



Centenary Banquet

The proceedings of the Centenary Banquet that was held on Friday, 25 March 1994 at The Ball Room of The Carlton at 19:30 follow.

Dr H. Scott-Russell

The Chemical and Metallurgical Society of South Africa—a forerunner of this Institute—was founded at a meeting held in Johannesburg on the 24th of March, 1894.

One of the traditions established early in the life of the Society was the Annual Dinner, which became a major event in Johannesburg's social calendar. It was always attended by people of stature in the industry and in the community, and was usually addressed by a high-ranking Government figure. We are delighted that, on this one hundredth birthday of the Institute, we have been able to continue the tradition.

I welcome you, Mr State President, and your charming wife, and we look forward to hearing your address later this evening.

The actual birthday of the Institute was celebrated in appropriate fashion last night, when the Institute's Centenary Distinguished Lecture was delivered by Mr Robin Plumbridge. He is present again this evening, with Mrs Celia Plumbridge, and I welcome them to the Banquet.

We are also most pleased to have with us the Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg, Councillor and Mrs Piet Pretorius; the President of the Chamber of Mines and also Honorary President of our Institute, Mr Jurie Geldenhuys and Mrs Geldenhuys; Mr and Mrs Pat Retief; Mr and Mrs Graham Bousted; and Dr Hugo, Director General of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Mrs Hugo.

I also wish to welcome four other special groups of people.

Firstly, the Past Presidents of the Institute. We had the pleasure of entertaining 20 of them to lunch yesterday and were delighted to renew old friendships. Regrettably, our longest-surviving Past President, Dr Pinky Hill, is not well enough to be here, and I hope you will join me in acknowledging the singular contribution he has made since the 1940s both to the Institute and to our industry.

Secondly, I welcome members of our sister institutes and associations.

Thirdly, past recipients of our premier award, the Brigadier Stokes Award, are also present and are most welcome.

Finally, last but not least, to all of you, the members of the Institute and the professionals upon whom the industry relies so heavily, I am glad you are able to be here, and I hope you will enjoy the evening.

Dr H. Scott-Russell

We are indeed honoured this evening to have with us the State President and Mrs de Klerk, and it is my particular pleasure to introduce a speaker of great stature and courage who has charted a new course for our country.

On the eve of the birth of a new South African nation, it seems appropriate that the head of State should be guest of honour at this hundredth birthday celebration of our great Institute, which has devoted so much energy and expertise to the production of the minerals that have long been the lifeblood of our nation.

It is a happy coincidence that the State President is no stranger to the mining industry and the Institute, since he previously held the portfolios of Minister of Mines and Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs, and was consequently in close touch with the industry. We know that he remains informed on mining matters.

Over the years, this Institute has been the proud host to many distinguished guest speakers, who were prominent political figures. General J.C. Smuts, then Prime Minister, spoke at the annual dinner in 1924. Governors-General were guests on several occasions. Mr N.C. Havenga spoke in 1934.

A speaker who was obviously popular was Mr Jan Hofmeyr. He was present at every dinner from 1920 to 1939, first as Principal of Wits, then as Administrator of the Transvaal, and finally as a Cabinet Minister and national politician. The verbatim reports of the speeches of these men, published in the *Journal* of the Institute, are an interesting reflection of the history of their times.

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Mr President, we appreciate the fact that you are giving your time to us tonight, so near to a momentous election: a taxing and exhausting time for you.

However, you are admired for your determination to bring about change for the better, for your quiet and persistent powers of persuasion in difficult councils, and your sincerity and ability to face up to problems of great complexity.

I believe the motto of the Institute is appropriate in introducing you:
Capacio occasio—to the capable the opportunity.

Our guest speaker tonight is a statesman, Nobel Peace Prize winner, and true son of South Africa.

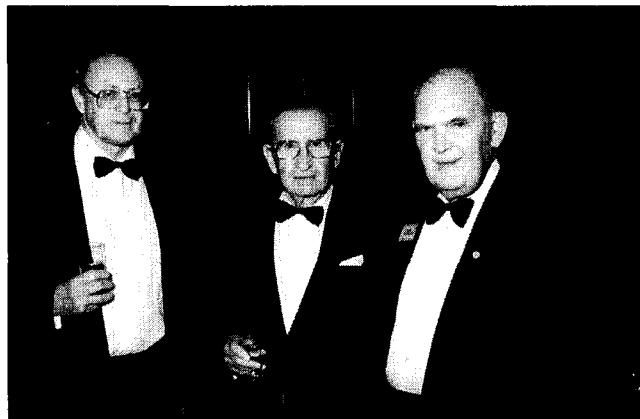
I call on you, Mr State President, to propose a toast to the Institute.



From left to right: Mr F.W. de Klerk, Barbara Scott-Russell, Mrs Marike de Klerk, and Dr H. Scott-Russell



From left to right: Barbara Scott-Russell, Wilma Cruise, Mrs Marike de Klerk, and Daisy Pretorius (Mayoress of Johannesburg)



From left to right: Hannes Hoffman, Tommy Muller, and Pieter van Rensburg



John Cruise (Master of Ceremonies)