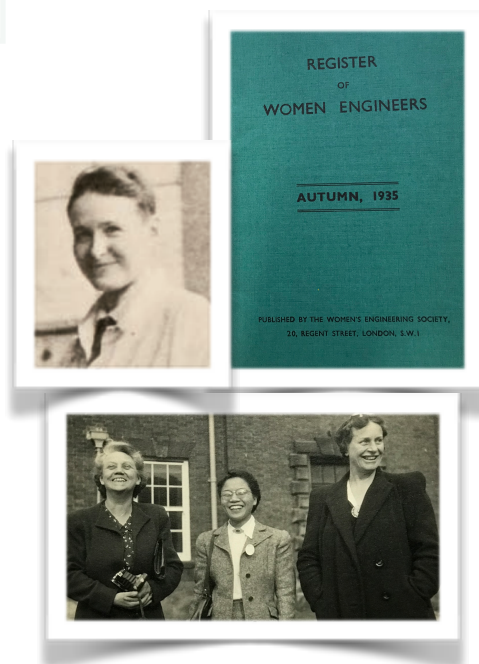


Electrifying Women 5 Key Themes: Further Information

NETWORKING

The [Women's Engineering Society](#) (WES), founded in the UK in 1919, was the first society of its kind in the world (for example, [the equivalent in the USA, the Society for Women Engineers \(SWE\), was not founded until 1950](#)) so from the outset it attracted an **international membership**. This created an international network of women engineers. The 1935 register of women engineers tells us more about the lives of these members, read more in this [blog post](#). International members included German engineer [Ira Rischowski](#) (pictured), a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, who fled to Britain before World War Two. You can read more about her life [here](#). Conferences organised by WES and the SWE, such as ICWES, were a chance for women engineers from across the world to come together and share their experiences, you can learn more about this [here](#) and [here](#).



WES's journal [The Woman Engineer](#) (which has been fully digitised from 1919 until 2014) was an important way that the large network of members was maintained.

It contained technical engineering articles, but also news about members and guest articles, including from internal members such as German engineer [Aste Hampe](#) (pictured left).

Undoubtedly the networking abilities of WES's first secretary [Caroline Haslett](#) (1894-1957) were crucial to the society's early success. She served as WES president in 1941 and played a key role in the founding of the [Electrical Association for Women](#). She edited many publications and served as a board member of a range of different councils and bodies in her lifetime. She championed women's rights in engineering and business, bringing together various different women, leading to important collaborations. In 1947, she was made a Dame of the British Empire. You can learn more about her incredible career in a [dedicated section on the IET's online exhibition about women in engineering](#).

