

D.E.'s secretary

606 H.W.H.

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ARTICLE FOR ARIEL : HBC/UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM

30th September 1966

The Editor, Ariel

D.E. has asked me to send you the attached and hopes that this is the sort of thing you had in mind to go with the photograph you have. He thought it was worthwhile explaining how the E.A.C. has grown over the years, as it does lead up to the Symposium we have recently had.

CVG  
Att.



(M.K.P. Robinson)

From the very nature of things there have always been very close relations between the Science Faculties of the Universities and Engineering Division. A significant part of the intake of the Division comes direct from the Universities and a further part of our intake is university-trained people joining us after experience elsewhere. We also lean very heavily on advice from the Universities for a large part of our long-term development work.

All this collaboration has been under the aegis of the Engineering Advisory Committee, of which the first Chairman was Sir Edward Appleton, Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University, who died in 1965, when Professor Sir Willis Jackson, the Head of the Electrical Engineering Department at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, succeeded him. The membership of the Engineering Advisory Committee has naturally varied over the years and we have been fortunate at all times to have men of outstanding ability - in the past people such as Sir John Cockcroft, Sir Charles Darwin and Dr. F.C. Williams, while the present membership is Professor Sir Willis Jackson, Dr. R.L. Smith-Rose, Professor H.M. Barlow, Professor M.W. Humphrey Davies, Professor A.L. Cullen and Professor John Brown. On the BBC side the meetings are attended by D.D.E., Mr Pulling; A.D.E., Mr. Weigall; H.R.D., Mr. Gouriet; A.H.R.D., Dr. Maurice; H.D.D., Mr. Watson, and myself.

In order to further this collaboration and in particular to show to the Universities what are the problems that we have to face, both long-term and short-term, to show them our method of approach to such problems and to make clear the kind of men we need, a two-day Symposium was arranged to take place in Research Department at Kingswood Warren and in Design Department at Western House, on 20th-21st September. It was attended by about 70 professors and lecturers. They saw a representative set of demonstrations in some of the various fields of our work. After the demonstrations there were discussions and interchange of ideas between the people doing and directing the work and our visitors. EN

On our side we were particularly concerned that the Universities should appreciate in more detail the kind of problem that arises in an organisation such as the BBC, and our approach to the problem both in the technique employed, the time scale of a solution and the permissible cost, all of which are of great importance to us. Our hope is, of course, that some of these aspects will be reflected not only in their tutorial work but also in their research work and in their work for higher degrees. We were also concerned with the possibility that men and women working in the BBC on scientific problems should be able to get some recognition in the form of a higher degree from a University.

The Engineering Advisory Committee will not consider the results of this Symposium, the suggestions made and the various points discussed, and we will do our best to get the maximum benefit out of what has been achieved.

The two days also included a short tour round Television Centre and a visit to the Television Theatre. It was found by all to have been<sup>a</sup> most interesting and instructive two days, and very well worthwhile. It is clearly not the kind of activity which could become a yearly event, but it is hoped that it will not be long before it is repeated.

F.C. McLEAN  
Director of Engineering

FCMcL/CVG  
30.9.66