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Mr. Rolf G. Kuehni
Mobay, Chemical Dept.
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P.O. Drawer 2855
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Dear Rolf:

A meeting on the history of color should be very interesting. And you make a good co-chairman, for I know of your interest in the subject.

My first thought on receiving your invitation of November 30 was to say No. Facilities are so very limited for me to do any real checking, etc. etc. But then I thought that it might interest ISCC members to go back over the highlights of some of my experiences with progress in colorimetry, experiences that I had encountered since my introduction to the color field in 1921.

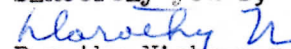
In those days spectrophotometry was more theory than practice; colorimetry had few standards; instruments were few, and highly specialized. Then came Gibson's work that helped standardize the luminosity curve, and Priest's work that made it feasible to standardize white light, studies that helped lay the foundation for the consequent adoption in 1931 of CIE standards for colorimetry. In the 20's Carl Keuffel developed a simple direct-reading visual spectrophotometer; disk colorimetry was developed; then came Arthur Hardy's instrument that quite revolutionized the possibilities for color measurement and standardization. The OSA's committee on colorimetry was a marvellous, and very active, means for educating its members in the psycho-physical measurements involved in providing any real basis for studying and understanding color.

I could put together a brief paper recalling some of the highlights of what I judge from my own experiences have made history in the field of colorimetry. A tentative title might be: COLOR HISTORY: Remembered Highlights, (or some better title to indicate the same coverage). If such a paper would fit into your program, I will be glad to start putting it together. If it does not, please do not hesitate to say so.

Meanwhile I suggest that you ask Dave MacAdam for a paper. I know that he has been going over some back history in preparing for his Judd Award lecture, and has been following up since on some of this. We have had correspondence re Judd's thoughts about a number of studies we did in the early days - thoughts regarding uniform space, color-difference formulas, their meanings, etc. - important points made in early papers that now seem forgotten, or are overlooked. He plans to put some of this material together for a paper, but doesn't yet know how soon. I believe it is material that would be most suitable for your program. I have sent him copies of 1939-early 40's correspondence with E.Q. Adams and Judd that could very properly fit into an historical note.

All good wishes for your successful development of a "History" program. I shall be among the first to sign up to hear it!

Sincerely yours,


Dorothy Nickerson