

Geneva had become for me a place of scientific pilgrimage, ever since, in August 1963 I had been invited to write the ITU Centenary Book *From Semaphore to Satellite*, published by the International Telecommunication Union in 1965. [See Title 69] The World Health Organisation, WHO, also had its headquarters in Geneva and I had been a frequent contributor to its Journal *World Health*, even before writing for the ITU.

However, scientifically the most important organisation in Geneva is CERN, the *Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire*, the European Organisation for Nuclear Research. First proposed in 1952 by I.I. Rabi, and established in 1954, it grew during the following decades to become the largest international research establishment for nuclear research, adding ever greater and more sophisticated atomic particle accelerators. It became necessary in 1965, to expand from Geneva, Switzerland, into neighbouring France, although only underground. Its membership grew beyond the original 14 European Nations.

Both, as Science Correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* and later as Editor of *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* I was often invited to press visits at CERN, and one of these led to a major 20-page article \*CERN'S 400 GeV Super Proton Synchrotron\* (the SPS) in which John B. Adams FRS and seven of his colleagues described in great detail its complex, interdisciplinary design and construction. [See ISR Vol. 3 (4) p. 312 (1978)].

By the time of my visit to CERN in May 1994, the SPS had been converted into a proton-antiproton collider, leading to the discovery of the W and Z particles. The Large Electron-Positron Collider, LEP, with its 27 km long circular tunnel had been built by 1989, and its first results were shown to us.

But the most important historical event during the 1994 visit, was the establishment of the computer web, WWW, (World Wide Web), almost as a side show. I only remember the CERN scientists who originated it, Charles Llewelyn-Smith and Brian Carpenter, distributing a few sheets of duplicated paper with lists of Web sites. It has been estimated that by the time of my next visit to CERN in 1994, the Internet connected about two million computers in a 100 countries, serving some 23 million users.

These few duplicated sheets of the first web sites, well deserve to be called *THE INCUNABULAE OF THE WEB*. Do they still exist, I wonder, and where are they treasured? Gillies and Cailliau in their book *How the web was born* (Oxford University Press, September 2000) the first 372 page-book on the History of the Web, does not even mention this first distribution to the inter-national press.