



American Chemical Society
Division of the History of Chemistry

Newsletter

235th ACS National Meeting
New Orleans, LA
April 6-10, 2008

J. S. Jeffers, Program Chair

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

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Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry ([HIST](#)) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- Encouraging research and scholarship in history of the chemical sciences;
- Providing a welcoming environment for the discussion of history of chemistry in a variety of venues, particularly in symposia at national ACS meetings;
- Serving as a resource for chemical scientists in general, and members of the ACS in particular, who seek to understand the roots of their discipline, sub-discipline, or interdisciplinary subject;
- Recognizing major achievements from the past in the chemical sciences and the individuals who made those achievements;
- Publishing a scholarly journal in history of chemistry;
- Interacting with other organizations interested in the history of science; and
- Adding value to the ACS by helping it achieve its vision and missions.

Message from Roger Egolf, HIST Division Chair

Dear HIST Colleagues,

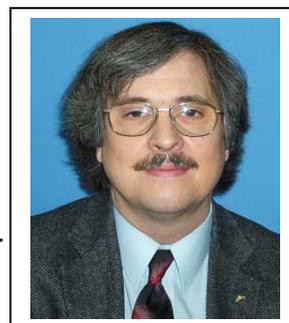
I look forward to seeing many of you in New Orleans, the first time the ACS has gone back to what has always been my favorite national meeting location since the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Once again, our program chair Joe Jeffers has put together a very interesting program with three symposia and a session of general papers.

I congratulate Sir John Rowlinson, Dr. Lee's Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at the University of Oxford, on his selection as the 2008 Sidney M. Edelstein Award winner. The award recognizes his work on the history of Physical Chemistry and for his contributions to the development of the history of chemistry at Oxford. The award will be given at the Philadelphia meeting in August. Additionally, I would like to thank Bill Jensen as he completes his three years of service on the Edelstein Award Committee.

Our division will be writing a new strategic plan this Spring. With help from facilitators supplied by the ACS, a committee made up of twelve HIST members, half from the executive committee and the other half from the general membership, will be meeting to develop the plan on the Monday of the New Orleans meeting. I hope to publish this new strategic plan in the next issue of this newsletter shortly before the Philadelphia meeting.

Once again, I'd like to close by inviting you to volunteer to make the division even better. The division is always looking for members who would like to get more involved, by giving a paper, organizing a symposium, or volunteering to represent the division in some way at a local or regional meeting.

Sincerely,
Roger



Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Boston, MA, August 22, 2007

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Committees beginning in 2008: Gary D. Anderson, Ken B. Anderson, Lawrence Barton, Lissa A. Dulany, Alan M. Ehrlich, Jurgen H. Exner, Roland F. Hirsch, Pamela D. Kistler, Larry K. Krannich, Will E. Lynch, Ean Warren, and Mark W. Wicholas. By written ballot the Council elected Ken B. Anderson, Lawrence Barton, Lissa A. Dulany, Larry K. Krannich, and Will E. Lynch for the 2008-2010 term; and Roland F. Hirsch for the remainder of a 2006-2008 term.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Council Policy Committee beginning in 2008: Rita R. Boggs, Dwight W. Chasar, Joseph A. Heppert, William R. Oliver, Mary V. Orna, Dorothy J. Phillips, Yorke E. Rhodes, Kathleen M. Schulz, Peter J. Stang, and H. David Wohlers. By written ballot the Council elected Mary V. Orna, Dorothy J. Phillips, Yorke E. Rhodes, Kathleen M. Schulz for the 2008-2010 term; and Peter J. Stang for the remainder of a 2006-2008 term.
- The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Nominations and Elections for the 2008-2010 term: V. Dean Adams, David E. Bergbreiter, Frank D. Blum, William H. Daly, Carol A. Duane, Ruth A. Hathaway, Cynthia K. McClure, Scott D. Rychnovsky, Arlyne M. Sarquis, and Pamela J. Shapiro. By written ballot the Council elected Frank D. Blum, Carol A. Duane, Ruth A. Hathaway, Arlene M. Sarquis and Pamela J. Shapiro.

Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors

- The candidates for the fall 2007 ACS national election were announced as follows:
President-Elect 2008
Thomas H. Lane, Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, MI
Howard M. Peters, Peters, Verny, LLP, Palo Alto, CA
Directors-at-Large – 2008-2010
Janan M. Hayes, (Retired) Merced College, Merced, CA
Bonnie A. Lawlor, NFAIS, Philadelphia, PA
Kent J. Voorhees, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, CO
Frankie K. Wood-Black, Trihydro Corporation, Ponca City, OK
Director, District II 2008-2010
Joseph R. (Joe) Peterson, (Retired) University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
Diane Grob Schmidt, The Procter & Gamble Company, Cincinnati, OH
Director, District IV 2008-2010
Eric C. Bigham, GlaxoSmithKline, Research Triangle Park, NC
Gregory H. Robinson, University of Georgia, Athens, GA
- Ballots will be sent on or before October 10. HIST members are strongly encouraged to vote.

Petitions

(For Action)

- The Council VOTED to accept the Petition on Local Section Affiliations. The petition addresses a difference in current Society bylaws regarding the responsibilities of the Committee on Local

Section Activities (LSAC) and the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) in oversight of the establishment of affiliations by local sections and divisions respectively. Responsibilities for LSAC in approving local section affiliations will now parallel those currently established for DAC. To be valid, the petition next must be confirmed by the Board of Directors in 90 days.

(For Consideration)

- The Council received three Petitions for consideration: Petition on Election Procedures for President-Elect and District Director, Petition on Local Section and Division Election Procedures, and the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements. The Petition on Election Procedures for President-Elect and District Director seeks to move toward a preferential ballot, both to make the balloting procedure more uniform and to avoid the complications and expense of run-off elections. The Petition on Local Section and Division Election Procedures provides options other than run-off elections to local sections and division for resolving tie votes. The Petition on Membership Categories represents a comprehensive revision of the qualifications required for membership and for affiliate status in the Society. Action is expected on these three petitions at the 2008 spring national meeting.

Committee Review and Other Committee Changes

- As part of a regular review, the Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols. The Council also VOTED to support the request of the Committee on Chemists with Disabilities that its status be changed from an “other committee” of the Board to a joint Board-Council Committee.
- The Council VOTED to amend the acronym of the Committee on Project SEED and update the committee’s charge. The acronym will be changed from “Summer Educational Experience for the Disadvantaged” to “Summer Experiences for the Economically Disadvantaged.”

Governance Review – Committee Summit

- The Council Policy Committee (CPC) received a report on the activities of the Governance Review Task Force, specifically those related to the Summit on ACS Committee Structure held in July 2007. As a follow-up to this review, CPC was informed of several recommendations to be directed to the Committee on Committees, the Board of Directors, the Council Policy Committee, and to other specific committees. Recognizing its work as completed, the Council Policy Committee voted to discharge the Governance Review Task Force, with thanks, subject to the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

Registration Report and 2008 National Meeting Registration Fee

- As of August 21, 2007, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 15,344 registrants. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 8,792; Students 3,518; Guests 574; Exhibit Only 784; and Exhibitors 1,676. In keeping with the objective of the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan, previously approved by the Board of Directors and Council, the Meetings and Expositions Committee approved an increase of ten dollars for the 2008 national meetings advanced registration fee.

The Society’s Membership

- The Committee on Membership Affairs reported that as of July 2007, the ACS total membership is 1,100 ahead of that at the same date last year, and the number of unpaid members is 295 less than that at the same date last year.

Review of the Academic Professional Guidelines

- The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Academic Professional Guidelines for consideration. These guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists practicing the profession of chemistry. The Council will vote on the Academic Professional Guidelines at the 2008 spring meeting in New Orleans.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda. The discussion focused on ACS policy development and advocacy efforts. ACS President Catherine (Katie) T. Hunt framed the discussion by posing three questions: 1) How can ACS encourage more members to participate by bringing their expertise to the development of more targeted policy positions? 2) What can ACS do to increase member involvement in public policy advocacy? 3) How can ACS be a more effective leader in policy activities in the broader science and technology communities? Councilors entered into a robust exchange, offering several useful comments and suggestions. As a follow-up, President Hunt invited councilors to visit her website at www.acspresident.org for additional information.

ACTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Long Planning and Sustainability

- The Board of Directors voted to approve a revised draft of the ACS Strategic Plan with the addition of specific strategies to be executed in 2008. The Board also approved a proposal for next steps in its contingency plan. The ACS contingency plan provides a set of actions that could be undertaken if certain threats or opportunities became realities for the Society.

The Committees of the Board

- The Board received reports from its Committee on Grants and Awards, the Committee on Executive Compensation, and the Committee on Budget and Finance. On the recommendation of the Committee on Grants and Awards, the Board voted to approve Society nominees for the 2008 Perkin Medal and the 2008 Othmer Gold Medal. On the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve the Pacifichem 2010 proposed budget; to include funding for a State Government Affairs Program in the budgets for 2008-2010; to defer funding for the Committee on Professional Training Workshops with Hispanic and Native American-serving Institutions from 2007 to 2008 to take full advantage of an NSF workshop to be held in September 2007; and to accept the recommendations of the Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG) subject, in some instances, to further refinements.

The Executive Director/CEO Report

- The Executive Director/CEO, along with several of her direct reports, updated the Board on the following issues: the proposed 2008 merit guideline and inflation assumption for building the 2008 budget; possible amendments to the ACS Retirement and Employee Savings Plans as recommended by the Committee on Pensions and Investments; and the activities of the Publications Division, Chemical Abstracts Service, and the Society's General Counsel. As a follow-up, the Board voted to approve the 2008 merit guideline and the inflation assumption,

amendments to the ACS Retirement and Employee Savings Plans, a continuation of service for several Society journal editors, and an approval of a policy for mergers and acquisitions.

Other Society Business

- The Board received reports from its international guests and then discussed with them how their Society goals intersect with goals of the American Chemical Society. Our international guests represented the Royal Society of Chemistry, the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences, the Mexican Chemical Society, and FIZ Karlsruhe (Chemical Abstracts Service's STN partner).
- At its June meeting, the Board of Directors identified several strategic "mega" issues important to the future and success of the American Chemical Society and agreed to review these issues at its future meetings. At this meeting, the Board dedicated a portion of its agenda to the "mega" issue "Infrastructure" and combined its discussion with a review of the recommendations from the Summit on ACS Committee Structure, as presented by the Governance Review Task Force. After a presentation on ACS committees and their history, the Board engaged in a discussion of its role, and the role of those committees dedicated to initiatives needed to execute the Strategic Plan.
- The Board also received updates from two Society initiatives: Web Presence Initiative and ACS Leadership Development System (LDS). The newly re-invented ACS website, scheduled to launch September 30, will feature a unifying global navigation and dramatically improved user experience. The new url is www.acs.org; users who click www.chemistry.org will be forwarded to the new site. The LDS envisions offering a full pipeline of skilled and effective ACS members ready, willing, and able to step into leadership roles in their volunteer and professional lives.

Activities Of HIST Councilors

Ben Chastain – Ben completes his twelfth year as HIST representative to Council and will retire from this position at the end of 2007. Ben has served HIST as a Liaison to the Committee on Public Relations and Communication, and as an Associate (one year) and a Member (six years) of the Divisional Activities Committee. He will be succeeded by Carmen Giunta who will begin his term (2008-2010) as HIST Councilor in January.

Mary Virginia Orna – Mary Virginia completed her six years (two successive three-year terms) on the Committee on Committee, having served for most of that time as liaison to the Committee on Publications and the Committee on Technician Affairs. As noted above, she was elected to a three-year term on the Council Policy Committee.

Ben B. Chastain, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors

Bulletin for the History of Chemistry

The February, 2008 issue of the *Bulletin* [Volume 33, No. 1) features Anthony Travis's 2007 Edelstein Award paper. It has become a regular practice to publish the annual award paper in the first of the two issues of each year. Volume 32(2) was largely dedicated to HIST and its impact on the publication of chemical history. Extra copies may be ordered through Vera Mainz, HIST Secretary/Treasurer, at \$20 each. All back issues are available at the same rate. If your library lacks a subscription to the *Bulletin*, you should encourage your acquisitions librarian to consider one of the best bargains in periodicals.

We are always seeking new reviewers of manuscripts and recent books. If you are interested, please let me know.

Paul R. Jones, Editor

2008 Edelstein Award to Sir John Rowlinson

The Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society announces that Sir John Shipley Rowlinson, Fellow of Exeter College at Oxford, has been selected to receive the 2008 Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry. Rowlinson was chosen from a group of international nominees “because of the breadth and quality of his research publications in the history of physical chemistry and his contributions over the last three decades to the development of the history of chemistry at the University of Oxford.”

Sir John (knighted by the Queen in 2000) spent most of his career exploring cohesion and capillarity, publishing an important textbook, *Liquids and Liquid Mixtures*, in 1959. His strong belief in the value of the history of science led to a number of important works, including a translation of van der Waals’ doctoral thesis *On the Continuity of the Gaseous and Liquid States* (1988), a collaborative biography *Van der Waals and Molecular Science* (1996, with A. Ya. Kipnis and B. E. Yavelov), and *Cohesion: A Scientific History of Intermolecular Forces* (2002), which covers the subject from Newton to the present time and which was praised by reviewers for its meticulous documentation and intimate knowledge of secondary sources. Although he retired from teaching in 1993, Rowlinson remains active in a number of scientific societies, especially the Royal Society in London where he is a strong supporter of its historical activities.

The Edelstein Award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for \$3500 and is supported by a gift from Ruth Edelstein Barish and family to HIST. The award is partially supported by the Chemical Heritage Foundation of Philadelphia and will be presented to Rowlinson at the fall national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia in August 2008. Additional information about the award can be found on the HIST website at <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/awards/edelstein.php>.

Outstanding Paper Award to Patricia Swain

Dr. Patricia Swain was selected to receive the 2007 Outstanding Paper Award paper for her paper entitled “Bernard Courtois (1777-1838), Famed for Discovering Iodine (1811), and His Life in Paris from 1798” in *Bull. Hist. Chem.* Volume 30, No. 2,(2005) pp. 103-111. Dr. Swain received her Ph.D. in physical chemistry at Imperial College, London in 1958, for research on reactions of alkaline iodine solutions with aliphatic aldehydes. From 1958-1960 she was an investigator with The British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association and since then has mainly combined school teaching with raising a family. She was employed as a chemist with Scott Bader Company from 1968-1969 and in 1977 received a P.G.C.E. at the London Institute of Education. A teacher’s study period at St. John’s College, Oxford in the summer of 1992 enabled her to further an interest in the history of chemistry. Her address is 122 Juniper, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7ZE, UK. E-mail: Pswain5050@aol.com.

Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award - 2008 Nomination Deadline, April 12

In 2006, the HIST announced the first recipients of the then new Citation for Chemical Breakthrough award. This award, which recognizes breakthrough publications, books and patents worldwide in the fields of science embraced by the ACS, are presented to the institutions at which the work was performed. The term “breakthrough” refers to advances that have been revolutionary in concept, broad in scope, and long-term in impact. Plaques, to be placed in the hallways outside the office or laboratory where the breakthroughs were achieved, will be presented to the departments and institutions at which these breakthroughs occurred. Jeffrey I. Seeman (jiseeman@yahoo.com), then Chair of HIST and creator of the award, said that the award is intended to “celebrate great scientific accomplishments and motivate, through shared pride of achievement, all who walk by and see the

plaques. We hope they'll say, 'Wow! That was done here!'" Go to the [HIST](#) website for more information.

Delaware Academy of Chemical Sciences

The Delaware Academy of Chemical Sciences presents a luncheon featuring Three Legends in Chemistry and Public Service on Thursday, April 3, 2008, at the DuPont Country Club in Wilmington at 11:30. The three legends are all former members of the DuPont Textile Fibers department:

- Stephanie Kwolek, 84, the developer of Kevlar during her 40 years at DuPont.
- Joseph Labovsky, 95, the last surviving member of the Carothers Nylon research team.
- Dr. Russell Peterson, 91, researcher and executive during a 26-year DuPont career, former governor of Delaware, and environmental activist.

This event is a fundraiser to catalogue, maintain, restore, and ultimately display Mr. Labovsky's artifacts accumulated over his 41 years with DuPont on the development of nylon, which was available by tours of his basement for years to students and people interested in synthetic fibers and related technology. In so doing, the DACS is proud to help preserve the vision Mr. Labovsky had to keep the Carothers legacy alive. Tickets are \$50 for the event, which includes a reception with the Three Legends, a luncheon of chicken, salmon, or vegetarian meal, and remarks from and discussion with these three key chemistry personalities. Interested individuals may call Allen Denio at (302) 455-0389 for ticket information, or send an e-mail to DEAcadChemSci@gmail.com.

HIST Symposia, 235th ACS Meeting in New Orleans, LA April 6-8, 2008

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

Women Chemists in the National Inventors' Hall of Fame: Telling Their Stories.

[co-sponsors: CHED, TECH, WCC, and IEC]

The National Inventors' Hall of Fame celebrates the creative and entrepreneurial spirit of great inventors by showcasing exhibits and presentations that allow visitors to experience the excitement of discovery, creativity and imagination. Founded in 1972 and located in Akron, Ohio, USA, the Hall of Fame is dedicated to the individuals who conceived the great technological advances which the USA fosters through its patent system. Each year a Selection Committee composed of representatives from national scientific and technical organizations votes to select the most qualified inventors from those nominated for the current year. To date, only 13 women of the more than 375 inventors thus honored are members of the Hall of Fame, and of these 13, seven are chemists. At least three of the four women chemist inventors still living have agreed to come to New Orleans and tell their story; the other stories will be filled in by papers solicited by the organizer. The symposium will be **Sunday afternoon**, April 6, in the Marriott Convention Center Hotel, Fulton Room.

Mary Virginia Orna, Organizer

A Festival of Chemistry Entertainments.

[co-sponsor: Bolton Society]

A whimsical symposium featuring the lighter side of chemistry, **all day Tuesday**, April 8, in the Marriott Convention Center Hotel, Fulton Room. Authors, titles, and abstracts follow in the program at the end of the Newsletter. Among them are "Curriculum witty: Chemistry in verse and song," "From the pens of thirsty chemists and the occasional cat: Chemists humor in publications," and "A small

cornucopia of miscellaneous whimsy.” The atmosphere will be a carnival, complete with court jester. Join us for a delightful romp though an offbeat day at the meeting.

Jack Stocker, Organizer

HIST Strategic Planning

During the day on **Monday**, April 7, selected HIST participants will meet with ACS officials for the purpose of strategic planning. As a result, no HIST programming is planned for Monday. The plan should appear on the HIST website and in the fall HIST Newsletter.

HIST Cosponsored Events

Past, Present and Future of the Kilogram

[Sponsored by CINF, Cosponsored by HIST]

The **Sunday afternoon**, April 6, symposium comprises four invited talks, all dealing with the very current situation of trying to bring the kilogram and its related, quintessential quantities – the mole and Avogadro’s number – more rigorously into the SI system. Background for the discussion serves as the theme for the first talk on the history of Avogadro’s constant, presented by Carmen Giunta of Le Moyne College. Following will be Ian Mills of the BIPM, the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, discussing the ongoing and historical international proposals and their rationale to redefine these fundamental units and the improvement in their precision. The third presentation, by Paul Karol, chair of the ACS Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols, will argue the strength of a counter-proposal whose foundation is a redefinition of Avogadro’s number as an integer. David Newell of the National Institute of Standards and Technology puts the linking of macroscopic to microscopic mass into its most modern perspective via the “electronic kilogram” and measurements based on quantum electrical units. Underlying the symposium is the participants’ objective to ensure that current proposals, very crucial to improving the International System of Units, are widely discussed and understood before imminent changes are made. Comments from the audience are anticipated. For additional information please contact 412-268-3142, pk03@andrew.cmu.edu.

Paul J. Karol, Organizer

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINE

Offerings are subject to change. Check the [HIST website](#) for updates.

PHILADELPHIA, August 17-21, 2008

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System ([OASYS](#)) by **April 4, 2008**. Note that the deadline is *before* the ACS meeting in New Orleans. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact Joe Jeffers. Check the call for papers in [Chemical and Engineering News](#) or the [ACS website](#) for changes in the abstract deadlines. Symposia ideas are still being accepted.

General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) 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

Edelstein Award Symposium Honoring Sir John Rowlinson (Invited) William H. Brock, History of Science, University of Leicester, 18 Greenway Gardens, Pattingham, Wolverhampton WV6 7DH

United Kingdom, Phone: 44-1902-701550, Email: william.brock@btinternet.com; Peter J. T. Morris, Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2DD United Kingdom, Phone: 44 (0)207 942 4167, Email: peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk.

200 Years of Atoms in Chemistry: From Dalton's Atoms to Nanotechnology. (Invited & **seeking contributors**) 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

Landmark Chemistry Books of the Twentieth Century V – Chemical Engineering. (Invited) [co-sponsors: Bolton Society; CHED] James J. Bohning, Department of Chemistry, Lehigh University, 6 E. Packer Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18015, Phone: (610) 758-3582, Fax: (610) 758-6536, Email: jjba@lehigh.edu

Legends of Environmental Chemistry [Sponsored: ENVR; cosponsored: HIST] Victor Turoski, Division of Environmental Chemistry, 345 East Wisconsin Ave, Neenah, WI 54956, Phone: 920-729-9281, vturoski@execpc.com. Susan D. Richardson, National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 960 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30605, Phone: 706-355-8304, Fax: 706-355-8302, richardson.susan@epa.gov

Fundamental Advances in Contemporary NMR Spectroscopy [Sponsored: PHYS; cosponsored: HIST] Lucio Frydman, Department of Chemical Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, 76100 Israel, Phone: 972-8-9344903, lucio.frydman@weizmann.ac.il. Mei Hong, Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Gilman 0108, Ames, IA 50011, Phone: 515-294-3521, mhong@iastate.edu

The Evolution of Analytical Sciences in the U.S. [Sponsored: ANYL; co-sponsored: HIST] Gary D. Christian, Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Box 351700, Seattle, WA 98195-1700, Phone: 206-543-1635, Fax: 206-685-3478, christian@chem.washington.edu

SALT LAKE CITY, March 22-26, 2009

General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, Phone: 701-231-8747, seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

The Heritage of Chemistry: A Symposium to Honor Arnold Thackray. (Invited) Jeffrey I. Seeman, SaddlePoint Frontiers, 12001 Bollingbrook Place, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone: (804) 794-1218, Email: jiseeman@yahoo.com

Busted - Myths of a Chemical Nature (Invited) 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

News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

The [Chemical Heritage Foundation](http://www.chemheritage.org) serves the community of the chemical and molecular sciences, and the wider public, by treasuring the past, educating the present, and inspiring the future. CHF maintains

a world-class collection of materials that document the history and heritage of the chemical and molecular sciences, technologies, and industries; encourages research in its collections; and carries out a program of outreach and interpretation in order to advance an understanding of the role of the chemical and molecular sciences, technologies, and industries in shaping society.

Thomas R. Tritton Becomes Second President of Chemical Heritage Foundation

Thomas R. Tritton began January 1, 2008, as president and CEO of the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF). He will be the second president of CHF, succeeding Arnold Thackray, who founded the organization in Philadelphia 25 years ago. Thackray will continue with CHF in the new role of chancellor. Tritton served as 12th president of Haverford College from 1997 to 2007 and just completed a semester as President in Residence of Harvard University. "I am enormously excited to be returning to my roots as a scientist," says Tritton. "My life has been devoted to education and the CHF position offers a new way to continue that calling in directions that are both original and challenging." Tritton's excitement about assuming the presidency of CHF is evidenced in his words. "CHF's world-class scientific collections and holdings provide an outstanding resource for scholars and a natural linkage to both the humanities and to the social sciences. In addition, the work on science education, outreach, and public policy offers distinctive contributions to contemporary questions and societal needs."

Chemical Heritage Foundation Creates *Distillations*, a Weekly Podcast

Distillations: Extracts from the Past, Present, and Future of Chemistry is a weekly show offering entertaining reports on subjects ranging from alchemy to the contents of your kitchen cupboard to the chemistry of space exploration. It makes the wonders of chemistry available to listeners around the world. Join host Robert D. Hicks and guests every Friday for the latest episode of *Distillations*. A former naval officer and most recently director of the Roy Eddleman Institute for Interpretation and Education at CHF, Hicks is also an expert in the history of navigation and a talented reenactor. Recorded in Philadelphia and produced in San Francisco, *Distillations* has a radio-quality sound that you can listen to wherever your iPod takes you. Each show lasts 6 to 10 minutes. *Distillations* is available free of charge through the iTunes store and at its Web site <http://distillations.chemheritage.org>.

Contributions from the Historical Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry

The Historical Group exists to encourage an interest in the history of chemistry and chemical industry among members of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and others. Membership is open to non-members of the RSC and embraces a wide range from those whose interest in the history of chemistry is a hobby to teachers of chemistry at all levels and professional historians. The Group holds twice-yearly meetings when academic papers are read and discussed. Summaries of papers read at these meetings are included in the Historical Group Newsletter along with reviews of recent books in the subject and news of other meetings and forthcoming events. The Newsletter is published twice yearly. Contributions of not more than 500 words on topics of current interest in the history of chemistry are invited for inclusion at the discretion of the Editor. For more information, go to <http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/rschg/>. For membership forms, contact Dr. John Hudson, membership secretary, johnhudson25@hotmail.com.

From the Editor

This Newsletter opens with a significant announcement about the forthcoming increase in annual subscriptions to the Group, the first for many years. We also have two important items of news: the first, written by Chris Cooksey, is the award of the Plowden medal to one of our members, Dr Vincent Daniels, and the second, by Nigel Lees, Manager of the Library & Archival Services at the RSC, are the plans for the library within the new 'Chemistry Centre' at Burlington House. My thanks go to all the contributors to this issue, especially Noel Coley, for his essay on Sugden's parachute. We have two enthusiastic book reviews. Peter Reed's is on a new monograph published by the British Society for the History of Science, entitled *An Element of Controversy: The Life of Chlorine in Science, Medicine, Technology and War*, and edited by Hasok Chang and Catherine Jackson. Bill Griffith's is on *Joseph Priestley – A Celebration of His Life and Legacy*, edited by James S. Birch and Joe Lee, and published by the Priestley Society. Last year's celebrations of Joseph Priestley's life and work are also the subject of an excellent conference report, written by Alan Dronsfield, the meeting's convenor. This is followed by two other excellent reports, both by Anna Simmons. The latest in the series of Chemical Landmark Plaques, unveiled at the Clarendon Laboratory, University of Oxford, on 24th September 2007, leads us to a short piece on Henry Moseley, reproduced from the web-page of Oxford's physics department, and obtained for us by Alan Dronsfield. The Newsletter ends, not only with the customary announcements of forthcoming meetings, but also with what will become a regular feature of the Spring issue: a short summary of the previous year's meetings of the Group (2007) and plans for the current year (2008), kindly provided by Bill Griffith. Please note that a meeting on *Creating a New Rainbow: Dyes after Perkin* will take place on Thursday February 14, 2008, from 1000 - 1730 in the Fish Room at Burlington House. Our AGM will be held at 1310 in the Council Chamber on that day, and an agenda is also enclosed with this Newsletter. The deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is 12 July 2008. Please send your contributions to (vquirke@brookes.ac.uk) as an attachment in Word or rich text format, or on CDROM (post to 16 Drayton Road, Dorchester-on-Thames, OXON, OX10 7PJ). We are also pleased to accept photographs, but these need to be sent to me in hard copy form to the address above.

Viviane Quirke

News and Updates

The Plowden Medal

Dr Vincent Daniels, an RSCHG member, has been awarded the 2007 Plowden Medal by the Royal Warrant Holders Association. The gold Medal was presented by The Lord Chamberlain. The citation reads 'For his long and exceptional contribution to the development of understanding in conservation, the excellence of his dedicated research and his ready engagement with the practitioners of the conservation profession.' His BSc in chemistry at University College Cardiff was followed by research on thermally degraded polyvinyl chloride. After postdoctoral research, he joined the British Museum in 1974 and took early retirement from there in June 2003. He is currently Research Fellow in RCA/V&A Conservation. Vincent has researched a wide range of conservation issues, including fading of dyes on textiles, plasma reduction of silver tarnish on daguerreotypes, the yellowing of thymol in the display of prints, the examination and conservation of the Rosetta Stone at the British Museum and the occurrence and alteration of realgar on Ancient Egyptian papyri. *Chris Cooksey*

History of Chemistry Focus within Burlington House?

Work is planned to begin in July 2008 to refurbish and redevelop the historic Reading Room, Library staff area, and basement. As the largest space within the RSC, the Library could be much better utilised to the advantage of all members and other visitors to Burlington House. The RSC plans to open up its London headquarters and create a 'chemistry centre', a focus for chemical sciences within the UK and Europe. As such the Library and other spaces could be used for top-level international conferences and meetings, exhibitions, evening lecture series and receptions, educational talks and studies, plus many other events. A recent benefit has already been the cataloguing of over 4,000 books in the main Reading Room. We have also just started cataloguing the 8,000 or so books in the basement, thus making these historical books available to all scholars and researchers for the first time. Many members have used the RSC Virtual Library and perhaps have searched the Springer archive of 127 journals many of which are from volume one. This is a free service for members and I hope more archives will join the Virtual Library in 2008. *Nigel Lees, Manager Library & Archival Services, RSC* Library@rsc.org, www.rsc.org/library/historical, www.rsc.org/virtuallibrary

RSC Chemical Landmark Scheme, Clarendon Laboratory, University of Oxford, 24th September 2007

The Historical Group was represented by chairman Alan Dronsfield and committee member Cassie Watson at the unveiling of a Chemical Landmark Plaque in honour of the work carried out by Henry Moseley in establishing the concept of atomic number. Several other members of the Historical Group were present at this event, including Gordon Woods, whose enthusiasm for Moseley and his work was the spur that led to the award of this Chemical Landmark plaque. See <http://www.physics.ox.ac.uk/history.asp?page=Moseley>.

Meeting and Conference Reports

Joseph Priestley – more than just a chemist

A one-day conference on the above topic was held in Burlington House on Friday 14th September. It was attended by some 38 members of the Historical Group and the Priestley Society. The meeting began by Alan Dronsfield, RSC Historical Group Chairman, welcoming members and guests to the meeting. The Priestley Society exists to increase public awareness of the life and work of Joseph Priestley. It is a registered charity and has as its mission statement 'To bring awareness and recognition to the community, of the achievements of Joseph Priestley of Birstall and Heckmondwike (1733-1804), to celebrate and honour his legacy, and to promote his contributions towards education, science, religion and politics, for the greater good of humanity'. The HGRSC Newsletter contains a synopsis of the six papers given.

Neighbours and Territories: the evolving identity of chemistry

The Working Party (WP) on History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) held its sixth bi-annual History of Chemistry Conference in Leuven, Belgium, between 28 August and 1 September 2007. The aim was to facilitate communication between historically interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe and beyond. Around 120 delegates attended the conference which was held in and around the Catholic University in Leuven. The conference focused on the disciplinary identity of chemistry and its changing relationships with other fields. It aimed to improve our understanding of the territories claimed by

chemistry and the shifting boundaries within which it operated. From chemistry's roots in artisanal technology, pharmaceutical workshops and alchemical philosophy, it developed into the archetypal laboratory science of the eighteenth and nineteenth century, claiming full academic status. Chemists moved into many new fields, from agriculture and industry, to medicine, public hygiene and pharmacology. In the twentieth century, chemistry contributed to the major developments in molecular biology, quantum mechanics, environmental science and nanotechnology. It also gained a key position in the oil industry, the manufacture of plastics and pharmaceutical research. This broad and continuous adaptation of the discipline to various fields of expertise has brought chemistry in close contact with neighbouring disciplines and social pressures. Chemists have needed to carve out their territory, to negotiate with other specialists, and to claim particular expertise in widely diverging fields. Around 70 papers were delivered at the conference in sessions ranging in scope from 'Alchemy and Early Chemistry' to 'Chemical Knowledge in Transit' to 'Applied Chemistry, Engineering and Industry.'

Forthcoming Meetings

Chemistry and Conservation. In the late summer or early autumn of 2008 we are planning a joint meeting with the Royal Institution concerned broadly with the subject of Chemistry and Conservation. The organiser will be Professor Frank James of the RI, and the meeting will be held at the Royal Institution. Further details will appear in our Summer 2008 Newsletter.

The chemist in non-chemical industries. A one-day meeting to be held in the Fish Room, Burlington House, in October 2008, organised by John Hudson. Fuller details and a definite date will be announced in our Summer Newsletter.

Three Societies Meeting will be held at Keble College, Oxford, on 4-6 July 2008

The Three Societies Meeting is a major international event, taking place once every four years and organised jointly by the BSHS, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, and the History of Science Society. This meeting replaces the BSHS Annual Conference for 2008. For the forthcoming programme of events, consult the BSHS website at: <http://www.bsbs.org.uk/>

European History of Science Society, Annual meeting, Vienna, Austria, 10-12 Sept. 2008.

Theme: 'Styles of thinking in science and technology'. For information, go to:

<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/kgmm/ESHS3rdCongress/>

7th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, Sopron, Hungary (23-25 July 2009).

The Programme Committee Chair is Peter Morris.