



100 Years and Counting

There is truth in the numbers. Listen to the numbers. The numbers never lie. Have you ever heard any of these business axioms, and do you believe any of them? I have to admit that I'm a "numbers guy" at times, so with our centennial approaching I decided to take a look at what the Society's numbers tell us about the first 100 years. After nearly a century of activity, we have accumulated some pretty impressive numbers, which I've organized under the categories of meetings, publications, awards, and membership in the next few paragraphs.

In September, we will hold our 200th Meeting in San Francisco, California. What's really impressive about that number is that we have established the biannual meeting format in our first year of existence, and we have never missed a single spring or fall Society Meeting. We have held meetings during the two world wars, during earthquakes, on board rail trains, during economic depression, and in the midst of social upheaval. While we have had to make many adjustments, we have never canceled or skipped a meeting. The 200 Society Meetings have included 62,231 technical papers, 153,126 meeting attendees, and over 1,000,000 cups of coffee served.

The Society publications have an equally impressive record of consistency and endurance. Since we were founded in 1902, we have never failed to publish a technical journal. From 1902 to 1948, our technical journal was titled the *Transactions of The Electrochemical Society* (it was actually called the *Transactions of the American Electrochemical Society* until 1930, when the Society changed its name). In 1949, we changed the name to its current title, the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, and in 1998, we introduced a second technical journal titled *Electrochemical and Solid-State Letters*. Including the papers that we expect to publish in the 2001 editions, we have published 27,665 technical papers. In addition to journals, we have also been a pretty active book publisher. The first books we published were part of the Society monograph series, which was introduced in 1942, and to date we have published 65 monograph volumes. Proceedings volumes came a little bit later in 1967, but in that 34-year time span we have published an impressive 530 proceedings volumes.

The honors and awards program has grown in tandem with the evolution of the Society. The scope of the Society awards has broadened in many areas including technical diversity, measures of accomplishment, geographic inclusiveness, value, and content. The broad range of the awards gives electrochemists from all demographic categories an incentive to

achieve, and the opportunity to be recognized. In the last 100 years, the Society and Divisions (we were unable to accurately determine the number of Section awards) have recognized a combined total of 940 scientists and engineers engaged in the fields of solid-state and electrochemical science and technology. The distribution of awards is as follows:

- The Six Major Awards – 111 recipients
- Honorary Membership – 70 recipients
- ECS Fellows – 121 recipients
- Division Awards – 196 recipients
- Division Awards for Students – 38 recipients
- Young Authors – 117 recipients
- Fellowships – 233 recipients
- Book Prizes – 30 recipients
- Student Poster Awards – 24 recipients

I would guess the most intriguing number would be the total number of scientists and/or engineers who have been members of the Society in the first 100 years. After meticulously extracting each list of new members from our old publications, we have been able to identify the number of unique individuals who have joined the Society. As of July 31, 2001 the grand total is 38,215.

These are all pretty remarkable numbers, but then a horse that can count is a remarkable horse, and not a remarkable mathematician. That's right, I'm not all that impressed by the numbers because I don't believe they tell the whole truth. What makes the Society's first 100 years remarkable is the sustained loyalty, achievement, and commitment left by the legacy of the many great Society members. Remarkable people—like Thomas Edison, Leo Baekeland, Gordon Moore, Rudy Marcus, and so many others—have been responsible for our success and for raising the Society to its current international stature. So when you reflect on the remarkable accomplishments depicted in the numbers above, remember that while the numbers are impressive, it's the members that count!

Roque J. Calvo
Executive Director