

2. H. M. Spencer, *A History of the School of Chemistry at the University of Virginia, 1825-1943* Alumni Association, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 1983.

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BOOK NOTES

American Chemists and Chemical Engineers, Wyndham Miles (Editor), American Chemical Society, Washington, D.C., 1976. x + 544 pp. Cloth (Typeset) \$29.95.

Though this volume has been in print for several years, we wanted to explicitly bring it to the attention of our readers. The centennials and sesquicentennials of a large number of American chemistry departments are due to be celebrated in the next few years and will doubtlessly generate a spate of departmental histories. Persons writing these histories, as well as those interested in the history of the American chemical community in general, will find this volume to be an indispensable reference source. Containing short biographical sketches (with references) of 517 American chemists and chemical engineers, spanning nearly 300 years of American history, the book focuses on the "average" chemist rather than on the "super famous". This emphasis is its most valuable asset and would-be departmental historians will find it to be a useful first step in tracking down their early faculty. It is also a volume which should be found in the reference section of every science library, however small.

The good news is that Dr. Miles has recently begun work on a second volume of biographies, and we hope that many of our readers will contribute to this worthy project by responding to Dr. Miles' questionnaire in our *Questions and Queries* column.

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

Chemistry at UTK: A History of Chemistry at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville from 1794-1987, George K. Schweitzer, Department of Chemistry, UTK, 1988. 193 pp. Paper (Camera-Ready). \$15.00.

Histories of chemistry departments or, indeed, of science departments in general, don't fare well among book reviewers in the history of science literature. The standard complaints are that they lack a general theme, are overburdened by biographical sketches of the faculty and are of interest only to graduates

of the department concerned. All of these complaints are to some extent true, but the accompanying implication that the way to avoid these problems is to remove the detail of names and dates and to focus instead on some general social issue, such as graduate chemical education in America, misses the point because such a book would no longer be what it was intended to be - namely a specialized history of the department in question. The simple fact remains that the first and primary obligation of such a history is to be an accurate record of who was there, when they were there and what they did. As anyone who has worked on a departmental history can testify, the effort needed simply to track down a century of faculty, graduates and buildings - usually lost in overwhelming obscurity - can be exhausting and leave little time or energy for setting the result within the larger context of chemical education in America. At best all one can hope to do is to tabulate and summarize the local information as thoroughly as possible so that the historian in search of the "big picture" will find the result a useful data point.

In the book under review, the author has done his job better than most. In addition to tracking faculty, buildings and graduates, he has given a fair summary of changes in the curriculum, degree requirements, the evolution of fellowships, research assistantships and graduate education. The only missing item is an on-going description and evaluation of research and scholarly activity. The book is also well illustrated and properly referenced.

QUESTIONS AND QUERIES

* Dr. Paul R. Jones is in the process of assembling *A Guide to Published and Unpublished American Chemical Genealogies*. If you have done an unpublished genealogy of your department, please send a copy to Dr. Paul R. Jones, Department of Chemistry, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, Phone (603) 862-1550.

* Dr. James J. Bohning is in the process of assembling *A Guide to Published and Unpublished Histories of American Departments of Chemistry* and *A Directory of Persons Teaching History of Chemistry Courses*. He is also putting together the archives for the Division for the History of Chemistry. If you have items of interest relating to any of these projects, please contact him at the Department of Chemistry, Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766, Phone (717) 824-4565, extension 4614. Relative to materials relating to the history of HIST, Dr. Bohning notes that he will take care of all sorting and organization, so now is the opportunity to unburden your file cabinets with a minimum investment of time and effort.

* Wyndham Miles and Robert Gould are in the process of putting together a second volume of *American Chemists and*

Chemical Engineers (see *Book Notes*) and are looking for prospective candidates for inclusion in the volume, as well as for potential contributors. Possible candidates include any American alchemist, teacher of chemistry before 1800, person who spent a reasonable portion of their career in chemistry before 1870, any chemist who wrote or translated a chemistry text before 1840, wrote a famous text before 1940, edited a major chemical journal, was awarded a major chemical prize, was a major consultant, founded a chemical company, was president of a chemical society, became president of a college, had a chemistry building named in their honor, was a major figure in literature, music, art, politics, etc. or had a reaction, process or apparatus named after them. Potential contributors or persons with suggestions should contact Dr. Wyndham Miles, 24 Walker Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 1989 season! We are looking forward to an exciting year and hope to have as much member participation as possible. Symposia scheduled for the Dallas meeting include one on the Bicentennial of the Chemical Revolution and another on the Role of Chemistry in the Discovery and Production of Petroleum. In Miami Beach we look forward to the Impact of Radiopharmaceuticals on the Frontiers of Chemistry and Medicine and to the History of Fertilizers (cosponsored by FERT). Both meetings feature True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses (cosponsored by SCHB) and the usual fascinating array of general papers, which authors may submit for consideration for the division's Outstanding Paper Award as selected by the Program Committee. This award consists of a plaque, \$100 cash, and the winner's choice of \$150 worth of books from Reidel's current catalog, thanks to the generosity of that company.

While on the subject of awards, let me remind everyone of the Dexter Award, made possible through the continuing generosity and support of the Dexter Chemical Corporation, its Chairman, Dr. Sidney Edelstein, and its Vice-President, Dr. David Abrahams. The award, for outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry, consists of \$2,000 and a plaque and is the only one given by an ACS division in this field. The roll of winners comprises a "Who's Who" of historians of chemistry. Congratulations are also in order to Dr. Edelstein himself, who was awarded the 1988 Leonardo da Vinci Medal of the Society for the History of Technology.

Many members of HIST are new; our membership has doubled since 1981, which is to say that half our people have been on board for eight years or less. We look forward to the contributions and word of the accomplishments of all our members, but have a special interest in the newer ones. As with most organizations, the "old guard" tends to occupy the principal offices, but we're making a conscious effort to bring in new faces wherever possible. So far this year Ben Chastain has

been appointed one of the Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee and John Heitmann will serve on the Program Committee. Newer members who would like to serve: Let us know you're out there!

There have been some other changes on the Executive Committee. Bob Goldsmith is no longer Immediate Past Chair, but he and Jane Miller are continuing their superb work as our Bylaws Committee in revising the bylaws to suit an organization of over 700 members, as opposed to the pint-sized group we were when they were first written. Jim Traynham, after a very productive year as Chair, now continues as "elder statesman" in Bob's shoes, while I face the daunting task of filling Jim's. Jack Stocker, who will have no trouble filling mine next year, comes on board as Chair-Elect.

Bill Jensen is continuing his excellent work as Secretary and as Editor of the *Bulletin*. These latter duties, coupled with the expanded size of the division, made it sensible to elect a separate Treasurer for the first time last year. Mary Virginia Orna, who had been Program Chair, was elected to fill the new position; we are fortunate to continue to have her wise counsel on the board. Jeff Sturchio is taking over her duties as Program Chair, and we expect him to continue HIST's tradition of outstanding programming. Bert Ramsay and Ray Seymour continue as Councilor and Alternate, respectively, with Ray doubling as Membership Chair. (A REMINDER: if you have a possible recruit or any ideas to aid in recruitment, contact Ray). Last year we added Jim Bohning as the Historian of HIST (about time we had one!), and Ralph Allen continues as Chair of the Subdivision of Archeological Chemistry. Our other Member-at-Large is Dexter Awardee Arnold Thackray, Director of the Beckman Center for History of Chemistry ("BCHOC"), who acts as liaison between BCHOC and HIST so that the two organizations can continue the close ties that have been so fruitful in the past.

One last point, again on membership, this time concerning money. Aside from our divisional dues, our ACS budget allocation is based on attendance at national meetings and responses on the meeting registration form (where it says: "Which division's program influenced you to attend?"). Jim Traynham reported last year that we ranked sixth in allocations per member. He was absolutely right in crediting Virginia Orna's programming for this outstanding showing, and also right in pointing out that we look even better considering that most of us are members of other divisions which compete for our attention. This is an excellent reflection on our members' enthusiasm as well. I'm certain the quality of our programming will continue to draw new members and attendees, all of which redounds to the financial as well as the intellectual benefit of the division. As Jim said last year: "Remember to record HIST on your meeting registration form: It pays." (And it doesn't cost anything, either!)

We're looking forward, then, to a stimulating and rewarding year, and hope that still more of our membership will get