

Administering a small foundation was very different from the work of a Science Correspondent, and after a short time I found that I was bored and frustrated. The only relief was the occasional visit to the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, Israel, and meeting there the many outstanding scientists in different disciplines. These were always great days, often combined with travels in Israel; as for example after the War with Egypt in November 1973. The Israeli Army had then occupied large areas west of the Suez Canal and bridged the Canal itself with a pontoon bridge, which a group of Institute scientists could use to cross the Canal on an excursion of which I was a member.

Fortunately a new perspective appeared soon. One of my friends, Dr Peter Farago, then the Editor of the *Educational Journal of the Chemical Society* in London asked me during a lunch if I was interested in starting a new scientific Journal with him, as he had met a publisher, Gunter Heyden, who was willing to underwrite such a project. Heyden then published about 15 Journals, most of them in the field of spectroscopy, and he was anxious to expand his stable. The idea greatly appealed to me and I asked to meet Heyden. I liked him, he too had been born in Germany, and was equally happy to be in England.

He lived in Hendon, North London, and near his home he had installed the offices of his staff, then about 10 in number. Soon after I met him in 1974, he was able to expand and the nearby empty premises in Hillview Gardens of the defunct British Launderers Research Association, were acquired, converted into offices and proudly named 'Spectrum House'.

Once it was agreed that a new Journal should be published, Peter Farago and I faced the task of finding an appropriate name for it. *International Science Reviews* was our first choice until we found that such a Journal existed already. However, we thought that its short title *I.S.R.* was admirable, and we had to search for another adjective beginning with 'I'. *Interdisciplinary* came to mind and conveyed to us the freedom of choice for contributions. More important was the situation, of which we were convinced, that interdisciplinary articles were much needed and not catered for in the then existing scientific literature. *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews, ISR*, was decided on as the official name of the new Journal.

We conceived another new idea: 'The Modified Referee System'. This consisted in asking a prospective contributor to submit to us a synopsis of 500 words which we would pass on to five members of the Editorial Board for their comments. We argued correctly that, if a contributor could fully and clearly present his thesis in only 500 words, he was likely to do so in a 5000 word review. This system saved a great deal of time [see Title 283] and proved highly successful, although I have never heard of any imitation.