

## EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

I wish to draw your attention to three articles and two reviews in this issue that I consider to be slightly outside the main fare of the journal, namely scholarly articles and book reviews in the history of chemistry.

The articles in question are all from distinguished contributors, and, I hope you will agree, exhibit high quality and interesting material. Seymour Mauskopf considers the question "Do Historians or Chemists Write Better History of Chemistry?" in an informative historiographic essay. Pierre Laszlo combines first-hand observations and opinions with scholarly research to describe "How an Anglo-American Methodology Took Root in France" in mid-20th-century physical organic chemistry. William Jensen and Julia Kuhlmann present a translation of Leopold Pfaundler's 1867 paper, "A Contribution to Chemical Statics." Publishing translations of primary historical documents, including "forgotten classics," is one of the functions originally envisioned for the *Bulletin*. Prof. Jensen's most recent contribution along these lines, a translation of an 1873 paper by August Horstmann, appeared in this journal two years ago (1). A companion article on Pfaundler's work will appear in the next issue. Historiography of chemistry, represented by Prof. Mauskopf's contribution, is another subject that has graced the pages of this journal from time to time, one which is certainly relevant to the mission of the *Bulletin*. Of the three articles I've mentioned, Prof. Laszlo's is closest to the standard scholarly article in history of chemistry, but it is a bit unusual in that its style and content include some aspects of memoir.

The reviews to which I draw your attention are of media that are somewhat different from the usual texts on history of chemistry for scholarly or general audiences. Theodor Benfey drew my attention to a radio play, *Nuclear Reactions*, by Adam Ganz, based on the Farm Hall transcripts of German nuclear scientists immediately after the Second World War. His review includes a couple of his own reminiscences of that period of history, information on how to access the play, and, of course, a description of the play. From its title alone, Lauren Redniss's book, *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie, A Tale of Love and Fallout*, might seem to be an ordinary biographical text or perhaps a novel. But one can judge from its cover that it is an extraordinary illuminated book. Read Tami Spector's review to find out more.

As I continue to learn the job of editor, I remain open to suggestions on how best to fulfill the mission of the *Bulletin* to attract and disseminate high-quality articles and reviews in the field of history of chemistry. In my first year, my main job has been to try to do no harm to what William Jensen and Paul Jones built. In the future, I look forward to exploring additional ways for the *Bulletin* to serve its readers and authors. Please stay tuned.

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1. W. B. Jensen, "Introduction to the English translation of 'The Theory of Dissociation,' a Forgotten Classic of Chemical Thermodynamics," *Bull. Hist. Chem.*, **2009**, *34*, 73-75; A. Horstmann, "The Theory of Dissociation," W. B. Jensen, Trans., *Bull. Hist. Chem.*, **2009**, *34*, 76-82.