

For some years it had become obvious to my *Lebensgefährtin* and myself that our garden flat in London would not be an ideal home for our old age. As I had reached the age of 80 in 1996, and Stefanie was only a few years younger, the time had come to pass from the planning stage to action. The essential first step was to find an alternative home, as comfortable as we could afford, where medical services might be available, when the inevitable need for them arose.

The old-age residences we looked at in England did not come up to the standard we envisaged, and we were forced to turn to Germany where there existed a choice between a number of *Augustinum* [see below]. I also had to give the Publishers of my Journal an indication that I could not continue to function as Editor, if I lived 1000 km away in Germany.

My choice of successor had fallen on Joseph Coates, together with his very able wife Dr Vary Coates. Both were good personal friends, had been contributors, Joe had been a member of the Editorial Board for many years, and both were enthusiastically in agreement with the interdisciplinary policy of Editorship. However, they lived in Washington DC, USA. I pointed out to the Publishers, the Institute of Materials, that modern electronic communications would make it easy for the Coates's, with their staff, their large office and its manifold facilities, to edit ISR more efficiently than I had ever been able to do, with no staff and no office. However, the Publishers' conservative attitude was against my choice.

At the Editorial Board Meeting on 25 July 1996, for which Joe and Vary had specially flown over from Washington, I announced my retirement and was appointed Emeritus Editor. The Publishers named my successor, Professor Jack Harris FRS, a Metallurgist, who was well known to them through his science writing and editorial experience, and I can now state that it was a good choice which justified his selection, although I would have preferred the Coates team.

At the Meeting, Members thanked me for my work and urged me—in vain—to continue. The Publishers had kindly arranged to reprint *Interdisciplinary Thoughts* of 1986, an Anthology of the Editorials I had written during the first 10 years, as Editor [Title 345]. They also added the Editorials of the following 10 years. They called it *Interdisciplinary Thoughts 1976-1996* and stated at the foot of the title page "Published in a limited edition to mark his retirement as Editor of *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, July 1996". Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, KCB FRS wrote a very complimentary introduction, which was signed for me by all present at the Meeting.