

For this Editorial in March 1995, I took as my text a phrase from Francis Bacon of 1592:

*I have taken all knowledge as my province.*

I pointed out that for Bacon all knowledge was contained in the seven branches of philosophy: grammar, logic, arithmetic, rhetoric, music, geometry and astronomy. But in the total of 1700 contributions to ISR during its first 20 years, I could only claim to have published a small part of the uncountable branches of modern science, which had since Bacon been discovered.

I claimed in March 1995 to have been true to the original credo of ISR, published on page iv of the first issue in March 1976, namely contributions must be interdisciplinary from the physical, the biological, the engineering, economic and the social sciences, and I have only excluded clinical medicine. In each article, emphasis had to be placed on the link between different sciences or technologies, or on their effect on society. I admitted that I had found it difficult to find authors to communicate the cultural and intellectual links between the sciences and the humanities, and between the sciences and the arts.

I thanked the distinguished Editorial Board for their ever-ready advice and help and was glad that after 20 years, of the original 69 members, 34 were still alive in 1995. I had of course invited new ones to replace those who had died and the very few who had to resign for a variety of reasons. The list in 1995 was still 59 eminent scholars and scientists from all over the world. It was pleasant to record that many Members of the Board had become personal friends after joining the Board, if they had not been good friends before.

As some interdisciplinary subjects had proved too wide, ranging to be encompassed in a single article, occasionally a whole Issue of the Journal was devoted to a single topic. These 'Special Issues' proved very successful, and sometimes thousands of copies were printed, so that it became a tradition to aim for at least one of these in each volume. By 1995, 17 Special Issues had appeared and are listed on Title 358.

I looked ahead to the future. After the invention of the alphabet—one of man's greatest—and of printing, it would soon become possible to make all knowledge available to all, through the medium of electronic communication by the Internet. But one question remained, which I had considered in my Editorial on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of ISR in 1985:

*Knowledge comes but Wisdom lingers.*

In spite of the immense growth of knowledge during the previous decades through the Internet, available to all, I doubted that Mankind's Wisdom had much increased.