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American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers

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CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE
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This volume presents the highlights of a century of service of AIME, along with authoritative reviews of the state of the art and economics, and some perspective of the future in the fields of engineering and science encompassed by AIME and its Constituent Societies.

The founding of the Institute in 1871 occurred at a time when the U. S. was in the final stages of population movement across the Continent, but in the beginning stages of the development of its immense natural resources. The forum, activities and publications of the Institute have played a major role in the building of our Nation, and this record of service is a source of pride to AIME members in this Centennial year.

Throughout the past century, one characteristic has stood out—the diversity of the fields of technology served by AIME. From the beginning, geology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics, along with several fields of engineering, were included in AIME programs and publications. Today, AIME encompasses some 25 specialized fields of engineering and science in the Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Science, and Petroleum Industries.

For the first 40 years, the Institute grew at a remarkably stable rate of about 100 members per year. During this time, its publications became widely recognized for their authoritative content and excellence of presentation. In 1911 a period of expansion and growth began that continues even today. In that year the Boston, Columbia, and New York sections were established. In 1913, the Constitution and Bylaws were reorganized; and in 1918, the Institute of Metals Division was established as the first professional division. The word “Metallurgical” was added to the name of the Institute in 1919, and a steady expansion in divisional organization and activities continued through World War II. In 1948, the Institute was organized into three distinct branches of technical interest in mining, metallurgy and petroleum. In 1955, the name of the Institute was changed by adding the word “Petroleum”; but the official abbreviation “AIME” was retained. Diversity of membership interest and geographical location brought further decentralization with the establishment of the three semi-autonomous Constituent Societies in 1957—the Society of Mining Engineers of AIME, The Metallurgical Society of AIME, and the Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME.
During the past century, many great men and women have devoted themselves unselfishly to AIME and its Auxiliary. They have come from all walks of life. As one reads the history of the Institute and sees the actions of those who have been its leaders and have received its awards for distinguished achievement, the full measure of their service becomes clearly evident.

This great resource of voluntary contributions by its members is the foundation of a profession. It has brought strength and vigor to AIME in the past; it provides the basis for our movement into the future. Regardless of whatever problems may be encountered, we can have full confidence that AIME will endure. By so enduring, it will contribute to the advancement of human life and welfare. Although it has a proud record of achievement in its first century of existence, opportunities for the Institute in the future will be even greater. Its contribution will be limited only by the breadth of vision of the men and women who serve our profession.

JOHN C. KINNEAR, JR.  
President AIME, 1970

JOHN S. BELL  
President AIME, 1971