

ICASSI 1983, Guernsey, England

Enthusiasm for ICASSI 1983 began when Toni Towns showed slides of the beauty spots of Guernsey to those at ICASSI in Badgastein 1982.

Images of flower gardens, Guernsey cows peacefully grazing, and the cliffs and white beaches remain as vivid memories long after ICASSI ended. The Isle of Guernsey was as beautiful as promised. However, it is always the people who make ICASSI such a rich experience.

ICASSI for many people begins upon seeing the first familiar faces in the distant places. As Margaret Crosby puts it, people come to ICASSI “for our annual infusion of Gemeinschaftsgefühl”. On her way to Guernsey she met faculty member Bill Linden on the ferry between Weymouth and Guernsey and found it a “pun filled crossing and good omen that our first ICASSI on English soil would be a blast”.



A special first time participant was an Australian, Maurice Balsan, from Monash University, who had taken a course from Eva Ferguson in the 60s. This marked the beginning of many more Australians coming to ICASSI in subsequent years.

Representatives of the St Peter Port Chamber of Commerce met people at the dock. British hospitality was at its best in St Peter Port that summer. Members of ICASSI were

constantly amazed at the lengths to which their hosts went to make their stay pleasant. Laundry, special foods, and journeys around the island were provided.

ICASSI itself was a study in contrasts. Bloc 1 was held in Beau Sejour, an ultra-modern community center complete with game rooms, pool, theatre, and classrooms. Classrooms for Blocs 11 and 111, on the other hand, were in the Elizabethan College whose buildings dated from the fifteenth century. Bloc 1V was held back at Beau Sejour.

The weather was unusually pleasant and everyone enjoyed the walks from Inn or hotel to Beau Sejour and then on to the College. St Peters Port was an attractive city where everything was in walking distance, but up and down steep hills. During the week most people were able to see the city on foot and tour the island via public transportation.

On the weekend many ICASSI people took advantage of a tour to the neighbouring island of Sark. No motorized vehicles were allowed on Sark. The hardier souls rented bicycles and toured the island on their own power, while others enjoyed the scenery from horse-drawn carts. The outing provided a glimpse of a bygone era and offered the opportunity for visiting with other ICASSI participants from many lands.

After a week of walking up and down the hills of St Peter Port, many people found sturdier legs for their second week at ICASSI. The two hundred plus students continued in the second week to enjoy their classes and their Guernsey experience. Everyone thanked Toni for beckoning ICASSI to come to Guernsey and for providing such an appealing site for the 1983 Summer Institute.

A Special School for Families had been planned for August in Geneva Park, Canada, to follow the Summer School in Guernsey, but difficult circumstances prevented that from being realized. Instead, a program for families was incorporated in the Summer School for ICASSI 1984.