

Oral Contributions

[MS42-05] My first ECM meeting was the Fourth, held in Oxford, England in 1977. Since then I have attended 21 of the 28 ECMs. In the early days, attendees would ask me what was an American doing at an ECM but they became accustomed to my presence and my ubiquitous camera. For me the meeting sites in old European cities with diverse cultures and traditions held a powerful attraction, but equally important was the crystallographic content of the meetings, which in general was broader in scope than that of the American Crystallographic Association (founded in 1949). While I am not a particularly talented photographer, I am tenacious and determined. I began taking dozens and then hundreds of photos of speakers, their families, audiences, receptions, banquets, dances, and excursions at meetings of the ACA, ECM, and AsCA and congresses of the IUCr. People were very tolerant of the presence of my camera but repeatedly asked when they were going to see these pictures. When Andre Authier asked me to be the founding editor of the Newsletter of the International Union of Crystallography in 1993, my collection of photos became a valuable resource. As part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the founding of the IUCr at the Congress in Osaka, Japan (2005), Yuigi Ohashi asked me to organize an exhibition of a photographic history of crystallography. With contributions from many others including a large collection from Syd Hall, 180 posters were prepared including two dozen from ECM meetings. Many of those posters are on display at this meeting. The full collection of my photographs are being placed on the IUCr website and a collection of highlights will be presented at the session on the History of the ECM.