

Alan J. Roche (1948–



Alan J. Roche was born on September 20, 1948 near Chicago, Illinois. He graduated with a B.A. in chemistry from Beloit College in 1969. After two years of post-graduate study in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, he entered the Department of History of Science there, obtaining his Ph.D. in 1975.

In 1978 Roche accepted a position at Case Western Reserve University as assistant professor of history of science and technology in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies. In 1984 he was promoted to associate professor and in 1993 to professor of history. Roche is currently Henry Eldridge Bourne Professor of History. He was chair of the Department of History (1995–1998). Roche specializes in European chemistry during the 19th century. His expertise includes history of atomic theory, structure theory, organic chemistry, and science in Germany and France. He teaches courses in world history, history of science, and science and society in such areas as environmental, food, and energy technologies, and nuclear weapons and arms control.

Roche has written over forty articles in refereed journals and books including: "Atoms and Equivalents: The Early Development of the Chemical Atomic Theory," *Historical Studies in the Physical Sciences* 9 (1978): 225–263; "Gay-Lussac and Dumas: Adherents of the Avogadro-Ampère Hypothesis?" *Isis* 69 (1978): 595–600; "Kekulé, Butlerov, and the Historiography of the Theory of Chemical Structure," *British Journal for the History of Science* 14 (1981): 27–57; "Subatomic Speculations and the Origin of Structure Theory," *Ambix* 30 (1983): 1–18; "Hypothesis and Experiment in the Early Development of Kekulé's Benzene Theory," *Annals of Science* 42 (1985): 355–381; "Pride and Prejudice in Chemistry: Chauvinism and the Pursuit of Science," *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* 13-14 (1993): 29–40; "Organic Analysis in Comparative Perspective: Liebig, Dumas, and Berzelius, 1811-1840," in T. Levere and F. L. Holmes, eds., *Instruments and Experimentation in the History of Chemistry* (2000); "The Theory of Chemical Structure and its Applications," chapter 13 in Vol. 5, *Modern Physical and Mathematical Sciences* (ed. M. J. Nye) of *The Cambridge History of Science*, ed. D. C. Lindberg and R. L. Numbers (2003), 255–271; "Origins and Spread of the 'Giessen Model' in University Science, 1826-1876," *Ambix* 50 (2003): 90–115; and "In Search of Eldorado: John Dalton and the Origins of Atomic Theory," *Social Research* 72 (2005): 125–158.

Roche's books include: *Chemical Atomism in the Nineteenth Century: From Dalton to Cannizzaro* (1984); *The Quiet Revolution: Hermann Kolbe and the Science of Organic Chemistry* (1993); A. J. Roche and E. Heuser, eds., *Justus von Liebig und Hermann Kolbe in Ihren Briefen, 1846–1873* (1994); and *Nationalizing Science: Adolphe Wurtz and the Battle for French Chemistry* (2001).

Roche received the Jack Youden Prize from the American Society for Quality Control (1982), the Carl F. Wittke Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at Case Western Reserve (1988), and the Outstanding Paper Award from the American Chemical Society History of Chemistry Division (1992). He was named Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2000, in which year he was also recipient of the Dexter Award. In 2002, he received the Liebig-Wöhler Freundschafts-Preis, given by the William Lewicki Foundation of the Göttingen Chemical Society.

Sources

Autobiographical information provided by Alan J. Roche. His web page is at <http://www.case.edu/artsci/hsty/roche.html>

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