



# Professional Societies...

Where the Scientific Tale Unfolded

For 100 years, The Electrochemical Society has been providing scientists with a forum to exchange ideas and results, and through this forum the Society has effectively advanced electrochemistry and other related disciplines. ECS is only one of a number of professional societies with a distinguished history of service to the scientific community. The sidebar lists, chronologically by their founding year, many of the professional societies who have overlapping interests with ECS. As a result of our diverse technical makeup, ECS has many of these "sister societies." The significant number, endurance, and enormous influence these societies have had on generations of professionals engaged in science and engineering are powerful testaments to the importance and the value of ECS and our brethren. In the words of Harry Gatos (ECS president 1967-1968), "In many important aspects it (the scientific society) has served as the central stage on which the scientific tale has unfolded."

For centuries,\* professional societies have provided an unbiased forum for the dissemination of scientific information, which they have accomplished through their meetings and publications. Even with this long record of success, there are concerns about the future viability or importance of professional societies. What lies in the future for professional societies? In predicting the future, there is much to be derived from examining the past. It is clear from the biographies of many of the great scientists of the past that science has progressed through the work of the professional societies. The professional society has stood alone in its pure and undaunted pursuit to advance science without the distractions or obstacles that have caused other institutions to deviate from that mission. Professional societies such as ECS have been the place where scientists and engineers have done their work. Their research is presented, refined, improved, and stimulated in the pages of our journals, and in the halls and at the podiums of our meetings. While the meetings and publications may be changed or replaced in the future, history suggests that the professional society will be the place where the tale of science will continue to unfold.

What is the future of The Electrochemical Society? Here again, there is much to be gained from examining the past. Since 1902, ECS publications and meetings have been the most fertile ground for the cross-fertilization of ideas and results in electrochemistry. As a member of the ECS staff since 1980, I am proud to have shared a part in the Society's past and I am excited about her prospects for the future. I have always believed that if you are going to make predictions, you had better make a lot of them so you will be right once and a while; and here are my predictions about the Society's next 100 years. First, in the year 2102, ECS meetings and publications will still provide the most receptive ground for cross-fertilization of ideas for solid-state and electrochemical scientists and engineers. Second, the size, shape, and appearance of ECS meetings and publications will be almost entirely different from what they are in this centennial year. Third, scientists using electrochemical processes will discover new ways to feed, move, heat, and connect the people of the world, and keep our precious environment pure. Finally, our successors will raise a glass in the city of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to toast the accomplishments of the past 200 years, and celebrate the expected success of another century of scientific achievement. ■

**Roque J. Calvo**  
Executive Director

## Founding Dates of ECS's "Sister" Societies

- 1841** Royal Society of Chemistry
- 1848** American Association for the Advancement of Science
- 1863** National Academy of Sciences
- 1871** American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical & Petroleum Engineers
- 1876** American Chemical Society
- 1881** Society of Chemical Industry
- 1894** Deutsche Bunsen-Gesellschaft für Physikalische Chemie
- 1898** ASTM International
- 1899** American Physical Society
- 1899** American Ceramic Society
- 1901** National Institute of Standards and Technology
- 1902** **The Electrochemical Society**
- 1908** American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- 1909** American Electroplaters and Surface Finishers Society
- 1909** Società Chimica Italiana
- 1913** ASM International
- 1916** National Research Council of Canada
- 1933** The Electrochemical Society of Japan
- 1943** NACE International
- 1946** Japan Society of Applied Physics
- 1949** International Society of Electrochemistry
- 1950** Society of Women Engineers
- 1951** IEEE Electron Devices Society
- 1955** SPIE (The International Society for Optical Engineering)
- 1957** TMS (The Minerals, Metals, and Materials Society)
- 1961** American Vacuum Society
- 1964** National Academy of Engineering
- 1972** Federation of Materials Societies
- 1973** Materials Research Society
- 1974** Società Chimica Italiana, Electrochemistry Division
- 1977** National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- 1982** Chemical Heritage Foundation
- 1983** Sociedade Mexicana de Eletroquímica
- 1987** International Society for Solid-State Ionics
- 1992** Sociedade Iberoamericana de Eletroquímica

*This is a list of professional societies with technical interests related to those of ECS; it is not intended to be comprehensive.*

\*The Accademia del Cimento of Florence (Academy of Experiment) is considered to be the forefather of scientific societies. It was founded in Italy in 1657.