Otmar Dossenbach was born in Switzerland in 1942 into a typical Swiss situation: his father had a cheese dairy. However, Otmar preferred science to cheese making and studied chemical technology at ETH Zürich where he got his doctoral degree for a thesis on turbulent mass transfer at the rotating disk electrode under the supervision of Professor Norbert Ibl. – He spent his professional life at the Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences of ETH, first in Norbert Ibl's group and later in another research group at the same institute. He was involved in various research projects covering areas such as electrochemical engineering (mass transport, cell design, electrolytic gas evolution), metal deposition (mass transport effects, pulse plating), electrochemical reduction in vat dyeing processes. An important part of his work was teaching in the undergraduate chemical engineering program. Over the years he has taught mass and heat balances, chemical engineering thermodynamics, mass and heat transport, fluid dynamics, industrial inorganic processes, electrochemical engineering and applied electrochemistry.

My years with ISE
In 1979 Rudolf Keller moved from Switzerland to the USA and decided to resign from his position as ISE Treasurer. At that time it seemed to be self-evident that his successor should again be a person living in Switzerland. Dieter Landolt, Secretary General of ISE, together with Norbert Ibl, a former Secretary General, Treasurer and President of ISE, persuaded me to accept the office of Treasurer. Rudolf Keller handed a box with file cards – one for each of the 550 members – over to me. These cards contained the name and the address of the member and allowed to note payment of the dues. The 1980 Annual Meeting in Venice was my first Meeting as an ISE officer, it was followed by 22 more. – In 1982 the box with the file cards was replaced by an electronic database on a Commodore PET computer. This made life much easier since it allowed to print address labels and the membership directory, and quite generally facilitated substantially the management of the membership roster. As a consequence most of the administrative tasks were assigned to the Treasurer who operated what was from then on called the «ISE Business Office». – Naturally the ICT tools used followed the advancement of technology. In 1986 ISE purchased its first PC, an Olivetti M24 with a 20 (twenty!) MB hard disk. It allowed to use a commercial database software. In the 1990s email replaced fax as a means of communication with the membership. Subsequently, I designed the first ISE website which at the beginning required formatting text using HTML code. However, despite email and website letter post was still common until 2000.

The tasks of the Business Office included managing the membership roster, the society finances, and journal subscriptions; supporting President and Secretary General in the preparation of meetings, reports, elections and votes; coordinating Society activities; distributing information, etc. Over the 20 years from 1980 to 2000, in which period the membership increased from 550 to about 1200 persons, the workload had grown steadily. Except for a small amount of secretarial assistance this has always been a one-man spare-time work. I spent most of my evenings and a substantial part of my weekends at the Office, located in the basement of my house. A change became necessary. I took up the newly created position of Executive Secretary, and a new Treasurer was elected. The workload was not reduced by this change, but compensation became possible. Two years later I decided to resign, one reason among others was that I increasingly felt uncomfortable with the fact that the ISE Office depended entirely upon me. While data backup was always done carefully, there was no backup for my person. The Business Office was then entrusted to Fontismedia in Lausanne, which now provides a stable and highly professional administration. The office of Executive Secretary was put in the best of hands with Marco Musiani from Padova.