

Observations on Some of the Events Leading to the Formation of ASTM Committee E-14

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Harold F. Wiley, not to be confused with William C. Wiley of time-of-flight fame, worked for Consolidated Electrodynamics Corporation from the early 40s. Consequently, he was ‘on the scene’ during early developments, both at CEC and the formation of Committee E-14 on Mass Spectrometry and Allied Topics of the American Society for Testing and Materials. On the occasion of the 20th Annual Conference, it was only natural that he be asked to say a few words at the Conference Banquet about the origins of the meeting and the travails of early mass spectrometrists.

Wiley used a bit of wit to inject some life into what could have otherwise been a dull recitation of the facts surrounding the establishment of the Committee. It is testimony to his clever use of humor that his remarks today are as fresh and entertaining as they were 30 years ago. I’m sure that today, at one time or another, most of us have the same feelings about ‘the oracle’ that Wiley related in his banquet speech.

