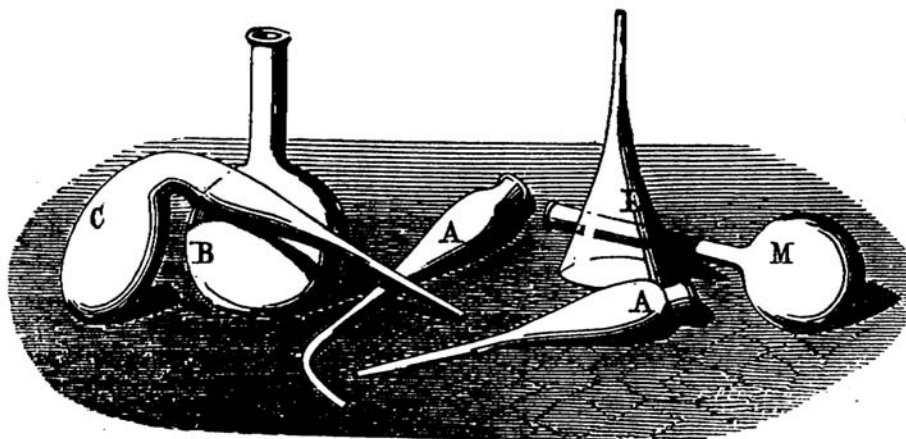




American Chemical Society
**DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF
CHEMISTRY**



NEWSLETTER

243rd ACS National Meeting
San Diego, CA
March 25 - 29, 2012

S. C. Rasmussen, Program Chair

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

Chair: 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

Chair-Elect: Ned D. Heindel
Lehigh University
Department of Chemistry
Seeley G. Mudd Lab
Bethlehem, PA. 18015
Phone: (610) 758-3464
Fax: (610) 758-3461
Email: ndh0@lehigh.edu

Past Chair: Janan M. Hayes
Merced College (retired)
6829 Barbara Lee Circle
Sacramento, CA 95842
Phone: (916) 331-6886
Email: jmhayes@earthlink.net

Secretary-Treasurer: Vera V. Mainz
2709 Holcomb Drive
Urbana, IL 61802
Phone: (217) 328-6158
Email: mainz@illinois.edu

Program Chair: 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
Fax: (701) 231-8831
Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Bulletin Editor: Carmen J. Giunta
Le Moyne College
1419 Salt Springs Rd.
Syracuse, NY 13214-1399
Phone: (315) 445-4128
Fax: (315) 445-4540
Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu

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

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

Alternate Councilor: 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

Alternate Councilor: Arthur Greenberg
Department of Chemistry
University of New Hampshire
Parsons Hall
Durham, New Hampshire 03824
Phone: 603 862-1180
Fax: 603 862-4278
Email: art.greenberg@unh.edu

Historian: Gary Patterson
Department of Chemistry
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Phone: (412) 268-3324
Fax: (412) 268-1061
Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

Archivist: John Sharkey
Pace University
Department of Chemistry & Physical Sciences
One Pace Plaza
New York, NY 10038-1502
Phone: (610) 758-3582
Email: jsharkey@pace.edu

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 Tom Strom, HIST Division Chair

Mea culpa, my bad, oh for dumb, stupid Tom---chose your epithet; I deserve any or all of them. When I proudly listed seven new ACS Fellows from HIST in my message last fall, I omitted the eighth new ACS Fellow from HIST, O. Bertrand (Bert) Ramsey. Bert has served HIST for many years. He was Chair of the Division in 1975, and he has been a consistent presenter in our division through the years. He was an outstanding choice for ACS Fellow. I do have a reason though not an excuse for the omission. When I printed out the list of 2011 ACS Fellows, my printer failed to print the last four lines from each page of the spreadsheet. As bad luck would have it, Bert's name was at the bottom of one of those sheets.



I hope to see many of our HIST members at the Spring ACS Meeting in San Diego. Supposedly San Diego has the most ideal climate for all seasons of any US city. It surely will be nice in the spring. Your division's symposia include *Chemistry Goes West*, *The Double Bind: Minority Women in Science*, and the *Springer Briefs History of Chemistry Launch Symposium*. Furthermore, the number of general papers is larger than usual. I hope we can continue to increase those general paper numbers for the fall meeting in Philadelphia. Remember that Philadelphia is the home of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, so a further incentive to attend would be the chance to visit this outstanding repository of chemical history. The deadline for fall abstract submission is March 30.

In my message of last fall, I urged members to make efforts to see that your local section history is archived somehow. I mentioned efforts underway in my home ACS section (Dallas-Fort Worth) to archive the local section magazine/newsletter, *The Southwest Retort*. Dr. Jim Marshall and I have been working to have this newsletter, which dates back to 1948, available online with key word search capabilities. This is being done at the University of North Texas library. *The Retort's* predecessor from 1944-48, *The Activator*, has been put online with the first four volumes of *The Southwest Retort* to follow. See if your local section has been archiving their minutes or newsletters. If they haven't, urge them to get the process started.

Chemistry departments and industrial and government chemistry laboratories have histories. Are they being written up? One of my alma maters, UC-Berkeley, has a fine history, *From Retorts to Lasers: The Story of Chemistry at Berkeley*, written in 1987 by faculty member Dr. William L. Jolly. I imagine that other prestigious chemistry departments also have written histories. What about histories from departments lower in the academic pecking order? Are their histories any less valid or interesting? I raise this point because a chemistry department history has just been written at my present institution, the University of

Texas at Arlington. Retired chemistry faculty member Dr. Thomas J. Cogdell has written a long history covering the years 1895-1995 and published and bound it at his own expense. An important description of chemical history in the North Texas area has been captured through Cogdell's work. Those of us who are at academic institutions should push to see that our chemical histories are documented as well.

Finally, I hope to see many of you in San Diego or in Philadelphia. Please send me your ideas or suggestions at (tomstrom@juno.com).

E. Thomas (Tom) Strom, HIST Chair

Message from Ned Heindel, HIST Division Chair-Elect

There are several projects afoot for this year by your Chair-Elect. With co-sponsorship by the Bolton Society of the Chemical Heritage Foundation we're arranging Jim Bohning's last symposium, "Edgar F. Smith: Bibliophile, Author, Founder" for the Fall ACS Meeting in Philadelphia. Telling the story of Smith as scholar, author, collector, and ACS statesman was a fond hope of Jim and we've structured his proposed symposium as a memorial to him. A draft of the half-day symposium is attached.

In addition, chairman Strom has appointed me as the solicitor for HIST nominations for the ACS Fellows designation. In that regard, I'm seeking suggestions from members of suitable nominees to the fellowship listing. In addition, as has been a Division tradition in recent years, I am chairing the Nominations Committee seeking candidates for the Divisional officer slots. Please e-mail your suggestions as to possible Fellow nominees or division officers to (ndh0@Lehigh.EDU).

Ned Heindel, HIST Chair-Elect



Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Denver, CO; August 28-September 1, 2011

Election Results

- Elected to the Committee on Committees were Rigoberto Hernandez, Helen (Bonnie) A. Lawlor, Zaida C. Morales-Martinez, Howard M. Peters and Sara J. Risch for the 2012-2014 term.
- Elected to the Council Policy Committee were Lawrence Barton, Peter C. Jurs, Mamie W. Moy, and Eleanor D. Siebert for the 2012-2014 term.
- Elected to the Committee on Nominations and Elections were William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr., Catherine C. Fenselau, Lydia E. M. Hines, Anne T. O'Brien, and Andrea B. Twiss-Brooks for the 2012-2014 term.

Petitions (For Action)

- The Council received one amendment (petition) to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws for action: The Petition on Position Statements. The Council VOTED to approve the Petition on Position Statements, which allows for clear and consistent position development for the Society. The petition assures that the Board of Directors has sole authority in issuing position statements that establish policy for the full Society; and that Society bodies other than the Board may issue statements on issues that fall solely in their jurisdiction so long as they do not impair other Society bodies' ability to do the same. The Board of Directors will vote within 90 days on whether to ratify the approved petition.

Committee Review

- As part of a regular performance review, the Council VOTED to continue the joint Board-Council Committees on Community Activities and on Publications. Continuation of these two committees also requires Board of Directors concurrence.

Meeting Registration Report

- As of September 1, 2011, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 10,076 registrants. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 6,088; Students 2,376; Guests 218; Exhibit Only 394; and Exhibitors 1,000.

Membership Activity

- Despite the challenging economy and continued high unemployment, the Society's overall membership number remains stable at near 163,000. The number of new undergraduate Student Members is growing rapidly, and as of July 31 the total stands at 15,702. The committee is concentrating its efforts on retaining current members.

Special Discussion Item

- A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. ACS President Nancy Jackson presented and moderated a discussion on how ACS can best cultivate a culture of safety in US universities and colleges. At the 2011 ACS national meeting in Anaheim, the Committee on Chemical Safety launched an effort to identify ways to assist academia in strengthening and building strong safety cultures. Devastating incidents in academic laboratories, and observations by many that graduates do not have strong safety skills, have elevated concerns about the safety culture in academia. Following Dr. Jackson's presentation, Councilors engaged in robust discussion on this very timely topic, with numerous suggestions by 42 different Councilors.

Changes in Technical Divisions

- The Council VOTED to grant full division status to the previously probationary Division of Catalysis Science and Technology, and to approve the proposed bylaws of this division.
- After a lively discussion, the Council VOTED 53% - 47% to dissolve the Division of Petroleum Chemistry and to combine its assets and members with those of the Division of Fuel Chemistry under the new name of the Division of Energy and Fuels, effective December 31, 2011. The discussion centered largely around the name, rather than the merger.

Employment, Economic, and Professional Activities

- ACS has created new programs to assist unemployed members and new resources for all members, from students to seasoned professionals. The first ever fully integrated onsite and virtual career fair in Denver offered job seekers and virtual participants via webcam the opportunity to interact with each other and to connect with prospective employers and programs to sharpen their career skills. The number of employers was up from Anaheim. The Presidential Task Force on Innovation and Job Creation released their report, entitled "Innovation, Chemistry & Jobs." The report contained four recommendations to stimulate innovation and job creation in the US chemical industry.

Update on ACS vs. Leadscope Litigation

- The Chair of the Board gave an update on the Leadscope case. She reported previously that ACS had appealed to the Ohio State Supreme Court and that the Court has agreed to hear the case. In written briefs filed in support of the Society's position (that the lower court rulings were both unfair and unconstitutional), ACS has been joined by several prestigious organizations. In April, the Leadscope defendants filed two motions seeking to dismiss the Society's appeal. In June, the Ohio Supreme Court denied their motions and has scheduled oral arguments for September 7 in Columbus, Ohio.

Other Society Issues

- The Board agreed to accept an invitation from the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) to meet with representatives of the ACS Board of Directors in 2012 to discuss further areas for collaboration. Members of the Board's Executive Committee and the chair of the Committee on Grants and Awards will be meeting with NOBCChE at a mutually agreed time and date in 2012.

- International dignitaries representing the Canadian Society for Chemistry, the German Chemical Society, IUPAC and the Royal Society of Chemistry briefed the Board on their activities and plans to continue and sustain the momentum started during the International Year of Chemistry. The Board also received an update from the ACS President-Elect on his activities and priorities during his presidential year.
- By consent, the Board VOTED to approve several actions since its June meeting, including: a resolution in memory of former Board member C. Gordon McCarty and a nomination for the 2012 Othmer Gold Medal. The Board held a lively, well-attended open session which featured a special forum on what the ACS is doing, or can do, to assist members who are facing employment challenges in uncertain economic times. Members attending this standing-room only session received a brief overview of current and planned resources available to members who are facing employment challenges, followed by an open discussion on how the Society might offer greater assistance.

Activities of HIST Councilors

Roger Egolf – continued as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC). He also serves on the Annual Reports subcommittee of DAC. DAC approved both Innovative Project Grant Applications from HIST; \$7,500 for a symposium proposed by Roger Egolf to be held at the 2012 BCCE and repeated at the 2012 Philadelphia Fall meeting entitled “Celebrating the Sesquicentennial of the College Land Grant Act”, and \$5000 for a project proposed by Harold Goldwhite entitled “Chemistry Research and Education in Southern California.” This grant will fund a variety of events projects celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the ACS Southern California Section. Roger also represented DAC at a working meeting held at ACS headquarters in June with members of DAC, LSAC, ACS staff and programmers working on the new version of the FORMS reporting system that will be used for the Section and Division Annual Reports.

Mary Virginia Orna – continues in her second term as an elected member of the Council Policy Committee, and in that capacity serves on both the Long Range Planning Subcommittee and the Constitutions and Bylaws Subcommittee. In addition, she is involved in the mentoring program for new Councilors, and also in the orientation program at spring national meetings for new Councilors.

Roger A. Egolf, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors

HIST Remembers James J. Bohning

Mussorgsky’s *Pictures at an Exposition* played softly barely breaking the quiet of the office. It had been selected from two ranks of well-indexed classical music CDs, housed in a drawer at the left of his desk. It was one of Jim’s favorites, but a backup selection of Bach’s six Brandenburg Concertos was poised to replace it in the disk drive. A battered wooden walking cane hung from the top pull handle of the adjacent file cabinet. A rusty five-inch mailing tube containing 50 mg of white crystalline disodium squarate stood balanced on the top shelf. Its red and white mailing label proclaimed it was an August 1980 gift synthesized by Professor Robert West of the University of Wisconsin. Long ago Jim had thought of incorporating the unusual substance in a p-chem experiment, but it now sat awaiting an uncertain future. Today’s mail had brought in a small cardboard box with bubble wrap packing -- Jim’s latest EBay purchase: an ancient handsome brass pecan nut cracker intended for addition to his substantial collection of that artifact type. His window sill sported a 4 x 12” Plexiglas case on a polished oak base protecting an inscribed maroon-colored Lionel caboose. Precision white lettering down the length of the car proclaimed not only that it was an authentic Lehigh Valley Railroad model but also that it was a special departure gift from his friends on the National Historic Chemical Landmarks Committee for Jim’s 15 years of service (1992-2007). Jim – an avid collector of model railroad cars – highly treasured this special personal gift.



Six densely packed oak shelves threatening imminent collapse towered above and behind his work desk and sported books on history, chemistry, railroading, coal mining, and ACS. A collection of the first 35

years of the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* and its *Transactions* limited the opening of his office door because they were stacked six feet high behind the door. Jim's right foot repeatedly banged against an old Beckman DU spectrometer shoved under his desk, while its supplemental power supply rested atop a nearby file cabinet. An electric space heater's rosy glow warmed Jim's feet in an otherwise chilly office.

Jim Bohning – chemist, academic, historian, author, oral history specialist, collector, and multi-focused scholar – was at work bent over his keyboard. Today's research was on mining accidents from 1860 to 1900 in the anthracite coal mines owned by Eckley Brinton Coxe (1838-1895) in northeastern Pennsylvania. Jim's raw



research material was several dozen rolls of microfilm he had unearthed from the Hazelton (PA) *Standard Speaker* and the White Haven (PA) *Journal Herald* newspapers. The study was to be a chapter in Jim's projected biography of Coxe. Slogging issue-by-issue for reports of accidents would take weeks, but it was typical of Jim's dogged search for documented details which enriched his writing. Accuracy, specifics, hitherto unknown tidbits, and comprehensive coverage marked each paper, seminar, or meeting presentation on which he worked. Jim had won the HIST Division's Outstanding Paper Award in 1989, and he created (and disseminated) a popular tutorial on how to conduct oral history interviews which stressed his philosophy of attention to detail.

This office, room 494 of Lehigh University's Seeley G. Mudd Building (Bethlehem, PA), was to be Jim's last scholarly home. He'd moved in after retirement as a Staff Writer in the ACS News Service. He had returned to the Lehigh Valley where he had friends and relatives and became a Visiting Research Scientist at Lehigh. Here Jim prepared papers on his wide interests in chemical history, on the ACS and its founders and presidents, on historic landmarks, on international chemistry organizations, on coal, on Joseph Priestley, and on the winners of the Dexter-Edelstein awards. For several semesters Jim taught a Lehigh course on Scientific Writing, and he served as advisor to generations of graduate students preparing their PowerPoints for seminars. His red pencil suggestions for improvement of their seminar documents rescued many a student from the dreaded C.

Jim Bohning the historian was really the second Jim. First came Jim the professor who in 1959, fresh from his M.S. at NYU, began an academic career as an instructor at Wilkes College (now University, Wilkes-Barre, PA). He took leave from 1962 to 1964 to complete his doctorate in physical chemistry at Northeastern (PhD 1965) and returned to Wilkes as Assistant Professor. Jim rose through the ranks, served for twenty years as chair, and retired as emeritus professor in 1990. He supervised two M.S. students, served on many M.S. committees, and published several papers on photolysis of heterocyclics. Jim's interest in history had been whetted when in April 1974, he chaired the 9th Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) in Wilkes-Barre. Jim focused that MARM on history, especially on the Centennial of Oxygen, which in 1874 had gathered America's chemists to Priestley's home in nearby Northumberland. That meeting was a contributing factor in the subsequent organization of the ACS.

Jim served as Chair (1971) and long-time archivist for the Susquehanna Valley ACS Section and became an active member of the History of Chemistry Division (HIST) which he also chaired (1985). He became the division's historian from 1988 to 2011 and its archivist from 1988 to 2009. As divisional archivist Jim, with the help of Jeff Seeman, arranged for HIST's records to be moved to a permanent home at CHF. Jim also served on the division's Cachet Committee, the editorial staff (associate editor) of its *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*, and the National Historic Chemical Landmarks Committee.

While still a professor at Wilkes, Jim had begun working as a part-time oral historian at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry (now the Chemical Heritage Foundation or CHF). After retirement

from Wilkes Jim joined the CHF staff then departing in 1995 as Director of Oral History for a post as Staff Writer at ACS headquarters in DC (1995-1998). His subsequent retirement from ACS brought him to Lehigh University where he conducted his most extensive research in the history of chemistry and continued to do oral histories for CHF, for the Dow Foundation, for Lehigh University, and for the Northampton County Historical and Genealogical Society. Blending his long standing interests in steam railroads, anthracite mining, and the 19th century industrial revolution, Jim commenced a history of the Coxe family, coal tycoons and philanthropists of Drifton (PA). He had completed the interviews and the research and authored two of the chapters. One of these he published as a free standing article, "Angel of the Anthracite: The Philanthropic Legacy of Sophia Georgina Coxe" (*Canal History and Technology Proceedings*, Vol. XXIV, 2005) and another was read as a paper before a reunion of the Coxe family. Alas, the complete Coxe story will never be finished.

Through 2010, severe eye disease and cancer slowed Jim's pace, although he continued to edit the newsletters he had founded: *Boltonia* (Bolton Society of CHF), *Mudd in your Eye* (Lehigh University Chemistry Department), and *Metzger Times* (a family genealogy). He laid out one last symposium on Edgar Fahs Smith for the Fall 2012 ACS National Meeting. Several brief hospital stays became longer as he received more extensive treatment for his malignancies. In July 2011, Jim signaled with a hint of humorous irony in his message because of the name's link to ACS history, that he had been admitted to a Newtown (PA) hospice known as Chandler Hall. Jim became part of the history he loved on 2 September 2011. He was 77-years old.

Jim's historical notes and files on chemistry have been transferred to CHF. His notes and documents on Eckley Coxe, a long time university trustee and benefactor, were filed in the Lehigh Archives. Jim's books were accessioned into the Lehigh University Library. Three of his antique chemistry instruments were incorporated into CHF's museum, five others are awaiting homes. Jim's many collections – pocket watches, license plates, silver christening spoons, nut crackers, blow torches, train sets, patent medicine bottles, mantle clocks, and carved wooden gears – were placed at public auction.

Jim was one of a kind. He worked hard at his craft, and in so doing he built a network of friends, colleagues, and collaborators who will never forget this soft-spoken, kindly Renaissance man of Chemistry. Through his contributory service and caring camaraderie Jim inspired many other chemists to develop their own interests in history of chemistry. Wilkes, the Susquehanna Valley Section, HIST, CHF, ACS, and Lehigh are better places for his having passed their way.

Ned D. Heindel

Bringing HIST to International Communities via Facebook

As announced in the last newsletter, ACS HIST now maintains 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. Since its establishment, the community following the Facebook page has grown to 36 official 'likes', as well as a much larger number of visitors stopping by to check out the page. The majority of these are not HIST or even ACS members, with even many of the official 'likes' coming from international communities. The hope is to continue using this page to reach those outside of HIST, as well as allowing a venue for HIST 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 aspect of the history of chemistry!

Seth C. Rasmussen



Like



Open access for Older Issues of the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*

Older issues of the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* are freely available on the internet. While HIST continues to reserve the most recent three years of the Bulletin for both members and subscribers, earlier issues are now openly available from the Bulletin page on the HIST website <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/bulletin/index.php>. The back issues are full-text searchable through a Google search box in the upper right of the screen.

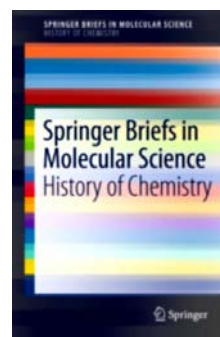
We hope that the presence of back issues on the open internet and their availability through search engines will introduce the Bulletin to potential new readers. HIST members can help to give colleagues and students a taste of the Bulletin by pointing them to this archive of back issues. Thanks to HIST Secretary and Webmaster Vera Mainz for implementing the archive.

Carmen J. Giunta, Bulletin Editor

Springer Briefs in Molecular Science: History of Chemistry Publishes First Volumes

This new book series in the History of Chemistry published its first official volume this year entitled *A Prehistory of Polymer Science* and authored by HIST member Gary Patterson. This initial volume was quickly followed by a second volume from historian Alan J. Rocke and additional volumes from several HIST members will be available in the coming months. To celebrate the launch of the book series, HIST will be hosting a symposium at the upcoming ACS National Meeting in San Diego, in which initial authors will give talks highlighting their volumes. For more detailed information on the new series and available volumes, please visit <http://www.springer.com/series/10127>. 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



Message from the HIST Program Chair

As I enter my fourth year as Program Chair, I find that it is harder and harder to be everywhere I need to be in my service to HIST, particularly when things decide to occur simultaneously! Thus, HIST is expanding its programming leadership with the addition of a new Associate Program Chair. This new permanent position will be filled by Nicolay Tsarevsky (Assistant Professor, Southern Methodist University) who will assist with the day-to-day operations of HIST programming, while working with the Program Chair to continue developing new and expanded programming formats for the division at both National and Regional conferences.

One particular issue for HIST programming that I continue to struggle with both as Program Chair and member of the *ACS PACS Advisory Board* are difficulties with the PACS abstract submission process that acts as a barrier for some to contribute talks to HIST programming. In efforts to overcome this issue, a new clear and step-by-step guide for submitting abstracts has been created by PACS and a copy of this guide is available at http://portal.acs.org/portal/PublicWebSite/membership/td/abstractsubmission/CNBP_028518. A link is also available at the *Forthcoming HIST Symposia and Meetings* page of the HIST website. If you have any difficulties submitting an abstract or would like me to email you a copy of the guide, please do not hesitate to send me an email (seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu).



The programming for San Diego is looking pretty good and we will be continuing our new *HIST Tutorial Series* with a presentation by Joe Jeffers entitled *HIST Tutorial: Search for the material of heredity, DNA and the genetic code*. As with previous tutorials, the goal is to provide an educational review to bring HIST members and the general ACS community up to speed on a topic of general interest. An additional aim is

to tie these presentations into the ACS thematic programming and Joe's talk fits nicely with the meeting theme of *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.

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, 243rd ACS Meeting in San Diego, CA, March 25 - 29, 2012

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

Chemistry Goes West

Many of the strongest Departments of Chemistry are now located in the American West. Representatives of seven of these schools will present historical talks associated with their schools. John Brauman (Stanford), Herbert Strauss (Berkeley), Marjorie Caserio (UCSD) and Mary Jo Nye (OSU) will talk about their respective schools. Jay Labinger (CalTech) will survey Inorganic Chemistry, Stephen Weininger (UCLA) will detail Physical Organic Chemistry, and Tad Beckman (Harvey Mudd) will chronicle the CHEMStudy Program. The symposium will **Monday morning**, March 26, at the San Diego Marriott & Marina – Boardroom.

G. Patterson, Organizer

Springerbriefs History of Chemistry Launch Symposium

Financially supported by Springer Science + Business Media

This symposium celebrates the launch of the new history book series *Springerbriefs in Molecular Science: History of Chemistry* and will feature presentations by authors of several of the initial volumes. Topics will include polymer science, the history of glass, the history of color, and Russian contributions to organic chemistry. The symposium will be **Monday afternoon**, March 26, at the San Diego Marriott & Marina – Boardroom.

S. C. Rasmussen, Organizer

The Double Bind - Minority Women in Science and Update Thirty Five Years Later

Cosponsored by CMA and WCC

"In 1976, the challenges faced by women of color who pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields were first brought to national attention by Shirley M. Malcom, Paula Hall, and Janet Brown in a report titled *The Double Bind: The Price of Being a Minority Woman in Science*." (from *The Harvard Review* summer 2011 "Unraveling the Double Bind"). At this symposium we will be looking at the past, present and future of minority women in science. Joining us at the panel discussions may be one of the women who attended the original Double Bind meeting. Three women are still alive, Lilia Abron, Esther Hopkins and Rubye Torrey. The symposium will be **Tuesday morning**, March 27, at the San Diego Marriott & Marina – Boardroom.

J. Brown, Organizer

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

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

Philadelphia, August 19 - 23, 2012

Submit your abstract via the online ACS Program and Abstract Creation System (PACS) by **March 30, 2012**. 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

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

Edgar F. Smith: Bibliophile, Author, Founder. (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. Egoal, 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 Chemical 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, NY, 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.

New Orleans, April 7-11, 2013

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

Legacy of Past ACS Presidents. (Invited and **seeking contributors**) Jan Hayes, 6829 Barbara Lee Circle, Sacramento, CA 95842 Phone: (916) 331-6886, Email: janan.hayes@yahoo.com

Graduate Education in Science History. (Invited and **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

News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

The [Chemical Heritage Foundation](#) (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.

Marye Anne Fox to Receive Othmer Gold Medal

Marye Anne Fox, chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, will receive the 2012 Othmer Gold Medal at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) on April 13. The Othmer Gold Medal presentation will be the premier event of CHF's 11th annual Heritage Day.

"Chemist, academic leader, and author with an international reputation, Marye Anne Fox embodies creativity, passion, and inspiring leadership," said Thomas R. Tritton, president and CEO of CHF. "She has led two of America's top universities, published more than 350 articles and five books, served on many business and academic boards, and remains passionate about teaching and research in chemistry."

CHF to Present Roy G. Neville Prize to Michael Hunter

The Chemical Heritage Foundation will present the Roy G. Neville Prize in Bibliography or Biography to Michael Hunter, author of *Boyle: Between God and Science*. Hunter is a professor at Birkbeck College, University of London. The prize will be awarded on Thursday, October 13, 2011, as part of CHF's Fall Governance Meetings.

Hunter's work on Robert Boyle, one of the greatest English scientists and a contemporary of Isaac Newton, grew out of extensive research on the milieu of the "new science" associated with the Royal Society in its formative years. Hunter has also investigated various themes in the history of ideas in the late 17th century, including changing attitudes towards magic.

CHF Names Jody Roberts Director of Center for Contemporary History and Policy

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) has named Jody Roberts director of its Center for Contemporary History and Policy. In this role, he will be responsible for implementing the strategic vision for the center, building stronger ties to key constituencies, and bringing the work of the center's staff and research fellows to those who can benefit from their insights.

"After four years of managing our Environmental History and Policy Program, Jody will lead our efforts to bring the history of chemistry into key policy questions we face as a nation," said Thomas R. Tritton, president and CEO of CHF. "Jody's breadth of knowledge and experience will allow the center to bring historically based perspectives to industry, governmental and non-governmental organizations."

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.

2011 Rumford Scholarship in the History of Alchemy or Chemistry

SHAC and the Chemical Heritage Foundation are pleased to announce that Juan-Andres Leon, a PhD student in the Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, is the first recipient of the Rumford Scholarship for his project "Chemist-industrialists and the Development of Private Scientific Philanthropy in Germany, 1870s-1933."

The Rumford Scholarship was set up in 2011 by SHAC and the CHF to provide funding (£2300) to enable a doctoral student or recent postdoctoral scholar, normally resident in North America, to travel to Europe in order to undertake original research in the history of chemistry or alchemy in libraries/archives/museum collections.

Applications for the 2012 Scholarship opened in the New Year, and details will be posted on the CHF and SHAC websites.

Changes to SHAC Council

A number of changes to the membership of Council were announced at the Society's Annual General Meeting held in Oxford on 24 November 2011. Dr. Georgette Taylor is stepping down as the Society's Honorary Secretary. Dr. Taylor took on the post in 2007. During her time in the office, the Society's activities have expanded, both in the UK and overseas, while membership has grown by almost 50 per cent. A major undertaking during this period was the organization last year of the meeting to celebrate the 75th anniversary of founding of the Society, the proceedings of which are included in this month's issue of *Ambix*.

The new Secretary is Dr. Anna Marie Roos, who is Research Fellow on the 'Cultures of Knowledge' project in the History Faculty, University of Oxford. Her research interests are in the history of chemistry in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and its relations with natural history. She is currently

editing the correspondence of the physician Martin Lister FRS (1639-1712). She can be contacted at anna.roos@history.ox.ac.uk.

Dr. GerryLynn Roberts was presented with a gift at the AGM to mark her retirement from Council after nearly forty years of service, as a member of Council, Secretary to the Society and Editor of *Ambix*. Her place on the Council has been taken by Dr. Roos.

Dr. Taylor's place has been taken by Professor Hasok Chang of the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.

Members of Council would like to express their tremendous gratitude to Dr Taylor and Dr Roberts for their service to the Society, and to warmly welcome Dr. Roos and Professor Chang onto Council.

Ambix: Forthcoming issues and online availability of back issues

In November, *Ambix* commemorated the 75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Alchemy with a special issue on 'The History of the History of Chemistry.' This included four studies on the historiography of alchemy and chemistry as it has developed since the founding of SHAC in 1935:

- William Brock (University of Leicester), 'Exploring early modern chymistry: the first twenty-five years of the Society for the Study of Alchemy & Early Modern Chemistry 1935-1960'
- Marcos Martín-Torres (University College London), 'Some recent developments in the historiography of alchemy'
- Marco Beretta (University of Bologna), 'The changing role of the historiography of chemistry in continental Europe, since 1800'
- Peter Morris (Science Museum, London), 'The fall and rise of the history of recent chemistry'

In March 2012, we look forward to publishing the essays which were jointly awarded the 2011 Partington Prize. A special issue in July 2012 will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962).

Back issues of *Ambix* from Volume 1 (1937) have been digitized and are available to members of the Society to read or download from the IngentaConnect website. Access to them is via the 'Member's Services' page on the Society's website at www.ambix.org. This page may be accessed from the home page via a username and password which have been e-mailed to members. If you have any problems or wish to enquire about membership please contact the Hon. Treasurer, John Perkins, shacperkins@googlemail.com.

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