

Credits, A History of the History

The History of Science in Virginia Committee deserves much more credit in connection with developing an account of the history of the Academy than has been given. In 1963 this committee was made up of Dr. Isabel Boggs, Chairman, Dr. I. F. Lewis, General Edwin Cox, Dr. G. W. Jeffers, Dr. W. G. Guy and Dr. Sidney S. Negus. Dr. George W. Jeffers, of the committee, prepared a manuscript entitled "History of the Virginia Academy of Science" with the preface being written May 3, 1963. The original was sent to Dr. Russell Rowlett, Academy Secretary, before he left Virginia in 1964. This was done with the thought that Dr. Rowlett would edit and see the History through publication, but events served to prevent this. This copy of Dr. Jeffers' history apparently went to the Archives of the Academy when Dr. Rowlett left Virginia. On the second page of the first chapter of "A History of the Virginia Academy of Science, 1923-45," author H. J. Staggers writes "Dr. George W. Jeffers, President of the Virginia Academy of Science 1941-42, and the man responsible for collecting much of the information dealing with the Academy's history . . . , and thereafter frequently quotes Jeffers' unpublished manuscript.

In 1966 and 1967 the Publications Committee was under some pressure to get a history of the Academy written and into print. This committee knew, of course, of the Academy's History of Science Committee, but did not know one of its members had already prepared a history. The two committees should have been in closer contact, but unfortunately were not. The Publications Committee arranged to have Mr. H. J. Staggers, a graduate student in History at the College of William and Mary, write a history of the Academy for his Master's thesis. The first issue of Volume 19 of the *Journal* for 1968 published Mr. Staggers' paper dealing with the Academy history through 1945. Before this paper appeared in print, the Publications Committee had arranged for Mr. Staggers—by this time a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania—to write the history of the Academy for the years following 1945. In the summer of 1967 Mr. Staggers prepared three additional chapters, carrying the Academy history into the year 1966.

After the first three chapters of the history appeared in print, Dr. Jeffers sent W. S. Flory, then Chairman of the Publications Committee, a copy of his history. So far as can be recalled, references to the Jeffers' manuscript in Chapter I of Mr. Staggers' history was the first that anyone on the Publications Committee knew of the Jeffers manuscript.

Dr. Jeffers' manuscript is carefully and interestingly written. It is well organized. The writer was familiar with many of the leaders, and knew—first-hand—much of the early history of the Academy. The Jeffers manuscript carries a feeling of the 'life' of the Academy, and also contains much more detail concerning the early meetings and actions of the Academy than does the present history. It presents much detail about the early leaders, about Academy objectives, and about the sections of the Academy. Much of the material in the Jeffers manuscript is not contained in the present history. Accordingly, it should be carefully preserved, in published or other form, by the Academy.

At the 1972 fall meeting of Academy officers and committees at Lynchburg, the Publications Committee requested W. S. Flory to revise and rewrite the material first prepared by Mr. Staggers in 1967, and to complete the history for publication—prior to the 1973 50th Anniversary meeting. Accordingly, Chapters IV and V have been revised and largely rewritten. The same is true of Chapter VI, and in the case of VI, this chapter has been extended so that it now covers the history not just from 1960-66, but entirely through the sixties. Chapters VII and VIII have been entirely written by Flory. However, several of the items treated in Chapter VIII are based directly on tables first prepared by Dr. Jeffers and present in his manuscript. Dr. Jeffers had prepared the Chapter VIII material found in Tables 3, 7, 8 and 9 up to 1960, or a little later, and the more recent parts of these tables were added by Flory. The material in the section on Necrology was also started and carried through 1960 by Dr. Jeffers.

It is evident that Dr. George Jeffers has played a large and significant role in

making the present history possible. Further, he has been kind enough to read, review, criticize and correct much of the material revised or written by Flory. Dr. Elton C. Cocke of Wake Forest University, another long-time Academy member, and a much more proficient grammarian than the writer, has also been most generous in reading, reviewing and criticizing Chapters IV through VIII. The writer is much indebted to both Dr. Jeffers and Dr. Cocke for their kindly and constructive criticisms.

It is clear that the present history is due to the efforts of many persons.

W.S.F.