

Farewell Geneva

Autumn has come again here in Switzerland,
colours of blue, green, gold and red.

The blue of the sky, the green of the conifers and pines, gold of the aspen,
birch, elm and cedar, and the red of the ash and maple leaves just before
they fall.

The mornings are cool and the afternoons temperate and in the evening the
city lights reflect in the stillness of the lake.

And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

We've been, seen, and tasted, driving over rugged craggy passes,
have driven through lush green pasture with dairy cows grazing, hearing the
melodious sounds of their bells.

The high mountain views and clear blue lakes that go on as far as the eye
can see.

And oh the cheeses such variety and delicate tastes that words cannot
describe.

And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

The people, white, black, yellow and tan are everywhere,
to be seen in costumes un-associated with this local scene.

The local, the worker, the beggar, the tourist,

They go about their daily tasks with cares and woes that only they know.

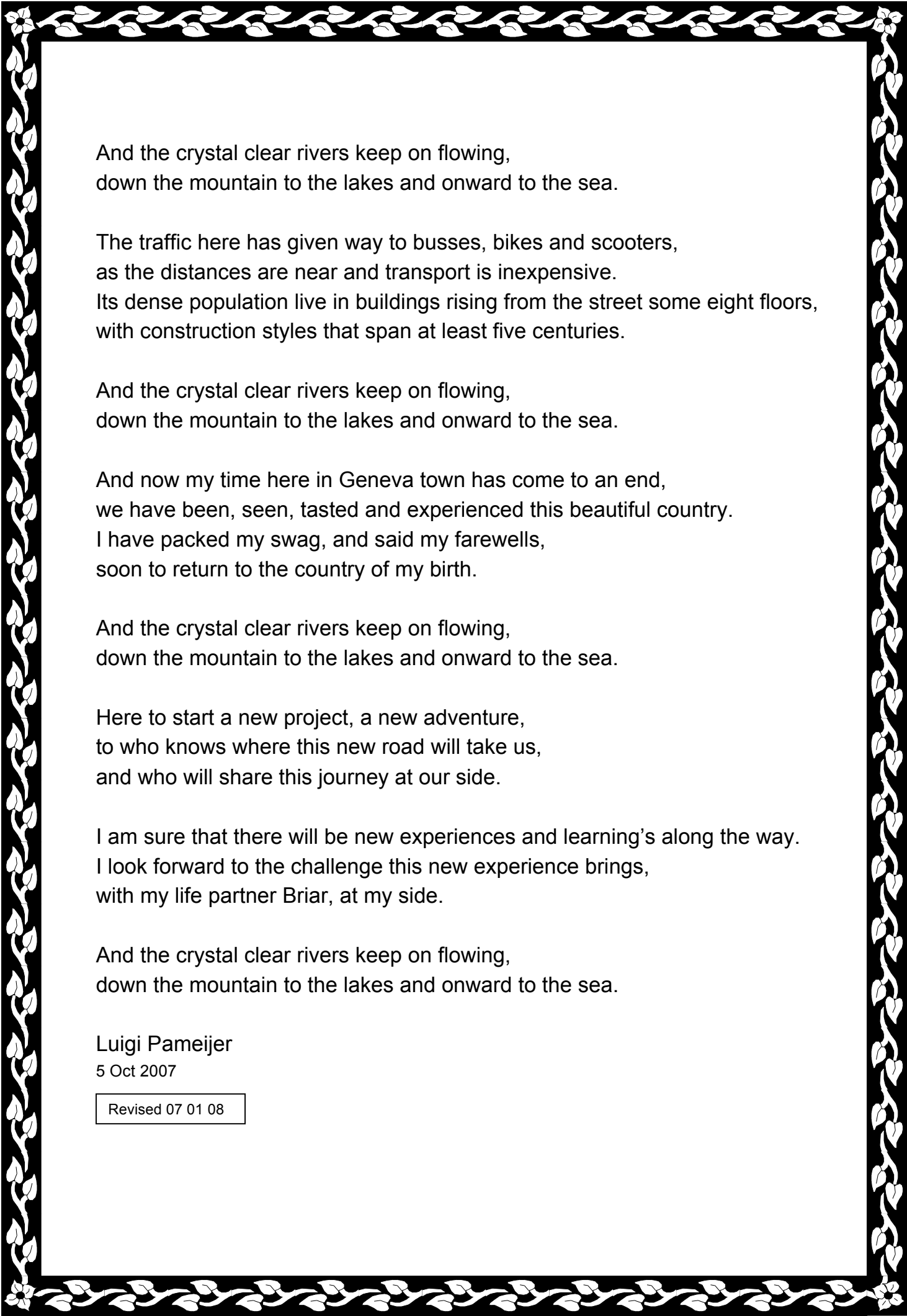
And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

Of the people that I have met here,
from TEN, ILO, ICF, UNCTAD, WMO, WHO, and the Baha'is.

There are a special few with whom we share a very special bond,

We have laughed and cried and shared experiences.

I will be saddened to leave their good company,
and they know who they are.



And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

The traffic here has given way to busses, bikes and scooters,
as the distances are near and transport is inexpensive.
Its dense population live in buildings rising from the street some eight floors,
with construction styles that span at least five centuries.

And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

And now my time here in Geneva town has come to an end,
we have been, seen, tasted and experienced this beautiful country.
I have packed my swag, and said my farewells,
soon to return to the country of my birth.

And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

Here to start a new project, a new adventure,
to who knows where this new road will take us,
and who will share this journey at our side.

I am sure that there will be new experiences and learning's along the way.
I look forward to the challenge this new experience brings,
with my life partner Briar, at my side.

And the crystal clear rivers keep on flowing,
down the mountain to the lakes and onward to the sea.

Luigi Pameijer

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