

EDITORIAL

ANNALS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, ITS ORIGINS AND ITS PUBLISHER—ROBERT MAXWELL

In January 1988 Pergamon Press celebrates its 40th anniversary, and in the following June, Robert Maxwell celebrates his 65th birthday. It is fitting, therefore, to mark these auspicious occasions with a few words about *Annals of Nuclear Energy* and its publisher.

Annals of Nuclear Energy together with its predecessor, *The Journal of Nuclear Energy*, is probably the oldest publication to specialize in the fields of nuclear science and engineering. It was started in 1955 with the encouragement and support of Robert Maxwell, the founder of Pergamon Press. The first U.K. Executive Editor was D. J. Littler, then working for the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority and later to become Controller of Research at the Central Electricity Generating Board. Under Dr Littler's guidance and later with Professor Raymond Murray of North Carolina State University, U.S.A., *The Journal of Nuclear Energy* became an undoubted world leader in the dissemination of knowledge to industrial and academic nuclear engineers and achieved great respect for the quality of its articles. It was with some trepidation therefore that the present Editor took over from Dr Littler in 1972. Fortunately, the journal was by then well-established and with new U.S. Executive Editors John Howe and later Lynn Weaver (now President of Florida Institute of Technology) *Annals of Nuclear Energy* has continued to offer a first-class service of rapid publication to its authors and subscribers.

The success of the journal owes a great deal to the founder of Pergamon Press, Robert Maxwell. The background of this remarkable man is by now well-known and his energy is legendary. Although Pergamon Journals now forms only a small part of his publishing enterprises, Robert Maxwell still keeps a personal eye on his editors and he is always available to discuss any problem or suggestion for improvement. One thing he does not do is interfere in editorial decisions; in that respect he is the ideal person to act as a publisher of scientific journals. Nevertheless, this paragon does have some interesting idiosyncrasies and a few of these were recounted to me by someone who was involved in establishing the journal. This occurred at the first "Atoms for Peace" Conference in Geneva in 1955. I am told that Bob was at his promotional best on this occasion and used his prodigious energies to great effect by signing-up authors to write books or persuading them to become editors. He was so successful at this that the U.N. Secretariat included a paragraph in one of their daily bulletins to the effect that the conference proceedings were to be published by the U.N. and not Pergamon!

The various delegations at the Geneva conference vied with each other to give the most magnificent receptions and, of course, Bob Maxwell attended all of these (either invited or uninvited) to make his contacts. In one instance, the French decided to hire a boat and serve a meal whilst sailing around Lake Geneva. The numbers for this event had to be limited and invitations were carefully scrutinized as people came aboard. As the boat pulled away from the quayside and there was about 5 ft of clear water, Bob ran to the edge shouting "wait for me" and jumped across. The sailor who helped him was too concerned for his safety to check his invitation—rumour has it that he did not have one and this was a ruse planned well in advance. Be that as it may, the scientific profession both in and out of academia has benefited immensely from the personality and business acumen of this remarkable man.

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