



American Chemical Society
Division of the History of Chemistry

Newsletter

237th ACS National Meeting
Salt Lake City, UT
March 22-26, 2009

S. C. Rasmussen, Program Chair

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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 Jan Hayes, HIST Division Chair

Greetings, members of the Division of History of Chemistry:

This is my first message to you as chair of the HIST Division. I consider it an honor that you selected me to be your chair for 2009 and 2010. Although I am not new to the HIST Division, I am new to the governance of the Division. So, I am trying to find out more about the needs, wants, desires, and passions of the HIST Division members. I feel these should drive the activities of the Division.

To this end, I am working with immediate past chair Roger Egolf to continue a project of strategic planning for the Division. We have identified the major focal points for the HIST Division to be: 1) Membership – including new members and involving current members in meaningful activity; 2) The Bulletin of the History of Chemistry – continuing and improving its place as a valued peer-reviewed journal; 3) Awards – revisiting and enriching the value of the three awards given by the Division, and 4) Finances – maintaining a strong financial position while encouraging activities in support of the desires of the members. Roger and I would invite all Division members to attend a discussion on strategic planning to be held at the Salt Lake City meeting on Monday, March 23, at the Marriott Downtown Hotel, in Salon C starting at 1:00pm and running until the 2:30pm start of the symposium on Science History Study Tours. We hope you can join us for all or part of this discussion. If not, please share your ideas with me at jmhayes@earthlink.net.



The Salt Lake City meeting is the first meeting for Seth Rasmussen as program chair. I think you can see from this newsletter that he is off to an excellent start. But, please help him and Bulletin Editor Paul Jones by being willing to share. Share by giving a paper in a symposium, share by organizing a symposium, share by writing an article for the Bulletin. Many of you have wonderful knowledge that would be useful to others; please share your knowledge and your excitement.

Finally, within the ACS there are a number of changes occurring for many reasons. But the dual impact of financial constraints on ACS, on our members, and on the chemical enterprise combined with the advance of technologies means that ACS in the future will have some differences from ACS in the

past. Help HIST be creative and forward looking. I know that is hard when we are all interested in history. Just remember, the only constant thing in life is change. Please take an active role in the HIST Division of the future.

Jan Hayes, 2009/2010 HIST Chair

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 20, 2008

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Committees beginning in 2009: George M. Bodner, Cherlynlavaughn Bradley, Rigoberto Hernandez, Roland F. Hirsch, Ann H. Hunt, James M. Landis, Carol B. Libby, Roger A. Parker, Howard M. Peters, and Sara J. Risch. By written ballot, the Council elected Cherlynlavaughn Bradley, Rigoberto Hernandez, James M. Landis, Howard M. Peters, and Sara J. Risch for the 2009-2011 term.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Council Policy Committee beginning in 2009: R. Gerald Bass, Ray A. Dickie, Alan M. Ehrlich, Joseph A. Heppert, Pamela D. Kistler, Bonnie A. Lawlor, Mamie W. Moy and Eleanor D. Siebert. By written ballot, the Council elected Ray A. Dickie, Bonnie A. Lawlor, Mamie W. Moy, and Eleanor D. Siebert for the 2009-2011 term.
- The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Nominations and Elections: V. Dean Adams, Roger F. Bartholomew, W. H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr., Donald J. Burton, Kenneth G. Caulton, Dwight W. Chasar, Peter K. Dorhout, Catherine C. Fenselau, Morton Z. Hoffman, Peter C. Jurs, William R. Oliver, Robert A. Pribush, Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks, and Angela K. Wilson. By written ballot, the Council elected W. H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr., Peter K. Dorhout, Catherine C. Fenselau, Peter C. Jurs, and Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks for the 2009-2011 term; Angela K. Wilson for the 2009-2010 term; and Dwight W. Chasar for the remainder of a 2007-2009 term.

Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors

- The candidates for the fall 2007 ACS national election were announced as follows:

President-Elect 2009

Joseph S. Francisco, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Josef Michl, University of Colorado-Boulder, Boulder, CO

Directors-at-Large – 2009-2011

William F. Carroll, Jr., Occidental Chemical Corporation, Dallas, TX

Richard L. Deming, California State University- Fullerton, Fullerton, CA

Thomas R. Gilbert, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Marinda Li Wu, Science is Fun! Orinda, CA

Director, District III 2009-2011

Pat N. Confalone, DuPont, Wilmington, DE

Alan B. Cooper, Schering-Plough Research Institute, Kenilworth, NJ

Director, District VI 2009-2011

Bonnie A. Charpentier, Metabolex, Inc., Hayward, CA

Gary D. Christian, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

Petitions

- The Council VOTED to accept the Petition on Society Affiliate Dues. The petition raises Society Affiliate dues to be equal to the (full) membership dues, while specifying that Society Affiliates are not subject to any of the discounts otherwise applicable to membership dues. To be valid, the petition next must be confirmed by the Board of Directors within 90 days, and will become effective five months following confirmation.

Committee Review

- As part of a regular review, the Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and the Committee on Patents and Related Matters. The Committee on Chemistry and Public Affairs is responsible for advice and recommendations for ACS action on public policy matters involving the chemical sciences and technologies. The Committee on Patents and Related Matters considers patents and other related items insofar as such consideration and possible action are appropriate under the Society's Charter.

Registration Report and 2009 National Meeting Registration Fee

- As of August 20, 2008, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 13,800 registrants. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 8,196; Students 3,087; Guests 481; Exhibit Only 546; and Exhibitors 1,490. 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 voted to support an increase of \$10 for the 2009 national meetings advance registration fee.

Membership Activity

- In 2007, the number of paid new members nominated by current ACS members was 1,559. Currently, there are 988 paid new member applications. The Society's Member-Get-a-Member program is on track to have its best year ever.

Professional Employment Guidelines

- The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Professional Employment Guidelines for consideration. These guidelines offer a broad spectrum of recommended practices in employment for professional scientists and their employers. The Council will vote on the Professional Employment Guidelines at the 2009 spring meeting in Salt Lake City.

Revision of the Division Funding Formula and Formation of a New Division

- After a motion to recommit failed, the Council VOTED, as recommended by the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC), to accept a revised division funding (allocation) formula. DAC reported that the formula improves clarity, offers simplicity, and rewards collaborative programming between divisions. The change will take effect in 2009 for 2008 activities.
- The Council also VOTED to approve the formation of the Probationary Division of Catalysis Science and Technology. The primary objective of this probationary division is to provide a "home" for the chemical science of catalysis within the ACS in a way that will also insure a continual connection between this science and the essential chemical technology of catalysis.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda by President Bruce Bursten. The discussion focused on Achieving Sustainability (e.g., Energy, Water, Food): What can/should ACS do to address this key global scientific challenge? To kick off the discussion, ACS Board Chair Judy Benham invited Council to participate in identifying the challenges and developing solutions. She highlighted new and ongoing activities, such as the Global Challenges/Chemistry Solutions podcasts and related information, available online at www.acs.org/globalchallenges. She also sought Council input on member involvement and ACS programming in support of Goal #3 of the Strategic Plan: "ACS will be a global leader in enlisting the world's scientific professionals to address, through chemistry, the challenges facing our world." Councilors engaged in a robust exchange, offering several useful comments and suggestions to address how the Society might develop initiatives to address sustainability of the world's resources, including energy, water, and food. Thirty-five councilors offered a wide variety of suggestions, which will be studied. Councilors and others who have ideas should send them to strategicplan@acs.org.

Reports from the Board of Directors and the various committees of the Board, the Council, the Joint Board-Council, and Standing Committees followed.

Activities of HIST Councilors

Carmen Giunta serves as an associate on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and on the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols (NOM). In Council, he voted **for** the division funding formula proposed by DAC, despite some reservations, and he will continue to keep track of the formula's consequences and other possible changes as the matter is followed up within DAC. The DAC subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws passed the affiliation proposed between HIST and the Chemical Heritage Foundation. The DAC subcommittee on divisional enhancement approved both of the HIST division's innovative project proposals for symposia at the Spring 2009 national meeting; congratulations to proposal authors Jan Hayes and Mary Virginia Orna. DAC will now entertain innovative project proposals at both national meetings, with February 1 and July 1 deadlines.

Mary Virginia Orna continues serving the first of her three-year term on the Council Policy Committee (CPC), which acts as the Executive Committee of the Council as a whole. She is also serving on the CPC Subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws and the CPC Long-Range Planning Committee. In the latter capacity she is working with other ACS entities to help new Councilors become aware of the ACS Strategic Plan and how to interface with it in a variety of ways. If any of the HIST membership would like to know more about the plan and how each member could possibly contribute to ACS goals, please contact her at mvorna@cnr.edu.

Carmen Giunta, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors

Trevor H. Levere to Receive the 2009 Edelstein Award

The Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society (HIST) announces that Trevor H. Levere, University Professor Emeritus at the Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (IHPST) at the University of Toronto, has been selected to receive the 2009 Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry.

Levere was chosen from a group of international nominees because of the breadth and depth of his historical interests, his research productivity, his understanding of the intellectual and contextual aspects of the history of chemistry, and his promotion of the history of science in Canada.

Starting as an undergraduate chemistry major at Oxford in 1962, Levere changed his focus to the history of chemistry and published his B.A. thesis in Martinus van Marum in 1969. Continuing on at Oxford under A.C. Crombie, Levere received his D.Phil. in 1969 with a thesis that appeared in 1971 as *Affinity and Matter: Elements of Chemical Philosophy 1800–1865*, a work that still remains an essential reference for historians of chemistry. His historical productivity since then has been far-ranging, including not only the traditional eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history of European chemistry but also including the history of Canada, the history of exploration, and the history of scientific apparatus. His *Transforming Matter: A History of Chemistry from Alchemy to the Buckyball*, appearing in 2001, is often considered one of the best histories of chemistry in several decades, presenting the subject in a readable style to a large audience beyond the specialist. Levere's entire career was spent at the University of Toronto, where he has played a major role in building the IHPST into an organization of international importance.

The Edelstein Award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for \$3500. It is supported by HIST and the Chemical Heritage Foundation of Philadelphia and will be presented to Levere at the fall national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC in August 2009. Additional information about the award can be found on the HIST website at <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/awards/edelstein.php>.

HIST Symposia, 237th ACS Meeting in Salt Lake City, UT March 22-26, 2009

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

Science History Study Tours: Global Perspectives.

This symposium will document the development of the science history study tour from its beginnings with the work of John Wotiz up to and beyond the present by also looking at non-Eurocentric possibilities in Israel and other places. Originally conceived to visit places where actual historical chemistry and physics took place, such as the Cavendish Laboratories at Cambridge, many of the more recent tours have concentrated on collections of items in key museum such as the Volta Museum in Como. Papers will describe the planning and execution of these tours, which could have a duration of anywhere from two to eight weeks and carry continuing education credits. Two papers will show how specific discoveries can be incorporated into the chemistry curriculum, and two others will speculate on how such study tours might play out in some very unusual places. The symposium will be **Monday afternoon**, March 23, in the Marriott Downtown Hotel, Solitude Room.

Mary Virginia Orna, Organizer

Henry Eyring, His Science and His Legacy

The Henry Eyring Symposium is the first in a series of symposia that visit the science and legacy of former ACS Presidents. The six symposium speakers will approach Eyring's life and science from different perspectives – as students, as colleagues, as coauthors, as mentees, and as friends. By the end

of the symposium the attendees will have a deeper understanding of the vast amount and depth of chemistry done by Henry Eyring. But Henry's ability to apply his knowledge and experience to a variety of fields far beyond traditional chemistry will also be explored. He was the multidiscipline scientist star of his era. Another facet of Eyring that will be looked at is his example as a teacher, as a student and as leader of chemists and other scientists. Symposium attendees will also receive a program containing key articles about and by Henry Eyring as a useful future resource. The symposium will be **Tuesday morning**, March 24, in the Marriott Downtown Hotel, Salon C.

Jan M. Hayes, Organizer

HIST Business Meeting

At 1:00 pm on **Monday**, March 23, HIST will hold an open business meeting.

HIST Cosponsored Events

ACS Award for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences: Symposium in Honor of Mary F. Singleton

[Sponsored by WCC, Cosponsored by HIST, PROF, and CEPA]

Janet L Bryant, Amber S. Hinkle, Deborah A. McCarthy, Marinda Li Wu, Organizers

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINE

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

WASHINGTON DC, August 16-20, 2009

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System ([OASYS](#)) by **March 27, 2009**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact Seth Rasmussen. 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**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Email: 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

Classic Books in Chemistry VI – The Language of Chemistry. (Invited) [co-sponsors: Bolton Society; CINF] 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; Ned D. Heindel, , Department of Chemistry, Lehigh University, Seeley G. Mudd Lab, Bethlehem, PA 18015, Phone: (610) 758-3464, Fax: (610) 758-3461), Email: ndh0@lehigh.edu

Edelstein Award Symposium Honoring Trevor Levere. (Invited) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21-25, 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, Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

100+ Years of Plastics: Leo Baekeland and Beyond. (**Seeking contributors**) E. Thomas Strom, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Texas at Arlington, P. O. Box 19065, Arlington, TX 76019-0065, Phone: (817) 272-5441, Fax: (817) 272-3808, Email: tomstrom@juno.com

News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

The [Chemical Heritage Foundation](#) (CHF) 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.

Chemical Heritage Foundation to Present 2009 Othmer Gold Medal to Ahmed Zewail

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) has named Ahmed Zewail, Nobel laureate in chemistry (1999), to receive the 2009 Othmer Gold Medal. The award ceremony and the annual Othmer Gold Medal luncheon will open the seventh annual Heritage Day on Thursday, 14 May 2009. This full day of awards and honors begins with the 12th annual Othmer Gold Medal luncheon.

Zewail received the Nobel Prize in 1999 for showing that it is possible with ultrarapid laser technique to see how atoms in a molecule move during a chemical reaction. A pioneer in chemical physics, Ahmed Zewail's work helped create the new field of femtochemistry, the study of matter on the femtosecond (10⁻¹⁵ second) timescale, which makes it possible to observe atoms in motion and the transition states of chemical transformations. The primary goal of his research since has been in the development of the field of four-dimensional (4D) Electron Microscopy for space-time visualization of materials and biological functions. Zewail is also devoted to enhancing public awareness of the value of fundamental research and helping populations in developing nations through the promotion of science and technology. He is the third Egyptian-born recipient of the Nobel prize, and the first to receive a Nobel in science.

Chemical Heritage Foundation Names Shelley Wilks Geehr Director, Roy Eddleman Institute for Interpretation and Education

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) has named Shelley Wilks Geehr its director of the Roy Eddleman Institute for Interpretation and Education. She will lead CHF's public outreach and education efforts including: the publication of Chemical Heritage magazine; the Distillations podcast; "Periodic Tabloid;" and future staff blogs; and outreach programs to bring the content of CHF's new museum to everyone interested in the history of chemistry, both through visits and informal education programs. Geehr will also oversee CHF's Web site and bring its popular online history resources to a wider audience around the world. She has worked more than ten years at CHF in publishing and educational outreach, both in print and online.

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.

Meeting and Conference Reports

Creating a New Rainbow: Dyes after Perkin.

Thursday February 14, 2008, Council Chamber, Burlington House, jointly with the RSC Chilterns and Middlesex section, organized by Chris Cooksey and Peter Morris. The talks dealt with aspects of dyes and the dye industry after Perkin's discovery of mauve in 1846. A capacity attendance and a lively meeting.

Conservation in Context.

Friday 25 July 2008, in the Faraday theatre of the Royal Institution (RI), held jointly with the RI. The organizers were Frank James and Katharine St. Paul, and there was an evening reception on July 24 at the RI. Some 130 people attended this excellent event.

The Chemist in Non-chemical Industries.

Friday October 28, 2008 in the Council Chamber, organized by John Hudson. Covered chemists in brewing, ceramics, the railways, food, photography and nuclear power. There were 50 members at this very successful and stimulating meeting.

Forthcoming Meetings

Organometallic Chemistry: Past and Present. Friday March 20 2009 in the Council Chamber, Burlington House, organized by Bill Griffith; joint meeting with the RSC Chilterns and Middlesex Section. A Wheeler award will be presented to Colin Russell after his lecture on Sir Edward Frankland. The AGM will be held that day.

Pharmacy in History. A joint meeting with SHAC and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries on Tuesday May 12, 2009, organized by the Society of Apothecaries.

Chemistry and the Law. Friday October 23 2009 in the Council Chamber, Burlington House, organized by Peter Reed.