

Once we had decided to live in Australia, we gave ourselves three years for the preparations and set the date for the spring of 1950. Much had to happen. Ann wanted to get her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and I had decided to make research films in Sydney. Then, of course, the major family event was the birth of our first daughter, Frances Barbara, on 19 December 1948 in the London Hospital, in Whitechapel. Why that far distant Hospital was chosen, I can no longer remember, but I do know that I drove Ann in the open Lagonda there and fetched both her and the baby back in it. We had prepared the small flat in 7 Park Road for the great event and all went smoothly.

As Ann had to attend lectures and do some practical work at University College, we had to find a Nanny to look after Bar, as we, in the family, have always called our first daughter. Nanny proved a tremendous success and came with us to Australia where she continued as a real family member until her death many years later. The picture I shall always remember from those last years in London, is of Ann breast-feeding Bar and in her other hand holding a psychology textbook which she was reading. What a marvellous woman I had married, and I was deeply in love with her. I was very proud of her.

My knowledge of making research films had so far been purely theoretical, and if I was going to make them in Australia I had to acquire cameras and other specialised gear for high speed cinematography and for time-lapse recording. To learn these techniques I was lucky in having good friends at a small company, SIMPL (Scientific, Industrial, Medical Photographic Laboratory) in Lambeth, opposite the Archbishop's Palace. The senior director, who had put up the capital was Robin McVittie Weston, expert in cinemicrography and Derek Stewart whose skill and knowledge of high-speed cinematography, up to 5000 frames per second, was unique in England at the time.

Robin had been a solicitor for most of his life, but a keen amateur microscopist and collector of microscopes. I do not know now who persuaded him to found SIMPL, it might well have been Derek Stewart, a very good salesman and a persuader with remarkable charm. Derek had worked for Kodak in London for many years and when Kodak brought out their American High Speed Camera to England, he got the job of selling it and its applications. These two experts welcomed me at SIMPL and I had a hectic apprenticeship there, quite apart from my being a civil servant at BIOS.

Ann was generous as ever and gave me the money to purchase cameras, tripods, research microscope, powerful lights and a great deal more for my future film activities in Australia. So all got ready for the great trip with baby Bar and Nanny.