

If the contents of the preceding ISR Issue on "The Earth Summit", 17/2, was entirely chosen by me, then the two subsequent Issues, 17/3 and 17/4, were sponsored by the World Gold Council, and a number of the 24 articles were suggested by the sponsor. Provided they were up to the Journal's high standard, I was glad to accept them for publication. The title of the first Issue was \*Gold: Art, Science and Technology\* and as there was a large surplus of articles, a second Issue was called \*Focus on Gold\*. Several thousand copies of each were printed, and I was informed by the sponsor that they were very satisfied with appearance, production and contents of the two 'Gold' Issues.

As usual for a sponsored Special Issue, the covers were black, instead of the normal white, and a colour picture was reproduced both on the front and back covers. Great care was essential to choose subjects which, at the same time, proclaimed the unique qualities of gold and also represented art, science and technology. The front cover of 17/3 was an outstanding example of the caster's technological art, a common thistle cast in solid gold, 125 mm high, produced by the investment casting technique in such ultra-fine detail that the thistle's hairs could hardly be resolved by the naked eye. Production details were fully described in an article by Chris Walton of the Design and Technology Department of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, who had crafted the Golden Thistle.

The back cover of 17/3 showed in the center the gold medal awarded to each Nobel Laureate, with the portrait of Alfred Nobel, 65 mm in diameter. It was placed on a circular background of a gold-plated microwave antenna, composed of a double spiral, each 1.90 m in length, although its actual diameter was only 50 mm. This composite picture gave a perfect frame to the greatest award for a scientist and symbolised the value of gold for one of its most sophisticated uses, described in an article by Dr David Jacobson.

On the front cover of 17/4, I was glad to reproduce an early Anglo-Saxon gold pendant with garnet and filigree decorations, 38 mm in diameter, from Faversham, Kent. It featured in Dr Justine Bayley's article originating from the Ancient Monument Laboratory of English Heritage, on "Goldworking in Britain—From Iron Age to Medieval Times". The back cover was blank.

As Editor of these two sponsored Issues, I was pleased that I could not only assemble a great variety of articles by outstanding contributors, but could also present their contributions in the appropriate manner, worthy of the subject Gold. My Editorial, of six pages, the longest I ever wrote and the articles in these two issues are listed on the next Titles [384 and 385].