

A History of this History

May R. Berenbaum

*Department of Entomology, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA
maybe@illinois.edu*

Phyllis G. Weintraub

*Agricultural Research Organization, Gilat Research Center, Israel
pgweintraub@gmail.com*

When entomologists write about history, more often than not the time span of interest is on the order of millions of years and the subjects of their scholarship have six legs. Although, generally speaking, they are far less interested in their own history, this book is the exception to prove the rule.

Since 1910, entomologists from around the world have traveled (often great distances and via uncomfortable and inconvenient means) to a mutually agreed-upon place to attend the International Congress of Entomology, to share their fascination with insects and their relatives with like-minded colleagues in languages that have not always been mutually comprehensible. That these gatherings are worthy of remembering in a more permanent way was a concept independently arrived more or less concurrently in several far-flung places a few years ago.

In August 2010, to mark the first 100 years from the inaugural congress in Brussels in 1910, Max Whitten (Australia), an honorary member of Council and a past secretary (1988–1996) and chair (1996–2000), prepared an elementary overview of the congresses and posted it online (Whitten 2010). Some of the early history of the first five decades of congresses had been recounted by N. D. Riley (1955) and W. R. Thompson (1956). Max's intention was to work with James Ridsdill-Smith, also an honorary member of Council and secretary/treasurer (2008–2016), to follow up with a more substantial document for the 2012 ICE XXIV in Daegu, Korea.

Entirely independently, May Berenbaum (United States), Council member (2008–2016) and current ICE chair (2016–present), happened to notice in 2010 that the 100th anniversary of ICE passed without ceremony. Despite having been a member of the ICE Council for only two years at that time, she felt a need to share some ICE history to mark the occasion for readers of *American Entomologist* (Berenbaum 2010).

May was thrilled to discover in the process of preparing the manuscript that the Biology Library across the street from her office on campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) had an almost-complete run of the Proceedings of the early congresses. Even though many of the volumes were dusty, fragile, and often written in languages she hadn't studied