

75th ABM Annual Congress

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It was 78 years ago, in 1944, that a group of Brazilian metallurgists decided to create a society dedicated to exchanging experience, opinions and knowledge in this dynamic field of engineering [1]. Many people took part in this milestone in Brazilian metallurgy. Since the late 1930's Robert Mehl had been promoting the integration of Brazil and the US in the field of metals and metallurgy [2]. He was head of the Department of Metallurgical Engineering at Carnegie Institute of Technology and had a deep interest in the science underlying problems of industrial importance [3]. Mehl devoted much time to establishing contacts with the metallurgical industry and with leading industrial metallurgists. In Brazil he found a group of engineers similarly interested and had a seminal role both in the development of the Metallurgical Engineering course at USP and on the foundation of ABM. Many notable Brazilian names took part in this endeavor [1].

One of the important activities of ABM, from the start, were its meetings. In 1944's general meeting of ABM, referred to as the "Congressinho"¹, seven technical contributions and a talk by Prof Mehl were presented. The 1st ABM Conference or "Congresso Anual" was held in São Paulo and Volta Redonda, May 14-21, 1945 [4].

As membership in ABM grew, the Congresso expanded in scope and number of participants and during the last 75 years, has been a constant in the life of the Society. The ABM International Annual Conference became a meeting point for all members: students, industry professionals, academia, all interacting in an open and cordial way during these "Congressos". A substantial number of ABM members have joined the society when they were in their final University years and looked forward to an opportunity of presenting their work and meeting other members, at ABM Conferences, to share their experiences and to having their

work published either in Proceedings or in the prestigious ABM publications.

During the years, the number of meetings sponsored by the Society expanded, covering thematic meetings in Steelmaking, Reduction, Rolling and many others. Furthermore, ABM has created ENEMET, a meeting focused on students, with short courses, interviews and plenary lectures. To keep interaction and networking to a maximum, ABM has, in recent years, joined the "Congresso" and all other events in a single Meeting, "ABM Week". The 6th ABM Week was held in São Paulo in 2022. During this event, the 75th International Annual Conference was also held. ABM Week had more than 1700 participants and the 75th Conference hosted more than 350 presentations including three invited lectures to commemorate the event. The present issue of TMM is dedicated to commemorating the 75 years of the ABM International Conference. The proceedings of the conference are published yearly and all papers presented receive a Digital Object Identifier and are available on line after about 30 days of the end of the conference.

The ABM International Conference is an extremely friendly event, where presentations are always discussed in a very positive and constructive way and where experience is continuously exchanged between academia, students and industry professionals as was certainly the aim of ABM founding members.

As a member of the organizing committee of the 76th Conference that will be held in São Paulo during the 7th ABM week I am pleased to invite you to join us during this outstanding week in early August 2023. You can find all information about this wonderful event: in: <https://www.abmbrasil.com.br/eng/evento/abm-week-7-edicao>.

References

1. Recontando a história [Internet]. [citado 10 de setembro de 2022]. Disponível em: https://www.abmbrasil.com.br/pdf/NovoPortal_AInstituicao_Almanaque.pdf
2. Meyers MA, Monteiro SN. The Third Pan American Materials Congress: Integrating Materials Across the Americas. JOM. outubro de 2017;69(10):2019–21.
3. C. S. SMITH, W. W. MULLINS. Robert Franklin Mehl in Biographical memoirs. Volume 78. Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences; 2000. pg 129.
4. Primeiro Congresso Anual da Associação Brasileira de Metais. Geologia e Mineração. (Boletim número 1):101–6.

¹In Portuguese, the diminutive is frequently used to refer warmly to something, not necessarily taking its size in consideration.

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