Margaret Addison's travel diary was deposited in the Archives of Victoria University after her death and is reproduced here with the kind permission of her heirs and of Victoria University. It is a remarkably detailed diary, occupying two densely written notebooks plus some loose pages. It is not complete: a first notebook, describing her arrival and slow journey from Liverpool to London during May and June, is missing, and there are gaps when Addison's interest in diary-writing flagged. Pages optimistically left blank but never filled in represent a whole month in London and another month in Berlin. Nevertheless some 46,000 words are devoted to the remainder of the seven months abroad.

In editing this diary — with all due consideration to the claims of historical documents to be reproduced in their original form and mindful of Ponsonby's well-known comment that no editor can be trusted not to spoil a diary — I have opted for certain editorial changes in the interests both of readability and of feasibility of publication. Published in the 1990s with notes and commentary, the diary is bound to lose its original character: willy-nilly it becomes a document in a continuing engagement with the past and my aim has been to make that past accessible to general readers as well as to historians. (The original diary is, in any case, available in the Victoria University Archives and on microfilm.) I have divided the diary into five "chapters," each one prefaced with a short introduction that establishes a context for such matters as international tourism, the Boer War, urbanization, the education of the masses, and the history of the women's colleges close to the place where they are discussed. The commentary also draws on ancillary matter, such as letters, to help fill in some of the gaps in the diary itself.

Not every detail of the volumes has been reproduced, as they evidently served as general notebooks as well as diaries. Omissions include the original page
numbering and some material at the beginning and end of the two notebooks: name and address, a German song, a rudimentary index, and a calendar at the start; addresses and scribbled notes at the end of the first volume; lists of letters and postcards sent, letters received, and souvenirs bought; names of fellow-travellers; and at the end of the Oxford notebook, the rough draft of an essay. This material has been used in the commentary but is not reproduced exactly.

Within the diary entries, two main sorts of material have been omitted. One is the long description of certain lectures, on topics ranging from English literature to ants (the longest, on the reign of Charles I, runs for eleven pages). The other is the detailed itemization of the contents of museums and galleries, which Addison herself eventually realized was de trop. These entries are not ignored, since they are obviously a part of Addison's mental life and experience, but are summarized in the commentary rather than transcribed. The diary also contains some sketchy diagrams which are not reproduced but whose presence should be noted.

A few changes have been made in the text, the aim being to avoid impediments to reading while preserving the informal, often hurried or notational style common in diaries. By far the most frequent change is the addition of "and," either preceding the last item in a series, or to a sentence that would otherwise be a comma splice. A few other changes have been made to strengthen grammatical structure. Dashes and parentheses are used to set off some interpolated material and commas have been added where necessary. The dates of entries have been regularized. Headings, some of which were written in the margins, are uniformly reproduced within the text. To avoid a spurious appearance of "quaintness," I have corrected misspellings and expanded ampersands and abbreviations (such as "Nap" for Napoleon). As Elizabeth Hampsten says in her study of the private writings of midwestern women, no one, even a child, deliberately spells in an unconventional way, and in print such variations look foolish. However, Addison's use of American (-or) endings for words usually spelled -our in Canada has been retained for its cultural significance.

It has not proved possible, even if it were desirable, to identify every individual mentioned in the diary. Historical figures encountered in the course of tourism have generally remained unannotated, unless, like Pestalozzi, they figure prominently in the narrative. It would be satisfying to state that the people Addison met in person are all identified. In truth, I have only been able to trace those
with some fame; there are many ordinary friends and individuals who, undemocratically, remain without a note. Similarly women are sometimes identified, as if this were still the nineteenth century, simply as “wife of So-and-so.” Notes have been provided for puzzling matters where necessary, and for some interesting matters where probably not necessary at all.