

vienna, tuesday august 23 2005
dispatch #1

saturday, august 20

left home 5 am, surprised at san jose airport to find that the e-ticket provided by iiasa was first class ... the flights were splendid and less tiring than the usual tourist class ... changed at washington dulles, found austrian airlines much better than united

sunday, august 21

met at vienna airport 9 am (midnight in california) by raoul and linda, my hosts this time, friends from my visit to the waldorff school of vienna 10-15 years ago, we cannot remember exactly ... had a short nap then my first tour around vienna with raoul and linda ... beautiful in unexpected sunshine ... ring road, architecture of every period, huge parks ... to the belvedere, palace complex of king eugene, time of leibniz, exhibition in honor of the 40th anniversary of post-war austria ... we were there to see a show of paintings by klimpf ... early fractals similar to kupka ... vienna on a par with paris ca 1900 ... caught napping by a major thunder storm with heavy downpour

monday august 22

feeling better after 12 hours of sleep, more-or-less on european time now ... close inspection of an all-organic health food store with linda, more variety than i have ever seen before ... tour of the old city with raoul, who knows the intimate details of every brick from the roman legions up to today, and tells the story with philosophical depth while walking in chronological order ... the old city is so appealing i think i could live there with pleasure, maybe in part because there were so few people around ... the old synagogue is still guarded by police armed with machine guns although there has not

been a bombing since my last visit ... dinner at a
japanese restaurant

end #1