

When I took over *Discovery* in April 1956, I found a certain number of separate Columns had become well established, like the first one, “The Progress of Science”. It was the main editorial and could contain anything from one to twelve separate items, all unsigned. One or two might be written by the Editor himself, others might be commissioned, or they might originate from a reader. In this first issue of mine, April 1956, I might have written ‘Atomic Power for Aircraft’ or ‘The Royal Society’s Antarctic Expedition’ or even both, as these two subjects interested me then. I cannot be certain now, as they were unsigned.

After “The Progress of Science” section came three or four main articles by well-known scientists about topical, historical or general scientific subjects which met with the Editor’s approval and which he liked. In my first issue I had a contribution from Professor S.F. Singer on “The Artificial Earth Satellite”, a proposal for a satellite to be called *Mouse*. *Sputnik* was not launched until 4 October 1957, a year and six months after the article was published. Also noteworthy was the contribution of Dr Derek J. Price on “The Prehistory of the Clock” in which he described his discovery of the *Antikythera mechanism* which was the first evidence of gears made by the Ancient Greeks. His discovery and analysis revolutionised our thoughts.

Further columns in my first Issue were “The Bookshelf”, “New Scientific Instruments” and “Far and Near”, the last column containing short news-items of a scientific nature. A few pages of advertisements followed at the end, including classified vacancies, appointments and items for sale. This issue of April 1956 contained 41 pages, each measuring 18 × 24 cm. From 1958 on, the size of the Journal was increased in width to that of the modern A4 size, but just about 2 cm shorter, no doubt to suit the convenience of the Printer—Owner, but also adding to the space available for the Editor.

I added to my second issue, May 1956, a new Column “The International Geophysical Year—Month by Month”, composed of news items, maps, photographs and other relevant topics concerned with this great enterprise. The IGY was to start in July 1957, but world-wide preparations for it had already begun in 1956 and the ‘year’ lasted well into 1959, after being prolonged. The material for, and the writing of the Column, soon became the sole activity of Angela Croome, a most able contributor who much enjoyed this responsible task—it was the only regular monthly reporting about the IGY in the world and was read wherever scientists were working in connection with the IGY. No doubt, *Discovery*’s circulation increased through it, and both Angela Croome and I were often complimented on it.

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