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Did you know?

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Section 6: Did you know?

...that scientometrics is explained in a recent novel?

Matthew Richardson

In Michael Frayn's latest novel *Skios*, a cast of characters descend on a Greek island for two days of crossed identities and mislaid messages, in the best farcical tradition.

The climax of the affair is the Fred Toppler Lecture, which is set to be delivered this year on the topic of "Innovation and Governance: the Promise of Scientometrics".

As Dr Norman Wilfred explains: "The results of scientific research are scientifically measurable. We have developed a discipline for this. It's called scientometrics. And on the basis of scientometrics science can be scientifically managed."

The ironic response: "This is your lecture, is it? ... I see why you don't want people to miss it."

Is this the first novel to mention scientometrics?

References:

Frayn, M. (2012) *Skios*. London: Faber & Faber. p.132.