

Chemistry at Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge, the book contains eight essays. The authors represent a good mix of practicing chemists and professional historians of science and the historical orientation of the essays themselves ranges from the conceptual (the origins of conformational analysis, optical activity and organic nomenclature) to the disciplinary (origins of the physical organic chemistry community) and the philosophical (convention versus ontology in 19th century organic chemistry). The book is typeset with excellent integration of the illustrations and figures and a uniform format for each essay. Evidence of careful editing is present on every page and, to top it off, the book is reasonably priced.

Indeed, it is difficult to find anything to criticize. As a half-hearted attempt, one might point out that two of the essays, that dealing with the sugar industry in Louisiana and that dealing with chemical trivia, do stretch the central theme a bit, being more properly examples of industrial-analytical chemistry and - well - chemical trivia! But both essays are so well done and entertaining that one would have to be a heartless curmudgeon to object to their inclusion. In short, this is an excellent, affordable volume which belongs on the shelves of all chemists with an interest in the development of their science.

A special discount coupon for members of the Division wishing to order this volume can be found on the back cover.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What do you think of when your thoughts turn to HIST? I invite you to look at our Division with me.

HIST is one of the smallest of the 32 divisions of the ACS (current membership 700), and, while there is strength in numbers, as the cliché says, various measures of division quality show HIST to have unusual strengths in spite of its size. Membership has been growing steadily, as a result of effective promotion by Al Kirsch, past membership chair and now Chair-Elect of the Division. Ray Seymour, newly-elected Alternate Councilor for HIST, has agreed to accept the additional responsibilities of membership chair. I expect our roll of members to continue to grow.

Budgeting is important to all divisions, and a major part of HIST's income is the annual allocation from the National Society. Divisional allocations are based on three variables: total membership; responses to the question on national meeting registration forms, "Which division's program influenced you most to attend?"; and reported attendance at national meeting sessions sponsored by the division. HIST



James G. Traynham
1988 Chair

ranks sixth among the 32 divisions in the allocation per member. That ranking indicates to me that the imaginative programming by Mary Virginia Orna, our Program Chair, pays off, in every sense. The implication of that allocation seems even more applaudable when one reflects that most HIST members probably are members of other divisions, too, and divide their attendance time among them. The HIST programming for the meeting in Toronto in June, both symposia and general papers, is so appealing that our allocation rank may even go higher. Remember to record HIST on your meeting registration form: It pays.

The Dexter Chemical Company, through the commitment of Dr. Sidney Edelstein, Chairman of the Board, and Dr. David Abrahams, President, annually awards a plaque and \$2,000 to a Dexter Awardee selected by a committee of HIST. This award is not one of those administered by the National Society office, but it is the only one given through an ACS unit for outstanding accomplishments in the history of chemistry. I am glad that HIST has such a direct involvement in this significant award.

HIST also presents an annual award (plaque and \$100) to the author of the paper judged to be the outstanding paper presented at a national meeting in a general papers session sponsored by HIST. The HIST Program Committee members, assisted by a few other persons, take the responsibility of reading manuscripts of general papers before the meetings, of listening to the presentations, and of evaluating them and selecting the award winner. The restriction of the award to general session papers is a recent action by the Executive Committee and is intended to

encourage participation in those sessions. The titles of some general papers for the Toronto meeting assure rewards: surely for attendees, perhaps for authors.

This separate newsletter is a fresh venture for HIST and the product of the can-do spirit and dedication of our busy Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Jensen. Previously included in *CHOC News*, the newsletter can now be published on a regular schedule that directly serves HIST members and can be expanded to include additional features. It may become a favored publication possibility for papers identified with awards made through HIST. Bill's desk-top publishing capability makes it possible. We hope that you are pleased with it.

You will soon be asked to vote on some amendments to the Division's By-laws. The proposed amendments have been reviewed by the Society Committee on Constitution and By-laws, as required. Because of the superb work on them by Jane Miller, they passed review easily. Only a few minor wording changes were suggested for clarification and consistency. Further work on the Division's Constitution and By-laws to bring them and practice into better accord is being continued by Bob Goldsmith, immediate Past-Chairman, and Jane Miller.

Since the creation of the Center for the History of Chemistry (now the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, BCHOC), there has been close interaction between the Center and HIST. Jeff Sturchio, former Associate Director of BCHOC, was an effective liaison member of the HIST Executive Committee. He has now moved from BCHOC to AT&T Bell Labs, to head up its Archives and Records Management Services, and Arnold Thackray, Director of BCHOC, has agreed to serve on the HIST Executive Committee as liaison to BCHOC. I am pleased that we shall be able to continue the close ties that have been so fruitful for both HIST and BCHOC.

Each division of ACS is unique in its interests, but HIST's uniqueness is associated with its having a finger in every other division. The history of their chemistry is HIST's focus, as jointly sponsored symposia indicate. The history of HIST has been neglected, however, and this year we shall begin the office of Historian of the Division. We, more than any other division, have the responsibility to set the pattern of reclamation, development, and preservation of Division memorabilia. I am delighted to report that Jim Bohning, the 1986 Division Chair, will, in the language of the theater, create the role of historian of HIST.

A colleague of mine recently added to the clippings and cartoons on his office door a bumper-sticker-like item that said: Physics happens. I wanted to add: - but chemistry depends on chemists. HIST, in particular, is involved in unveiling and enlivening the archival records, both formal and informal, of that dependence. That's why I am a member.

At the New Orleans meeting of the ACS last year, the Council Committee on Divisional Activities adopted a new document about divisions. Included in that document is a "Statement of Purpose" which states that divisions are organized to:

1. Provide a forum for the presentation of original research results in the areas of their expertise.
2. Provide members of the division and the Society as a whole with the latest information on advances in these areas.
3. Provide a forum for the exchange of technical information and expertise.
4. Provide members with a sense of identity.
5. Promote the status of the area of expertise, and of persons interested in this area.
6. Build and increase the interest of members in special areas of chemistry and, thus, in the American Chemical Society as a whole.

I invite your suggestions for enhancing HIST's appeal and effectiveness.

James G. Traynham, Louisiana State University

FAREWELL FROM THE PAST CHAIR

This is my final note as your chair for 1987. I wish to report to you that we did indeed have a very good year in nearly all areas. The programs under the direction of our Program Chair, M. V. Orna, included the symposium on carbocation chemistry, the history of chemical industry in Louisiana, the development of physical chemistry, the Kasmir Fajans session and our extended symposium on archeological chemistry, all of which were highly successful. The chemistry trivia session had a great location and was accessible to nearly everyone. Many thanks to all the organizers, symposium coordinators, presenters of papers, the program committee and all others who were involved in this effort.

Our membership increased about 8% under the leadership of our Membership Chair, Al Kirsch. Administratively, much has been done this past year that should help in the efficient operation of the division. Under the leadership of Jane Miller, our by-law changes were approved by the board, submitted to the ACS and returned with virtually no changes. A committee on by-laws, consisting of Dr. Miller and myself, was set up. The Dexter Award procedures were spelled out. The newsletter is being shifted to separate production. The cachet committee's terms were normalized and the division made a long-term commitment to the program and the presidential papers series. Arrangements with CHOC regarding booth operation were worked out, thanks to Jim Bohning, who also deserves credit for his work on the cachet program with his fellow committee