

I enjoyed editing as I could write an article and publish it immediately. I had always been an admirer of Jules Verne, joined the French Jules Verne Society and travelled to some of their meetings in France. In the June 1960 *Discovery* I published "Jules Verne's Extraordinary Scientific Voyages" in which I examined the basis for his correct predictions. I was able to compare original illustrations from his first editions, of which at the time I had a complete collection, with modern photographs of technological achievements such as a balloon flight over Africa, a helicopter with forward propeller engines, a submarine at the North Pole and a rocket flight to the Moon. But I could not find a modern equivalent to Jules Verne's *Epouvante* (1904), a triphibious craft for travel on land, under the sea and flying in the air.

When in early 1960 I received an offer from Dr Paul Erni of CIBA, Basle, to work for his great company in London, I wondered at first if there would be any editing, but when I was offered double the salary I received from Mr Jarrold (£ 1500) I accepted with pleasure. Dr Erni was Head of Press and Information for the worldwide CIBA Group and a person I soon learnt to admire for his good taste and his excellent style with which he endowed everything for which he was responsible, all graphic, printed and published CIBA materials. He influenced me greatly in all my subsequent work and we remained good life-long friends.

One of my first tasks was to produce a book *CIBA in Britain* for which I engaged the best industrial photographer in England, Walter Nürnberg, with whom I travelled to Horsham, Duxford and Manchester where CIBA had laboratories and production facilities in Britain. Walter Nürnberg took endless trouble with each photograph, adjusting his powerful lights, and the many excellent pictures he submitted fully justified his reputation. I wrote the text, and although a final page proof was produced and accepted by Dr Erni, the English Managing Director, Sir Arthur de Vere Harvey, cancelled publication for reasons best known only to himself. I still have the page proofs and am proud to have produced this book within 12 months of joining CIBA.

I joined CIBA on 2 July 1960 and travelled a very great deal during the following years, frequently to Basle where I always stayed at the Euler Hotel and had many friendly discussions with Dr Erni and his Basle Colleagues. I was particularly impressed with Dr Robert Käppeli, the Chairman and Managing Director of CIBA in Basle and thus the Head of the International Chemical Group CIBA. He had the same taste and style as Dr Erni and was much admired by the staff I met in Basle. What I thought were proper objects to collect for a cultured gentleman in his position, were antique Greek gold coins. I was once able to admire a large number of these, but of course could not judge them, as at that time I knew nothing about Numismatics.