

## II

### The First Twenty Years

1933-1953

*“Anybody can make history.  
Only a great man can write it.”*

Oscar Wilde, *Aphorisms*

## Why a Science Technology Group?

We were first organized in 1923 as the Technical Group of S. L. A. and remained so until 1926, when we and the Commerce Group combined forces as the Commercial-Technical Group. For a while this served our joint professional interests but it is interesting to look back and see clearly how the trends of research in industry were leading us into greater specializations, with the result that we came to the decision last October, at the Chicago Convention, that two distinct groups were again necessary. We leave all matters of advertising, accounting, and general business to be covered by the Commerce Group while the Science Technology Group wishes to invite to its membership all librarians and research workers interested in pure and applied science, public utilities, engineering and allied fields.

To do this, we have resorted to questionnaire, in which we indicate the first main divisions of interest, in charge of the following chairmen:

Chemistry - Mrs. Hester Wetmore, Merck and Company, Rahway, N. J.

Public Utilities - Mrs. Louise P. Dorn, Detroit Edison Company, Detroit, Michigan

Petroleum - Albert Althoff, General Petroleum Corporation of California  
Los, Angeles, California

Rubber - Edith Shearer, Western Union Telegraph Company, New York City

One may join any or all of these sections if interests warrant, and other sections may be organized as the need for them arises.

The group is at present actively engaged in a publicity and membership campaign and in compiling a directory of its active members. The officers met early in December to prepare the questionnaire from which we hope to have not only an up-to-date list of our members but especially to obtain data and suggestions for planning the program of the June Convention. Judging from the returns of our circular letter the vote is for more round table discussions on technical library problems and fewer addresses.

One of the most active committees has been that of Book Reviews which came into existence just a year ago. Jean K. Taylor, Science-Technology Division of the Queens Borough Public Library, as Chairman, is planning to distribute an informal mimeograph bulletin of technical book reviews to the Group members during the year, with a bulletin of 1933 publications for the near future.

Chairman - Louise Griepenstoh, New Jersey Bell Telephone Company, Newark, N. J.

Vice Chairman - Hester M. Wetmore, Merck and Company, Rahway, N. J.

Secretary - Florence Fuller, American Standards Association, New York City.

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**HISTORY OF THE PETROLEUM SECTION**  
**Presented by Thelma Hoffman**  
**June 1950 - Atlantic City, NJ**

Seventeen years is a long time in the history of a young and growing organization, so it seems as if, at this point in its career, a brief review of our section's past aims and accomplishments would make a good introduction to the discussion of plans for future activities.

The Petroleum Section was part of the Science-Technology Group at the time it organized as a separate group in 1933. During the next five years the main project was the establishment of an abstract journal to cover petroleum and related subjects. First under the chairmanship of Mr. Albert Althoff, the Petroleum Technical Review was started, with abstracts furnished by members of the group, but after two issues had appeared it became evident that a complete and up-to-date abstract journal was too ambitious a project for a small group of busy librarians to handle alone, and the idea was reluctantly shelved. Then, from 1935 to 1938, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joshua Smith of Standard Oil Development Company, with the matter of a petroleum abstract journal still the group's foremost concern, negotiations were carried on with the Institute of Petroleum with the idea of making the journal a cooperative venture. However we did not succeed in our efforts. Finally, in 1938, the section became inactive, officially, and remained so until 1940. Then it was reactivated, and I became chairman, but while some interest was shown in several of the proposed projects we did not succeed in getting any of them really organized. With the outbreak of the war, our members became far too busy with their own libraries and contributions to the war effort to spare time for any extensive section activity.

In 1942 Miss Miriam Treffersen, later Mrs. Miriam Friend, of the M.W. Kellogg Company became chairman. In 1944 members of our section cooperated in the project of indexing patents in the field of petroleum for the wartime publication "Abstracts of Patents Vested in the Alien Property Custodian". For the period of 1946 to 1948 Mr. Morrie Schoengold of Standard Oil Development Company was our chairman, and under his guidance the chief concern was the arrangement of good programs for the 1947 and 1948 conventions, no small task, as we all know. Mr. Jurgen Raymond of Sinclair Oil Corporation has been our chairman since 1948. Again during this period the question of some sort of cooperative abstract service has been under consideration.

The Archives contain little in the way of accounts of our section's activities, and memories are far from infallible, so I am afraid that I may not have included all the worth-while achievements of our section in this brief review. Let me apologize now for any such omissions, and please help us to complete our record by letting us know of items that should have been mentioned.

In summarizing the section's history to date, I think it would be fair to say that, aside from issuing an occasional membership list, the chief activities have been the preparation of interesting, and profitable programs for the conventions and the consideration of possible ways and means for providing some sort of a specialized petroleum abstract journal or service that would be efficient and comprehensive enough to justify its existence in competition with existing journals and services and now it is time to consider the future.

We have a membership of 120, of whom 80, representing 45 different libraries, are actively engaged in petroleum library work. This seems like an excellent size for an active group, and certainly we have as much in common as the members of any other group. Of course it is most important that we have interesting and informative convention programs but this activity utilizes the talents and zeal of relatively few members, and benefits only a small percentage of our membership directly.

It is obvious that in order to be a live and vigorous section we should develop some useful cooperative project in which the membership as a whole could take part. All of us in the S-T Group look with admiration at the Pharmaceutical Section with its worth-while projects, particularly its useful publication "Unlisted Drugs". In his recent letter to our section's membership Mr. Raymond has suggested a simple and sound fundamental organization. For the proposed activities committee it might be suggested that one member take up the problem of working with other societies with the aim of setting up some sort of cooperative abstracting service. This might well be our long-range project, since the desire and need for such a service has been expressed repeatedly throughout the years of the group's existence. Meanwhile it would be most encouraging to make a fresh start with a project that is not too ambitious, and one that could be actually completed in the near future, say in a year or two.

PETROLEUM SECTION. ANNUAL REPORT, 1949-1950.

The Los Angeles meeting of the Petroleum Section, held on June 14, 1949, was attended by some persons. A paper by Dr. Arthur B. Johnson on "Services in Petroleum Libraries" was followed by a general discussion of the topic, "Cooperative Abstracting for Petroleum Libraries." Miss Thelma Hoffman and Mrs. Margaret M. Rocq initiated the discussion by brief talks on the "pros" and "cons" of the subject. The meeting voted against further study by the Section.

The Petroleum Section has been largely inactive during the year. Since the Section has moved along passively for some years, except for annual program meetings, it seems high time to pause and seriously take stock of its purposes and activities.

For this reason, no program meeting has been scheduled for the Atlantic City convention. In its stead, a business meeting will be held, at which an attempt will be made to reactivate the Section through better organization and the planning of an activities program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jurgen G. Raymond  
Chairman

To Members of the Petroleum Section:

It has become a matter of great concern to those of us who are sincerely interested in the Petroleum of the Special Libraries Association that the Section hardly seems to justify its present existence. Limiting its activities to a single annual program meeting, of benefit only to members attending that meeting, the Section has barely managed to keep alive for some years. It seems high time for the Section to pause in order to take stock of its usefulness.

The present membership of the Section is 120, of which 80 may be considered as being petroleum librarians. Some 45 petroleum librarians are represented. Such a membership seems quite adequate and should be strong enough to guarantee an active Section.

Careful consideration would seem to indicate that the answer lies in better organization and planning. The Section simply cannot expect to achieve very much in the way of activity as long as all responsibility rests upon the shoulders of one busy individual (the chairman), who usually feels that he has performed his duty to the Section when he has managed to schedule a program for the annual meeting.

To this end, the Petroleum Section will devote its time at the Atlantic City convention to a business meeting, rather than the usual program meeting. This meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon June 14. A serious attempt will be made at this meeting to examine the aims and activities of the Section and to organize it to better advantage.

The following simple organization has been suggested. The Section should have a vice-chairman (chairman-elect) to insure good continuity. It should have two small standing committees, a program committee responsible for the annual meeting program, and an activities committee to sponsor and promote various activities and projects. The chairman of the Section could act as the chairman of one committee, the chairman-elect as chairman of the other. This would give the Section a closely-knit organization, with an active chairman-elect as well as an active chairman.

How do you feel about the Petroleum Section? Would you like to see it more active? Do you think that the Section can be profitably reactivated? If so, then how? In the final analysis, yours will be the determining voice at Atlantic City, but only if your opinions are expressed! So bring your ideas to the Convention or, if you are not going to Atlantic City, won't you please express them to me in writing, either at this address, or in care of the Haddon-Hall Hotel, Atlantic City, N.J., before June 14.

The success of some of the other Sections within the S-T Group has been due in no small part to cooperative work on various projects. Eighty petroleum librarians must have a good many problems in common which, if solved by cooperative effort, would benefit many of us. For example, a few days ago your chairman received a request for a subject-heading list from another petroleum library and he was forced to reply that he knew of no good petroleum list and that he had been forced to construct his own authority when he came into the field.

Other projects which have been suggested include: the compilation of a list of periodicals carrying information on petroleum in earlier years (say before 1915), the compilation of a complete list of sources for abstracts covering the petroleum field, the compilation of a good guide to current petroleum statistics, the establishment of a duplicate exchange, and the construction of a good classification system for petroleum libraries. You can probably think of many others. What are they? What kind of a tool do you need?

The time is now! If you are interested in the Petroleum Section, won't you please write me your ideas and suggestions?

Sincerely yours,

Jurgen G. Raymond, Chairman

Jurgen G. Raymond, Librarian  
Sinclair Oil Corporation  
Room 2515, 630 Fifth Avenue  
New York 20, N.Y.

MINUTES OF THE PETROLEUM SECTION, SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY DIVISION,  
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, ATLANTIC CITY, JUNE 14, 1950

(These minutes speak for themselves. However, for those members of the Section who may not otherwise take the trouble to read them we should like to stress the importance of this meeting. A real effort was made to organize the Section for greater efficiency and activity and to initiate a definite program of projects to stimulate the interest of the Section members.)

REASON FOR  
MEETING

The Chairman opened the meeting by explaining that no regular program had been planned in order that the full time be available for a business meeting. A sufficient number of replies had been received to his circular letter of May 22 to show that the membership favored a business meeting for the purpose of organizing the Section to better advantage and to decide upon a program of activity as a means of putting new life into the Section.

HISTORY OF  
SECTION

Miss Thelma Hoffman, a former chairman of the Section, then spoke briefly on the history of the Section and recommended that as a beginning a project be undertaken that could be completed within a relatively short time. In this way the Section members would be able to see some concrete results without having to wait too long. This would serve as encouragement and incentive to the members.

Discussion next followed on the most desirable method of organizing the Section. The consensus of opinion favored the simple plan proposed by the Chairman in his letter of May 22, and as a result the following plan of organization was adopted by the meeting:

1. The Section will have a chairman and a vice-chairman who will be the chairman-elect. These officers will normally be elected by the Section, however, for 1950-1951 the Chairman of the Science-Technology Division will appoint them. In future years the members will vote for a vice-chairman who will succeed the chairman the following year. (Although no machinery was set up by the meeting to govern this election, it is suggested here that a nominating committee composed of the chairman and the vice-chairman of the Division, be prepared to present the names of two candidates to the Section. A mail vote would seem preferable in view of the number of members attending the annual meetings as compared with the total membership of the Section.)
2. There shall be two standing committees, a program committee and an activities committee.  
The Program Committee shall be responsible for planning the program of the annual meeting of the Section.  
The Activities Committee shall be responsible for planning and promoting various activities and projects of benefit and interest to the Section and its members.  
The chairman of the Section shall be the chairman of the Activities Committee, and the vice-chairman of the Section shall be the chairman of the Program Committee.  
Each committee shall consist of three members, including its chairman, and each chairman shall choose the other two members of his committee.

3. The vice-chairman shall serve as secretary at the annual meeting. However, if the vice-chairman is not present at the meeting a secretary shall be appointed from among those present by the chairman.

It was pointed out by the Chairman that such an organization, although extremely simple in nature, would still provide the Section with (a) a necessary core of officers to share responsibility, (b) continuity of office, (c) assured annual programs, and (d) planned projects or other activities.

#### COOPERATIVE ABSTRACTING

The Chairman reported that the question of a cooperative abstracting service for petroleum libraries (which had been discussed in 1949 at Los Angeles) was under consideration by the Committee on Petroleum Products of the American Petroleum Institute's Division of Refining and that a policy subcommittee had reported favorably on it at the Cleveland meeting in May of the Committee on Petroleum Products.

#### ACTIVITIES

The balance of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of activities and projects which would be of real benefit and interest to the Section. The following suggestions had been made in letters received by the Chairman prior to the meeting.

1. The establishment of a duplicate exchange.
2. The publication of a membership list of the Section.
3. The compilation of a glossary of petroleum terms.
4. The compilation of a source list for petroleum statistics.
5. The compilation of a union list of periodicals.
6. The construction of a basic petroleum subject-authority list.
7. The construction of a petroleum classification.
8. The compilation of a list of petroleum journals published prior to 1915.
9. The compilation of an index to flow sheets.
10. The compilation of a list of sources of petroleum abstracts.
11. The compilation of a list of trade names.
12. The compilation of an index to published patent surveys on specific subjects.
13. The establishment of a central library for less used material.

It was voted that these suggestions be turned over to the new Activities Committee and that this committee question the membership as to its preferences. Those present at the meeting showed preference for nos. 1,3,10,11,6,and 8 (in that order).

FIRST PROJECT

It was voted that the first project to be undertaken by the Section should be the establishment of a duplicate exchange. The new activities Committee was charged with initiating this project. Various suggestions were made as to how the exchange should be operated, among which were:

1. That the Activities Committee experiment with ways and means of handling the exchange.
2. That each contributing library should make up its own list.
3. That the material be limited to petroleum journals.
4. That lists be sent to contributing libraries only, but not to individuals.
5. That the Tulsa Public Library be asked to participate.
6. That lists be made up twice yearly - if agreeable to the Activities Committee.
7. That a self-addressed, stamped manila folder or large envelope be included with each list sent in.
8. That a special committee be appointed to govern the exchange after the exchange has been started. The members of this committee should have terms of two to three years.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jurgen G. Raymond  
P a s t - C h a i r m a n ,  
Petroleum Section

Special Libraries Association  
Petroleum Section

HISTORY OF THE PETROLEUM SECTION, SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION, 1950-1952.

By: Mignon Gill  
Universal Oil Products Company

1950 Jurgen Raymond, Chairman, devoted the 1950 Atlantic City meeting to organization of the section to better advantage and deciding upon a program of activities. Thelma Hoffman gave a history of the section. The following plan was adopted:

The section will have a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman who is automatically Chairman-Elect. There shall be an Activities Committee headed by the Chairman and a Program Committee headed by the Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Raymond reported that a cooperative abstracting service for petroleum libraries was under consideration by the Committee on Petroleum Products of the API's Division of Refining.

Some 13 possible projects were discussed. Establishment of a Duplicate Exchange was selected as the first project.

1951 Louise Jackson, Chairman, presided over the 1951 meeting in St. Paul. She reported interest in the Duplicate Exchange project which she had handled, and she also distributed a new list of members. The following program, arranged by Mignon Gill, Vice-Chairman, was presented:

Margaret Miller Rocq, Standard Oil Co. of California. "Applications of work simplification techniques in a petroleum library".

Eugenia Ironside, Shell Development Company. "Daily list of current literature received".

Mignon Gill, Universal Oil Products Company. "Training a staff for technical work in a petroleum research library". Also a short, "A simple method for handling clippings".

It was voted to continue the Duplicate Exchange project, and to initiate a new project, the compilation of a list of titles of glossaries covering petroleum industry terms (excluding those limited to refining, since API was already engaged in preparing a refining glossary).

1952 Mignon Gill was the 1952 Chairman. Kate Ornsen, Vice-Chairman, arranged a splendid program which included a trip to API headquarters, and a two-day round-table discussion between petroleum librarians and industry representatives as follows:

Dr. C.L. Thomas and Dr. J.M. Pearson, Sun Oil Company  
Thelma Hoffman, Shell Development Company  
F.W. Mann and S.J. Bragg, Continental Oil Company  
Wallace West, API  
Clara Miller, Imperial Oil Company  
G.H.B. Davis, Standard Oil Company  
Virginia Weaver, Stanolind Oil and Gas Company

The program also included participation in a meeting with the Chemistry and Engineering-Aeronautics, wherein Hugh Field of Atlantic Refining Company represented the Petroleum Section. All the talks were so outstanding that the section's convention chairman arranged for their presentation as a PROCEEDINGS as a cooperative venture by several of the members.

Sidney Bragg reported success of the Duplicate Exchange project. Accordingly it was voted to continue this project.

Mignon Gill reported that the Glossary project yielded a list of nearly 100 titles, which it is hoped may be published in a petroleum journal.

Jurgen Raymond said that plans for a cooperative abstracting service were nearing completion.

Standard Oil (N.J.) librarians were hosts at a cocktail party.

Officers elected for 1952-53: Kate C. Ornsen, Sun Oil Company, Chairman; Sidney J. Bragg, Continental Oil Company, Vice-Chairman and Chairman-Elect; and Betty Hale, Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Secretary.

**THE 1953-1954 REPORT OF THE PETROLEUM SECTION CHAIRMAN  
TO THE SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY DIVISION**

Our new project, "World Petroleum Congress speaker", was declared an addition to the Petroleum Section projects for 1953 by your chairman in November. The spark of genius originated with Paul Allen in September and was developed by proposing that a paper be given by one of our special librarians at the World Petroleum Congress in Venice in 1955. The proposition was discussed with the American Petroleum Institute in October, and the Institute declined to consider sponsorship in any manner.

The Science Technology Division assisted us and offered support exclusive of financial help. Our proposal was made to Standard Oil Development Company who passed on our suggestion to the "permanent council and the Italian organizing committee" in January. Paul Allen accepted the assignment, and we anticipate that Standard Oil Development Company will sponsor his trip to Venice should his paper be accepted. Mr. D.F. Brown has been nominated for alternate speaker, and Miss Kate Ornsen has been nominated as second alternate speaker. Further developments will be reported at the annual meeting.

Miss Helene Matsen was appointed as our representative on S.L.A. awards committee, because she finished the work on the project that was left undone when Miss Hart was taken sick. The Petroleum Section is grateful to Miss Matsen for carrying on the work without interruption, and formal appointment by your chairman was announced to the awards project chairman, Miss Firth, on February 8, 1954.

We pause in grateful acknowledgement of the work done by Miss M.B. Hart and express the sorrow felt by all members of the Petroleum Section at her death.

The slate of candidates for the 1954 election of officers was accepted from the nominating committee and passed to the secretary. Chairman, Florian McKnight, suggested early balloting due to vacation schedules and notification of all candidates by the chairman in advance of the convention date, and she has served us well in this essential assignment.

The convention program as arranged by vice chairman, Mary Banker, and congratulations on the fine program were expressed by all committees. Particular appreciation is expressed for her work in preparation of convention wide programs for the Cincinnati meeting.

Our secretary-treasurer, Anne C. Tripp, reports that ballots have been mailed and that Mignon Gill has accepted the assignment of chief teller. We especially appreciate the work done by our secretary to increase the membership of the section and for mailing our convention flier with the ballots.

The results of our duplicate exchange of periodicals were reported as excellent in September, and the second duplicate exchange was completed in April. Chairman, Mary Frances Dreese, reports that twelve libraries participated in both fall and spring exchanges and thirty libraries participated in one of the exchanges. The same method was used as in the previous exchanges; however 40 duplicate lists were submitted at a specific date by those wishing to participate. Only duplicate periodicals, pamphlets, and books are listed; and a suggestion was received that the first announcement each year state definitely that pamphlets, documents, and books shall be included in the exchange. Many persons express their sentiment of this project as "worth while, helpful, most willing to participate." We congratulate chairman, Mary Frances Dreese, also president of the Kansas City chapter, for conclusion of an excellent job.

The petroleum libraries project chairman, Sam Smoot, reported that 10 added inquiries were made to petroleum libraries outside the United States, and three replies have been received in addition to the 10 previously reported. A decision on issuing the results of this excellent survey or continuation for larger coverage will be requested by the chairman at our annual meeting.

The Petroleum Section Proceedings of Vol. 1, No. 2, were issued in new format by courtesy of Continental Oil Company. Yearly publication of the proceedings are recommended.

Our membership total was reported as 211 with ten nonaffiliations being canvassed by the secretary.

The balance in our allotment funds is \$32.80.

Petroleum - S.J. Bragg  
May 1, 1954

Cincinnati, Ohio  
May 18, 1954

The project "World Petroleum Congress Speaker" was unhappily completed by an announcement that the Petroleum Section would not be permitted to present a paper at the World Petroleum Congress in 1955.

Our membership total was reported as 228 members. The members elected the following officers for 1954-55:

Miss Mary E. Banker, Atlantic Refining Company,  
Chairman

Mrs. Margaret M. Rocq, Standard Oil of California, Vice  
Chairman

Miss Barbara A. Crowley, Shell Development Company,  
Secretary-Treasurer

I have no further additions to make.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sidney J. Bragg, Chairman