

## In Memoriam

On September 3, 1983 Derek John deSolla Price died. A few weeks earlier I congratulated him on his election to the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which entitled him to nominate candidates for the Nobel Prize. Derek was anxious to use the *SCI* files to create lists of candidates in physics. I chastised him for not showing up at the International Conference of Scientific Editors' Associations in Philadelphia. I also urged him to cut down his foreign travel. As his son Mark said at the memorial service held at Yale University on September 11th, it was impossible for Derek to change his life style.

Although selected by the Swedish Academy as the first foreign historian of science, Price was known to all informed information workers. It is impossible to fully account here for his impact on information science. His seminal books and papers became classics. *Little Science, Big Science*, was explicitly cited in over 700 publications (*Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences* (29):18, July 18, 1983). Many of these citations were from journals in information science. White and Griffith demonstrated his impact when they identified the most influential authors in information science (White HD & Griffith BC. Author Cocitation: a literature measure of intellectual structure. *JASIS* 3:163-71, 1981). But it will require a long term collaborative effort by a multi-disciplinary team of colleagues to measure and evaluate his impact fully.

Price was the first recipient of the J.D. Bernal award of the Society for the Social Study of Science (4S). It is noteworthy that neither he nor Bernal, both physicists, was trained in information science. Their interest in the science of

science bridged the two cultures. More recently Derek's grasp of artificial intelligence was revealed in an unpublished exchange of letters with the editor of *Cell*. He forecasted that AI would increasingly alter the human reviewing process. Derek served on the editorial boards of *Scientometrics*, *Interdisciplinary Science Review*, and many other publications. His numerous papers included the classic "Networks of Scientific Papers" (*Science* 149, 510-15, 1965) but his "General Theory of Bibliometric and Other Cumulative Advantage Processes" appeared in *JASIS* 727, 292-306, 1976. For more detailed commentary on his "Citation Cycle" see my essay on Derek Price in *Current Contents* 9/29/80, in which I acknowledged my long friendship and appreciation.

I once facetiously told Derek, an early member of the *Science Citation Index* advisory board, that for me as one of his leading publicity agents, he made life difficult. As every PR man knows, it is essential—no matter what is said—to get your client's name spelled right. Justifiably proud of his sephardic origins he always included deSolla in his name. A few years ago he agreed to publish as Derek John deS. Price so that his name would be properly cited for indexing purposes. Most people continue to call him deSolla Price. We gladly labor to unify the variations in the citation of his name.

His friends in the information community will miss him. Those of us who know that we are on the verge of new and exciting developments in information mapping due to this inspiration feel an irreparable loss. Fortunately he taught and inspired enough individuals to guarantee that the impact of his work will continue to be felt in generations to come.

*Eugene Garfield, October 1983.*

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