

## 16. EGYPT AND THE PYRAMIDS, CAIRO, 1956

We were scheduled to go to Ceylon to take up the post of Director of the Colombo Plan Bureau, and went by boat, this was not such an odd way to travel as it has since become. It had the advantage that we and the two children could stop off in Cairo, where I had some statistician colleagues, who received us (and dined us--no wine) with the usual Arab courtliness.

It was also a chance to see the Sphinx and the pyramids at Giza. I remember the children taking a camel ride in the desert around about. One of the pyramids was open for a visit and Robert, led by a villainous-looking guide, disappeared into it and we wondered if he would ever emerge. Would we have to pay some large ransom to get him back? But then he emerged, his same highly verbal self.

After that we continued by boat through the Red Sea, and it was HOT. The only escape was an air conditioned lounge that the boat housed, and Beatrice, looking as though she was going to faint at any moment, remained in that lounge, gasping until the boat passed into the ocean again.

I represented Canada as head of the Colombo Plan Bureau in Colombo for about a year and a half about 1956, and the job consisted mostly in travel to the dozen or so countries stretching from Laos to Pakistan. These are described below.