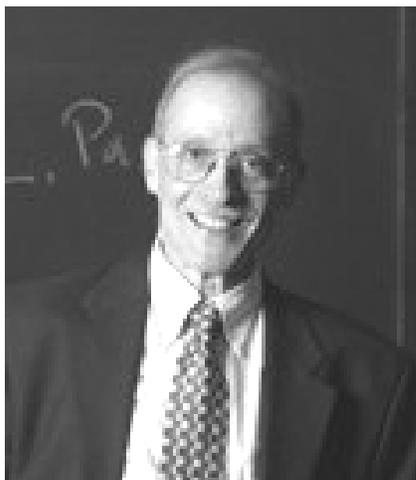


Seymour Mauskopf (1938–



Seymour Mauskopf was born on November 11, 1938 in Cleveland, Ohio. When he began his undergraduate education at Cornell University, his original plans were to pursue a degree in chemistry with the intention of becoming a doctor, but that changed when he realized his love for history. "Despite my ability to do well in the sciences, it was history that I found inspiring." He graduated from Cornell in 1960 with a B.A. in history and a strong background in chemistry. He then went to Princeton, receiving his M.A. in 1962. Mauskopf began teaching the history of science at Duke in 1964 as an instructor in the department of history and spent his entire career there. After earning his Ph.D. in the history of science from Princeton University in 1966 he was promoted to assistant professor, followed by associate professor (1972–1980) and professor (1980 to date). On his fortieth anniversary he remarked that he "still anticipates

that first day of the school year when he walks into the classroom to engage and challenge a new group of students."

Mauskopf's research interests in the history of science are quite varied. They include the history of chemistry and allied sciences in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; the history of chemical technology, focusing on munitions and explosives; and the history of parapsychology and marginal science.

Mauskopf has authored numerous papers including most recently: "The Chemical Revolution" in *Reader's Guide to the History of Science* (2000); "Richard Kirwan's Phlogiston Theory: Its Success and Fate," *Ambix* (2002); "Calorimeters and Crushers: The Development of Instruments for Measuring the Behavior of Military Powder" in *Scientific Instruments and Warfare* (2003); "Chemistry in the Arsenal: State Regulation and Scientific Methodology of Gunpowder in Eighteenth-Century England and France," in *The Heirs of Archimedes: Science and the Art of War through the Age of Enlightenment* (2005); and "Pellets, Pebbles and Prisms: Suiting Black Powder For Scaled-Up Guns in English Munitions, 1860–1880" in *Gunpowder: The History of an International Technology* Vol. 2 (2006).

Mauskopf has written or edited the following books: *Crystals and Compounds: Molecular Structure and Composition in Nineteenth Century French Science* (1976); *The Reception of Unconventional Science by the Scientific Community* (ed., 1979); *The Elusive Science: Origins of Experimental Psychological Research 1915–1940* (with M. R. McVaugh, 1980); and *Chemical Sciences in the Modern World* (ed., 1993).

Mauskopf was awarded the first Edelstein International Fellowship in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technology from the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, and The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in 1988–1989. He was the recipient of a National Science Foundation Fellowship and a Hagley Fellowship from the Hagley Museum in 1992, and was a Charles C. Price Fellow in Polymer History at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in 2000. He received the Dexter Award in 1998 for his contributions to the history of chemistry and chemical technology.

Sources

Autobiographical information provided by Seymour Mauskopf. His home page is at <http://fds.duke.edu/db/aas/history/shmaus>.

Jennifer Mathot, "Four Decades of Teaching History," Duke University Press Release, July 30, 2002: http://www.dukenews.duke.edu/2004/07/mauskopf_0704.html.

Photo courtesy of Seymour Mauskopf.