

*Replied 4/9/70*

PERSONAL

April 2, 1970

Mr. N. S. Hibshman  
1885 Shore Drive South, Apt. 525  
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33707

Dear Nelson:

This letter is an extension of my telephone conversation, which I will not repeat, and answers your letters of March 17 and 19th. Instead of writing separate letters, I shall give my comments by paragraph by paragraph,--first on your letter of the 17th and then on that of the 19th.

I sympathize with you in your search for a pattern of continuity. I think I dimly see one and shall try to get some things out of my mind into yours which may be helpful. Also you will remember that Ralph Batcher and I were going to write a joint history of the New York Section and of the New Jersey Section. He, like you, had some preliminary thoughts concerning the common early experiences of the two institutes. I am attaching a xerox copy of his notes which were probably made within the last two years.

The organizational predominance of IRE over AIEE still continues. I do not believe it is because of any malicious intent whatsoever; I think it is due to the complicated IRE setup with which unfortunately our AIEE people went along. My good secretary and I, for other purposes, made a kind of census of the present organization chart compared with the two last individual society yearbooks. This is enclosed and to some extent you will find it shocking. I do not plan to do anything with it (although I should like to discuss it with you further) for fear of arousing animosities, but it is certainly apparent that IEEE is riding on the heart-land strength of AIEE, but is being guided by the old IRE group almost entirely. Some explanation for this may be found on the IRE strength on both coasts but I think it is largely due to the adoption of the IRE organizational strength.

Like you, I believe that the clustering of groups into divisions with board representation plus geographic representation may be the way out. The way was shown, it seems to me, by the older organization's earlier experience. I agree that your first draft should go to the committee when it becomes available. The committee should give it cursory attention and dispatch it as soon as possible to the 14-man committee. I do not agree that there is any more important thing in the history committee's duties. I also do not agree that you will be able to finish your chore before the end of this year's administration. So much for comments on the letter of the 17th; now to proceed with that of the 19th:

I like the approach of trying to find similarity in background. I did find at one time, however, that dissatisfaction with

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the older society, in each case, had something to do with the formation of the new society. If the electricals are assumed to have split from the mechanicals, this is not true as they always seemed to do well together; the electricals "lived in their father's house" for several years. However, the splitting away of the miners, mechanicals, and electricals from the civils was undoubtedly due to the tradition-bound older engineers in the civils who thought that meeting subjects should be confined to general plans for railroads, canals, etc. Also it seems to me that I remember early IRE people kicking about the lack of radio subjects in AIEE meetings. Certainly we both remember the pre-Ashville kicks about lack of "electronic" subjects. Be that as it may I think your general approach might be better than mine. I certainly seem to remember having read before that Ralph Pope had done very well in fathering and mothering the new society. All in all I like your thoughts on the Beginnings and hope that you do not skimp them. In Early Relations, my recollections will not help you much until the 20's. I never heard of the overdraft of \$35 by IRE, but I think it is a precious story and should be given in your history with proper tongue-in-check. I am totally at a loss however as how to advise you on the 1922 charge that AIEE was preoccupied in non-radio activities. Perhaps in my search for the Charlesworth recollections that you asked me for yesterday, I can include Harold Osborne who has a long memory for things that other people have told him.

I think I can help a little on the cooperation situation in the mid-30's by telling you of my own experience. IRE wanted a joint committee on radio coordination which would include RMA in which W.R.G. Baker was active. Dr. Goldsmith, also on my old NELA radio coordination committee in EEI, was another active participant. AIEE would not go on a joint committee with a trade association as a matter of long-standing policy. The matter was finally settled by the inclusion of NEMA, RMA, and EEI in the committee with both Institutes left out. Both Baker and I were on the new committee. I too remember the direct advertising radio broadcast situation. I think you should refer to this also. I believe you will find a long series of cooperative efforts in the standards committee.

Another thing that I enjoyed is your tying the history of the societies to their respective sizes. Could you develop a simple chart showing years and numbers for each Institute?

I think it valuable to point out that in '45 the AIEE board recorded an opinion that the two societies should be combined. I think that I was present at that time, perhaps as part of the Wickenden Task trio which, by the way, consisted of Fairman, LeClair and Hooven. You are right when point out the pressure of the student branches as being most important in pushing the merger. The work of McMillan, Danner and Morton most certainly was of great importance in this field.

Although I enjoyed particularly "while AIEE was playing school with ECPD, etc." please do not say this in your history! I think that it is more likely that IRE ignored the San Francisco action than that it never reached them. I think it important that



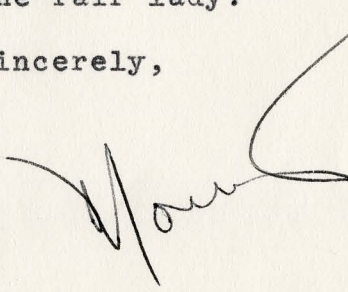
you should stress the joint work of the technical committee and most certainly that the annual meetings were by design held for some years in the same week (during some of that time I was program committee chairman or whatever it was called then and worked with IRE on this subject). Wickenden was a great proponent of unity. While I do not wish to steer your work I would rather like to see some mention of W.R.G. Baker and his sponsorship of technical groups in both Institutes. (Please see my Founders Medal biography attached). Hick told me one time that his secretary (or was it Charlie Hatcher's) had determined from WRG's secretary that the impetus for his IRE professional group work came from his being let down as a director in AIEE in the late 40's. This was done by Walter Barrett getting on his free telephone with the geographic divisions and putting in his slate rather than the technical activities slate. You cannot use this in your work however.

I agree with your resumé of the late 50's. I wish you could put in your history (but you can't) the Henline experience of being charged by George Bailey for the IRE yearbooks that he used to make some sort of a census within that period. I do not remember of ever hearing about the Linder episode.

The next to the last paragraph of the longer letter is perhaps one of the most important you will write since this is in current recollection. I am sure you will do better with it than anybody in this world.

As to the last paragraph I do not need to be nervous. I really hope you are going to write the history of the merger with the same color that you thought about the history of the merger. I'm all for reading the cards as they lie and I am sure that you can deal them out. I envy you your chore and hope in some way or another that I can be helpful. Best to the fair lady.

Sincerely,



MDH:RDS  
Encs. (3)

CC W. R. Crone



THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF IEEE  
(COMPARED WITH ITS ORIGINS IN IRE AND AIEE)

The following Table was prepared by taking current listings of IEEE Fellow Awards and looking up each name in the last year books issued by each of the predecessor Institutes,--AIEE, 1961-1962, and IRE - 1963. The same thing was done with committee members using as a source the IEEE Organization Roster dated September 1969. Other items in the table carry their own explanation. The count (other regions, other listings) is still being pursued sporadically.

1970 <u>Current Listings IEEE</u>	1961-62-63 CLASSIFICATIONS			
	<u>Both</u>	<u>IRE only</u>	<u>AIEE only</u>	<u>Neither</u>
<u>Awards</u>				
IEEE Fellows Elected January 1	12	83	21	6
North Jersey Section New Fellows	2	6	1	0
New York Section New Fellows	0	4	1	1
Fellow Committee	5	10	2	0
Awards Board	8	5	1	0
All Awards Committees	53	39	23	2
<u>National</u>				
Headquarters Staff and Secretaries	5	8	2	-
Board of Directors	11	12	4	2
All Other National Committees	56	114	51	19
<u>Regional</u>				
Region I Committees	27	82	40	73
Region II Committees	18	58	64	65
Region III Committees	14	62	76	98
Region IV Committees	8	53	54	80
Region V Committees	6	34	40	49
<i>Region VI Committees</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>133</i>
1961 Thousands of Voting Members (Chase in ELECT. ENGRG.)	6	58	55	-

MDH:RDS  
3-23-70



## HIND SIGHTS

~~HIND SIGHTS~~  
~~HIND SIGHTS~~

## SECTION STATUS

Today's engineers are too busy to spend much time in the contemplation of the past. While conditions may never be the same again, many of the early problems <sup>do</sup> recur, <sup>Now</sup> what may be ~~the~~ considered the third generation of engineers in the electrical <sup>sciences</sup> ~~are~~ are ~~not~~ active in carrying on. Some ~~Many of these~~ <sup>been</sup> have proposed each year <sup>new ideas</sup> to ~~the~~ <sup>toward directing some</sup> Institute activities directed toward some phase of this rapidly expanding discipline.

Some of these could be resolved more easily if the historical background of the presently existing facilities were to be noted.

The two organizations which recently merged into the IEEE had similar histories. At each beginning, the present New York Section was identical <sup>or more accurately</sup> each Institute was to the whole organization. ~~That is - it was considered as~~ a New York organization. As membership expanded, ~~the importance of satisfying~~ <sup>needs</sup> members had two aspects: ~~first~~ that of serving groups in other geographical areas, and ~~next~~ that of handling the growing diversification of activities.

In the case of the AIEE the geographical spread came about initially with giving permission (after the receipt of a petition signed by twenty members from another city) for that group to hold local meetings simultaneously with the meeting in New York, and on the same subject. For example such an arrangement was set up in Chicago as early as 1893. A similar expansion was experienced by the IRE, although there was an offset of nearly three decades in time. Relative tabulations of such operations may be of interest.



AIEE

IRE

ORGANIZED

1884

28

1912

FIRST SECTION  
OFFICIALLY STARTED

1907<sup>✓</sup>  
(MINNEAPOLIS)

7

1914  
WASHINGTON DC,

NEW YORK SECTION  
BECAME SEPARATE BODY  
PROTEM CHMN.

Dec 1919 23  
FARLEY OSGOOD

DEC 1942

OTHER SECTIONS AT  
THAT TIME

34.

and indeed international  
although the national character of each organization  
was apparent to all, the break away of the national  
organization from handling new york area operations,  
added ~~gave~~ evidence to this matter.



Memorandum

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Region I Committees-N.J.,N.Y.,&NE	27	82	40	73
Region II Committees-Pa, O., Va.	18	58	64	65
Region III Committees-Southeast	14	62	76	98
Region IV Committees-Midwest	8	53	54	80
Region V Committees-South Central	12	24	44	65
Region VI Committees -Pacific Coast	11	64	58	133
1961 Thousands of Voting Members (Chase in ELECT. ENGRG.)	6	58	55	-

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3-23-70  
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