Preface

In December 1994 I was invited to a conference at the Newton Institute during their term of Symplectic geometry. As I was invited by Donaldson I was quite honored and flattered, and as I had never had the opportunity to spend any longer time at Cambridge, a place I always dreamt about as an adolescent, I jumped at the opportunity. The invitation was originally for two weeks, but such an absence would have been excessive, and I settled for one only.

I arrived at the second week of the meeting, where the first had seen most of the exciting action. Donaldson theory in the hands of Witten, and elabourated by Taubes, had a few months earlier undergone amajor revolution, and everybody was very excited.

Naturally I found myself a little bit intimidated to be in such august company, and I worried a lot about my talk. But after that was out of the way, I could relax and sample some of the pleasures of Cambridge, to which I primarily include its many well-stocked bookstores.

My last day in England I spent as a sightseeing tourist in London, walking around a rainy day on a wild goose chase, finding most of the attractions closed.

Göteborg

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