

News from Nan

TRAVEL

1984: GEORGE ORWELL AND A BANNER YEAR FOR BUSINESS TRIPS

AUGUST 1, 2016 | DICK



CERN end station

The following excerpt is from Dick's memoir about his professional life in the technology industry: My High-Tech Adventure. It was written in about 2003 and republished on News from Nan in 2016.

In 1984, the work on VM at SLAC had attracted interest from other physics laboratories in Europe and Japan. SLAC started to get requests for exchanges between our programmers and those of the other labs. As a result I was able to go on some interesting trips that year.

Geneva: CERN

In July 1984, I traveled to physics labs in Geneva and Paris as a consultant to help get the SLAC version of VM running at both places.

I started at CERN (*Organisation Européenne pour la Recherche Nucleaire*) in Geneva. CERN is the largest particle physics research lab in Europe. It is located near Lake Geneva on the border between France and Switzerland. I spent most of my working time at CERN talking to Sverre Yarp and people on his computer system group staff, mostly explaining how the SLAC system worked. After a while it became clear that they were not really going to just install the SLAC software, but were going to rewrite it all to their own

needs. CERN had a big budget and could afford to do things like that. In my off hours I got to see lots of the sights in Geneva and did a train tour all around Lake Geneva ending up at Chillon.



One of the CERN buildings

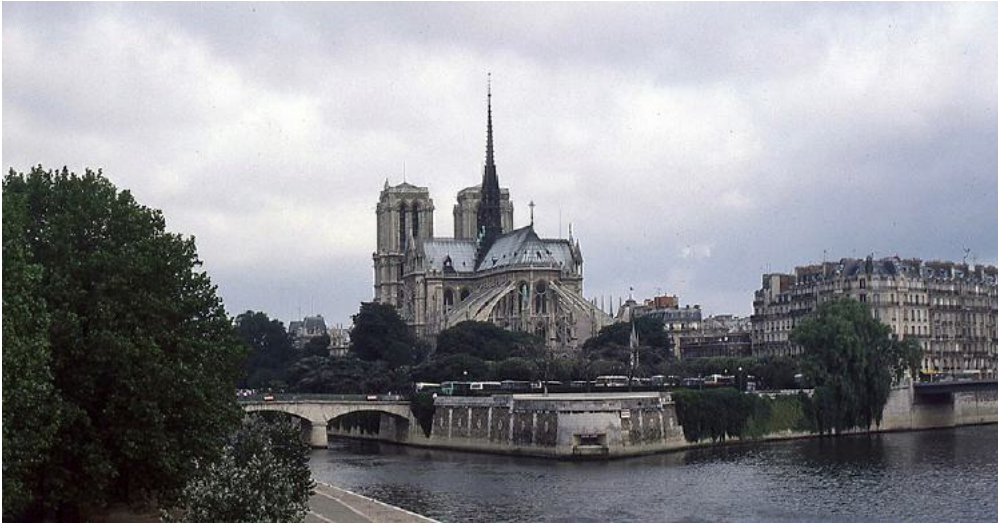


Lake Geneva

Paris: IN2P3

My next stop after CERN was a French physics lab, called IN2P3 (*Institut National de Physique Nucleaire et de Physique des Particules*). It was located at the University of Paris. I spent two weeks there helping the IN2P3 Computer Center (*Centre de Calcul*) install some of the SLAC modifications to the base VM operating system. My main contact there was John O'Neill, a U.S. ex-patriot. I enjoyed working with John and other people on the staff, and I got to wander around Paris on nights after work and one weekend

for many long walks. I was truly smitten by the Paris bug and have remembered the place fondly ever since.



Notre Dame in Paris



Familia Hotel in Paris

Tokyo: IBM Japan and KEK

In October of 1984, I went to Tokyo, Japan, to help IBM Japan put together a bid for computing facilities at the KEK physics lab (north of Tokyo). I spent my time explaining to people on the IBM Japan staff how SLAC had used VM for physics work. I found out later that IBM Japan lost out in the bidding process against Fujitsu, who basically gave away their computers to get the bid. I was able to tour Tokyo evenings and on one weekend.



357 Day in Tokyo



357 Day in Tokyo



Diet building in Tokyo



Downtown Tokyo



View of Tokyo



IBM building



Garden in Tokyo



"Price Rist" sign

◀ 2016 ▶ 357 DAY ▶ CERN PHYSICS LAB ▶ FRANCE ▶ GENEVA ▶ IBM ▶ IN2P3 ▶ JOHNSON ▶ KEK ▶ PARIS
 ▶ SWITZERLAND ▶ TOKYO ▶ WORKING