

Welcome to this Issue of the Bulletin

In 2005, Jim Bohning proposed the idea that we celebrate HIST's 85th birthday with a symposium at one of the upcoming ACS national meetings. Jim, of course, had served as HIST Chair (1986) and has been HIST Archivist and Historian for many years. Jim's other idea was to ask me to join him in co-organizing the symposium. The symposium was held at the 223rd ACS National Meeting on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 in Chicago. The agenda is shown in the box below.

As Jim points out in his papers (1, 2), it is fitting that HIST's 85th birthday was celebrated in Chicago. Edgar Fahs Smith and Charles A. Browne attended the 60th ACS National Meeting in Chicago in 1920. Their discussions under a tree on the campus of Northwestern University led to the first official meeting of HIST as a section in Birmingham in 1922. Divisional status occurred in 1927.

It was also our hope that there would be a permanent record of our symposium. In fact, an audio copy of the entire session has been placed in the HIST archives at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. However, we wished to have as much of the symposium made easily available, both to our current members and for archival purposes. All of the speakers were willing to provide manuscripts based on their presentation; four of them were able to do so.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Hyatt Regency McCormick – Room 20C

HIST at 85: Looking Back and Looking Ahead

J. J. Bohning, *Organizer*

J. I. Seeman, *Organizer, Presiding*

1:30 — Introductory Remarks: Roger Egolf, Chair, HIST.
1:35 —38. Looking back: Eighty-five years of chemists and their history. J. J. Bohning
2:00 —39. Communicating the history of chemistry. P. R. Jones
2:30 —40. What's history got to do with a newsmagazine? R. M. Baum
3:00 —41. Role of HIST in the history of chemistry. J. I. Seeman
3:25 — Intermission.
3:40 —42. Role of history and the Division of the History of Chemistry in the American Chemical Society. D. Creech
4:10 —43. Future of the past: Intellectual and structural issues. A. W. Thackray
4:40 —44. Looking ahead: Keeping history of chemistry relevant to the future of chemistry. C. J. Giunta
5:10 — Concluding Remarks: Roger Egolf.

Each of the papers followed the *Bulletin's* standard peer review process. As Guest Editor, I chose the reviewers and facilitated the review of all the articles save my own which was handled by Paul Jones, the *Bulletin's* Editor in Chief.

I shall not provide any summary of the articles,

which speak for themselves. But I shall point out three matters in particular. First, I am extremely proud of HIST's mission statement that appears on page 81 and has been on HIST's website homepage for over a year. It is HIST leadership's vision for the future. Second, I am extraordinarily enthusiastic about Jim Bohning's contribution. For some time, Jim has been working on a series of papers describing the history of HIST. This is the first of that series. And third, five of the participants in the symposium were members of the HIST Executive Committee during the development and actualization of this symposium. It was my pleasure and honor to be one of them.

With all best wishes,

Jeff Seeman, Richmond, Virginia

August 2, 2007

1. J. J. Bohning, "Looking Back: Eighty-Five Years of Chemists and Their History" *Bull. Hist. Chem.*, **2007**, 32, 65-
2. J. J. Bohning, "The History of HIST. II. The Probationary Years," in preparation.