

SPOTLIGHT

on fifty-year membership

by A.N. BROWN*

Is the milestone of fifty years' membership of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy a significant attainment by a member? A member would perhaps reach that stage when he had attained the biblically significant age of 'three score years and ten'. He would have joined the Institute as a student member at the age of twenty. Forty years of active participation would have followed up to the usual retirement age of sixty. At least ten years would then have been spent as a senior citizen in 'retirement'. Yes! Fifty years' membership is indeed a significant achievement!

Some of our sister institutes in other countries, particularly the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, traditionally recognize fifty-year membership among their members. Our Institute recently decided to do something similar for our members. Indeed, one can justifiably ask why our Institute, which celebrates its centenary in 1994, has taken so long to take the decision. Our Institute started out as the Chemical Metallurgical and Mining Society of South Africa, and adopted its present title only in 1956.

Once Council had decided to recognize fifty years of membership after much deliberation following the initiatives of persons like Mr P.W.J. van Rensburg, Past President, a handsome 9-carat-gold lapel badge was struck. It bears the Institute's coat-of-arms in relief, as depicted in the photograph.



The Fifty-year Membership Lapel Badge of The South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy

Qualifying Members

At first, it seemed as though only some 9 members would meet the qualification. On closer examination, it was found that no fewer than 60 members qualify at present. Quite remarkable! It was initially intended to make the awards at the Annual General Meeting, but it was

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clearly impossible to do so because of the large number of qualifiers. At that meeting, only the names of the qualifying Past Presidents were announced:

Dr W. Bleloch	Mr R.C.J. Goode
Dr L.A. Bushell	Dr F.G. Hill
Mr H.E. Cross	Mr D.M. Jameson.
Mr J.K.E. Douglas	

Of these, it was indeed pleasing that all except Dr Bleloch, Dr Bushell, and Mr Goode were present to receive their awards.

Further presentations were made to some of the other qualifiers at the evening meeting of the Johannesburg Branch that was held on 12th September, 1989, in Kelvin House. These recipients are as follows:

D. Carman	J.A. Nixon
K.W. Finlay	E. Popplewell.
H.L. Monro	

Lapel badges will be presented to the other qualifying members as soon as possible, preferably at Branch Meetings.

Congratulations

We, the members of the Institute, salute those of our colleagues who have attained this remarkable distinction. The award is in recognition of a number of factors. As the membership years have totalled up, the person has progressed from a fledgeling in the minerals industry often to a position of status, authority, and high office commensurate with his high qualifications and extended experience.

There is no doubt that the national and international standing of the Institute depends on the size of its membership but, more important, on the status of its senior members. The faithful and loyal support by senior members over many years, not the least of which is financial support, has influenced the welfare of the Institute. As they have matured, the general contribution of these senior members to the technical and social development of the ordinary members, and their encouragement of others to become members, are deserving of recognition.

Many of the recipients have been conspicuous by their presence at Institute functions over the years, have contributed richly to our technical activities as evidenced in our *Journal*, and have won many of our coveted awards. However, few of them would have achieved what they have without the enthusiastic support and encouragement of their wives.

We wish them all well, and may they wear their lapel badges with pride and affection for many years to come.

Members receiving their awards from Dr O.K. Steffen (left), President of the Institute:



Mr K.W. Findlay



Mr H.L. Monro



Mr J.A. Nixon



Mr E. Popplewell



Mr D. Carman

New book

● *Chemistry of tin*, edited by P.G. Harrison. Blackie (P.O. Box 23320, Claremont 7735). 1989. ≈ 480 pp. ≈ \$50.

This book provides a comprehensive and up-to-date review of tin chemistry, concentrating on the implications and applications of recent advances in both organotin and inorganotin chemistry. After a discussion of the element and its basic physicochemical properties, the book intro-

duces relevant analytical techniques before providing thorough treatments of bond formation, organometallic compounds, radical chemistry, biological chemistry, heterogeneous catalysis, and industrial applications. Inorganic and organic chemists, analytical chemists, industrial chemists, metallurgists, and biochemists will find the book of interest. Post-graduate students in these subjects will find it a useful source of reference.