Swiss village with chalet houses, but it is set on a lovely lake (Lake Geneva) with plenty of parks and gardens.

48. PALAIS DES NATIONS, Parc de l'Ariana, 14 av. de la Paix (022-907-48-96). From 1936 to '46, this building served as the headquarters for the League of Nations. Then, in 1946, the organization dissolved, and the United Nations took over the building to serve as their European HQ. Inside this old Art-Deco building and the newer wing, added in 1973, I took a guided tour. I also saw a working UN post office. Because there were so many monuments to war, it was nice for a change to see a building dedicated to peace (or at least, attempted peace). Several UN countries donated the outside sculptures. (It is interesting to note that Switzerland is not a member of the UN.) Afterward, I walked around the nearby neighborhood of Geneva's Right Bank with its parks and shops, especially clock and watch shops.

49. MUSEE D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE (MUSEUM OF ART AND HISTORY), 2 rue Charles-Galland (022-418-26-00). Being one of Geneva's largest museums, I viewed historic displays covering both Geneva's history and historical relics from other places around the world. Much of this museum's art consisted of European paintings from medieval times to the 20th century. Although it didn't have the flash and glamor of some of the larger museums in London and Paris, I still spent an interesting few hours here.

50. MUSEE DE L'HORLOGERIE (CLOCK AND WATCH MUSEUM), 15 route de Malagnou (022-418-64-70). Of course, Geneva would have a museum like this! I saw several timepieces displayed: sand timers, sundials, and clocks and watches from the 16th century to the present day. Videos showed the movements of the different animated clocks exhibited here, and this place included a display area showing the techniques of enameling for clocks and watches.

51. CATHEDRALE ST-PIERRE, Cour St-Pierre (022-311-75-75). Built in the 12th and 13th centuries, and partly reconstructed in the 15th century (although there was a Christian place of worship here as early as 400 CE), compared to other cathedrals, the interior looked plainer inside (just the way John Calvin would have liked it). In 1536, the people of Geneva voted to make this cathedral Protestant (Presbyterian to be exact and under John Calvin's influence). I noticed one exception to the austere interior: the Chapelle des Macchabees. This section of the cathedral showed a very ornate Gothic chapel. Afterward, I walked through the surrounding Left-Bank neighborhood of Vieille Ville (Old Town) with its quaint plaza and narrow streets as well as its shops and cafes.

G. WOLVERHAMPTON

I returned to England in 1998.

Wolverhampton, West Midlands, is located not too far from Birmingham, England's second largest city. Although there wasn't much to see in the city, I went there to see a show starring John Inman, and I stayed overnight at a nearby hotel. (He played a character named Mr. Humphries in a BBC TV comedy show from the 1970s and 80s called *Are You Being Served?*)

52. WOLVERHAMPTON GRAND THEATRE, Lichfield St., WV1 1DE (01902-429-212). I saw a pantomime show here called *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. Throughout the year, however, there are other shows presented at this theater, and the ticket prices are usually a bit lower than a similar show would cost in London. Therefore, if you happen to be nearby, say--visiting Birmingham or Stratford, it might be worthwhile to make a trip to this place and see a show.

H. SOUTHEND-ON-SEA
The closest seaside resort to London (about 40 miles east) is in Essex County. This kind of resort caters to the working class, and most people of middle income only visit here for a day or a weekend. (Nowadays, most middle-income people prefer to take a longer beach vacation near the Mediterranean in France, Spain, or Italy.) Similar to many seaside-resort towns, Southend has a promenade with the usual resort offerings: hotels, inns, and b&bs as well as restaurants, fast-food stands, shops, amusement rides (summer only), bars, nightclubs, beach, and a pier. In fact, Southend has the longest pier in the world. I arrived in Southend in 1999 and stayed for two nights to visit a friend who lived nearby, and I saw John Inman in another show.

53. SOUTHEND SEA LIFE CENTRE, Eastern Esplanade, SS1 2ER (01702-462-400). Although this sea life center wasn't as large as the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Maryland, or even the New Jersey State Aquarium in Camden, NJ, I visited an interesting place just the same. (There are a chain of these aquariums in the UK and a few in Europe.) This particular aquarium focused on sea life in the UK, especially in the Thames Estuary. I learned more about life in the sea via tank displays, videos, and audio presentations as well as pictures and some hands-on areas. In my favorite section, the open-air ray tank, the rays seemed just as curious about humans as we were about them. They swam right up to where I stood looking at them!

54. CLIFFS PAVILION (01702-351-135). As in many other resort towns, Southend has its share of theaters. I attended this theater and saw a pantomime called *Jack and the Beanstalk*. During the rest of the year, this theater presents many shows; again, the ticket prices are usually a bit cheaper than a similar show would cost in London.

I. OXFORD
Almost everybody knows that this city has been home to one of the greatest universities in the world and the oldest university in England. (The oldest college dates back to the 1100s.) I visited Oxford for a day in 2000.

55. ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM, Beaumont St. (01865-278-000). Besides being one of the oldest museums in the world (1683), this museum has been at its present location since 1845, in a Neoclassical building. Inside, some of the collection included European paintings from the Middle Ages to the 20th century. Additionally, I looked at displays of ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman sculptures along with other objects from those eras. Other rooms showed fine art, applied art, and other items from Asia, Europe, Early Britain, and so on.

56. CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE AND CATHEDRAL (01865-276-499). This cathedral, the smallest cathedral in England, has been serving as both a chapel for Christ Church College and a cathedral for the Diocese of Oxford. Inside, I viewed a Gothic fantasy of colorful stained-glass windows, a gilded alter piece depicting the Crucifixion of Christ, and different tombs as well as chapels, statues, and carvings. Later, I saw a very informative video about the history of both the college and cathedral.

J. BLACKPOOL
I also visited Blackpool, Lancashire, and stayed for two nights in 2000. Blackpool, like Southend, is also a working class, beach-resort town that was once a popular vacation destination for many middle-income people. Again, many of today's middle-income people prefer to take a beach vacation farther away (usually in Southern Europe or even overseas). Therefore, Blackpool attracts mostly weekenders, day trippers, or those who can't afford to travel to more exotic locations. I went to Blackpool and saw yet another show starring John Inman.

57. TRAM TOUR. Blackpool always kept their trams (trolley cars), unlike most other cities that changed to busses. Nowadays, they've been a favorite tourist attraction in the same way that the cable cars have been to San Francisco. During my first night here, I took a tram tour up and down the Promenade. Because it was October, I saw The Illuminations light show. (Blackpool became one of the first cities to have electric lighting. In an effort to extend their vacation season past summer and into fall, The Illuminations light show started in 1912. In its own unique way, it could almost rival Times Square. Anyhow, no matter what time of year, the tram tour is worth taking.) Along the Promenade, I saw the usual resort offerings (which are listed in the Southend section, except that

the amusement parks in Blackpool are more plentiful and bigger) and the attraction that makes Blackpool unique: the Blackpool Tower. This tower, erected in 1894, looked similar to the Eiffel Tower but only half sized. There are also more things to do in this tower than in its more famous counterpart in Paris. Besides looking out over the city, there are amusement arcades, a circus, and an aquarium as well as a ballroom and a few other attractions. (The phone number for the tourist information office is 01253-478-222.)

58. BLACKPOOL GRAND THEATRE (01253-290-190). Other people informed me that Blackpool's many theaters are second only to London's myriad of theaters. I saw a variety show here called *Comedy Bonanza*. Once again, ticket prices tended to be a bit cheaper than similar offerings in London. Thus, if you are in Blackpool or even in another city, such as Liverpool or Manchester, it might be worth an extra day or two to see Blackpool itself and a show at this theater.

K. CAMBRIDGE
Because I saw that other university the year before, in the following year (2001), I visited Cambridge for a day. Set in a more compact town (compared to Oxford being set in a city), England's second oldest university had a certain charm about it.

59. KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL, CB2 1ST (01223-331212). As I entered this chapel, I realized I was in a very special place. Looking up, I noticed the largest fan-vaulted stone ceiling in the world. Surrounding the walls were large stained-glass windows. The upper level of windows depicted Old Testament lessons that foretold events displayed in the lower windows showing New Testament events. In addition to relief-style ornamentation and carvings, both inside and outside of this chapel, I saw the famous painting, *The Adoration of the Magi* by Peter Paul Rubens, displayed above the alter. Exhibits and displayed text in the side chapels explained the main chapel's history and building techniques as well as its furnishings and especially the stained-glass windows.

60. FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM, Trumpington St., CB2 1RB (01223-332900). Starting with the Upper Galleries, I viewed European paintings, furniture, and sculpture from the 1200s through the 20th century. Many of the rooms displaying these artworks, however, were works of art themselves; the high-domed ceilings showed elaborate carvings, and many of the walls displayed inlaid marble. A marble staircase led me down to the Lower Level; here, I saw ancient art from Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

L. BATH
Bath was a lovely city containing many honey-colored stone buildings constructed in a Georgian style (1700s) and formerly a fashionable resort for the social elite. In 2001, I visited for one day.

61. ROMAN BATHS MUSEUM, Stall St. (01225-477785). Via an audio-headset player, I learned about the history of this place as I walked around the complex. Discovered and excavated in 1880, this area displayed the remains of an ancient Roman Bath. In addition, I looked at sculptures, mosaics, and other Roman items in an underground museum. The temple and statues, constructed above the bath, were a Victorian interpretation of a Roman temple. On the audio tour, I heard more details about the day-to-day life in Roman Britain.

M. WILTSHIRE
Wiltshire County has been home to the two most famous prehistoric-stone circles. One day in 2001, I had just enough time to observe Stonehenge.

62. STONEHENGE (near Amesbury), at the junction of A303 and A344/A360 (01980-623108). Although I only had a few minutes to see this circle of stones, I came away impressed by knowing that I saw a structure that dated back (in some parts) about 5,050 years. Despite studies and speculations by archaeologists and historians, Stonehenge remains a mystery that has been a World Heritage Site.

N. BRIGHTON
In 2001, I visited Brighton for a day. This resort has been so popular for Londoners to spend a day or weekend by the sea that it's been nicknamed London by the Sea. Nevertheless, forget about sandy beaches; Brighton's beach contained rocks! My British friends told me that most people just sat on a deck chair and enjoyed the sea breezes, or they visited the amusement pier and Promenade as well as the shops and museums.

63. ROYAL PAVILION (01273-603005). By the late-1700s and early-1800s, sea bathing started to replace going to spa resorts in popularity. Among the most famous visitors to Brighton included the future King George IV. In the late-1700s, he bought a farmhouse and hired Henry Holland to turn it into a Neoclassical-style villa. Then, between 1815-'22, George hired John Nash to enlarge the building and design it into a style similar to Indian architecture. Known as the Royal Pavilion, this place turned out to be the ultimate European version of an Oriental fantasy. Although designed outside in an Indian style, the inside interior resembled a Chinese style. Even if the building was not exactly authentic in any kind of Asian way, I still felt swept away by what I saw in this seaside retreat for the King. Each room seemed more impressive than the last room as I admired the

interiors containing bright- pastel colors, gilding, and chinoiserie designs in the furniture and lamps as well as the artworks and other items.

O. WOKING
Woking, Surrey, became "ground-zero" in H. G. Wells's 1898 novel, *War of the Worlds*. (Wells lived in Woking when he wrote the book.) In 1998, the town unveiled a stainless-steel *Martian* in the town square. Anyhow, I wanted to go to Woking in 2001 to see John Inman in a pantomime play called *Aladdin*, and I stayed overnight in a local hotel.

64. NEW VICTORIA THEATRE, the Ambassadors, Peacock Centre, GU21 1GQ (01483-545900). Throughout the year, this theater presents many different kinds of shows, including pantomimes during the Christmas season. There is a double bonus for attending a show in this theater: ticket prices are a bit cheaper than a similar show in London, and Woking is located just outside of the Greater London area.

I guess by now you've noticed that this zine is very different from *Europe Through the Backdoor* (with respect to Rick Steves). As much as I enjoyed traveling overseas, my specialty is traveling closer to my home in the Northeastern USA. (Maybe someday, I could write some kind of guidebook such as *New York City; Philadelphia; Washington, DC;* or *New Jersey Through the Backdoor*--or *Side Window*; on the other hand, maybe not!)

The following four publishing companies publish travel guides that are (in my own humble opinion) better than many other guidebooks for using this zine as a supplement in your travels:

(1) Dorling Kindersley, Inc.
95 Madison Ave.
New York, NY 10016
Most guidebooks that provide many pictures and illustrations seldom provide much useful information. More likely than not, many are just glorified coffee-table picture books. Nevertheless, Dorling Kindersley's travel guides are an exception. Besides having much useful travel information included in the text, there are so many pictures and illustrations that you will almost want to pack your bags right away after reading any of these guidebooks!

(2) Frommer's travel guides
c/o IDG Worldwide, Inc.
919 E. Hillsdale Blvd., Suite 400
Foster City, CA 94404
As far as I know, Arthur Frommer wrote one of the first overseas-travel guidebooks for mostly middle-income people--proving that overseas travel need not be a privilege only for the rich! (I think the title of that early book was *Europe on $5 a Day*; now it is *$60 a Day*!)

(3) Let's Go guidebooks
c/o St. Martin's Press
175 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10010
Written by students from Harvard University, these guidebooks started in 1960 as a 20 page, mimeographed guide. At that time, a group of students gave some budget tips for traveling to Europe because by traveling cheaply, you will have a better chance to meet the local people. There are also tips on studying and working overseas (both volunteer and paying)--in case you may want to stay.

(4) Blue Guides
c/o W. W. Norton & Company, Inc.
500 5th Ave.
New York, NY 10110
If you love details, details, and even more details, this is the book for you. In fact, three of the towns that I've visited in England, I had only seen listed in *Blue Guide England*. (In case you are curious, those three towns were Wolverhampton, Southend-on-Sea, and Woking.)