



President's Page _____ The changing scene

Papers and Contributions

Since the Institute's inception, it had been our practice until some years ago to meet regularly for discussion of new developments, using as a basis a paper read by one of the members. Usually, the *Journal* issue containing the paper would have been circulated well before the meeting, giving members plenty of time to absorb it and perhaps to prepare contributions. Discussion was generally lively, often controversial. The author always had an opportunity to reply.

Contributions and replies were themselves then published in later *Journal* issues, and became additional sources of scientific and technical reference. Of equal importance was the feedback to authors of papers and the peer recognition that the system afforded.

In common with the experience of centre-city theatres and cinemas, the holding of regular evening meetings fell by the way. Their replacement has come in the form of concentrated symposia or conferences. That very concentration has the effect that considered discussion is stifled. Chairmen are constrained to keep to time. The quantity of papers for presentation and the limited pre-conference reading time tend to confine discussion to question and answer. The discussion is rarely published in useful form.

Of course, this is not the only loss we have suffered from the pace of modern life but, as in most things, there are compensations. The *Journal* continues to provide a regular, high-quality medium for the dissemination of new developments and ideas. But we would like to think that our papers are for *reading*, that they continue to stimulate thought and may perhaps lead to wider publication of either supporting or contrary experience.

In the absence of face-to-face debate, the next best is written contributions. I hope that readers will respond; a paper undiscussed is rather like a coal pulled from a fire: it goes out!

Annual Banquet

We have regretfully decided not to hold our Annual Banquet this year. As you are aware, the cost of the Annual Banquet is kept within reasonable limits by sponsorship from industry. As a result of the current economic climate, sponsorship this year would not have been easy. Furthermore, our members working in the gold-mining industry are feeling the depression hardest of all. It was therefore felt that, as a gesture, we should call off the Banquet.

The Annual Banquet has been held every year since 1985. Although before this it wasn't an annual affair, we do feel it gives members the opportunity of getting together on a social basis. We certainly hope the economic situation brightens up sufficiently to enable us to hold our Banquet in 1992.

Membership

The Institute has endeavoured over the past few years to increase its membership as much as possible. Obviously, the more members we have, the stronger our Institute. This membership drive has met with success.

We would like to appeal to our present members, where possible, to up-grade their membership. Students, on leaving university or technikon, should up-grade to Associate and, similarly, Associate Members who are eligible for Corporate Membership should apply for up-grading to Member or Fellow.

The requirements for our different grades of membership are as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Requirement</u>
Fellow (minimum age 30 years)	Has been employed for 5 years in a senior technical position of responsibility.
Member (minimum age 25 years)	Has been employed for 2 years in a technical position of responsibility.

Chamber of Mines' sponsorship for Wits Engineering*

Professor Hurman Eric has been named Head of the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand, and has also been appointed to the prestigious Chamber of Mines Chair of Extractive Metallurgical Engineering.

Professor Eric joined the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering in September 1985 as a Senior Lecturer in thermodynamics and pyrometallurgy. Born in Turkey, he completed his Ph.D. at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara.

The Chair of Extractive Metallurgical Engineering has been sponsored by the Chamber of Mines since the early 1970s, and provides substantial financial as-



Professor Hurman Eric, new head of the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand

sistance to the Department's Minerals Processing Group, mainly in the form of salary subventions.

'The Chamber's continued support despite the economic climate demonstrates the importance of the extractive metallurgy discipline in South African industry', says Professor Eric.

In addition to the Chair, the Chamber of Mines has been responsible for the establishment of mineral-dressing laboratories, the provision of equipment for teaching purposes, and the creation of two new teaching posts in mineral processing and hydrometallurgy in the Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering in recent years.

The Department is one of the University's most productive *per capita* in research work, and the Chamber has supported several research projects. The organization also sponsored a computer network that became operational in the Departments of Metallurgy and Chemical Engineering last year.

Funds provided by the Chamber of Mines are enabling the Department to collaborate with the Extractive Metallurgy Department at Wits Technikon in the sharing of laboratory facilities for student practicals.

* Issued by Lynne Hancock Communications, P.O. Box 3712, Honeydew, 2040 Transvaal

Mine and exploration surveying

The Institute of Engineering Surveying and Space Geodesy at the University of Nottingham offers an MSc course in Mine and Exploration Surveying.

The Institute

The Institute of Engineering Surveying and Space Geodesy brings together expertise in several fields, and provides interdisciplinary post-graduate teaching and research. The disciplines covered include Geographical Information Systems; Engineering Surveying; Navigation, Terrestrial, and Space Geodesy; Mine and Exploration Surveying; and Remote Sensing. In addition to Mine and Exploration Surveying, the Institute offers three other MSc courses, namely Engineering Surveying and Geodesy, Geographical Information Systems, and Navigation Studies. Close contacts are maintained with industry and government establishments through short courses and seminars, staff training, cost-effective research, consultancy, and the provision of access to advanced technical systems.

The University

The University campus extends over an area of 330 acres of parkland, situated about 4 km west of the centre of Nottingham. This pleasant setting and easy access to the exceptional cultural, sporting, and shopping amenities of a modern and progressive city have made Nottingham University one of the most popular among provincial universities. The University has 13 Halls of Residence located around the perimeter of the campus, with centrally located administrative, teaching, research, and library facilities. At the western end of the campus is a very well-equipped Sports Centre. Members of the course

will have access to the University Library, which contains over 500 000 volumes, together with a comprehensive suite of journals.

Entrance Requirements

A good honours degree or its equivalent from a recognized institution of higher education in science, engineering, or mathematics is the normal prerequisite for entry to the course. Other approved degrees may also be accepted, subject to the equivalent of a good grade in A-level mathematics. In exceptional cases, candidates may be accepted on the basis of other qualifications and extensive professional experience.

Continued Professional Education

Modules from the course are offered individually as week-long short courses. They will be especially suitable for continued professional education for participants from commerce and industry. For further information, contact The Short Course Coordinator at the address given below.

Further Information

Mine and Exploration Surveying MSc Admissions Tutor
Institute of Engineering Surveying and Space Geodesy
University of Nottingham
University Park
Nottingham NG7 2RD
United Kingdom.

Telephone enquiries may be made between 09h00 and 17h00 Monday to Friday by contacting the Institute on 0602 484848, ext. 3309.