

## 65 Years old—Travels and Friends in 1981 (I) Title 304

Looking at my Diary of 1981, I am still amazed what a busy year it was, full of exciting travel and enlivened by so many friends. I did not feel I was 65 years old, when most others had retired. January was as usual occupied by a visit to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, meeting for once in Canada's financial and commercial centre, Toronto. I remember the extremely low temperature of  $-42^{\circ}\text{C}$  vividly and how almost every street had a parallel underground street with shops on both levels. One could therefore pursue one's life easily without ever getting exposed to the icy blasts from Canada's north.

The AAAS Meeting has also become memorable for me, as I had been invited by Joseph and Vary Coates to give a paper on "My Interdisciplinary Philosophy" on 7 January at 2.30 pm in the British Columbia Room of the Royal York Hotel. There was not much pure philosophy in my talk, rather more historical description, why I started an interdisciplinary Journal, and how lucky I was to find a publisher, Gunter Heyden. He was prepared to risk some of his capital, whereas I, as Editor, had to risk my scientific reputation. [See Title 261]

Our collaboration worked extremely well, we became good friends, and although Gunter must have lost quite a lot of money, he never once blamed me for this and left the editorial contents of *ISR* completely in my hands. I described in my talk the modified referee system and the special issues devoted to a single theme.

From Canada south to Washington, which was decidedly warmer and where I was in time to watch the inaugural parade on 20 January of President Reagan. I found it a rather motley assembly of various Americans. I saw Dillon Ripley, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution again and was able to thank him for his contribution, published in *ISR* 3/2 [see Title 278]. As the executive head of America's greatest scientific and art-historical institution, his position was one of immense power and this was immediately obvious when one met him. He was a great ornithologist and had published many volumes on Indian and Eastern birds. He was always very friendly to me, in London and in Washington, and I invited him to join our Editorial Board. He accepted but was not very active.

South again to Florida, Cape Kennedy, where I watched the launch of a satellite, and on to Miami where a good friend, Gregory Wolf had become the Chancellor of the International University. It was his practice to lunch every day with his Deans of Faculty and to invite guests to join them and give a talk. This was quite unexpected, and I was unprepared, but it was easy for me to repeat a shortened version of my AAAS address and I remember a lively discussion afterwards.

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