

SCIENCE

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The Koshland Years—A Decade of Progress

When Dan Koshland began his editorship of this magazine, *Science* was already the leading weekly journal of science and brimmed with innovative features that had been initiated by his predecessor, Philip H. Abelson. Not only did *Science* promptly publish original science of general interest and high quality, but its News & Comment section provided readers with information about developments in science policy and funding in an era when federal support for U.S. science seemed only to grow and grow, and its Research News section helped scientists follow and comprehend breakthroughs in fields outside their own.

All this is to say that the seeds of many of the features that make up today's *Science* were planted some time ago. Under Koshland, these seeds have sprouted even greater diversity while the publication process has been accelerated and the high quality maintained. This extraordinary achievement can largely be credited to a Koshland innovation, the Board of Reviewing Editors, composed of active scientists who review submissions in their fields on a weekly basis and appraise them for breadth of interest, quality, and potential importance to the progress of science. From these ratings, the top 40% of papers are sent for in-depth reviews, permitting 60% to be returned quickly to authors who will submit them elsewhere.

Not satisfied with improving the review process, Koshland expanded the editorial landscape. "This Week in Science" summarizes an issue's original research papers for the general reader, in order to transmit the import of the research to those who lack special disciplinary expertise. "TWIS" has by now grown so familiar to our readers that some may not have noticed when competing journals recently began to copy it. Policy Forums, Perspectives, Random Samples, ScienceScope, and the Molecule of the Year have all blossomed during the Koshland era. The News section, which reader surveys have shown to be one of the most popular sections of the magazine, was moved to the front and provides enhanced coverage of our own scientific papers and of those from the world of scientific journals and meetings. This week's issue on plant biotechnology is an example of the special issues on scientific frontiers that Koshland began. And under Koshland the news team has pioneered highly popular special sections on careers, scientifically active countries, and important, current scientific controversies.

For the past 3 years, Koshland has led an intensified effort to extend *Science's* coverage across national boundaries to the entire world. In 1993, *Science* opened an office in Cambridge, UK. In addition, Koshland encouraged the use of science journalists located across the globe to bring the world's science policy and research to our readers quickly. Seventy different reporters augmented the core staff last year alone.

But the mainstay of the magazine has remained its fabulously broad coverage of excellent original scientific research. The modest growth in the number of pages of original science published in our Reports section (around 1500 pages per year in 1985 to around 2300 in 1994, of which some 530 pages were from international authors) pales in comparison with the more than 10-fold growth in the global research enterprise. The relative constraint on the number of scientific articles *Science* can publish means that the standards by which papers are deemed acceptable for publication have also escalated. Yet the intent has been not merely to publish the most important advances in the hot fields, but also to find the new fields that will drive the science of the future.

The winner's circle of papers accepted has therefore grown at a relatively frugal rate, while the desire to be among the chosen few has led to continued growth in the number of papers submitted, amounting to more than 6200 in 1994. Moderating this nuclear reactor of highly competitive science is a cadre of highly professional, scientifically trained editors personally selected by Dan Koshland. With their assistance, the magazine we hold today is a tribute to Koshland's vision of what this scientific journal can be and how it can best serve its readers, be they scientists themselves or observers of the scientific scene. When one realizes that Koshland has remained an active laboratory scientist throughout this period, publishing nearly 100 original peer-reviewed papers alongside his more than 200 editorials, his string of accomplishments remains an unequaled scholarly achievement. As Mark Twain said, "Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example." This new editor recognizes that his work is only beginning.

Floyd E. Bloom