

Not having a permanent job, I was able to engage in a number of freelance activities—a risky state of affairs for any family man with responsibilities. However, being divorced at the time, I greatly enjoyed some of these activities. So for example I very much appreciated being elected for several years as the Chairman of the Association of British Science Writers, a professional organisation of which I had been a member for many years. I could rely on an excellent Secretary, Peter Cooper then of the Royal Society, who was not only knowledgeable in all matters of scientific policy, but also extremely hard working in this, for him a purely voluntary activity. We organised visits to laboratories and factories and invited eminent scientists to our lunches to inform us ‘off the record’. Many years later, I was again honoured by the A.B.S.W. by my election as a Life Member, the highest grade of membership.

I am also a Member of the International Science Writers Association which is based in the United States of America. Its members, all professional science writers, are distributed all over the world, and when visiting a strange country, which I had often to do for the *Daily Telegraph*, I always found a helpful colleague. I also joined for a short time the *Club of Rome*, but found its highly theoretical discussions about the state of the world not very practical.

Another proposal of mine in 1963, *A Science Year Book* was challenging, but not successful. It was based on *Whitaker's—The World in one Volume*, an annually updated encyclopaedic almanac. I drew up a Contents List of what such an almanac should contain for Science. The major disciplines would start with an annual review of progress, then list the professional societies of the world in that field, the major journals, and then specifically for each discipline special items, for example for the astronomers a list of radio telescopes, a list of expeditions for geographers, of zoological gardens for zoologists, of elements for chemists, and of atomic particles for physicists. It also had a travel section and one part devoted to the communication of science. But, however useful it might have proved, I could not find a sponsor.

I did not neglect my science writing and was pleased to be asked to contribute two large chapters to the Oxford University Press' *History of Technology*, one on ‘Cinematography’ [Volume V, page 734] and the other [Volume VII, page 857] on ‘Space Technology’. I was also happy to act as Special Consultant and Contributor to *Technology—Man remakes his World* of the Macdonald Illustrated Library, London 1963, for which I wrote three Contributions: ‘Reshaping our World’, ‘Building Road Vehicles’ and ‘Space Transport’. J. Bronowski and Sir Julian Huxley were editors, Hans Erni illustrator and designer.