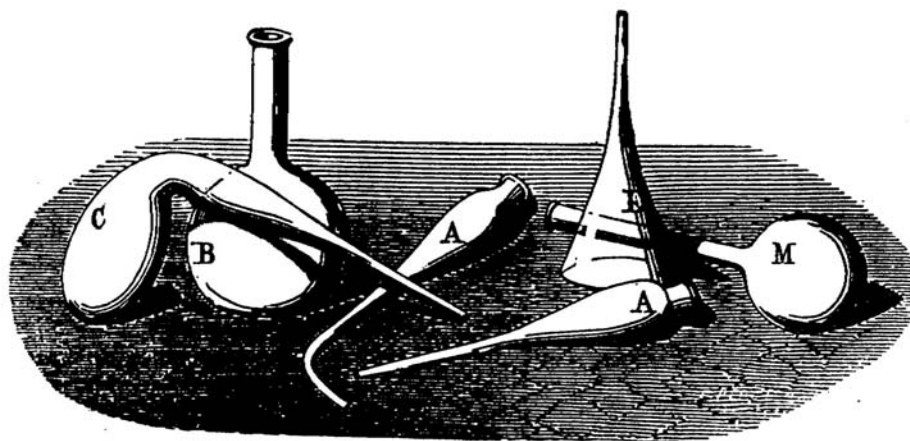




American Chemical Society
**DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF
CHEMISTRY**



NEWSLETTER

242nd ACS National Meeting
Denver, CO
August 28 - September 1, 2011

S. C. Rasmussen, Program Chair

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Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry ([HIST](http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/index.php) - <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/index.php>) 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 Tom Strom, HIST Division Chair

This summer has been plagued with extremely hot temperatures. Surely Denver, CO, the mile-high city, will be a cool venue in which to experience the fall ACS national meeting during the last week of August. HIST is the primary organizer of three co-sponsored symposia: “Gibbs Medal Centennial”; “IYC 2011: A Philatelic Celebration”; and “Profiles of Past ACS Presidents.” Furthermore, HIST is co-sponsoring the Presidential Events on “Empowering Tomorrow’s Science Super Heroes” and “Science on the Hollywood Screen.” For reasons unclear to me, HIST is not a co-sponsor of the symposium “Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Marie Curie’s Nobel Prize in Chemistry,” but certainly such an event will be a big draw for students of chemical history. Regrettably, the number of HIST general papers is a little less than for last spring’s meeting in Anaheim. I hope that many of you will submit papers for next spring’s meeting in San Diego. The due date for abstracts for that meeting is October 28, 2011.



I am delighted to find that seven of our HIST members were chosen to be in the 2011 group of ACS Fellows. They were Seth Nathaniel Brown, Burtron H. Davis, Jean D. Delfiner, George B. Kauffman, James L. Marshall, John Sharkey, and Jeffrey Seeman. If I have accidentally omitted any names, please let me know. As you are probably aware, nominations for ACS Fellows can be submitted by any individual ACS members (one to a member), by a local ACS section (number equal to the number of councilors) and by a division (number equal to double the number of councilors). If you know of deserving HIST members who should be nominated by our division, please let our chair-elect Ned Heindel know.

HIST members of all people should be sensitive to the need for recording history at the local level. Do our various local ACS sections archive their minutes or newsletters? If not, valuable chemical history for geographical areas of the ACS may well be lost. This struck home to me when I realized that I know of no archives of minutes for my home Dallas-Fort Worth (D-FW) ACS Section. Fortunately we do have an area magazine/newsletter from which some D-FW history can be extracted. Jim and Jenny Marshall are working to digitize this resource so that it can be searched online. I suspect that efforts of this type are needed in many of our ACS local sections. I urge HIST members to take the lead in seeing that this is done.

As I have said in previous messages, please contact me at (tomstrom@juno.com) with your ideas, criticisms, and suggestions. I hope to see many of you in Denver at the HIST sessions.

E. Thomas (Tom) Strom, HIST Chair

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Anaheim, CA; March 27-31, 2011

Election Results

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2012: Judith L. Benham, Dennis Chamot, Diane Grob Schmidt, and Marinda Li Wu. By electronic ballot, the Council selected Dennis Chamot and Marinda Li Wu as candidates for 2012 President-Elect. These two candidates, along with any candidates selected via petitions, will stand for election in the Fall National Election.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election to select candidates from the list of nominees to represent District III and District VI on the Board of Directors for the term 2012-2014. Nominees for District III included Susan B. Butts, Pat N. Confalone, David J. Lohse, and Judith A. Summers-Gates. Nominees for District VI included G. Bryan Balazs, Bonnie A. Charpentier, Carlos G. Gutierrez, and Victor J. Hruba. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected Pat N. Confalone and David J. Lohse as District III candidates; and Bonnie A. Charpentier and Carlos G. Gutierrez as District VI candidates. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all members in District III and District VI for election of a Director from each District.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2012-2014 term: Ken B. Anderson, William F. Carroll, Jr., Charles E. Kolb, and Barbara A. Sawrey. The election of two Directors-at-Large will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

Reports of the Presidential Succession

- The President, Nancy B. Jackson, reported on her activities which seemed to consist almost entirely of interfacing the ACS with the International Year of Chemistry 2011. Among the many international issues that she, and ACS, are dealing with are the global challenges of population growth, availability of food and water, and climate change. One of the IYC events took place at the Chemical Heritage Foundation featuring the CEOs of Dow and DuPont and the former Director of the NSF. A webcast of the event can be viewed at <http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/international-year-of-chemistry-2011.aspx>.
- The Immediate Past-President, Joseph S. Francisco, reported on a task force that he created that was charged with ensuring that the U.S. remains the most innovative and entrepreneurial country in the world.
- The President-Elect, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri, reiterated his focus on an agenda dealing with policy and programmatic matters related to education at all levels. He also encouraged ACS members who no longer have to pay dues because of length of service in ACS to consider contributing what they would have paid in dues to Project SEED – and he followed up his exhortation by example: he delivered such a check to Madeleine Jacobs on the spot.

Meeting Registration Report

- As of March 30, 2011, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 14,047 registrants as follows: Regular attendees, 7,336; Students, 4,682; Exhibitors, 1,097; Exposition only, 599; and Guests, 333.

Membership Activity

- Membership recruitment efforts were exceptionally successful in 2010. It is particularly impressive that due to efficiencies in recruiting efforts, the net cost to recruit the more than 25,000 new members decreased from \$122 per member in 2008 to \$67 in 2010 despite increases in costs for postage and printing. The official membership number for 2011 stands at 163,111. [Note: Not in the report was the fact that the number of members who withdrew from ACS was almost equal to the number of new members recruited, a statistic that draws our attention not so much to recruitment but to retention of members.]

The Executive Director/CEO Report

- The Executive Director/CEO, Madeleine Jacobs, reported among other things that for the seventh consecutive year in a row, the ACS ended the year financially sound and with improved reserves due to vigilant expense management.

Activities of HIST Councilors

Roger Egolf – continued as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC), on which he was previously serving in his former capacity as a local section councilor for the Lehigh Valley Section. He also serves on the Annual Reports subcommittee of DAC.

Mary Virginia Orna – began her second three-year term on the Council Policy Committee (CPC) (2011-2013). She continues to serve on the Long-Range Planning and the Constitution and Bylaws Subcommittees of CPC and will work on developing a policy on alternative methods of taking recorded votes in Council, and also on overall national meeting planning and efficiency. She has also been a member on the Subcommittee that sets the Divisor every four years in order to maintain the balance of Council numbers for both Local Sections and Divisions.

Roger A. Egolf, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors

HIST now on Facebook

The ACS Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) recently added a Facebook page to promote upcoming Division activities and to establish connections with those interested in the history of chemistry that are either not members of the ACS or not familiar with the Division. The Facebook page will not replace HIST's official website (<http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/index.php>, maintained by Secretary-Treasurer Vera Mainz), but will highlight Division activities with links back to the main website. In addition, this page will allow a venue for members to share their views and discuss topics in the history of chemistry, without being limited by the timing and locations of national and local ACS conferences. The Facebook page can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/ACS-Division-of-the-History-of-Chemistry-HIST/152326921497559> or by searching 'HIST' in the Facebook search bar. Check it out, 'Like' the page, and post your thoughts on the Division or any other aspect of the history of chemistry!

Seth C. Rasmussen



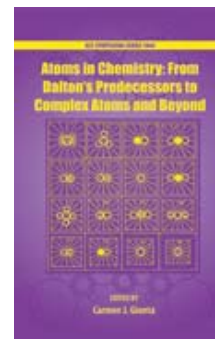
HIST listed in Top 10 Most Read ACS Symposium Series Chapters

"Four Centuries of Atomic Theory," by William B. Jensen (University of Cincinnati) has been listed by as one of the Top 10 Most Read Chapters of the ACS Symposium Series for the first quarter of 2011. The chapter is included in the recently published book, *Atoms in Chemistry: From Dalton's Predecessors to Complex Atoms and Beyond*, edited by Carmen J. Giunta (Le Moyne College). HIST is the sponsoring division of the volume, which is based on a HIST symposium from the 236th National Meeting in Philadelphia.

The ACS Symposium Series contains high-quality, peer-reviewed books developed from the ACS technical divisions' symposia. Each chapter is carefully authored by an expert in the field, and the collection of chapters edited by an internationally recognized leader in the field. The series covers a broad range of topics including agricultural and food chemistry, cellulose and renewable materials, chemical education, organic chemistry, polymer chemistry, materials, and many others.

The volume is available in print through Oxford University Press or online at <http://pubs.acs.org/isbn/9780841225572>.

Seth C. Rasmussen



Update on Springer Briefs in Molecular Science: History of Chemistry

In the last newsletter it was announced that a new book series was to be published by Springer, *Springer Briefs in Molecular Science: History of Chemistry*, with the first volumes available the beginning of 2012. The official website of the series is now live at <http://www.springer.com/series/10127>, where those interested can find more detailed information. The new site also provides a downloadable proposal form for those authors interested in contributing future volumes. Details of some of the initial volumes should be added shortly.

To celebrate the launch of the book series, HIST will be hosting a symposium at the 2012 ACS National Meeting in San Diego, in which initial authors will give talks highlighting their volumes in the series. Initial volumes will include contributions by Gary Patterson (Carnegie Mellon University), Mary Virginia Orna (College of New Rochelle), David E. Lewis (University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire), and Seth C. Rasmussen (North Dakota State University).

Proposals for future volumes are currently being sought and authors interested in discussing potential topics should feel free to contact Series Editor, Seth Rasmussen (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu).

Seth C. Rasmussen, Series Editor



German Historical Institute seeks Scholars for Biographical Projects

The German Historical Institute (GHI), located in Washington, DC, is currently working on a new project called "Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present." The project seeks to explore the contributions that first- and second-generation German immigrants have made to business and entrepreneurship in America. The project will feature 250 biographies of prominent entrepreneurs of German descent, for which GHI is currently seeking scholars interested in contributing to the collection. For a brief overview, please see http://www.ghi-dc.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=964&Itemid=856.

Current biographies being sought that relate to the history of chemistry include Fredrick Heller, founder of Heller & Merz, a colorant factory in Newark, New Jersey, and Jacob Schoellkopf, longtime

resident of Buffalo, NY and founder of Schoellkopf Chemical and Dye Company and Niagara Falls Hydraulic Power. Biographies are requested to be articles of no more than 20 pages, for which GHI can offer a stipend of \$400. Additionally, it is hoped to have opportunities for some of the authors to present their research at project-related events. For more information, please contact Claudia Winkler (202-522-8953 or winkler@ghi-dc.org).

Seth C. Rasmussen

Message from the HIST Program Chair

It is hard to believe that this upcoming meeting marks the end of my third year as Program Chair. However, before anyone panics, this is not the end of my term and I will continue as Program Chair for the foreseeable future (or potentially eternity if it was up to my fellow HIST officers!). As I mentioned in the last newsletter, I am also serving on the *ACS PACS Advisory Board* as we continue to try to resolve various issues with the (relatively) new PACS system for the submission of abstracts. One problem in particular that has affected HIST is that small oversights when submitting your abstract can cause it to be considered incomplete. As a consequence, it is in the system, but is stuck in limbo and is not sent to me for acceptance. I plan to write a step-by-step guide for HIST members submitting abstracts as one solution to this (for the HIST website), but hopefully as the advisory board we can develop a more elegant and complete solution to the problem. One of the benefits of being a small division is that HIST is a fairly close-knit community. Thus, until we have a more permanent solution, please send me an email (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu) after submitting HIST abstracts to PACS, letting me know that you have done so. That way I can ensure that it is fully in the system as a complete submission. As always, please feel free to pass along any other issues or suggestions that I can then bring up for discussion during the next advisory board meeting (Thanks to those that have already done so).



In Anaheim, we kicked off our new addition to the HIST programming, the *HIST Tutorial Series*. The presentations in this ongoing series are slightly longer talks acting as a review tutorial on a historical subject to bring HIST members and the general ACS community up to speed on a topic of general interest. The tutorials will start the General Papers sessions and whenever possible, will also tie into the ACS thematic programming. The first talk in the series was my contribution, *HIST Tutorial: Early history of metallurgy*, which fit with the Anaheim theme of *Chemistry of Natural Resources*. The upcoming Denver presentation will be *HIST tutorial: Gases of the atmosphere*, by Carmen Giunta (meeting theme is *Chemistry of Air, Space, and Water*) and the San Diego presentation will be by Joe Jeffers focusing on the work leading to the determination of the structure of DNA (meeting theme is *Chemistry of Life*). If there is a topic you would like to see added to the series, or better yet, if there is a topic you would like to talk about, please let me know (Really! I would love to hear from you!).

The programming for Denver is very strong, with sessions running Sunday afternoon through Tues afternoon. Next spring's meeting in San Diego, however, is currently pretty light, so if you have any ideas for upcoming symposia, please let me know. Even if you are not able to organize the symposia in mind, the Executive Committee and I may be able to find the appropriate person to do so. Of course, the submission of talks for our General Papers is always highly encouraged as well. If you have ideas for a talk and need some help or encouragement, don't hesitate to drop me an email.

As always, please feel free to share your thoughts and suggestions with me concerning any aspect of HIST and its programming (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu).

Seth C. Rasmussen, HIST Program Chair

HIST SYMPOSIA, 242nd ACS Meeting in Denver, CO August 28 - September 1, 2011

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

Gibbs Medal Centennial

Cosponsored by COLL, COMSCI, I&EC, INOR, ORGN, PETR, and PHYS

Financially supported by Chicago Local ACS Section

The Chicago Local Section annually presents the Willard Gibbs Medal to a scientist "who because of eminent work in and original contributions to pure or applied chemistry, is deemed worthy of special recognition by the jury." The list of recipients is a who's who of chemistry. Each recipient is selected by the Jury of the Willard Gibbs Medal, which consists of twelve members elected from the ACS. The 100th Willard Gibbs Medal will be presented in May 2011. Eleven Gibbs Medalists (40% of the living recipients) will present papers on a wide range of topics during this symposium. The symposium will **Sunday afternoon**, August 28, and **Monday afternoon**, August 29, at Sheraton Denver – Terrace.

K. Fivizzani, Organizer

IYC '11: A Philatelic Celebration

Cosponsored by CHED

This symposium, co-sponsored by CHED and HIST, will feature stamps and other philatelic materials related to chemistry and related fields. Oral presentations will include a philatelic tribute to Joseph Priestley's house, a report on Gibbs, thermodynamics and modern visualization techniques, an overview of the history and uses of aluminum, and the history of quantum chemistry on stamps. The symposium will be **Tuesday morning**, August 30, at Sheraton Denver – Terrace.

Dan Rabinovich and Ron Hill, Organizers

Profiles of Past ACS Presidents

Cosponsored by PRES

This symposium will celebrate the opening of a new website on acs.org being developed as a project of Immediate Past President Joe Francisco and the Division of History of Chemistry. The Profiles of Past ACS Presidents will contain a page for each of the presidents with his/her picture, brief biographical summary, chemical interests and presidential activities. The website pages will continue to grow as stories, publications and other details of their scientific experiences and legacies are added. Speakers will share a sampling of these Past Presidents' stories. One part of the project to be presented at the symposium is a statistical analysis of trends on the training and careers of the presidents. The symposium will be **Tuesday afternoon**, August 30, at Sheraton Denver – Terrace.

Joe Francisco, Jan Hayes and Pat Perez, Organizers

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Offerings are subject to change.

Check the [HIST website - http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/index.php](http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/index.php) for updates.

SAN DIEGO, March 25 - 29, 2012

Submit your abstract via the online ACS Program and Abstract Creation System (PACS) by **October 28, 2011**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission or are having difficulties

in submitting your abstract, contact Seth Rasmussen (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu). Check the call for papers in *Chemical and Engineering News* or www.acs.org for changes in the abstract deadlines.

HIST Tutorial and General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Springer Briefs History of Chemistry Book Series. (Invited) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

The Double Bind - Minority Women in Science and Update Thirty Seven Years Later. (Invited and **seeking contributors**) Jeannette Brown, 122 Brookside Lane Hillsborough, NJ 08844-4816, Phone: 908-239-1515, Email: Jebrown@infionline.net

Philadelphia, August 19 - 23, 2012

HIST Tutorial and General Papers. (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108-6050, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Characters in Chemistry. (Invited and **seeking contributors**) Gary D. Patterson, Department of Chemistry, Carnegie Mellon University, 4400 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213, Phone: 412-268-3324, Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

Chemistry Books Edited by E. F. Smith. (Invited) 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; 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

Celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the Land Grant College Act. (Invited) Roger A. Egolf, Pennsylvania State University -Lehigh Valley Campus, 8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051-9999, Phone: (610) 285-5110, Email: rae4@psu.edu

Dr. Marie Maynard Daly, Her Life and Legacy. (Invited and **seeking contributors**) [co-sponsors: CMA, WCC, and Chemcial Heritage Foundation] Jeannette Brown, 122 Brookside Lane Hillsborough, NJ 08844-4816, Phone: 908-239-1515, Email: Jebrown@infionline.net; Filomena Califano, Department of Chemistry & Physics, St. Francis College, Brooklyn Heights, New York, 11201, Email: fcalifano@stfranciscollege.edu; Janet Bryant, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, Richland, WA 99352, Phone: (509) 375-3765, Email: janetlbryant@pnl.gov.

News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

The [Chemical Heritage Foundation](http://www.chemheritage.org/) - <http://www.chemheritage.org/> (CHF) fosters an understanding of chemistry's impact on society. An independent nonprofit organization, we strive to inspire a passion for chemistry, highlight chemistry's role in meeting current social challenges, and preserve the story of chemistry across centuries. CHF maintains major collections of instruments, fine art, photographs, papers, and books. We host conferences and lectures, support research, offer fellowships, and produce

educational materials. Our museum and public programs explore subjects ranging from alchemy to nanotechnology.

CHF Mourns John C. Haas

All who are involved with the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) were saddened to learn of the passing of John C. Haas, former chairman of global chemical company Rohm and Haas on Saturday, April 2, at his family home in Villanova, Pennsylvania. Haas played a crucial role in the establishment of CHF's predecessor organization, the Center for the History of Chemistry, in 1982. From that point forward he tirelessly served CHF as a member of advisory boards and development committees and through a six-year term on CHF's board of directors. He created three Haas Fellowships for visiting scholars at CHF: one in the history of chemical industries and two in public understanding.

"John was a constant and creative supporter of CHF for three decades," said Thomas R. Tritton, CHF's president and CEO. "We will miss him greatly, as will so many others in the Philadelphia area who received his support, wise counsel, and encouragement."

FMC Corporation and CHF Form Partnership to Promote Chemistry and the Arts

FMC Corporation (NYSE: FMC) and the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) have formed a partnership to promote chemistry and the arts during the International Year of Chemistry 2011. FMC will provide support for CHF's exhibit *Elemental Matters: Artists Imagine Chemistry*. FMC will also encourage its Philadelphia and Ewing, N.J., employees to participate in CHF events and to volunteer their assistance with CHF programs.

"The world center of the history of chemistry is right here in Philadelphia," said Michael Sestrick, global director of Technology, FMC BioPolymer. "We want to be part of preserving and promoting the history of the central science and celebrating all that good chemistry brings to our lives." Sestrick will serve as the company's liaison to CHF.

On display at CHF through December, *Elemental Matters* includes *The Periodic Table Printmaking Project*, curated by Jennifer Schmitt, with 118 prints by 97 artists from 29 states and 7 countries laid out in the familiar periodic grid. The prints in this project celebrate the chemical elements as they link to everyday life. Also on display are photos by Dove Bradshaw showing the beauty of the human figure juxtaposed with words listing the elements of the human body, along with several other works by artists from Europe and the United States. Along with FMC Corporation, the exhibit is supported by Kathryn Hach-Darrow.

"We welcome support from FMC for *Elemental Matters* and our ongoing work of preserving the history of chemistry," said Thomas R. Tritton, president and CEO of CHF. "More importantly, we are delighted to welcome FMC employees and their families to our events and programs as participants and volunteers."

News from the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

Founded in 1935, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) has consistently maintained the highest standards of scholarship in all aspects of the history of alchemy and chemistry from early times to the present. The Society has a wide international membership of over 200 with members from 28 countries.

The Partington Prize 2011

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry is pleased to announce the winners of the 2011 Partington Prize. The Prize has been awarded jointly to: Dr Marcos Martín-Torres (Institute of

Archaeology, University College London) for his essay 'Inside Solomon's House: an archaeological study of the Old Ashmolean chymical laboratory in Oxford', and Mr Evan Ragland (Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, and Department of History and Philosophy Science, Indiana University) for his essay 'Chymistry and taste in the seventeenth century: Franciscus dele Boe Sylvius as a chymical physician between Galenism and Cartesianism'. Details of the presentation of the Prize will be available shortly. We congratulate both winners.

SHAC 75th Anniversary Meeting: 'The History of the History of Chemistry'

A meeting to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry was held in London at the Royal Institution on 19 November 2010. The day began with a tour, led by Professor Frank James, of the Science in the Making Exhibition of the recently refurbished Museum of the Royal Institution. Dr Robert Anderson, the Society's Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming the 70 members and other historians of chemistry from Europe, Canada and the USA. He noted that 2010 was not only the 75th anniversary of SHAC, but also the 180th anniversary of the publication in 1830 in London of Thomas Thomson's famous History of Chemistry, probably the first book of its kind devoted to our subject. Dr Anderson reported that, in addition to holding this meeting, the Society was also marking its anniversary with the compilation of a catalogue (prepared by Tony Simcock) of the SHAC archives, which are deposited at the Museum of the History of Science at Oxford. This compilation revealed a lack of photographs of the Society's activities that it was planned to remedy at this meeting. Dr Anderson thanked the Managers of the Royal Institution and also Professor Frank James for making it possible to hold this meeting in the singularly appropriate setting of the RI.