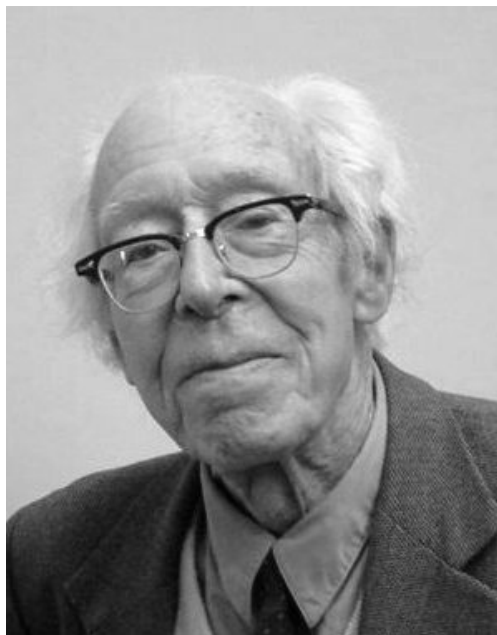


John T. Stock (1911–2005)



John T. Stock was born on January 26, 1911 in Margate, England. He received his B.Sc. in chemistry, physics, and mathematics in 1939 and his B.Sc. Honors Chemistry degree in 1941 from London University. In 1944 he earned his M.Sc. in electrochemistry and in 1949 his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry, both from London University. Stock also received his D.Sc. in analytical and electrochemistry in 1965 from London University.

Following extensive periods in industry and with the British Ministry of Supply, Stock became vice principal of Norwood Technical College, London. He received the Robert Blair Award for overseas study in 1954, which he spent in research at the University of Minnesota. Stock came to the University of Connecticut in 1956, and retired in 1979 when he was named professor emeritus.

Stock's love of history began in elementary school with his first visit to the London Science Museum. But he maintained that he was "a chemist who was interested in history, not an historian who was interested in chemistry." After his

retirement he remained an active scholar in the history of chemistry, both in Connecticut and at the London Science Museum, of which he was an honorary research fellow. He recalled this long association in a 2004 paper, "Pilgrim's Progress; The London Science Museum," which surveyed the development of the Museum since his first visit in 1919.

Stock had several interests including the study and preservation of historic chemical apparatus and the international aspects of the history of chemistry. He had a passion to "chronicle the accomplishments of some of the people involved in developing the discipline of chemistry, in the hope that today's students won't think that these techniques and instrumentation sprang fully developed from nowhere." An extensive sideline to his teaching was the development of apparatus and techniques, published in the *Journal of Chemical Education* and elsewhere.

Through his long career Stock published more than 300 scientific papers and several books and monographs on various scientific topics. After his retirement he made 40 oral presentations at national meetings of the American Chemical Society and published more than 70 papers, all on the history of chemistry. Some of his interests are reflected in his papers published in the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*: "The Genesis of Electrogravimetry (1990), "Early Industrial pH Measurement and Control" (1991), Max Le Blanc's Studies on Electrolytic Polarization (1998), "George Augustus Hulett: From Liquid Crystals to Standard Cell" (2000), and "Reciprocal Solubility Influence in Salt Mixtures: The Contributions of Walther Nernst and Arthur Noyes" (2001).

Stock's books include: *Small-Scale Inorganic Qualitative Analysis* (with P. Heath, 1954); *Development of the Chemical Balance* (1969); *Amperometric Titrations* (1975); *The Development of Instruments to Measure Electric Current* (with D. Vaughan, 1986); *The History and Preservation of Chemical Instrumentation* (1986); *Electrochemistry, Past and Present* (with Mary Virginia Orna, 1989), and *Ostwald's American Students: Apparatus, Techniques and Careers* (2003). This last book, published when he was in his nineties, was the result of five years of research in Germany, England and the United States. It was dedicated to the faculty, staff and students of the University of Connecticut chemistry department, reflecting his fondness for the department and the university.

Stock was a life member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the Royal Institution. He received the University of Connecticut Alumni Association Award for Excellence in Teaching (1977), the Dexter Award (1992), the Division of the History Chemistry Certificate of Appreciation (2001) and the Chemical Heritage Foundation's first Donor Appreciation Award (2004) for twenty years of donations to that organization.

Stock died on February 6, 2005 after a brief illness. According to the Connecticut Valley Section of the American Chemical Society, John Stock "will be remembered as an exceptional chemist, a celebrated chemical historian, an educator, and a dear friend to all who knew him."

Sources

David Bauman, "History of Chemistry is Emeritus Professor's Stock in Trade," University of Connecticut *Advance on the Web*, Sept. 22, 2003: <http://advance.uconn.edu/2003/030922/03092207.htm>.

John T. Stock, "Pilgrim's Progress: The London Science Museum. A Chemical Reminiscence," *Chemical Heritage* 22 No.3 (2004): 1–11, 38–39.

Anon, "John T. Stock," *News from the Department of Chemistry, University of Connecticut*, 3 No. 2 (2005): 5.

Autobiographical information provided by John T. Stock.

Photo courtesy of John T. Stock.