

Report on Innovative User Group Conference 2015 Minneapolis, Minnesota

Tim Darlington, 29 April 2015

I never think about taking photographs until the useful time for taking them is well past, so this report will lack the visual appeal of previous chairs' reports. That said, I did manage the odd one of Minneapolis, so before the report, there's a brief photographic interlude. In short, I was here:



Venue was the red-brick monstrosity in the centre, with the yellow band round its upper floors. Looks aside, it was an excellent conference venue.



Minneapolis is on the Mississippi River, although a lot closer to the headwaters than most places you associate with the Mississippi. The billboard the other side of the bridge advertises Grain Belt Beer, which I didn't sample because Minneapolis turns out to be well supplied with excellent craft breweries. The dark satanic mill at left is actually a US Post Office.



Reason for putting a city here was this waterfall, which did a great job of providing water power for flour

mills up until the late 1920s. Note the horizon – it looks like that for 360 degrees. Haven't seen anything like it since Kuwait.



Mary Tyler Moore is the city's best-known resident (albeit fictional), and gets her own statue. Technically, Prince/Artist Formerly Known As Prince is a better-known Minneapolis resident these days, but not that many people know where he comes from. And he doesn't have a statue on Nicollett Mall.

Anyway, in between enjoying the sights of Minneapolis, I attended the Innovative User Group Conference at the above-mentioned red-brick monstrosity.

Substance of the report mostly commercial-in-confidence so not published.