



American Chemical Society  
Division of the History of Chemistry

**Newsletter**

230<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting  
Washington, D. C.  
August 28-September 1, 2005

J. S. Jeffers, Program Chair

## DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

**Chair:** Jeffrey I. Seeman  
SaddlePoint Frontiers  
12001 Bollingbrook Place  
Richmond, VA 23236-3218  
Phone: (804) 794-1218  
Email: [jiseeman@yahoo.com](mailto:jiseeman@yahoo.com)

**Chair Elect:** Roger A. Egolf  
Pennsylvania State University -  
Lehigh Valley Campus  
8380 Mohr Lane  
Fogelsville, PA 18051-9999  
Phone: (610) 285-5110  
Fax: (610) 285-5220  
Email: [rae4@psu.edu](mailto:rae4@psu.edu)

**Past Chair:** David Lewis  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
Eau Claire, WI 54702  
Phone: (715) 836-4744  
Fax: (715) 836-4979  
Email: [lewisd@uwec.edu](mailto:lewisd@uwec.edu)

**Secretary-Treasurer:** Vera V. Mainz  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
School of Chemical Sciences  
142B RAL, Box 34 Noyes Lab  
600 S. Mathews Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801  
Phone: (217) 244-0564  
Fax: (217) 244-8068  
Email: [mainz@uiuc.edu](mailto:mainz@uiuc.edu)

**Program Chair:** Joe Jeffers  
Ouachita Baptist University  
410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786  
Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001  
Phone: (870) 245-5216  
Fax: (870) 245-5241  
Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

**Bulletin Editor:** Paul R. Jones  
University of Michigan  
Department of Chemistry  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1055  
Fax: (734) 647-4865  
Email: [prjones@umich.edu](mailto:prjones@umich.edu)

**Councilor:** Mary Virginia Orna  
Department of Chemistry  
College of New Rochelle  
New Rochelle, NY 10805  
Phone: (914) 654-5302  
Fax: (914) 654-5387  
Email: [mvorna@cnr.edu](mailto:mvorna@cnr.edu)

**Councilor:** Ben B. Chastain  
538 Hampton Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35209  
Phone: (205) 871-3859  
Email: [bbchasta@samford.edu](mailto:bbchasta@samford.edu)

**Alternate Councilor:** Carmen Giunta  
Le Moyne College  
1419 Salt Springs Rd.  
Syracuse, NY 13214-1399  
Phone: (315) 445-4128  
Fax: (315) 445-4540  
Email: [giunta@lemoyne.edu](mailto:giunta@lemoyne.edu)

**Archivist/Historian:** James J. Bohning  
Dept. of Chemistry, Lehigh University  
6 E. Packer Ave.  
Bethlehem, PA 18015  
Phone: (610) 758-3582  
Fax: (610) 758-6536  
Email: [jjba@lehigh.edu](mailto:jjba@lehigh.edu)

## Message from Jeff Seeman, HIST Division Chair

Greetings, dear Colleagues!

The focus of this semiannual message is "HIST moving forward." And HIST is surely moving forward, in the most remarkable and important ways! This message is important to you. Thanks for reading!

HIST is doing more today than ever before. We are (1) publishing *The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* twice each year; (2) initiating and hosting more impressive symposia at ACS National Meetings than ever before, including a number of Presidential events; (3) organizing and participating in regional meetings; (4) sponsoring more awards and recognitions (Edelstein Award; Outstanding Paper Award; Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs; and HIST Certificates of Appreciation – the latest to be given to *Chemical & Engineering News* (see the Awards section of our website); and (5) initiating and sponsoring a piano concert by the eminent chemist-pianist Victoria Bragin at the Washington, D.C., ACS National Meeting (see website)! We even have HIST's first logo (details also on our website, with details of its significance)!

HIST's website has been expanded greatly: <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>. You can also find us via the ACS home page or via an internet search: ACS history. Our site now has expanded information about upcoming symposia, HIST awards programs, even information about HIST's history! Members can now find details about HIST's operations – for example, budgetary details and minutes of the Executive Committee's meetings. Member-only information can be accessed with a special password that our Secretary-Treasurer (and webmaster!) Vera Mainz will provide to you.

We need you, our members, to connect with HIST more frequently on our website, for two reasons: one, the rich information you will find there; second, the newsletter and ACS National Meeting abstracts that you once received by U.S. mail will now be available only on the website, unless you specifically request from Vera Mainz to have that material mailed to you. Twice a year, *The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* will continue to be published, printed, and mailed to each member!

These changes are due, only in part, to financial considerations! The cost of printing and mailing the abstracts and the newsletter now exceeds \$4000/year. There simply are not funds to continue these mailings. We have done so for the past few years while running a budget deficit. *The Executive Committee has also authorized the first HIST dues increase since 1996.* Standard membership dues will now be \$20/year. We are firmly committed to a balanced budget, and not just for ideological reasons! But electronic communications are more efficient and effective in many ways.

The Executive Committee has prepared an "Electronic Communications Roadmap," which is on our website under Division Business. This Roadmap will explain further the reasons and plans for enhanced web-based and internet communications for HIST. Vera Mainz has, with great spirit, volunteered to coordinate this transition.

*Please let us have your current e-mail address, and please keep us current. We ABSOLUTELY promise to share it with no one. Please send it to Vera at: [mainz@uiuc.edu](mailto:mainz@uiuc.edu).*

We welcome your ideas and suggestions. In fact, the comments of Bert Ramsey and others at our recent business meetings have prompted the new transparency in HIST's budget and Executive Committee meeting minutes. Thank you, Bert, for helping us see what we needed to do!

All my warmest greetings,

Jeff

**Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry  
ACS National Meeting, San Diego, CA  
March 16, 2004**

Both HIST Councilors regularly attend both Council meetings. Highlights of the Council Meeting at San Diego follow:

The meeting began with a memorial for two past-Presidents and four Councilors who had passed away during the previous year. It was then announced that there were almost 15,400 attendees at this meeting.

The nominees for President-Elect presented themselves and each made a three-minute statement. The two selected by Council were Catherine Hunt (Rohm and Haas, Spring House, PA) and John W. Kozarich (ActivX Biosciences, La Jolla, CA); it was also announced that George Heinze would be a petition candidate. It was then announced that the nominees for District Director for District III would be Catherine C. Fenselau and Madeleine M. Joullié; for District VI, Bonnie A. Charpentier and Stanley H. Pine. The candidates for Director-at-Large for 2006-2008 will be James D. Burke, Edwin A. Chandross, C. Gordon McCarty, and Frankie Wood-Black.

Reports of the members of the presidential succession followed. President Bill Carroll reiterated his main themes for the year of his presidency:

1. How chemistry and we as chemists are perceived by the public;
2. The development of second-career high school chemistry teachers;
3. Enterprise 2015 – where we are and where we will be in the next ten years with respect to the chemical enterprise.

He also announced a new initiative for high school chemistry teachers called CTC – Chemistry Teachers' Connection – whereby high school teachers with one "CLIC" can join the Division of Chemical Education and subscribe to the Journal of Chemical Education online at a much-reduced rate. He continues to welcome your ideas and promised to respond to you personally within 24 hours if you email him at [bill\\_carroll@oxy.com](mailto:bill_carroll@oxy.com).

Immediate Past President Chuck Casey continues to work on the problem of the expense of the ACS journals and the question of open access to the materials contained therein. He advocates a pricing structure that is responsible and alternative open access which involves a waiting period before journal articles are available to the membership.

President-Elect E. Ann Nalley took as her theme “Ensuring the Future,” putting the spotlight on volunteers, reviewing the important R&D developments of the past 25 years to see how to proceed in the future, and education: good science education today leads to good science tomorrow. The main thrust of the educational initiative will be in undergraduate research.

Chair of the Board James D. Burke outlined the Board’s priorities:

1. Advance our science by more frequent co-programming at local, divisional, regional, and national meeting venues;
2. Co-advocate for increased federal funding to support basic research in science and engineering and for pre-college education in science and mathematics;
3. Work together to advance and sustain the Chemical Heritage Foundation;
4. Seek other ways to cooperate for our mutual benefit.

Executive Director Madeleine Jacobs took as her theme for the coming year the “three R’s” of relevance, renewal, and resilience. She asked us to keep alert to how these three ideas will play out in what she innovates at ACS over the next year.

Following these reports, a lengthy planned discussion on Enterprise 2015 took place. The consensus of Council seemed to be agreement on changing responsibilities and modes of accountability in the workplace over the next ten years.

The proposal from the Committee on Committees to establish a new Committee on Ethics was debated and the proposal passed easily after having been tabled from the previous meeting.

Mary Virginia Orna continues to serve on the Committee on Committees (ConC) and in this capacity is the ConC Liaison to the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications and also to the Committee on Technician Affairs. In this latter capacity, she organized and chaired a joint symposium with the Chemical Technicians Division at the Anaheim meeting on “Chemical Technicians in History” which was well-received by a packed house. On the basis of this symposium, she has organized another symposium, “From Tech to Great” for the Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting in May, 2005.

Ben Chastain continues to serve on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) where he chairs the Divisional Enhancement Subcommittee (ChemLuminary Awards and Innovative Projects Grants). He also continues as Liaison to the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC).

*Ben B. Chastain, Councilor*  
*Mary Virginia Orna, Councilor*

## Call for Nominations

The Division of the History of Chemistry of the ACS seeks nominations for the 2005 Citations for Chemical Breakthrough Awards. The Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs will recognize breakthrough publications and patents worldwide in the field of chemistry. The term “breakthrough” refers to advances in chemistry that have been revolutionary in concept, broad in scope, and long-term in impact. The award will consist of a very high quality plaque, to be placed in the hallway outside the office or laboratory where the breakthrough was achieved. Each award will be made to the department or institution where the breakthroughs occurred, not to the individual scientists. Full details regarding the nomination and award criteria can be found on the HIST website [<http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>].

### At Washington, D.C., August 28-30

Schedules and abstracts are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

### “Edelstein Award Symposium Honoring William B. Jensen”

The 2005 Edelstein Award for Outstanding Contributions to the History of Chemistry will be presented to Dr. William B. Jensen, Oesper Professor of the History of Chemistry and Chemical Education at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Jensen received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in inorganic chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He came to Cincinnati in 1986 after teaching inorganic chemistry at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Dr. Jensen's interests center particularly on the development of late 19th and early 20th century physical chemistry and inorganic chemistry, especially the origins of chemical thermodynamics and solid-state inorganic chemistry. Past chair of the ACS History Division, he is the author of several monographs and dozens of articles in the history of chemistry.

Dr. Jensen created and was the first editor of the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry, which is one of only two academic journals in the world specifically devoted to research in the history of chemistry.

In addition to his teaching and research activities, he also serves as the curator of the Oesper Book Collection in the History of Chemistry, which includes over 10,000 books and articles from 1600 to 1959.

The Oesper Book Collection is one of the premier collections for history of chemistry in the United States. Jensen also curates the Oesper Collection of Prints and Portraits in the History of Chemistry, and the Departmental Apparatus Museum. The award symposium will be **Tuesday morning, August 30**, with a luncheon to follow.

*Derek Davenport, Organizer*

## **“Minority Chemists Telling Our Stories,” Jeannette E. Brown Symposium, Award for Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences**

HIST is honored to host “Minority Chemists: Telling our Stories,” a symposium honoring Jeannette E. Brown, winner of the ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. This National ACS award is funded by Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation Inc. The symposium will be held on **Monday afternoon, August 29** and will focus on the life stories of several very successful African American Scientists. Project Seed students and teachers will be invited to attend. Brown has also been extremely active in the ACS as a councilor. She chaired Project SEED at the national level and remains active in the program within the North Jersey Section. Brown, a graduate of Hunter College with a M.S. in organic chemistry from the University of Minnesota (the first awarded by that institution to an African American woman), has long been active in the History of Chemistry Division. She most recently organized a symposium on the History of the North Jersey Section, which was held at the ACS National meeting in New York City in Fall 2003.

After completing her M.S., Brown spent her career in the pharmaceutical industry, first at Ciba (now Novartis) for 11 years, then at Merck for 26 years. Brown served on Merck’s Black University Liaison Commission and was an adviser to faculty and students at Grambling University.

As part of the NSF Visiting Women in Science Program, Brown visited high schools in Philadelphia and acted as a role model for students and faculty. She served for six years on the NSF Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering and was an influence on policy governing programs for minorities nationwide.

After retirement, Brown became affiliated with the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark, where she served director of the Regional Center for the New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative. The center focuses entirely on pre-college minority students and their science and math teachers. After a second retirement from NJIT, she spent 2004 as the Societe de Chimie Industrielle (American Section) Fellow of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, studying the history of African American women chemists.

*Roger Egolf, Organizer*

## **“Landmark Chemistry Books of the 20th Century: A Symposium in Honor of the Fifth Anniversary of the Bolton Society”**

The Bolton Society is an organization of chemical bibliophiles that is affiliated with the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Founded five years ago by retired DuPont chemist Herbert Pratt, the Bolton Society takes its name from Henry Carrington Bolton, the great bibliographer of chemistry. It promotes the individual love for and collection of all types of material related to the history of the chemical sciences and related technologies and advances the cause of the Donald F. and Mildred Topp

Othmer Library of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The Society's newsletter, *Boltonia*, is published twice a year. There are no membership fees. For more information see the Society's web page at <http://www.chemheritage.org/about/about-nav6-bolton.html>. This symposium on landmark chemistry books has been organized to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Bolton Society. After an introduction by member and collector Ronald K. Smeltzer, who will discuss "Collecting Classics in Science," other speakers in the first session will focus on a diverse collection of books that had an impact on the chemical profession in the twentieth century, ranging from Linus Pauling's *Nature of the Chemical Bond* to Sienko and Plane's breakthrough text for teaching introductory chemistry. The second session is primarily related to organic chemistry, and includes Ernest Eliel, the author of a classic text on stereochemistry. Italo Calvino said that "a classic is a book that has never finished saying what it has to say." This symposium, offered **Sunday afternoon, August 28, and Monday morning, August 29**, will address that issue as it relates to chemistry as it pursues the very elusive definition of what constitutes a classic chemistry book.

*James J. Bohning, Organizer*

### **"Transitions in the U. S. Chemical Profession in the 20th Century: Crises, Turning Points and Their Resolutions"**

As one of Bill Carroll's major ACS presidential projects, "Enterprise 2015" was designed to envision the state of chemistry in the United States in 2015. As stated in Carroll's detailed "Comment" in *C&EN* (January 17, 2005, page 75), "Enterprise 2015" will make up an important part of the programming at the fall national meeting in Washington, D.C. . . . [including] symposia dealing with education, chemical safety and security, globalization, *the history of other times of change in the chemical enterprise*, . . . " This Presidential symposium, co-sponsored by HIST, will be **Sunday morning, August 28**. HIST can contribute to Enterprise 2015 by providing an evaluation of analogous events in the past to help us understand transitions that will occur in the future.

*Jeffrey I. Seeman, Organizer*

### **Division of History of Chemistry's *Certificate of Appreciation***

*Chemical & Engineering News* has been selected to receive the Division of History of Chemistry's *Certificate of Appreciation* for a number of reasons. First, *C&EN* continuously places current events within their historical context. Second, *C&EN* frequently publishes feature articles that discuss and honor the history of science. And third, *C&EN* has encouraged outside authors, for example, Priestley medalists, to place their own feature articles within a historical context. Jeff Seeman, Chair of HIST, will present the certificate to

Rudy Baum, Editor of *C&EN*, **Monday morning, August 29, at 11:30**, following the symposium on landmark chemistry books. Rudy Baum will deliver a brief address entitled, "Finding the Historical Perspective in News of the Chemical Enterprise."

### **Special Piano Concert, Victoria Bragin, Chemist, Winner, Van Cliburn International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs in 2002**

The Division of the History of Chemistry and The Chemical Heritage Foundation are sponsoring a special piano concert at the ACS meeting. It will be **Tuesday evening, August 30**, at 5:30 in Washington DC Convention Center Room 146 A/B. Ms. Bragin plans to present a commentary on the musical compositions of chemist-composer, Alexander Borodin, along with the following works: Beethoven, Sonata in E-flat, Op. 31, No. 3; Borodin, "Au Covent" from "Petite Suite"; Borodin, Scherzo in A-flat; and Chopin, Sonata No. 3 in B Minor.

### **HIST Co-Sponsored Events**

**The History of Chemical Safety.** (Co-sponsored with **CHAS**) **Tuesday, August 30**, a.m. and p.m., Russell Phifer, WC Environmental, LLC, PO Box 1718, West Chester, PA 19380, Phone: (610)-696-9220, Fax: (610) 344-7519, Email: [rphifer@glasmesh.com](mailto:rphifer@glasmesh.com)

**Division of Business Development and Management: the First 50 Years.** (Co-sponsored with **BMGT**) **Sunday, August 28**, p.m. Janet L. Bryant, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, MS: K6-50, Richland, WA 99352, Phone: (509) 375-3765, Fax: (509) 375-5921, Email: [janetlbryant@pnl.gov](mailto:janetlbryant@pnl.gov)

### ***Bulletin for the History of Chemistry***

In the spring of 1988, William B. Jensen, University of Cincinnati, founded the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* under the auspices of HIST. This founding was a response to a need expressed by chemists with a bent toward history for some outlet for communicating with one another on subjects pertaining to the historical background of their professional field. Ever since its first appearance over 16 years ago, the publication has been distributed to members of HIST as a part of their annual membership. Cumulative indexes have appeared in 1997 and 2000 and will be part of Volume 30(2), at the end of 2005. We welcome contributions on history of chemistry and particularly encourage those with an interest in history to come forward as reviewers of manuscripts and books. If your library lacks a subscription to the *Bulletin*, you should encourage your acquisitions librarian to consider one of the best bargains in periodicals.

*Paul R. Jones, Editor*

## UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Offerings are subject to change. Check the HIST website for updates:

<http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>

### Atlanta, GA, March 26 - 30, 2006

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System by **November 15, 2005**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact the program chair by November 1, 2005. Check the call for papers in Chemical and Engineering News or the ACS website for changes in the abstract deadlines.

**General Papers.** Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

**Science History and Its Applications to Chemical Education.** Seth Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, 1231 Albrecht Avenue, P.O. Box 5516, Fargo, ND 58105-5516, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Fax: (701) 231-8831; Email: [seth.rasmussen@ndsu.nodak.edu](mailto:seth.rasmussen@ndsu.nodak.edu). David Lewis, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702, Phone (715) 836-4744, Fax: (715) 836-4979, Email: [lewisd@uwec.edu](mailto:lewisd@uwec.edu)

**Benjamin Franklin Tricentennial Symposium.** (Co-sponsored with *Friends of Franklin, Inc.*) Roger Egolf, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley Campus, 8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051-9999, Phone: (610) 285-5110, Fax: (610) 285-5220, Email: [rae4@psu.edu](mailto:rae4@psu.edu). Kathy DeLuca, *Friends of Franklin, Inc.*, POB 40048, Philadelphia, PA 19106, Phone: (856) 979-1613, Fax: (856) 854-0773, Email: [kathydeluca@benfranklin2006.org](mailto:kathydeluca@benfranklin2006.org).

**Archaeological Chemistry: Analytical Techniques and Archaeological Interpretation.** (Co-sponsored with NUCL) Michael D. Glascock, Research Reactor Center, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211. Phone: (573) 8825270, FAX: (573) 882-6360, Email: [glascockm@missouri.edu](mailto:glascockm@missouri.edu)

**Chemist-Composers: Their Chemistry and Music.** (Co-sponsored with Chemical Society of Washington) Leopold May, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064, Phone: (202) 319-5392, Fax (202) 319-5381, Email: [may@cua.edu](mailto:may@cua.edu) : Invited and solicited papers.

**Reviewing Research & Development Progress over the Past 25 Years.** Mary Virginia Orna, Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10805, Phone: (914) 654-5302, Fax: (914) 654-5387, Email: [mvorna@cnr.edu](mailto:mvorna@cnr.edu). The first of four cutting-edge symposia reviewing industrial and academic R&D progress over the past 25 years to be presented at the four ACS National Meetings in 2006-2007 in conjunction with the Presidential-succession goals of President-Elect Ann Nalley.

In addition, HIST will co-sponsor history events with TECH, CINF, and BMGT. Check the website for updates. <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>

### **San Francisco, September 10-14, 2006**

**Edelstein Award Symposium** (*invited only*). Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Dexter/Edelstein Awards.** Anthony Travis, Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel. [travis@cc.huji.ac.il](mailto:travis@cc.huji.ac.il). Jeff Seeman, SaddlePoint Frontiers, 12001 Bollingbrook Place, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone: (804) 794-1218, Email: [jiseeman@yahoo.com](mailto:jiseeman@yahoo.com)

**Reviewing Research & Development Progress over the Past 25 Years.** Mary Virginia Orna, Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10805, Phone: (914) 654-5302, Fax: (914) 654-5387, Email: [mvorna@cnr.edu](mailto:mvorna@cnr.edu). The second of four cutting-edge symposia reviewing industrial and academic R&D progress over the past 25 years to be presented at the four ACS National Meetings in 2006-2007 in conjunction with the Presidential-succession goals of President-Elect Ann Nalley.

**History of the FDA in its Hundredth year.** Kim M. Morehouse, FDA/CFSAN/OFAS/DCRER, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD 20740, Phone: (301) 436-1889, Fax (301) 436-2634, Email: [Kim.Morehouse@cfsan.fda.gov](mailto:Kim.Morehouse@cfsan.fda.gov).

### **Chicago, March 25-29, 2007**

**Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs.** Jeff Seeman, SaddlePoint Frontiers, 12001 Bollingbrook Place, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone: (804) 794-1218, Email: [jiseeman@yahoo.com](mailto:jiseeman@yahoo.com)

**Reviewing Research & Development Progress over the Past 25 Years.** Mary Virginia Orna, Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10805, Phone: (914) 654-5302, Fax: (914) 654-5387, Email: [mvorna@cnr.edu](mailto:mvorna@cnr.edu). The third of four cutting-edge symposia reviewing industrial and academic R&D progress over the past 25 years to be presented at the four ACS National Meetings in 2006-2007 in conjunction with the Presidential-succession goals of President-Elect Ann Nalley.

# CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE HISTORICAL GROUP OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

## From the Editor

I am very pleased to announce the beginning of a new series for the newsletter. "Lost to Chemistry" will focus on individuals who were trained in chemistry but left it for other careers – Margaret Thatcher being an obvious example. This is a subject close to my own heart, for I too was once a (published) chemist, before I switched to the study of the history of chemistry, medicine and crime. The series was suggested by Professor W. H. Brock, and I would like to thank him both for this excellent idea and for contributing the first article. Does anyone have any suggestions for other potential subjects for the new series?

This issue of the newsletter marks another, even more significant occasion in the history of the Historical Group, for in it we bid farewell to our outgoing Chairman, Professor David (Jack) Betteridge, and welcome his successor, Professor Alan Dronsfield. During his more than five years in office, Jack chaired the Group with distinction (marked especially by tact and good humour), and during his period of office we have had numerous fascinating and well-attended meetings. We are particularly grateful to him for his efforts in establishing the Anglo-Dutch meetings, the first of which was held in April 2004. Alan joined the Committee of the Historical Group in 2000, and has contributed regularly to the newsletter since then. He has already organised two meetings for the Group, and under his leadership we can expect our programme of events to flourish. Brief notices about both chairmen appear below and, on behalf of the committee and membership of the Historical Group, I offer thanks to both Jack and Alan – working with them has been a real pleasure.

I would like to thank all contributors to this issue of the newsletter, and urge you all to keep your articles coming in. Short contributions that focus on some historical aspect of your own areas of interest are welcome, as are book reviews and continuations of series previously established but not recently seen (Aus meinem Leben; Confusing Names; Sites of Chemical Interest; Story Behind the Name, etc.). The next issue will appear in August 2005, and the deadline for submission of articles/reviews/news items is mid July.

*Katherine D. Watson*

## Notes and Updates

On Wednesday 15 December 2004 the director of the Royal Institution, Baroness Susan Greenfield, announced that Dr Frank James had been promoted to be Professor of the History of Science. This is the first time the RI has made such an appointment, and on behalf of the committee and membership of the Historical Group I would like to extend sincere congratulations to Professor James.

**Medicine, Magic & Modern Clinical Science:** Two talks and a walk [were] presented by David Leaback for NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK, 2005 at The Old Operating Theatre Museum on Saturdays, March 12 and 19. After the second talk, a 30-minute guided walk [was] offered – pointing out locations featured in the talks. The Library and Information Centre of the Royal Society of Chemistry has an excellent collection of historical prints and images in the field of chemistry. The online catalogue can be consulted via the Internet (<http://www.rsc.org/lic/history.htm>) and over 2000 historical images have been digitised and

can be viewed on the web. One of the most popular books on chemistry of the first half of the nineteenth century, Mrs Marcet's *Conversations in Chemistry* (10<sup>th</sup> edn) has been digitised and is now available in pdf format, complete with separately digitised illustrative plates (<http://www.rsc.org/lic/conversations.htm#view>). The Beckman Center is the historical unit of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, which is located next to Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. The Center supports independent research aimed at preserving and publishing the history of the chemical and molecular sciences and industries for diverse audiences. For information about the variety of research and travel fellowships available, please visit the CHF website ([www.chemheritage.org](http://www.chemheritage.org)) or email [fellowships@chemheritage.org](mailto:fellowships@chemheritage.org). Closing dates for applications usually fall in January or February each year.

### **The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry**

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry caters for all those who are interested in the history of the chemical sciences or alchemy. It publishes a learned journal, *Ambix*, three times per year, and holds two one-day conferences each year, usually in London. See <http://www.ambix.org>. For details of how to join the Society, please see the on-line form (follow the links from the main page), or contact the Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Dr Noel Coley, 24 Kayemoor Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5HT [[n.g.coley@surrey28.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:n.g.coley@surrey28.freeserve.co.uk)].

### **RSC National Historical Chemical Landmarks**

The RSC Historical Chemical Landmark Scheme was introduced to commemorate, highlight and awaken public interest in historic developments within the chemical sciences. Three sites are nominated as landmarks each year. More details can be found on the RSC website at <http://www.rsc.org/lap/publicaf/landmarks.htm>. Members of the Historical Group who have an interest in any of these events or who have any information that would be of use in the planning of the activities are welcome to contact Pauline Meakins, Local Activities Manager, Royal Society of Chemistry, Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WF, UK ([meakinsp@rsc.org](mailto:meakinsp@rsc.org)).

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

#### **Perspectives on 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Pharmaceuticals, 14-16 July 2005**

The Historical Group is associated with this meeting, which is being organised by Viviane Quirke and Judy Slinn of Oxford Brookes University, and will take place at St Anne's College, Oxford. Sessions will focus on the following themes: Universities; Hospital clinical departments and/or medical schools; Government agencies; Consumers; Other industrial sectors; Biotechnology; Companies, scientists, clinicians, and government agencies from different national contexts. For further information, please email the conference organisers: [vquirke@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:vquirke@brookes.ac.uk) , [jaslinn@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:jaslinn@brookes.ac.uk) or check the university website: <http://ah.brookes.ac.uk/conferences>.

### **XXIInd International Congress of History of Science, 24-30 July 2005**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> ICHS will be held in Beijing, China, in July 2005, under the general theme of 'Globalization and Diversity: Diffusion of Science and Technology throughout History'. The official languages of the congress will be English and French. Abstracts may be submitted until 15 April 2005. The deadline for symposia proposals is 30 June 2004. (Preliminary applications for 20 minute papers to the symposium 'International Networks, Exchange and Circulation of Knowledge in Life Sciences, 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries' are due by 31 August 2004.) The deadline for regular registration is 20 December 2004, and for hotel reservations 15 March 2005. Please check the conference website for further information: <http://2005bj.ihns.ac.cn>. [I have copies of the Registration, Abstract and Hotel Reservation Forms for anyone who may be interested. Ed.]

### **5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the History of Chemistry, 6-10 September 2005**

The Working Party on History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) will hold its bi-annual History of Chemistry Conference in Lisbon and Estoril, Portugal. A major aim of the conference is to facilitate communication between historically interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe (and elsewhere). Under the theme of "Chemistry, Technology and Society", the conference will mainly focus on three topics, which have all attracted public and scholarly attention in recent years: (1) the material culture of chemistry; (2) applied chemistry; (3) the popularisation of chemistry. Some special sessions will be devoted to the development of Portuguese chemistry. Plenary lectures will be given by Professors David Knight (University of Durham), John K. Smith (Lehigh University) and José Ferreira da Silva (Universidade do Porto). The conference language will be English. The full registration fee is €220 before 15 May 2005, €260 after that date (excluding hotel accommodation). There will be a 50% subsidy for young scholars (PhD students) and colleagues from Eastern Europe (as well as for accompanied persons). Abstracts may be submitted until 15 February 2005. For more information, please consult the Conference website: <http://5ichc-portugal.ulusofona.pt>

### **The History of Forensic Chemistry, 26 October 2005**

The Historical Group will be holding a meeting on the History of Forensic Chemistry, jointly with SHAC and the Royal Institution, on 26 October 2005 at the RI. The meeting will begin at about 2:45p.m., when three papers will be presented. Following tea, the meeting will conclude with a special lecture by Professor John Emsley of the University of Cambridge. Further details will appear in the next issue of this Newsletter, or contact the Newsletter Editor, the meeting organiser.

### **Innovation in Industrial Chemistry, 28 April 2006**

The second Anglo-Dutch meeting, sponsored jointly by the Historical Group and the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, will be held in London, and will include a reception the night before and a dinner after the conference. Speakers will come from Britain and the Netherlands, and will include both historians of chemistry and chemists with industrial experience. Further details will appear in this Newsletter in due course.