



## Report of the 1979 President

Willaim H. Wise

In its 109th year, AIME has continued its tradition of growth, achievement and service to its members and to the nation.

On January 1, 1979, AIME membership totalled 68,670; on January 1, 1980, total membership was 73,001, an increase of 4,331 members, or 6.3 percent. Only ten years ago, when the decade of the '70's began, AIME membership stood at 48,000.

Financially, AIME did very well in 1979 in a time of sharply increasing costs and budgetary restraints. Balance sheet assets increased by 15.3 percent to \$13,281,295. Overall the Institute enjoyed a healthy Wilham H. Wise President, 1979 surplus, in spite of modest deficits experienced by two Constituent Societies.

One of the primary functions of a professional society is to provide a forum for the dissemination of new knowledge. In 1979 AIME units conducted some 23 technical meetings and conferences and participated in 15 additional conferences with other organizations. The Fall Meetings of the Constituent Societies reached new attendance records; the 108th Annual Meeting in New Orleans was equally successful. The Offshore Technology Conference, managed by the Society of Petroleum Engineers of AIME, continues as the largest technical conference in the world.

Thirty-four new book titles were issued in 1979, adding to AIME's valuable contribution to the world's technical literature. In addition, a wide range of high-quality member service programs were conducted in the areas of public affairs, technical information exchange and continuing education.

During the year, 52 Honors and Awards were presented throughout the Institute in recognition of distinguished achievement in our profession.

The year 1979 also saw the establishment of a new unity organization for the engineering profession, the American Association of Engineering Societies. AIME, along with its four fellow engineering Founder Societies ASCE (civil), ASME (mechanical), IEEE (electrical and

electronics) and AIChE (chemical), spearheaded this three-year effort toward combining presently existing engineering federations into one effective organization to handle professionwide issues. AAES was officially established on December 13, 1979, and launched at a formal inaugural ceremony in Washington, D.C., on January 3, 1980.

It was my special privilege as President of AIME in 1979 to participate in the dedications of our two new Society headquarters buildings. The ISS/TMS building in Warrendale, Pennsylvania, was dedicated on June 13; the dedication ceremony for the new SME building in Littleton, Colorado, took place on November 7. These buildings, while providing excellent facilities for our Society staffs, have added considerably to the overall assets of the Institute. SPE continues to occupy newly-expanded rental facilities in Dallas. AIME Headquarters remains in the United Engineering Center in New York because of contractual arrangements with the other Founder Societies with whom AIME shares ownership of the building. The Institute now employs over 100 full time staff members, only eight of whom still work in New York.

During my term as President of AIME, I have learned a great deal about the Institute's unique structure and its inner workings, and I have come to appreciate just how very well it does work. AIME is a diverse and complex organization encompassing some 35 fields of engineering and technology. Its Constituent Society structure is based on this diversity and designed to provide service to members who share a particular interest; the Institute Headquarters promotes and provides support for the similarities and mutual interests shared by all AIME members, regardless of their Society affiliation.

Over the years, AIME's ability to adapt to changing circumstances has made it a strong, viable organization for the advancement of knowledge and the efficient extraction and production of the world's minerals, materials and fuels. The Institute must maintain its strength and dedication to meet the unknown challenges of the future.

*William H. Wise*