

HIBSHMAN
1885 Shore Drive South, Apt. 525
St. Petersburg, Florida 33707

January 30, 1968

Mr. Haraden Pratt
Pompano Beach, Florida

Dear Haraden:

Thank you for your letter of January 24 and copies of your letters to Don Fink (Jan. 24) and Reed Crone (Jan. 27); but most especially for the "Extracts from the Biography of R.H. Marriott!"

On January 23, I wrote Reed asking for some additional material from my files in storage at Headquarters. I also asked for pertinent AIEE and IRE Board records. If, as I am glad to hear, you will handle the IRE side of the story; this letter request may be neglected.

I also asked him to see if he can trace a recording of the discussions at the AIEE Panel at the 1962 Winter General Meeting. I have not seen any minutes of the deliberations of the 8-Man Committee, nor the collected reports of the 2-Man Task Forces. If they are available, I assume they are in Don's File. I never had them.

In my letter to Reed, I included a copy of the proposed outline for the paper, or story, and asked him to make copies that I can send to various participants in the hope of stimulating their recollections and inspiring them to go to their files. I have drafted a letter to Dick Teare as a beginning of this project. My understanding from what I have heard and recently found in reviewing the papers that I brought back from New York is that Dick and Pat Haggerty kicked off the first formal discussions at their May 1961 meeting.

Chuck Savage sent me his file (I had hoped it would include Linder's which has a good deal of broad background relative to the other engineering societies. In that, it fits well with your thought that we should, at least briefly, trace the beginnings of the organized engineering profession prior to AIEE and IRE.

I have always been impressed by the following excerpt from the history of the British Institution of Civil Engineers:

"It was toward the end of the year 1817 that a few gentlemen, then beginning life, impressed with what they themselves felt were the difficulties young men had to contend with in gaining the knowledge requisite for the diversified practice of engineering, resolved to form themselves into a society".

There is little doubt that the academic area was most in need of cooperative attention and profited most by the merger. Our versions of some of those discussions may vary, however.

Sincerely,

Nelson

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PS: Thanks for the suggestion about the "off-again, on-again" ribbon. I had used a paper of that sort. It was especially handy with material going directly to the Xerox machine. I must get me such a ribbon. N