

The first book review to appear in ISR was published in the third issue of the Journal, in September 1976, and ever since, as long as I was Editor, several pages were usually devoted to Book Reviews. The first book was *The Genesis Strategy: Climate and Global Survival* by Stephen H. Schneider and it was reviewed by Walter Orr Roberts, one of the most eminent American climatologists. The subject was prophetic.

Having been an author myself, I knew from experience how eagerly one awaits the first reviews, and how much one appreciates the critical opinion of the reviewer, hopefully a good one. Therefore as Editor I had two tasks: to find the best subject expert to write an authoritative review, and secondly to arrange for its early publication. Both were equally difficult, and each autumn there was usually an accumulation of reviews to appear in print before the end of the volume. This had occurred in 1979, and hence the last issue of the year, ISR 4/4, published in December 1979, had nine pages of book reviews and nine reviews, average 450 words, three time as many as usual in other issues.

The authors, subjects and reviewers were as follows:

John Ziman	<i>Reliable Knowledge: An Exploration of the Grounds for Belief in Science.</i> Sir Brian Pippard, reviewer.
R.V. Jones	<i>The Wizard War: British Scientific Intelligence.</i> Dr Hans Mark, reviewer
David Morley	<i>The Sensitive Scientists.</i> Dr Hans Mohr, reviewer
F.R. Stephenson	<i>Applications of Early Astronomical Records.</i> Colin Ronan, reviewer
Paul Dickson	<i>The official Rules.</i> Denys Parson, reviewer
R.P. Multhauf	<i>Neptune's Gift: A History of Common Salt.</i> M.R. Bloch, reviewer
Peter Watson	<i>War on the Mind. The Military Uses and Abuses of Psychology.</i> P.S. Abbott and M.M. Houston, reviewers
Colin Ronan	<i>The shorter Science and Civilisation in China I.</i> Trevor Williams, reviewer
Nigel Calder	<i>Spaceships of the Mind.</i> Adrian Berry, reviewer.

The books were interdisciplinary and the subjects wide-ranging indeed. Lack of space prevents a discussion of the interesting subjects in each case, nor can I give the qualifications of each of the eminent reviewers. Dr Hans Mark, for example, a nuclear physicist, was at the time Secretary of the US Air Force and undoubtedly fully conversant with all aspects of scientific intelligence, and had perhaps even discussed the subject of the book with the author.