

I have always considered the history of science as an excellent medium to underline interdisciplinary wisdom and therefore spent some time in search of suitable examples. One to two pages were devoted in the first issue of each year to what I called "Interdisciplinary Anniversaries", and I gave worthwhile instances of what occurred 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 200, 300, 400 and 500 years ago. Here, as examples, are some citations published in March 1984. My encyclopædic sources were W. Stein's *Der grosse Kultur Fahrplan* 1981 and later A. Helleman and B.H. Bunch's *Fahrplan der Naturwissenschaften* 1990.

25 Years ago, 1959. From the USSR, Lunik 3 circled the Moon and sent the first pictures of its back. C.P. Snow published *The Two Cultures* and the Washington Treaty declared the Antarctic an International Land of Science. The ball point pen became popular and WHO's fight against malaria with DDT was successful for a time.

50 Years ago, 1934. Harold Urey received the Nobel Prize for chemistry and Piotr Kapitza liquefied helium at  $-273^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Enrico Fermi in Rome introduces the neutrino concept and in Berlin Hitler declares himself *Führer*.

75 Years ago, 1909. Blériot crosses the English Channel in 27 minutes and Paul Ehrlich together with Hara synthesises Salvarsan against syphilis.

100 Years ago, 1884. George Eastman introduces photographic film, C.A. Pearson patents a high-speed steam turbine, and an International Conference declares Greenwich to be the Prime Meridian for planet Earth.

125 Years ago, 1859. Drake drills and finds oil at 21 m depth in Pennsylvania and Charles Darwin publishes *The Origin of Species*.

200 Years ago, 1784. C.L. de Berthollet discovers the bleaching action of chlorine. In Paris Diderot, chief editor and author of the *Encyclopédie* dies.

300 Years ago, 1684. Robert Hooke proposes an optical telegraph, but it is never constructed. The last witch is burnt in England.

400 Years ago, 1584. Sir Walter Raleigh founds the first settlement in Virginia and brings the potato to Ireland. Tycho Brahe, without a telescope, finishes his catalogue of 1000 stars.

500 Years ago, 1484. Savonarola preaches reforms in Florence and is therefore burnt at the stake in 1498. The term 'billion' ( $10$  to the power of  $12$ ) is used for the first time by the French mathematician Nicolas Chuquet.