

Editorial

All great institutions have the ability to draw out of those who serve them a contribution which far exceeds, in all aspects of endeavour, that which might be reasonably expected from any individual with other responsibilities, however committed and industrious he may be. We are well aware from the lessons of history that acquisition of high office by an individual whose character is unflawed by conceit or self-aggrandisement, may enhance both the holder and the office. It is thus a great pleasure for me to be able to write of an example of this type of service in acknowledgement of the work of Wilhelm Doerr for *Virchows Archiv*. It has been my pleasure to have served with him during approximately half of this twenty years as Managing Editor of *Virchows Archiv* and I should say at the outset of my text that those years have been both pleasurable and instructive. This is due, in a large part, to the courtesy and kindness Wilhelm Doerr has shown me.

I am sure that I am not alone in considering “our” Journal to be one of the most prestigious of those dealing with Morbid Anatomy and Histopathology. There can be few histopathologists with as long and distinguished record of scientific contribution to *Virchows Archiv* as Professor Doerr whose articles extend back to 1938¹. These early papers dealing with malformations of the heart, struck a responsive chord in the author, for they represent a shared interest in malformations. Their distinctive style and demonstration of a comprehensive knowledge of the field mark them out as “Doerr”; these characteristics extend through the body of work he has subsequently presented in the Journal. His mastery of difficult theoretical concepts in pathology on which a number of perceptive articles have been based implies profound knowledge of a wide range of data; almost the perfect definition of what is required of an Editor of so widely based a journal. One aspect of his erudition and clear identification as a polymath has meant that those who correspond with him have had to revise their Latin as well as their pathology!

¹ Professor Doerr has been connected with this journal for nearly 50 years, first as the author of a number of original articles (see *Virchows Arch Pathol Anat* 1984, 404:1–5), and later as Editor (1966–1968) and Managing Editor (1968–1986). In an extensive foreword to Volume 400 (1983), he outlined the major developments in the journal

To invest time in evaluating the work of others and in helping to polish and perfect that work, is the mark of a man with a generous spirit as well as a fine intellect. We have been fortunate in being the beneficiaries of Wilhelm Doerr's devotion to pathology and are doubly so in finding that he will continue to help as a member of the Editorial Board after his retirement as Managing Editor.

I look forward to a continuing association with Professor Gerhard Seifert, who has been a member of the Editorial Board since 1968 and is, thus, well versed in the ways of the journal. His wide experience and knowledge of a broad field of histopathology has served *Virchows Archiv* well in the past and will continue to be valuable in the future. As Joint Managing Editors we shall, of course, both depend on the willingness of the other Editors to give up so much of their time to what I am sure we all collectively believe to be an important endeavour.

Professor Dr. C.L. Berry