

In 1968, on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of ISR and of my 70th birthday, I published an anthology of the 38 Editorials I had written so far. [A second volume followed in 1996]. I was able to afford this private printing, as an old friend from student days, Dr Sue Donahue of Staaten Island New York, had generously remembered me in her Will.

I thought it appropriate to have a Foreword to my Anthology and asked Eric Ashby if he was prepared to write it. He agreed immediately and called it "Bridges between the two Cultures". I asked Lord Ashby, as I admired him most of all the 75 members of the Journal's Editorial Board, and when I had to write his Obituary in 1992, I said that he merited the epitaph "great". In my opinion he surpassed all scientists I had ever known in his outstanding human qualities, his humility and his tolerance, his uncompromising faith in science and its ethical principles, his far-sighted world view, unlimited by nationality, language, sex or race.

Of course I was not alone in admiring Eric Ashby. He did not achieve nobility and distinction through his botanical researches and his teaching at the University of Sydney, elected FRS in 1963, but through his services to the Australian and British Governments in war and peace. Knighted in 1956, and through his devoted services as University Administrator in Belfast and as Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, [see also Title 328] he received a life peerage in 1973. As Master of Clare College, Cambridge, he hosted our Editorial Board Dinner there on 13 July 1983 at which I welcomed in my annual report our new Publishers, J.W. Arrowsmith. The dinner itself was a real 'feast' in the true academic tradition of Cambridge and Oxford.

The Foreword Eric Ashby wrote for my Anthology is the greatest compliment I have ever received, and I am proud to quote from it: "The Journal [ISR] is his creation, he has shaped its style and controlled its content" .... "One of the remarkable features of ISR are the brief and lucid Editorials, all written by Michaelis. They have conferred a pattern of cohesion upon what might otherwise have been a disparate collection." ... "They reflect Michaelis's deep concern with Man's destiny, with the ways in which science could be used to enrich civilization, or to destroy it." ... "Throughout the Editorials there run vivid threads of compassion." ... "I am glad that he has occasionally indulged in his lighter enthusiasms, as in the seventh volume, where he discourses on the symbolism of the number 7 with fascinatingly obscure references." [See Title 310] ... "His 70th birthday is an occasion for his readers to congratulate him and to thank him for some 40 years of hard work interpreting science." ... "It is a pleasure for me to be a spokesman for these congratulations and thanks."