

All my travels during 1978 had become routine. I attended the American Association in New York in February, the Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in July, the British Association in Bath in September and the German Gesellschaft in Freiburg in October. On all these occasions I had a chance of inviting eminent scientists to contribute to ISR, and although they were all impressed when I showed them my Journal, and most of them promised to write, the total response to my endeavours was about one third.

For the actual manuscripts I often had to wait many months, if not years, provided I reminded the potential authors often enough. I was happy with this low percentage, as it allowed me to invite many, and with some luck I soon accumulated enough 'capital' of articles. Whenever I had to prepare a new issue, four times a year, I was always able to create from my capital either a theme of similar subjects, or a contrasting collection of contributions.

As I could invite so many authors, and wait for their initial acceptance and final delivery of the manuscript, I was able to acquire many friends among those who lectured at the Associations. They were always pleased to be asked to help a new and promising Journal with their own subjects, and as I had nearly always heard their lectures I could judge if they were scholarly and interdisciplinary. If not, I walked out; there were usually alternatives at the American and the British Association Meetings. Or I fell asleep.

I was always amazed that these eminent scientists, who had been so carefully selected by the Associations, never gave a thought to the publication of their labours. They had been invited many months beforehand, they had devoted a great deal of time to write, and even more effort to collect together the necessary illustrations, not infrequently borrowed from colleagues in a different continent.

But publishing had only rarely entered their consideration. My regular visits to these Meetings and my many invitations may make my methodology appear haphazard, but it worked perfectly satisfactorily, at least for a quarterly Journal. I required about 24 major articles a year, about 16 Editorial Comments, as well as about 20 book reviews for each annual volume.

I could point to the basic definition of interdisciplinary articles as set out in the first issue, and if ever there was any doubt, the simple decision to invite a contribution was totally in my hands. There was no need for me to consult anyone else, if I had heard the lecture or if the author held a professorial appointment at a recognised university. But modified refereeing [Title 283] took place when I thought it was necessary. This occurred fewer and fewer times, as I gained more experience during the 20 years I edited ISR.