

KONOCIDE CLUB

Antedating the American Industrial Hygiene Association by seven years was the Konocide Club.⁽¹⁾ This was organized at a meeting at the Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, Pa., early in 1932. It was small but, as its first mailing list shows, it included in its membership most of the Industrial Hygienists of its day. (Copy of First Mailing List). The purpose of the Club was "to have occasional meetings to discuss research problems on the relation of dust to health." The Konocide Club was completely informal, having no dues and no officers except a secretary, which position was filled by Philip Drinker during the life of the Club. It had no schedule of meetings but would "meet anywhere or any time any member desires and can persuade at least one other member not in his own organization to meet with him." In spite of this policy, there were a number of meetings with a pre-established program. (copies of meetings announcements). It is to be regretted that the material reported at these meetings could not have been recorded, at least for posterity. There were few in the country except the audience, particularly in the early years, who had any immediate interest in the subject. In July 1940, the membership was (July 1940 Member List). As expressed by Philip Drinker, "Not long after this we disbanded without fuss or fanfare. We started the same way."

To the Konocide Club, or possibly more appropriately to its individual members, goes the credit for laying the foundation for the Industrial Hygiene of today.

(1) Information and documents of the Konocide Club supplied by Philip Drinker.

JJ Ferry
6/60