

\* *True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses* (Cosponsored by SChB).

Minneapolis .... 21-26 April 1991

\* *General Papers*. Contact M. V. Orna (see address above).

\* *True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses* (Cosponsored by SChB).

New York .... 25-30 August 1991

\* *General Papers*. Contact M. V. Orna (see address above).

\* *Chemistry and Crime III - Forensic Methods: Past, Present and Future*. Organized by S. M. Gerber, Color Consultants, 70 Hillcrest Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836, Phone (201) 356-4721; Richard Saferstein, New Jersey Forensic Laboratory, P.O. Box 7068, West Trenton, NJ 08825, Phone (609) 882-2000, Ext. 2692.

\* *True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses* (Cosponsored by SChB).

San Francisco .... 5-10 April 1992

\* *General Papers*. Contact M. V. Orna (see address above).

\* *True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses* (Cosponsored by SChB).

Geneva .... (Date to be Announced)

\* *100th Anniversary of the Geneva Conference*. Organized by J. G. Traynham, Department of Chemistry, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803-1804, Phone (504) 388-3459.

#### Tentative Future Symposia

(Please contact M. V. Orna if you are interested in organizing or participating in the following.)

- \* *Development Side of Inventions and Discoveries*.
- \* *Impact Issue: Biotechnology in Our Lives*.
- \* *History of Environmental Pollution and Federal Regulations*.
- \* *Emil Fischer and a Century of Carbohydrate Chemistry*.
- \* *History of Pyrotechnics*.
- \* *History of Food Chemistry*.
- \* *History of RDS Research*.
- \* *Chemistry Potpourri*.

Note: The cosponsored symposia indicated with parentheses

will have their primary sponsorships by the divisions so named and the programs will appear under their respective divisional headings.

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\* *Historian*: James J. Bohning, Department of Chemistry, Wilkes College, Wilkes Barre, PA 18766, Phone: (717) 824-4651.

\* *Member-at-Large*: Jeffrey L. Sturchio, Archives & Records Management Services, AT&T Bell Labs/WVA201, 5 Reinman Road, Warren, NJ 07060, Phone: (201) 756-1591.

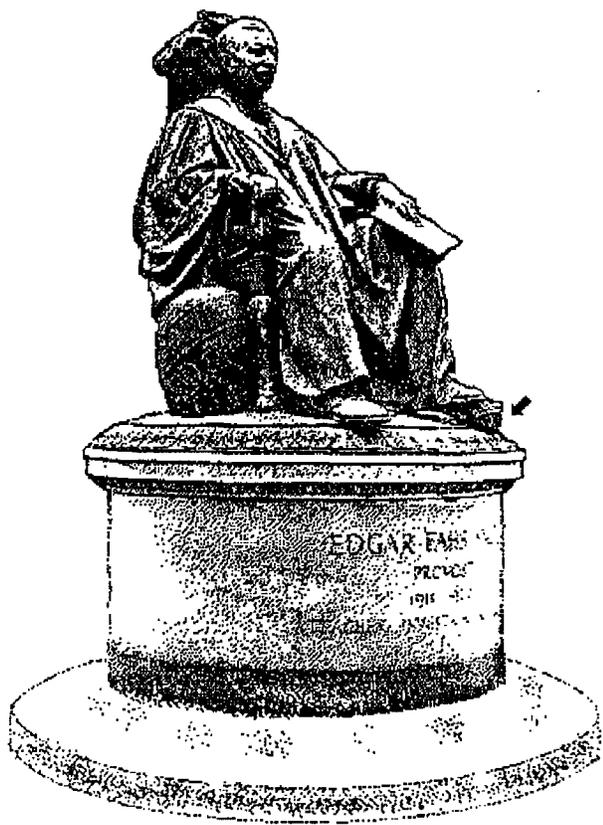
\* *Member-at-Large*: Arnold Thackray, BCHOC, 215 South 34th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104, Phone: (215) 898-4896.

#### PARTING SHOTS

##### The Monster Under Edgar's Foot

Edgar Fahs Smith, President of the American Chemical Society in 1895 and again in 1921-1922, and co-founder of the Division of the History of Chemistry, is immortalized in a statue on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania,

located on 34th Street between Walnut and Spruce Streets. Not surprisingly, it is adjacent to Smith Hall and marks one terminus of Smith Walk.



Edgar F. Smith statue with monster under foot (arrow)

In September of 1984, HIST's Dexter Award Luncheon was held just a few blocks away at the La Terrasse Restaurant on Sansom Street. After that affair a group of HIST "luminaries" stopped in front of the statue to pay homage to their Division's creator. Replete with appropriate chemical symbols, this rendition of Smith includes a feature that was inexplicable to the visiting chemical historians - a gargoyle was peering out at them from under Smith's left foot!

The solution to this riddle was subsequently solved with a visit to the University of Pennsylvania Archives, located in an abandoned rifle range under the stands of Franklin Field, where the following information was uncovered with the assistance of Associate University Archivist, Hamilton Elliott.

Smith's national chemical reputation was relatively well-

known, through his research, his active association with the ACS, and his collection of historical books and artifacts of chemical interest. But at the University he was also revered as a teacher and highly skilled administrator, serving as vice provost and provost for a total of 22 years.

Several years after Smith's retirement in 1920, University Trustee John C. Bell commissioned Dr. R. Tait McKenzie, noted sculptor and Director of Penn's Department of Physical Education, to execute an eight-foot bronze effigy of Smith that would repose on a stone pedestal designed by Master Architect, Horace Trumbauer. The unveiling exercises took place on Alumni Day, 12 June 1926, immediately after the Penn-Princeton baseball game (Penn won, 9 to 3). Many classes "went in a body to pay their tribute" while "scores of individual alumni came singly and in groups."

In presenting the statue to the University, Mr. Bell expounded at great length on the meaning of the simple inscription carved below the name - "TEACHER. INVESTIGATOR. FRIEND." Citing Smith's "personification of unselfishness" and his service to "numbers of struggling students", Bell's relentless hyperbole culminated in an oratorical crescendo, terminating with testimony that bordered on beatification: "Incapable of an unkind act - yes, I believe, of even an unkind thought, I personally never have known a more nearly Christ-like man than Edgar Fahs Smith."

In accepting the monument for the University, Provost Penniman predicted that it would "continue among us after he and we shall have passed into the great beyond. He sits there," declared the Provost, "in characteristic pose, looking out upon scenes in the midst of which most of his life was spent." Rising to similar heights of grandiloquence achieved earlier by Bell, the Provost proclaimed that "along this street



A close-up of Edgar's monster

will walk in years to come those who never had that privilege [to know him] ... but to them as to us this statue will bring thoughts of the greatness to which a man's life may attain if it is devoted unselfishly to the discovery of laws ... of matter and force" and "the laws that govern human happiness and are founded upon the eternal verities of spiritual truth."

More than sixty years later, Smith still casts his gaze out on the Penn campus, seated on an 18th century Master's chair presented to him by former students. Dalton's chemical symbols are etched in the glass carboy standing on his right side. A stack of books inscribed with the titles of his principal contributions to science and the history of chemistry is placed at his left side. And, *his left foot continues to crush a monster signifying Error!*

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## PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

### Nouveau Journal de Chimie

History of science, and especially that of chemistry, remains underdeveloped in most textbooks. This is unfortunate, since a knowledge of the historical development of chemistry can play a role in educating public opinion concerning the positive impact of chemistry on our daily lives. It is also useful in attracting bright young people into chemistry and in justifying the funding of fundamental research. Teaching chemistry at various levels also requires a sound knowledge of the development of chemistry in the past, as well as in the present.

The *Nouveau Journal de Chimie* is attempting to address these needs to some extent in its "Chemical PastTimes / Petite Chronique Archeologique" series. However, since the *Nouveau Journal de Chimie* is neither a history of science nor a philosophy of science journal, it does not intend to compete with the historical articles published from time to time in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, nor does it wish to absorb the overflow of historical and philosophical contributions from other existing journals, such as *Ambix* or *Isis*. Its basic intent is rather to present case histories illustrating interdisciplinary transfers from one sphere of knowledge to another, whether these be between different branches of science or between science and the humanities and arts, and whether the transfers

involve subject matter, methodology, or both.

A second goal is to place on record materials of interest to future historians. Consequently, we are extremely interested in publishing first-person accounts of such transfers. However, in so doing, we want to steer clear of both internalist and externalist illusions. Contributions should refrain from projecting a Romantic heroic image of major scientists, as well as from the opposite caricature of scientific advances being entirely socially-determined. Authors should also avoid falling victim to the "Whig" conception of scientific history as being unidirectionally progressive, since it is felt that our readership are prepared for more sophisticated viewpoints.

Though the basic intent is to "squeeze" from the history of our discipline a sense of continuity with other fields, other types of contributions are also welcome. For example, textual analysis of the scientific discourse is an extremely powerful tool, and we would love to publish case studies displaying its full register.

The style of the contributions should be unhesitatingly entertaining. We want these short articles to be highly readable and therefore to combine clear and logical argument, impeccable scholarship, and levity of writing. This is not to say that "Chemical PastTimes" papers should be lightweight. On the contrary, their logic, their intellectual rigor, and their scholarship should be of the highest standard. Authors should avoid hearsay and the use of anecdotal or merely picturesque stories.

Manuscripts, typically eight to 15 double-spaced typewritten pages, should be submitted in triplicate to Professor Henri Kagan, Editor, *Nouveau Journal de Chimie*, Laboratoire de Synthèse Asymétrique, Batiment 420, Université de Paris-Sud 91045, Orsay, France.

*Henri Kagan, Université de Paris-Sud*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

All illustrations, unless otherwise indicated, are from the Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati. Thanks are also due the Department of Chemistry of the University of Cincinnati for providing secretarial assistance.

