



# RIPON COLLEGE

RIPON, WISCONSIN

Chemistry Department  
Farr Hall of Science

June 24, 1964

Dr. Wilmer Stratton  
Department of Chemistry  
Earlham College  
Richmond, Indiana

Dear Wilmer:

Thanks for your invitation to be chairman of a session on the "Content of the Advanced Inorganic Course" at the fall MACTLAC meeting. Although (or perhaps because) my own ideas on this topic are not clearly defined at the moment, I shall be happy to chair the meeting and see what ideas develop. I have the feeling that at the moment the advanced inorganic course is asked to satisfy a multitude of objectives which vary from school to school. Moreover, I think that this variability may be required by the variations in the programs preceding the advanced inorganic course. My own inclination is to consider

- (a) Those topics which belong uniquely to the advanced inorganic course;
- (b) Those topics which may appear in the advanced inorganic course because they are significant objectives of the overall undergraduate program but are not taught elsewhere in the curriculum.

Under the circumstances, I think we should have as resource people teachers of advanced inorganic who base their courses on significantly different curricula and who teach in significantly different situations. I'm not well enough acquainted with the men in the variety of schools represented to pick resource people without doing some homework but would choose them along the lines indicated. In response to your question about Chris Nielsen, I think he would be a fine representative of the small college preparing students to meet graduate school requirements starting with a relatively low-paced elementary program. Chris has had complete control of the chemistry curriculum and has met the problem of the presentation of inorganic chemistry at various points in the curriculum.

I think it would be desirable to have at least one graduate school representative, particularly to help define what students should have when they arrive at graduate school. I would hope for a person who would recognize that we were interested in the trends in graduate school expectations and policies as only one factor we must consider in establishing the undergraduate curriculum. I would like to have a man who seemed reasonably balanced between descriptive and laboratory chemistry on the one hand and theoretical chemistry on the other. Certainly Drago could speak for the former point of view, but I don't know him well enough to know his competence or attitudes to theory.

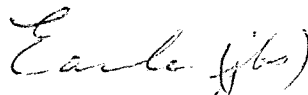
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I hadn't heard of your impending visit to Illinois. Congratulations! I'm sure you will enjoy it and find it stimulating. The tone of the Illinois inorganic group is established to a large degree by tradition and by Dr. Bailar and both of these operate to make it a pleasant and productive place. I hope it meets your expectations.

I've tried for a half hour or so to write a paragraph for your notice of the meeting and find that I can't select the items of significance without more thought. I'll send the paragraph along within the week. I'll also try to track down some suggestions for resource people.

Best wishes to you and Becky and to the rest of the department members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Earle S. Scott". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Earle S. Scott