

# FOCUS

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## A Visit to Vietnam

Peter Hilton

In early April of this year, I received a 'mysterious' phone call from Dr. Judy Ladinsky, Professor of Preventive Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It transpired that she was telephoning me, in her capacity as chairwoman of the U.S. Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam, to enquire if I would be able to visit the University of Hanoi after attending an international conference on algebraic topology in Singapore in mid-June.

It was known to the Hanoi topologists, and particularly to Dr. Huynh Moi, the leader of the algebraic topology group there (who was at the time visiting the U.S. and was actually in Dr. Ladinsky's office when she made her phone call) that I would be in Singapore at the conference, and that I had made a considerable effort to get some Vietnamese topologists invited to that conference. (My efforts foundered, unfortunately, owing to the strained political relations between Singapore and Vietnam.) I agreed to visit Hanoi from June 21 to June 26, and learned that it would be necessary to go to Bangkok to get my visa and then fly to Hanoi from Bangkok. In fact, Bangkok is the unique airport in the non-communist world from which one can fly directly to Hanoi, but there are only 2 flights a week in each direction!

I arrived in Bangkok on Thursday, June 20, and, after some difficulties with my visa, caught a flight for Hanoi early the next morning on a Vietnamese airline.

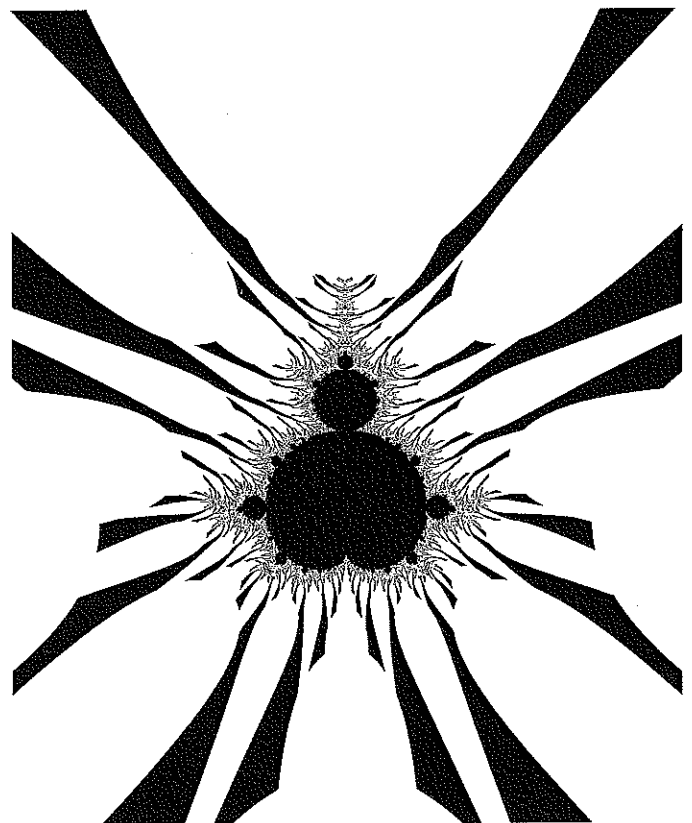
On arrival, I was met by Professor Pham, head of the sec-

tion of geometry, topology and algebra in the Faculty of Science, and by Hugh (such, he said, was his name, but I suspect he used a different spelling!) on behalf of the Ministry  
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### The January 1986 Joint Mathematics Meetings

The January 1985 Joint Mathematics Meetings will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana, January 7-11. The meetings will include the **69th Annual Meeting of the Mathematical Association of America**, January 9-11, the **92nd Annual Meeting of the American Mathematical Society**, and the 1986 annual meetings of the **Association for Women in Mathematics**, and the **National Association for Mathematicians**. All meeting sessions will be held in the Hyatt Regency and the Superdome.

For more information, see "Update on New Orleans Meeting" on page 9 of this issue.



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An exhibit, "Frontiers of Chaos," which features some 90 computer graphics is currently touring museums, galleries, and academic institutions in Western Europe and the United States. The fractal pictured above, titled "The 'Signature' Mandelbrot Set", is by Benoit B. Mandelbrot, Harvard University. For information on dates and locations of the exhibits, contact the Goethe Institute, 530 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94108; (415)391-0370.