

345 EAST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 AREA CODE 212 752-6800

March 11, 1969

Mr. Laurens E. Whittimore
166 Kings Dale Road
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15221

Dear Mr. Whittimore:

We learned through Ivan Coggeshall that you had a card file on data relating to the history of the IRE. I suspect Mr. Pratt, Chairman of the IEEE History Committee, will be interested in this although we have not yet heard from him.

Nelson Hibshman, retired AIEE Executive Secretary, is presently working on a history of the merger that formed the IEEE. I let him know of the existence of this file. As you will note from the enclosed letter, he does not feel he has need to look over the file itself, but he is very interested to learn if you have any information relating to early AIEE/IRE relations - especially early discussions of consolidation of the two societies.

If you have any information along these lines, Mr. Hibshman would appreciate being made acquainted with it. Feel free to contact him directly or through me.

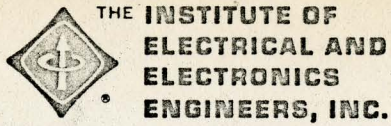
Most Sincerely,

WRC/cec

W. R. Crone
Staff Secretary
IEEE History Committee

cc: N. Hibshman

11.58.549



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February 25, 1969

Mr. I. S. Coggeshall
670 Maywood Avenue
Maywood, N. J. 07607

Dear Coggie:

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter of February 21 to Mr. Pratt.

It occurs to me that Nelson Hibshman might be interested in looking over the material that Mr. Whittemore has assembled. He has mentioned referring to the Whittemore articles as he has researched the history of the merger. As you may know, he is covering some of the history of the IEEE's predecessor societies.

I'm sending Nelson a copy of your letter with a carbon of this one. If he expresses interest in examining the Whittemore file, I'll follow through as necessary.

Your question to Mr. Pratt as to whether the Whittemore file is appropriate for the IEEE archives would, I presume, remain a relevant question regardless of Nelson's interest in the file for his specific purposes.

Most sincerely,

W. R. Crone
Staff Secretary
IEEE History Committee

WRC/jw

cc: H. Pratt
N. Hibshman ✓



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Ivan S. Coggeshall
670 Maywood Avenue
Maywood, N. J. 07607

45 EAST 47TH STREET, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017 AREA CODE 212 PLAZA 2-6800

February 21, 1969

The Honorable Haraden Pratt
Chairman, IEEE History Committee
2612 N. E. 7th Street
Pompano Beach, Florida 33062

Dear Haraden:

At the North Jersey Section's annual Fellows Night, last week, I was table companion of Laurens E. Whittemore, once of the office of President of A.T.&T., now retired. You will recall that for many years he compiled an annual technical review which was a feature of the Proceedings of the I.R.E.

He also wrote the unsigned lead article: "The Genesis of the I.R.E.," which appeared in the 40th Anniversary issue of the Proceedings; and ten years later expanded it, over his signature, in the article: "The Institute of Radio Engineers—Fifty Years of Service," beginning on page 534 of the 50th Anniversary issue, May 1962, and running some 20 pages.

Laurens tells me that, in preparing these articles he worked from factual data entered on cards, and that he is now faced with the problem of disposition of the card file. Included in the file is much historical material perforce omitted from the articles because of space limitations. He hates to throw it out if anyone in authority in IEEE sees value in its preservation.

I told him that I'd get in touch with you about it. The file is of modest bulk, perhaps conforming to the specification, I thought, you had used as a rule of thumb in deciding what the Institute was prepared to accept and store as archival material, vs. what it was compelled to reject for lack of room.

Laurens looks upon Emily Sirjane, deep-sea fisherman, as his "anchor-to-windward," and if he doesn't hear from you, his disposition is to ship his cards to her and leave her holding the catch. He holds her in such high regard that he can do this with a clear conscience! (May she be with us forever.)

Very truly yours,

cc: Miss Sirjane
✓ Reed Crone
Mr. Whittemore
ISC for file

Coggie