Preface

Sweden has been saddled with the onerous duty of arranging the fourth ECM meeting. There is a feeling that we cannot escape from the duty, and if so, that we should try to do the best of the situation. Laptev decides to go to London, to state the case in front of the EMS executive committee, which is holding its meeting in London, hosted by the London Mathematical Society. Lindquist, the chairman of the KTH mathdepartment, decides to come as well, and I seize upon the excuse to go too, after all I am kind of responsible, being the President of the Swedish Mathematical Society. And if I go, I can take advantage of the trip to stay on a few extra days in London, something I have been longing to do for years. My stay will be cut short by a duty on an expert committee in Uppsala the same week, but by scheduling it on Friday, it will allow the maximal amount of days.

I travel up to Stockholm two days in advance. A meeting of preparation for the EMS encounter is scheduled on November 9, and the next day my presence is required at the Kovalevsky Days, arranged by the Royal Society and the Swedish Math Society.

The first two nights is spent as a guest of the London Mathematical Society, then I am on my own. My stay in London allows extended trips to museums, book-stores and some photo excursions. All of the things I love to do.

The trip is documented, as usual, in great, not to say tedious detail, for which I, as always, make no apologies.

Göteborg

November 22
2001