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This year our greetings come from our new home in Germany; We wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Preparations for Christmas here seem much as at home but there are some differences: although the weather is much colder (with bright sunshine), there are a number of outdoor Christmas markets at which you can get a whole variety of gifts; it is very nice at the same time to keep out the cold with Gluhwein and hot snacks so more eating than shopping seems to get done. St Nicholas comes on the 6th of December to fill shoes so there is "pre-Christmas" for the children, and presents are exchanged on Christmas Eve. As Nicola, Michael & Stephen are expected here we shall have in fact a very English affair, probably modified by going skiing on the adjacent hills.

We shall miss Paul, Rosalind and Fiona who are at home. They appear to be prospering with Paul in demand as a speaker and organiser on computing in his company, a role which has taken him to the United States this year. Fiona is growing fast into an angelic little girl who still keeps her parents very busy. We had a splendid visit from them earlier in the year when she showed her prowess at walking up a considerable hill here in order to eat lunch at an Alm overlooking the town.

Stephen moved to Germany in August; although he is closer in Wuppertal, he is in fact nearer to the UK than to us. He was invited to apply for his new job by a former competitor and now looks after their affairs in the Far East; he is at the moment on a five week trip to the Gulf, Malaysia, Singapore and the Phillipines. It sounds romantic but is in fact very hard work. Jo, his girlfriend, stayed in the UK to enjoy promotion with her firm. We are hoping to see her for the New Year.

Michael has moved within his firm from the oilrig on the North Sea and now works in Berkley Square. He is enjoying the work of planning future developments with the firm, but is not so keen on the daily commuting. Nicola has moved nearer home to a local Court where she is Clerk and seems to be enjoying ever more responsibility.

We ourselves have had quite a year. When we sent our Christmas letter last year, term had not yet finished and Pat was working hard on a contract from Unilever. After that and before Christmas, we finished the contract; had a splendid party with a most respectable-looking set of friends; dismantled the apparatus and packed it, together with half of our belongings from home into the mover's van; had a last bridge party in the half-empty house; then rushed out and bought furniture to replace what we had taken. After a lovely Christmas with Jo's parents we drove here, started work and camped out for a few days until our furniture arrived. It was an exciting time!

We were given a lovely and moving sendoff by our friends at Keele; the painting which they gave us occupies pride of place in our living room.

We have had no difficulty in adapting from a four-bedroomed house to an apartment. It is an attic flat with two spacious rooms and a small spare bedroom. The eaves are fitted out to provide enormous amounts of cupboard space which is largely used for storage but also houses the washing machine and "workshop". The front balcony looks out up to the Kramerspitze (6000'); the rear has splendid views of the Alpspitze and Zugspitze (9800'). Next door there is a small one-roomed flat which we can usually use for guests.

It is five minutes by bicycle to town and ten minutes to work. We have re-discovered bikes this year: it must sound odd but this is an ideal place for cycling as the valley has a flat floor and one can go a long way in selected directions without meeting any hills; in others, it is of course straight up!

We sold our English car to Michael who came to fetch it in February and bought a new VW Passat with which we are very pleased. We have driven it a good way: twice to England, to Varese, Venice, Bologna and Sienna, to Paris and the Loire, and to the Island of Hvar in Jugoslavia. Much of this travelling is connected to my job so it is not always possible to go by car and we have also visited Oslo, Stockholm, Brussels, London, Birmingham and Grenoble by air. Pat has come along frequently and we have tried to see something of the various places. However she has decided not to come, before Christmas, to Manchester and Provence. One very nice thing has been the opportunity to look up old friends and stay with them too when they will have us.

We find the travelling exciting but it has its disadvantages too: we have visited some places at curious times of the year and also for odd purposes: we visited one of the EUROTRAC groups who were conducting a study of fog in the Po valley recently. Needless to say it was bright sunshine but they had just 'enjoyed' 65 hours of fog and were shattered from continuous measurements. Also it is very pleasant to be at home in Garmisch-Partenkirchen where there is much to do both in summer and winter. And indeed we like to be at home in our flat, so wet Saturdays are almost welcomed!

We still miss our friends from Staffordshire but were able to visit several last week on a trip home. We have made some new friends here although this is not easy and one has to be patient. The situation is helped by the general friendliness of the people at the Institute.

It is fair to say that my work has gone even better than I anticipated. I have been encouraged by my Director, Wolfgang Seiler, to take the responsibility for the running of the International Secretariat of EUROTRAC and to develop its profile and the work that we do. Hence the travelling in order to try to forge personal links with the groups which make up our coordinated programme for atmospheric environmental research. Thus we (since Pat has been helping too) have found ourselves doing all sorts of new things including dealing with designers and layout people for our posters and Newsletter and translating the commentary of a film. At the moment we are preparing for an International Conference which we are running here in April. Pat has been busy at the Institute for a lot of the

year with work, on a contract which we brought with us, for Unilever. This required her to build a new apparatus in the cellar of the insurance office in which we are presently housed. There are all sorts of little problems when one is not in a proper lab. but the apparatus was up and running in record time. However the problems will disappear early next year when we move into the spanking new extension of the Institute which itself has been rebuilt. We are busy with a proposal at the moment which will use some of the expertise which we have to build an apparatus for field measurements of free radicals. If all goes well we should start this work early next year.

Pat still finds time to embroider and at the moment is attending an evening class in which she is making a "Dirndl", that is the attractive frock with tight bodice and full skirt and sleeves and contrasting coloured 'apron' which is the local dress here. I am resisting the temptation to sew myself some Lederhosen!

Our German has improved and we can manage pretty well in most situations although I still have to use English with some people at work.

We have been delighted to have as visitors a variety of friends and family; indeed we have seen more of the immediate family both here and in England than we have in previous years. I need hardly say that we would be very happy to see more next year. It really is a lovely place to take a holiday or break a journey and with the limousine service which we provide from the airport (the car knows its way now) the journey is not arduous.

In reflecting about our life this year and the excellent good fortune that we have enjoyed, one must mention the momentous events that are occurring in the various Eastern European countries which are all within a few hundred miles of here. It is unbelievable and such good news; one must pray that it remains peaceable.

Once again, the Season's greetings to you; we hope that next year will be as happy for you as this has been for us.

With much love.