

AISE Through the Years

The End of an Era

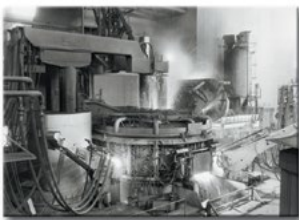


What is the secret of success?

Some will say the secret of success is a well-thought-out plan, a good foundation aimed toward a feasible goal. Others may say that success lies in never giving up, in learning from one's mistakes or in being willing to take risks, to change, to roll with the punches, so to speak. Still others will tell you that time is all it takes to be a success.



Not surprisingly, the success of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers has arisen from all these factors. Indeed, there has been plenty of time — 96 years, to be exact. There has been a solid foundation and a consistent goal: to advance the technical and engineering phases of the production and processing of iron and steel. And there has been a persistent, if not relentless, effort to become the premier source of information for iron and steel technology, responding to the industry's needs and making whatever changes were necessary.



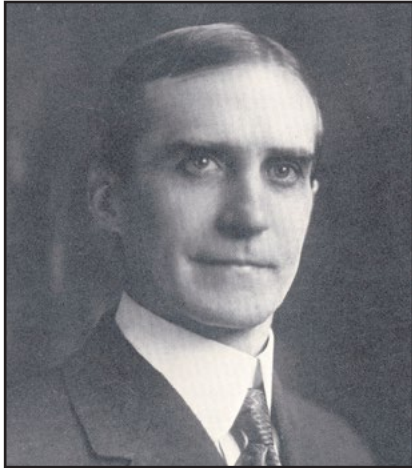
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Birth of the Association

AISE began on April 26, 1907, when a group of 28 electrical and mechanical engineers and superintendents from prominent iron and steel companies gathered in Pittsburgh, Pa., to attend a special exhibit of electrical equipment for possible use in their plants. Among those in attendance was James Farrington, superintendent of the electrical department at LaBelle Iron Works in Steubenville, Ohio. Farrington felt that the people in his industry needed some central forum



James Farrington was the founder and first president of AISEE.

where they could exchange information on the latest technology and equipment. He suggested the formation of a national organization that would “increase cooperation between the makers and users of electrical apparatus in iron and steel works, and...secure improvements in such apparatus.”

The following October, amid the start of a serious economic panic, the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers was born. Fifteen members and eight guests attended the first meeting, which featured 18 papers on such subjects as control and acceleration of electric motors, heavy-duty DC motors, mill motors, lighting, generators and steam turbines. The group elected Farrington as its President, and dues were set at \$10 a year. In addition, each attendee indicated his approval of this new organization by chipping in one dollar.

Yet when the time came to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the association, Farrington admitted some surprise at how well his idea had been received. In his message to members in 1932, he wrote, “None

of us at that meeting thought the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers would grow to the size, activity and prominence that it now has attained in 25 years.” He also wrote of “the esteem and respect with which the association is held by all steel men, from the executives down to the foremen.” However, the first 25 years of AISEE were not without their struggles, and the successful operation of the association was not always within sight.



The original AISEE logo.

Early Struggles

As early as 1916, that year’s AISEE President, W.T. Snyder, complained that members were not taking sufficient interest in their organization. Although in 1910 the privilege of membership had been extended beyond engineers to include suppliers of equipment, six years later there were few members attending meetings, and they were not doing their full share in presenting papers, said Snyder. Suggestions and criticisms began to come from all sides. Something had to be done about the indifference of the membership.

The previous nine years had seen tremendous growth and activity in AISEE. In gearing up for World War I, the iron and steel industry had a great deal of involvement, and the association was at the forefront. The seemingly impossible demands for quality and quantity of unlimited varieties of steel for all purposes were met and executed by steel workers across the

Who among those broad-visioned founders, even in his fondest dream, ever dared imagine the association would achieve the phenomenal success it has?

— C.S. Proudfoot, 1928 AISEE President

country, but not without a growing concern for safety in the workplace. In 1912 the Safety Committee held the Cooperative Safety Congress in Milwaukee in cooperation with the AISEE Annual Convention. Following the meeting, a permanent organization devoted to the promotion of safety — today known as the National Safety Council — was developed. To the steel worker, safety was an everyday issue, and the association rose to the challenge of helping to establish a safer workplace.

April 1907 — At an informal gathering of 28 steel industry electrical engineers, James Farrington suggests the formation of a national organization that would increase cooperation among makers and users of electrical apparatus in iron and steel facilities.

1905

Oct. 1907 — The first Annual Meeting is held in Pittsburgh, attended by 15 members and eight guests. The group adopts the name “Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers” and elects James Farrington as its first President.

1910

1917 — AISEE hires its first Managing Director, John F. Kelly.

1915

1914 — AISEE forms its first District Section.

Current District Sections



District Sections and their year of formation:

1914 — Pittsburgh District Section	1956 — Utah District Section
1915 — Chicago District Section	1958 — Canton District Section
1916 — Cleveland District Section and Philadelphia District Section	1959 — Colorado District Section (now part of the Utah Section)
1919 — Birmingham District Section	1968 — Texas District Section (renamed as the Southwest Section in 1988)
1938 — Detroit District Section	1969 — Baltimore District Section
1944 — Buffalo District Section (renamed as Niagara Section in 1966)	1980 — Florida District Section (merged into the Southeast Section in 1994)
1953 — Youngstown District Section	1982 — Northwest District Section
1954 — Los Angeles District Section (renamed as Southern California Section in 1997)	1994 — Southeast District Section
and St. Louis District Section	1996 — Ohio Valley District Section
1955 — San Francisco District Section	

AISE District Sections began in 1914 to accommodate steady growth of the association across the U.S.

In 1914, to accommodate the steady growth of membership, the first District Section was formed in Pittsburgh. The Chicago Section was established in 1915, followed by Cleveland and Philadelphia in 1916. However, in 1916, this growth began to stall, and the association reached the stage where some remodeling was necessary for continued progress. Because membership and activities had expanded so much, it became necessary to employ a full-time manager, the beginning of a permanent staff. In 1917, John F. Kelly, a former employee in the electrical department at National Tube Co., became the first Managing Director.

Our association has assumed a very enviable place in the technical world, and it is [our] ambition...to make the AISEE a most important influence in the steel industry.

— S.S. Wales, 1927 AISEE President

Growth and Expansion

Under the leadership of a Managing Director, the association began to expand once again. Mr. Kelly brought to the job a combination of vision, sales ability and energy that established the association as a going concern and kept it moving through the next several years. In 1919 the first Iron and Steel Exhibition (now termed Exposition) was held in St. Louis. This has gone on to become the industry's most influential trade show in North America.

In 1924 AISEE began publication of a monthly technical journal, *Iron and Steel Engineer*. Containing practical information on the design, construction, operation and maintenance of iron and steel produc-

tion facilities, most of the content was contributed or suggested by the readers themselves. The magazine has been the mouthpiece of the association ever since. In his 1932 message to the membership, S.S. Wales, the 1927 President of AISEE, said,

Through the vehicle of our publication, the *Iron and Steel Engineer*,...we have laid before us each month the most important advances in steel manufacture and material handling, new electrical, mechanical, combustion, lubrication and safety applications, improvements in repairs and upkeep, fresh from the minds of those whose business in life is to deal with these special problems. Our advertisers realize the value of the *Iron and Steel Engineer* as a means of communication with the industry.

F.D. Egan, 1917 AISEE President, commented that the magazine "soon obtained wide circulation and became known nationally and internationally." He also pointed out that "membership increased from a meager dozen courageous pioneers to an international body of progressive operators and engineers." The combination of technical articles and pertinent advertising was a success.

AISE will serve, as always, as an important medium for the exchange of technical and operational know-how for the industry. With our combined energies concentrated on better techniques and greater production, we will successfully meet the challenge of the present and safeguard our future.

— J.F. Black, 1951 AISE President

Another major accomplishment for the association during this time was its pioneering in standardization. F.W. Cramer, President of the AISEE in 1929, wrote about the association's efforts in this area:

1919 — AISEE holds its first Iron and Steel Exposition in St. Louis.

1920

1924 — AISEE begins to publish a monthly magazine, *Iron and Steel Engineer*.

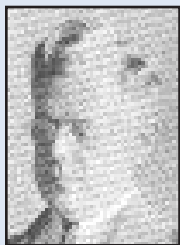
1925

1930 — AISEE's Spring Conference, which eventually becomes the Rolling Mill Conference, is first convened.

1930

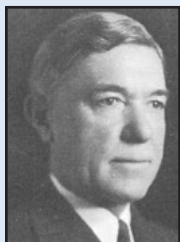
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AISE Managing Directors



John F. Kelly was a former employee in the electrical department at National Tube Co., McKeesport, Pa.

T.B. Little was a member of the AISE staff for seven years before taking over the duties of Managing Director for one year upon the death of John Kelly.



Brent Wiley graduated from Rose Polytechnic Institute in electrical engineering. He first worked for Carnegie Steel Co. at the Ohio and Homestead works. In 1904 he went with Wellman-Seaver-Morgan Co., and in 1906 he joined Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing

Co., where he spent the next 25 years in close contact with electrification in the steel industry.

T.J. Ess graduated from Carnegie Institute of Technology in mechanical engineering. He spent 15 years with Republic Steel Corp. and its predecessors in maintenance, power and combustion work. In 1938 he joined the association staff in an editorial capacity and later assumed general supervisory work. He authored many articles that appeared in *Iron and Steel Engineer*.



William C. Friesel served as Assistant Managing Director beginning in 1965. He had been on the AISE staff since 1947 and was in charge of advertising and the Iron and Steel Exposition since 1954. Prior to joining the association, he was with the Pittsburgh investment banking firm, Mellon Securities Corp.

Back in 1908 it was realized that overhead traveling cranes contained about all possible sizes of wheels, shafting, gears, etc., but the cooperative spirit was not strong enough to put the crane code across. This was not done until years later, but we now have overhead traveling cranes standardized, so that they can be economically built by several manufacturers and the spare parts required are reduced to a minimum.

The AISEE made strides in standardization in other areas, including mill motors and ball and roller bearings. As a result of these standards, both manufacturers and consumers were able to save many thousands of dollars.

In my opinion, our association is an important link for each individual member and his or her company to advance to higher levels.

— P.N. Wigton, 1988 AISE President

The association was gaining in influence and expanding its scope of activities. In 1921 a paper by G.E. Stoltz, entitled "Review of Cost of Rolling Steel in Various Mills," showed that the association's ongoing program of releasing information of industry-wide interest was continuing despite opposition. With the growth of membership, interest developed in fields

other than electrical. A combustion division was formed in 1921, a lubrication division in 1930 and a mechanical division in 1938. The growth of these engineering divisions gradually rendered the name of the association obsolete. In 1928 it was suggested that the word *electrical* be dropped, but it was not until 1936 that the name was changed to Association of Iron and Steel Engineers.

Any change made within the organization, according to W.S. Hall, 1922 AISEE President, was attempted only "where it was felt that the greatest need existed



The organization's second logo, reflecting the name change to Association of Iron and Steel Engineers.

1932 — AISEE celebrates its 25th anniversary.

1930

1934 — T.B. Little is named the second Managing Director.

1935

1936 — Brent Wiley is named the third Managing Director.

1936 — The association's name is changed from Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers to Association of Iron and Steel Engineers.

1940



Herschel B. Poole served as Secretary of the Birmingham District Section beginning in 1968. He received a degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University in 1955 and did graduate work at the University of Alabama. He began his career in the steel industry as an engineering manager at U. S. Steel and worked at Rust Engineering Co. for 15 years as a

project and staff engineer. He also served as a consultant to Dravo Corp.

Lawrence G. Maloney graduated from Michigan College of Mining and Technology in 1952 with a B.S. degree in civil engineering. He spent 22 years in the design and construction of steel mill, chemical and lime facilities. He also had 17 years of experience in marketing and sales of engineering and construction services to the metals industry. He served as Director — Business Development — Metals



for MK-Ferguson, and he previously worked for DuPont, Marblehead Lime, Inland Steel, Davy McKee and Rust International. He holds eight patents, mainly in the field of iron production.

Ronald E. Ashburn received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh in 1987. Prior to joining the AISE staff, Ron worked approximately 16 years with Mannesmann Demag, first joining them in 1986 as a mechanical engineer in their Continuous Casting Div. In 1992, he served as the Proposal Engineering Manager for continuous casting, and in 1996, Ron was appointed the Director of Technology for Steelmaking and Casting. In 1997, he assumed the role of Vice President — Casting and Hot Rolling. In 1999, SMS and Mannesmann Demag merged to form SMS Demag, where Ron last served as Vice President — Operations for their Steelmaking and Casting Div. located in Pittsburgh, Pa.



and where the problems were those in which a steel plant engineer is vitally interested.” The association never wavered from its policy of keeping its activities confined strictly to the iron and steel industry and its affiliates. Mr. Hall believed that the expansion via technical divisions would “prove equally as successful as the work carried on by the association in the early days, when only electrical problems were considered.” And so it has been as successful, if not more so.

The AISE has also changed with the times. A dynamic staff organization has pumped excitement into our programs and provided an array of timely seminars that deal with technological opportunities and project execution philosophies.

— B.J. Fedak, 1996 AISE President

Adaptation and Change

With its continued growth, the AISE began to adapt more and more to changes within the industry. As Mr. Hall said, “The success of the association was largely due to the policies adopted from time to time. The Officers and Board of Directors, since the organiza-

tion of the association, have been continually changing.”

Following the death of John Kelly in 1934, T.B. Little, who had been a member of the association staff for seven years, served one year as Managing Director. He was succeeded by Brent Wiley, a graduate of Rose Polytechnic Institute in electrical engineering. During the 10 years of Mr. Wiley’s management, the association developed materially in membership and strength, despite the economic depression in the early 1930s, and it broadened its scope of activities even more. Two more District Sections were added, and membership reached 3000.

Technology kept advancing, and AISE strove to keep its members on top of the latest and best in the industry. With the advent of continuous rolling, numerous association programs focused extensively on rolling equipment and methods. The free exchange of information, always fostered by AISE, was credited with being a crucial catalyst in the rapid and successful maturation of this technological development.

By now, the country had become involved in the conflict of World War II. Members of AISE produced the steels that went to war, from armor plate to shell steel, high-tensile stainless steel for aircraft, and

1943 — The Kelly Award is established to recognize outstanding papers published in *Iron and Steel Engineer*.

1945

1946 — T.J. Ess is named the fourth Managing Director of AISE.

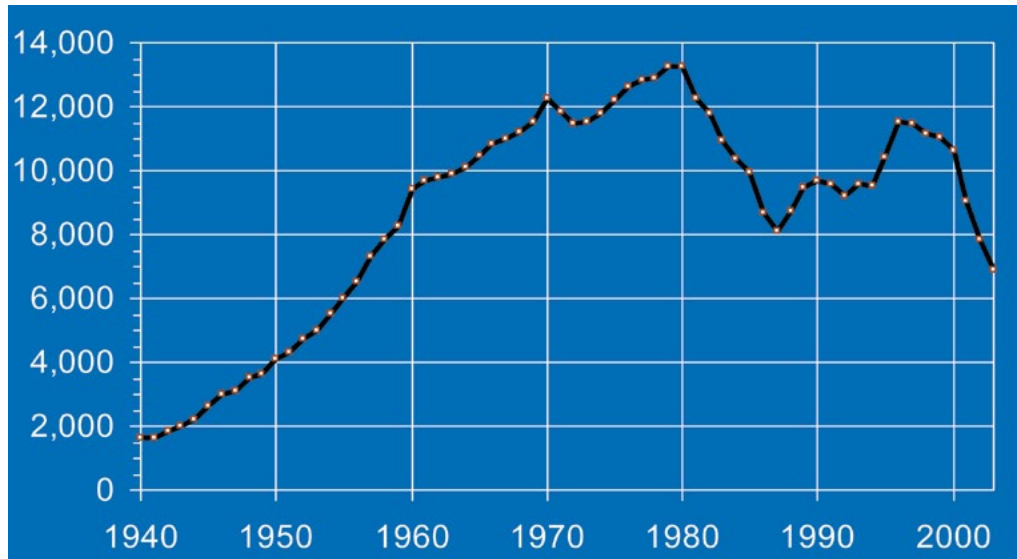
1950

1953 — Membership continues to expand and crosses the 5000 mark.

1955

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AISE membership has reflected the ups and downs of the steel industry over the years. This chart illustrates membership levels since 1940.



fatigue-resisting steels for a variety of uses. New alloys were developed, and the heat treating of carbon steel was improved. Despite the significant drain on able-bodied manpower during the war, the membership of AISE actually increased, from 1619 members in 1941 to 3214 members in 1945. With increased production requirements placed on the mills during the war, the need to share information increased, and membership consequently grew.

Our organization more so than any other has had an unceasing fight to keep pace with the advance of [iron and steel technology], and to date, has been more than successful.

— B.W. Gilson, 1920 AISEE President

Each month, *Iron and Steel Engineer* continued to put forth discussions and solutions to the problems encountered in everyday iron and steel mill work. When a plant engineer discovered a method to overcome a difficulty in production, the method was revealed to all. When a new understanding evolved, entirely revolutionizing some facet of production, that understanding was disseminated to every member of the association. The shoulder-to-shoulder cooperation among those in the industry allowed ideas that had humble beginnings — perhaps in a repair shop somewhere — to reach thousands of people and thereby improve the quality of steel production everywhere.

In 1943 AISE saw the need to encourage people in the industry to write articles for *Iron and Steel Engineer*. Thus, the Kelly Award was established in memory of the first Managing Director. The award was given annually for the best paper published in *Iron and Steel Engineer*.

Furthermore, the association began to produce a number of books in fields where published material was sparse but still needed. In 1941, *The Modern Strip Mill* provided a comprehensive analysis of these new mills that revolutionized the production of sheet and tinplate products. The book presented the only complete catalog of any kind of steel plant equipment at that time. Other pertinent publications followed, including *Tube Mill Practice* and *Roll Design and Mill Layout*.

Educational projects were not far from AISE's sights, either. AISE began to sponsor lecture series on steel plant topics, and the association supported graduate scholarships and postgraduate fellowships at different times and at different schools. In 1956, a program of four-year engineering scholarships, administered by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., was instituted. AISE has remained one of the few continuous sponsors of the National Merit Scholarship Corp. since its

The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers has within its membership the human skills and resources to reestablish the U.S. as the "diamond" of the world steel industry.

— R.D. McBride, 1982 AISE President

1957 — AISE celebrates its 50th anniversary, while membership reaches nearly 7000.

1964 — AISE membership surpasses the 10,000 mark.

1955

1960

1965

inception. A total of 135 students have received AISE's National Merit award since then.

In 1946, T.J. Ess was named the fourth Managing Director of AISE. During his tenure, with business and industry growing in the postwar period, the association added eight District Sections, and AISE membership more than doubled. When 1957 arrived, AISE was celebrating its 50th anniversary, and membership had reached nearly 7000.

The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers is a diversified organization.... Whatever the job of an individual member, the industry-wide range of AISE activities will help him stay abreast of current technical knowledge.

— R.W. Holman, 1970 AISE President

Technological Advancements

In the aftermath of World War II, consumer demand was high, and labor and management were active in filling the country's needs. Steel technology continued to advance. The basic oxygen process, first installed in the U.S. in 1954, was a major breakthrough. Steel could now be produced in 45 minutes instead of the average nine to 10 hours required in the open hearth operation. The next several years saw increased interest in the direct reduction of iron ore as an alternative to the blast furnace and coke oven. Another advance in technology was continuous casting, which significantly streamlined production methods, reduced energy consumption, and improved product quality and yield. This process had been in the experimental stage for 10 years before significant advances in the late 1960s made possible a number of full-scale production units.

Also toward the end of the 1960s, Q-BOP — a refinement of the BOF process using oxygen blown in from the bottom instead of the top — was introduced. It improved metal yield with a lower investment cost than the traditional BOF process. These years saw, too, the development of tin-free steel for the food canning industry that substantially reduced the dependence on tin as a coating for containers.

All these developments involved the engineers and their associates who comprised AISE. The association helped to spread word of the new technical developments and continued its policy of encouraging the interchange of information among industry personnel. AISE continued to exert its influence through regularly scheduled technical sessions, expositions and publications. As always, AISE was instrumental in the successful implementation of new technology as it developed.

Continuing Growth

In 1968, William C. Friesel became the fifth Managing Director, and AISE continued to grow. During the time of his management, three new District Sections were formed (in Texas, Baltimore and Florida), and several technology divisions were established. These divisions included the Coke and Byproducts Division, the Iron Producing Division and the Oxygen Steelmaking Division. Oxygen steelmaking, as mentioned earlier, had gotten its start in 1952 in Austria and was introduced in the U.S. two years later. As usual, AISE expanded in this area because a need existed, but its focus remained on the steel plant engineers and equipment manufacturing representatives who would benefit from the change.

The membership of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers will contribute in many ways to the success of [the long-range plans of the industry], by developing...new concepts and the continual improvement of existing methods and facilities.

— J.L. Laidlaw, 1966 AISE President

Beginning in 1973, AISE took over publication of the annual *Directory of Iron and Steel Plants*, formerly published by Steel Publications Inc. of Pittsburgh. This "black book" has been one of the most valuable reference tools for industry personnel, featuring data on essentially every North American steel producer as well as a comprehensive, alphabetical listing of all major suppliers to the international iron and steel industry.

As the 1980s rolled in, Herschel B. Poole was named the sixth Managing Director of AISE. He led



In honor of the 75th anniversary of AISE, a Bessemer converter was erected at Station Square in Pittsburgh.

1968 — William C. Friesel is named the fifth Managing Director of AISE.

1970

1973 — The *Directory of Iron and Steel Plants* is first published by AISE.

1975

1979 — AISE membership reaches its all-time high of 13,250.

1980

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the association in its celebration of its 75th anniversary in 1982. In commemoration of this event, AISE erected a Bessemer converter at Station Square. Seventy-five years of dynamic industrial growth had passed, and the association had never shirked its function of trying to improve the technological aspects of making iron and steel.

The Association of Iron and Steel Engineers...has helped its members immeasurably to stay abreast of developments and to evaluate those new methods and processes which showed promise for economic gain in our industry.

— E. Kern, 1959 AISE President

In 1984 U. S. Steel Corp. approached AISE about taking on future publication of the popular reference book, *The Making, Shaping and Treating of Steel*. U. S. Steel published the first (1919) through ninth (1971) editions and thought AISE to be the appropriate organization to carry the mantle of this publication into the future. AISE worked jointly with U. S. Steel research personnel and Carnegie Mellon University to author and publish the 10th edition. In 1998, AISE transferred the rights to the MSTs to the AISE Steel Foundation, bringing in volunteer authors to write chapters for the various editions, thus broadening the scope and experience base for the 11th edition. Since then, three volumes have been published, each a comprehensive manual on a vital topic: the Ironmaking Volume, the Steelmaking and Refining Volume and the Casting Volume.



The first issue of AISE Steel Technology was published in 1999. It is pictured here with the first issue of Iron and Steel Engineer, from 1924.

By the time Lawrence G. Maloney was named the seventh Managing Director in 1991, AISE had established the Samson Scholarship and the Tadeusz Sendzimir Memorial Award, there were 15 active District Sections, and a Material Handling Systems and Technology Division had been added. In 1997 the first Project Excellence Award was given in recognition of a project that combined successful advancements in steel-making with a novel business approach. Two years

Technical Committees and their year of formation:

1907 — Electrical Engineering Division	1978 — Subcommittee No. 28 on Steel Industry Computer Applications	1994 — Subcommittee No. 37 on Continuous Casting
1910 — Subcommittee No. 6 on Electric Overhead Traveling Cranes for Steel Mill Service	1979 — Material Handling Systems and Technology Division	1995 — Subcommittee No. 38 on Project Management Program Planning
1921 — Energy and Combustion Engineering Division	1982 — Computer Applications Division	1996 — Subcommittee No. 39 on Environmental Control Technologies
1932 — Maintenance Technology Division	1982 — Subcommittee No. 29 on Materials Handling Systems and Technology	1997 — Subcommittee No. 40 on Maintenance and Reliability Strategies
1943 — Rolling Mill Division	1988 — Bar and Shape Rolling Division	1997 — Plate Rolling Division
1948 — Subcommittee No. 8 on Insulated Conductors for Crane and Auxiliary Motors	1990 — Subcommittee No. 31 on Electrical Engineering and Maintenance Applications	1998 — Subcommittee No. 41 on Rolling and Finishing Training
1949 — Subcommittee No. 9 on Design of Ladles	1991 — Subcommittee No. 32 on Basic Oxygen Furnaces	1999 — Subcommittee No. 42 on Bar and Shape Rolling Technology
1962 — Subcommittee No. 13 on Design and Construction of Mill Buildings	1991 — Environmental Engineering Division	1999 — Subcommittee No. 43 on Electric Steelmaking Technologies
1964 — Subcommittee No. 27 on Blast Furnace Technology	1992 — Electric Steelmaking Division	2000 — Product Quality Division
1973 — Coke Producing Division	1992 — Subcommittee No. 33 on Maintenance, Inspection and Repair of Torpedo Cars	2001 — Subcommittee No. 44 on Energy and Combustion Engineering
1973 — Iron Producing Division	1993 — Subcommittee No. 35 on Lubrication and Fluid Power Technology	2002 — Health and Safety Division
1973 — Oxygen Steelmaking Division	1993 — Project Management Division	2002 — Subcommittee No. 45 on Health and Safety
	1994 — Subcommittee No. 36 on Sensors	

1981 — Herschel B. Poole is named the sixth Managing Director of AISE.

1980

1982 — AISE celebrates its 75th anniversary and erects a Bessemer converter at Station Square to commemorate the steel heritage of Pittsburgh.

1985

1990 — The Tadeusz Sendzimir Medal is established to recognize steelmaking advances through the invention, development or application of new manufacturing processes or equipment.

1991 — Lawrence G. Maloney is named the seventh Managing Director of AISE.

1990

later, the AISE Reliability Achievement Award was established to recognize organizations and individuals within them who have developed, applied and proven a new practice, policy or procedure that significantly improves iron and steelmaking reliability in North America.

Mr. Maloney was instrumental in changing the name of the monthly technical journal from *Iron and Steel Engineer* to *AISE Steel Technology* to better reflect its broadened scope of topics. The first issue of *AISE Steel Technology* was published in November 1999. This was just another case of AISE being responsive to an industry constantly undergoing change.

The value of this organization to the steel industry and to this country as a whole was well demonstrated during the past six years in connection with the war effort.... With the help of the officers and members of the association, I feel certain that we will make 1947 a new peak in our 40-year history of achievement and progress.

— L.R. Milburn, 1947 AISE President

Still a Success

Despite all the transformations AISE has undergone over the years, overall the association has been a tremendous success. Ninety-six years have been witness to the development of an internationally acclaimed technical society that has been highly influential in nearly every aspect of iron and steel production. Consider the many facets of the organization as it stands today.

Currently, AISE has about 20 technical reports and engineering manuals in print, from the *Lubrication Engineers Manual* to the *Reference Handbook for EOT Cranes*. Many other AISE publications have gone out of print since they were first authored, but they served their purpose of getting information into the hands of the engineers and operators who needed it most at the time. AISE publications were instrumental in standardizing steel mill equipment and practices — certainly an accomplishment to be proud of.

The association is actively involved in such educational activities as National Engineers Week, sponsored each year by the National Society of Professional Engineers in celebration of the contributions of engineers. The weeklong event has introduced hundreds of thousands of young people to the significance of engineering in society, urging them to consider engineering as a career well before they get to the point of entering college. Many of the AISE District Sections also sponsor annual scholarships for undergraduate

students who are sons or daughters of AISE members. More than \$36,000 is awarded each year to qualifying students who plan to study engineering or a related field.

This year in Pittsburgh, AISE held its 52nd Iron and Steel Exposition in conjunction with the 96th AISE Annual Convention. This biennial event represents the industry's largest trade show in the Western Hemisphere and features more than 300 exhibitors. From its small beginnings in St. Louis in 1919, with just 20 exhibitors, the Exposition has grown into a major industrial event. It offers not only the advantage of seeing up-close the newest developments in equipment and supplies, but also the opportunity for valuable contact with peers in the industry.

Ever mindful of its mission to provide up-to-the-minute steel technology information to its members, AISE has been on-line since 1996. In developing its websites, the association again responded to the needs of the industry. The home site, www.aise.org, contains everything an AISE member needs to know about publications, upcoming events, technical committees and more. In an industry where major changes have become a day-to-day reality, SteelNews.com provides in-depth coverage on the people, producers and suppliers that are making news in the current steel community. SteelLinks.com is the only search engine dedicated exclusively to the global steel industry, with more than 11,000 links to steel producers and suppliers. In addition, the Virtual Library, at www.SteelLibrary.com, offers everyone, even nonmembers, access to over 1000 articles specifically addressing technologies of the iron and steel industry.

Additionally, in its continuing efforts to be the premier source of technical information for the iron and steel industry, AISE has sponsored more than 80 specialty conferences since 1995. Covering subjects based on the practical application of engineering and steel-making technology, these programs provide a unique opportunity for steel industry professionals to develop new skills and stay current with advancements in applied technologies. AISE's specialty conferences are designed, developed and sponsored by the association's technical committees to meet specific needs in

The coming year is shaping up as a watershed for the AISE as well as the North American steel industry. I am pleased to be able to serve the AISE as it adapts to changes in the industry and continues to play a vital role as the leader in steel technology.

— T.W. Goettge, 2002 AISE President

1997 — The first Project Excellence Award is given in recognition of a project that combines successful advancements in steelmaking with a novel business approach.

1995

1999 — The AISE Reliability Achievement Award is established to recognize the development and application of a new practice, policy or procedure that significantly improves iron and steelmaking in North America.

2000

1999 — The first issue of *AISE Steel Technology* is published in November.

2002 — Ronald E. Ashburn is named the eighth Managing Director of AISE.

2005

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the industry. Approximately 1500 industry professionals attend these programs each year, gaining vital knowledge and skills that go back into the steel mills where they work.

The success of an organization of any kind, whether it is for pleasure, education or financial return, can be measured only by its results over a period of years.

— W.S. Hall, 1922 AISEE President

Looking Ahead

Ronald E. Ashburn, the eighth Managing Director of AISE, was brought on in 2002. In the same year, AISE rededicated the Bessemer converter at its new location in Bessemer Court in Station Square. With nearly 7000 members spread across more than 50 countries, AISE had come a long way since 1907. However, the long-term ability of AISE to serve the industry was coming into question. The steel industry was being challenged from many angles, and this in turn affected the association.

In January 2003, AISE President Joseph A. Rutkowski Jr. wrote the following about the challenges facing the industry:

The challenges of our industry are so evident that they hardly need repeating: bankruptcies, legacy costs, worldwide excess production capacity, lack of access to capital, etc. There may be some who believe this is the hand we have been dealt and expect to play it out as long as possible. They will lose. When faced with tremendous challenges, we must always look at the opportunities for change.

With finances tighter than they were just a decade earlier, steel producers and suppliers now had less to spend on “extras” like association membership. But as 1982 AISE President Robert D. McBride said, “Many breakthroughs and much progress have come out of adversity. With the present problems of industry worldwide, we must recognize the opportunities that exist.”

AISE has always been on the lookout for opportunities, and this time it was no different. In 2002, the AISE Executive Committee initiated an evaluation of a possible merger between AISE and the Iron & Steel Society, in hopes that the combination would be beneficial to both the memberships and the industry. Could a successful organization be formed from two long-standing and revered associations, or would it somehow tear people in the industry apart?

In 2003, both AISE and ISS memberships voted in favor of the consolidation of the two organizations to form the Association for Iron & Steel Technology. On Jan. 1, 2004, AIST will begin to carry out the mission of advancing the technical development, production, processing and application of iron and steel. This is not much different from the mission AISE has had all along. In an AISE brochure published for the 75th anniversary, we find the following words, describing how we might face the future:

In the years ahead, members of the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers and its future members will be key people in achieving the accomplishments bound to come in this most

basic of industries. The association is pledged to continue its responsiveness to industry interests by providing an active forum for the exchange of information and ideas. Its practical approach and a membership that covers every facet of the industry make it an invaluable vehicle for the broad dissemination of innovations originated by steelmakers, researchers and suppliers. The men and women who make iron and steel have new challenges to meet. AISE expects to make significant contributions to their meeting those challenges and to be a dynamic force in seeing that the resulting solutions reach a large, diverse and influential audience.

AISE has indeed been a dynamic force in the steel industry, and AIST will be the same, continuing the endeavor of being the premier source of information for iron and steel technology. In an ever-changing and challenging industry, there will still be a place for cooperation and a concerted effort directed toward continuous improvements, just as the first AISEE President, James Farrington, envisioned it many years ago.

The greatest service the association renders to the steel industry is in providing a meeting place where the engineers of the industry can discuss their problems not only from the floor of the open meeting, but also as one personal friend to another.

— D.M. Petty, 1919 AISEE President

In Closing

AISE began in 1907 with just 28 electrical engineers, and what a success it has become since then! To the many who have made up its numbers over the years, AISE has been an organization with an unwavering focus and an open responsiveness to the industry it serves. Beginning with the safety movement and the standardization of mill equipment and practices, the association never stopped moving ahead and improving the quality of steel production.

Now the AISE name is coming to an end, but its spirit will continue as an integral part of AIST. Its members will continue to gather and talk about the latest improvements in steelmaking, only now they will have the added benefit of an increased membership base as a result of consolidating existing AISE and ISS memberships. The dissemination of technical information will continue on a monthly basis in a technical journal, *Iron & Steel Technology*. Most importantly, the fruit of James Farrington’s vision will continue to be a greater success than he ever imagined it would be.

Imagine the success we have to look forward to. Like Farrington, we all may sit back, years from now, and say, “None of us at the beginning of 2004 thought the Association for Iron & Steel Technology would grow to the size, activity and prominence that it now has attained.”

So what is the secret of success? Ask the Association of Iron and Steel Engineers. It started with a solid mission. It took time to grow. It changed when it needed to. It never gave up. And what a success it has been!

Farewell, AISE. We will see you on the other side of the door of opportunity, the door that opens to AIST.