

## EDITORIAL

*Prometheus* reaches its 25th number with the current issue. Twenty five diverse issues in twelve years seems a reason for celebration, and reflection. When Don Lamberton, Stuart Macdonald and I decided to found such a Journal in the early eighties, we saw it as filling an interdisciplinary void for a range of interests that embraced information economics, technological change, science policy, innovation and communications, and related historical aspects of science and technology in Australia. These were all, as the inaugural Editorial (June 1983, Volume 1, No. 1) noted, subjects in which “great and rapid change is occurring” and of “particular economic, scientific and social importance”, and, while the subjects were in discussion in specific discipline journals, there was no single forum for their considered debate.

Thus *Prometheus* has provided and, in its twelve years of publication, has attracted papers on topics as widely ranging as information and law reform, technological sovereignty, job creation in high technology industries, Australian industry policy, technology assessment of medicine, and of diagnostic procedures in Australia, government expenditure on IVF programs, trade union responses to new technology, the education of more effective agriculturalists, the economics of uranium enrichment, market failure and government support for science and technology, the Australian Government’s offset program, evaluation of Australian research, commercialization of scholarship in Australian universities, scientific fraud, the multi-function polis, Australia’s information landscapes, adoption of new services technology, radio spectrum policy and world needs, teleconferencing, telecottages, Australia’s feminine culture of the telephone, regulating telecommunications pricing, organizational change in the telecommunications industry, road transport informatics, computer crime, innovation and corporate organization, and many more. In addition, a series of ‘other country’ studies have criss-crossed the Australian material bringing pertinent analysis of, for example, the Japanese innovation system, Korean industrial policy, the promotion of sophisticated technology in Israel; industrial and technological policies in postwar Western Europe, technological development in Canada, science and technology in modern China, science under Gorbachev, telework in New Zealand, and the transfer of industrial technology to the Western Pacific. And, interleaved through the analysis of contemporary issues, there has been the sheaf of historical articles linking past and present, reflecting on the history of science and the discourse of development, diffusion studies of adaptation of anthrax vaccination in the Australian pastoral industry and of the technology of the cyanide process in the extraction of gold, broadcasting in the nineteen twenties, the employment of scientific and technological enemy aliens in post World War II, the Australian Association of Scientific Workers, and women in Australian

science. Overall the Journal has sought to avoid jargon and obfuscation, to offer interdisciplinary access, and to secure the middle ground.

Across the twenty-five issues, *Prometheus* has benefited distinctively from the multi-honed interests of an Editorial Board which, with its growing membership from Europe and North America, illustrates the Journal's spreading international reach. The same may be said for the Book Review Section which has come over twelve years to offer an increasingly rich and valuable diet of reviews of international and Australian literature in the burgeoning related-interest research fields.

A 'shoe-string' publication fuelled largely by subscriptions and the editors' and a voluntary assistant's work, *Prometheus* has made its mark, and now finds its way to many policy desks as an informed contribution to policy debate. In 1994 it attracted an annual \$3,500 grant from the Telecom Fund for Social and Policy Research in Telecommunications.

We look forward keenly to our next twelve years and to the challenging 21st century.

**Ann Moyal**