

Having officially retired as Editor in July 1996, the next Issue in September carried the Announcement: "EDITOR Professor J.E. Harris, MBE, FEng, FRS, FIM" and "EMERITUS EDITOR Dr. Anthony R. Michaelis".

Jack Harris called his first Editorial "Antarctic Research and the Earth's Environment" and started it with a paragraph he entitled "Michaelis's early life". He called me a 'a great crosser of boundaries', whether of those separating scientific disciplines, cultures or nations and, amongst all my travels the one he envied me most, was my visit to the South Pole. He therefore chose *Antarctic Research* as the subject of his first Editorial.

In his interdisciplinary survey Harris began with Spufford's book *I may be some time: Ice and the English Imagination* (1996) which had been called a 'classic repertoire of polar literature'. Harris commented that British Antarctic exploration had been more marked by bravery, than caution or wisdom, a true statement affecting the 'heroic period' of Antarctic exploration, but no longer applicable to British research in the Antarctic of today.

He went on to describe *Lake Vostok*, 4 km below the Antarctic ice surface and containing fresh water, which might be one million years old. It was discovered during a British radar ice survey [Title 201] and is of great interest to microbiologists, anxious to find, if hitherto unknown ancient microbial life exists in the Lake.

Next Harris turned to the pollution of the Antarctic atmosphere caused by gaseous chlorofluorocarbons and the resulting Ozone Hole. Global warming results from pollution by carbon dioxide and at present the level is about 360 ppm. The ice core drilled above Lake Vostok showed that for the last 160000 years, the small air bubbles contained in the ice, never had more than 300 ppm carbon dioxide enclosed in them. Obviously the increase resulted from the burning of fossil fuels by man. The first editorial by Harris concluded with the hope that more environmentally oriented research in the polar regions be encouraged. I agreed most whole-heartedly.

After the first Issues of ISR edited by Harris, there can be no doubt that the Journal will continue with its interdisciplinary policy. There are two guarantees: First he is a fellow of the Royal Society and thus will have a good chance of acquiring excellent contributions from its Fellows, representing the whole spectrum of the physical sciences. Secondly, as a member of Pugwash, the almost secret international group of scientists devoted to using science for the benefit of mankind, the Scientific Temper. Harris will therefore publish material that supports Pugwash. I shall certainly continue to read ISR with pleasure, without the effort of having to produce it!