

Looking at my diary after more than 12 years, I was delighted to see that it was a year of great activity and that my travels included a further world tour. Starting on 1 March I flew to New Delhi and on to Madras, where I visited the Leather Research Institute. It was Prime Minister Nehru who had founded it, and not only done much scientific research but its new technology had improved the work and life of the low caste of Indian tanners. It fulfilled Nehru's concept of 'Scientific Temper', to ameliorate through science the conditions of Indian life. From India via Singapore to Townsville in Northeast Australia, where I went to the tropical James Cook University. I had hoped to organise a Special Issue on 'Science in the Tropics', but the expected sponsorship from Thailand did not materialise.

In Australia, I flew to Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne and Hobart in Tasmania, back to Sydney and across the Pacific to Los Angeles. I met my Australian scientific friends and discussed contributions to ISR, as I planned a Special Issue to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the first settlement in Australia in 1788. I was very successful, the project grew into a splendid Issue, ISR 12/4, entirely devoted to the Australian Bicentennial in 1988, surveying the scientific achievements of 200 years, published in December 1987 [see Title 357].

My visit to the USA brought me into contact again with Members of the Editorial Board, as it had done in Australia. In Los Angeles, I saw Fred Adler whom I first met when the inaugural comsat in geostationary orbit, 'Early Bird' [See Title 108], was launched. I invited Adler to join our Board. As a physicist and Vice-President of Hughes Aircraft Company, his wide interdisciplinary knowledge was most welcome and I was sad when he retired to Hawaii and left the Editorial Board.

From Los Angeles on to Tucson, Arizona, where I first learnt about Dendrochronology; I tried to obtain an article, but did not succeed. I was more fortunate in Austin, Texas, where Hans Mark, another Member of the Editorial Board had become Chancellor of the Texas University System. In his august position, he was able to give me many introductions to senior staff members at different Texan Universities, all of which came under his jurisdiction. As luck would have it, my visit coincided with a great festival which he and his charming wife Marion hosted at his official residence, where I stayed for a few days—a splendid opportunity to learn what real Texan hospitality meant.

After this experience, my visits to Raleigh, North Carolina, to stay with a friend from school days in Berlin, Dr Peter Witt, then Washington and the AAAS in Philadelphia, were relative routine. I returned to London on 2 June, having spent three glorious months, full of science and of friends.