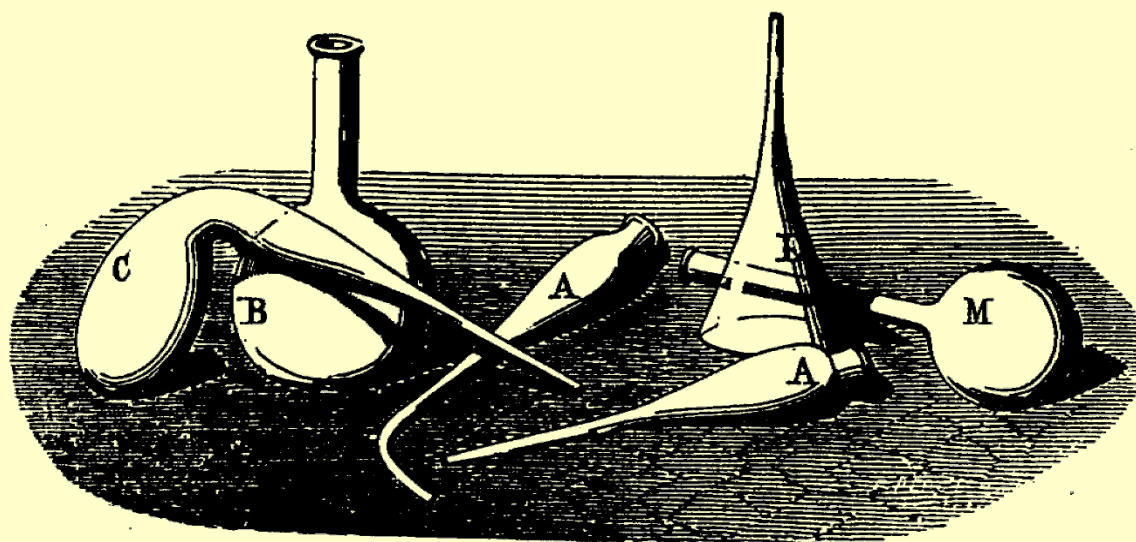




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American Chemical Society
**DIVISION OF THE
HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY**



NEWSLETTER

260th ACS National Meeting
San Francisco, CA
August 16-20, 2020

Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, 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.

Division Governance

Message from the HIST Division Chair

I finished writing my previous Chair message on February 29th, just a few days before the Spring 2020 national ACS meeting in Philadelphia was officially cancelled due to concerns about the COVID-19 pandemic. Back then we were hoping that “things will start getting back to normal” in June or July but, as we all know, that was not meant to be and the Fall 2020 national ACS meeting in San Francisco became the first one ever to be entirely virtual. The HIST Executive Committee withdrew its complete program a couple of months in advance due to health concerns and the low number of abstracts submitted (ostensibly for the same reason) and we can only hope that next year’s meetings will have at least some in-person programming. Don’t get me wrong, I’m actually OK with online presentations, which I have been doing since mid-March for my teaching at the university, but I greatly miss the stimulating discussions, the reunions with former students, the sharing of meals with friends, and the networking opportunities with colleagues, all of which are mainly (or only) possible in face-to-face fashion.



Whether the 2021 national ACS meetings are “hybrid” or not, we have an ambitious program in mind, including symposia that were cancelled or postponed this year such as the History of Polymer Science and the 10th anniversary of the Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry. In a similar vein, we hope to hold during the Spring 2020 meeting in San Antonio the symposium honoring Lawrence (Larry) Principe, the winner of the 2020 HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry. And we will also have another reason to celebrate next year since it is the Division’s centennial and we are hoping that the occasion will be highlighted with a special commemorative issue of the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*.

In closing, I wholeheartedly thank everyone in the Division for making my tenure as Chair a rewarding and fulfilling experience (with a special shout-out to Vera for keeping me on track and answering my questions and providing invaluable advice all the time). I wish the same fortune and success to Seth Rasmussen, our upcoming Chair for the 2021-22 biennium. Enjoy the ride, Seth, and hopefully we’ll see each other in person again in the near future!

Daniel Rabinovich, HIST Chair

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry 259th ACS National Meeting – Philadelphia, PA, March 23, 2020

Actions of the Council Policy Committee acting Ad Interim for the Council

1. Special Meeting of Council

The Council Policy Committee authorized a Special Meeting of the Council - to be held on April 20, 2020, from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM EDT- for voting Councilors to hear from and question the four nominees for ACS President-Elect, 2021. Following the meeting, Councilors were asked to select two candidates for this office by Council ballot. All voting Councilors received an invitation from ACS Webinars to register for this event. Balloting was conducted via the web (using the ACS election vendor SBS) after the meeting with voting taking place from Monday, April 27 thru 11:59 AM CDT on Friday, May 1, 2020. A-2.a presents the results of this election.

2. Announcement of Interim Election Results (5 May 2020)

2.1. Candidates for President-Elect, 2021

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2021: Frank D. Blum, Mary K. Carroll, Michael P. Doyle, and Angela K. Wilson. By internet ballot, the Council selected Mary K. Carroll (201 votes) and Angela K. Wilson (132 votes) as candidates for 2021 President-Elect. These two candidates, and any candidates for whom we receive valid nominating petitions by July 15, will be presented this fall to the members of ACS as candidates for President-Elect, 2021. Ballots will be distributed on or before October 1, 2020

2.2. Candidates for Districts III and VI

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announces the results of the election held prior to the Council meeting to select candidates from the list of nominees for Directors from District III and District VI on the Board of Directors for the term 2021-2023. By internet ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected Teri Quinn Gray (27) and Lynne P. Greenblatt (35) as District III candidates; and Janet L. Bryant (23), Paul W. Jagodzinski (24) and Jeanette Van Emon (23) as District VI candidates. These candidates, and any candidates for whom we receive valid nominating petitions by July 15, will be presented this fall to ACS members residing in Districts III and VI as candidates for a Director from each District. Ballots will be distributed to members within Districts III and VI on or before October 1, 2020.

2.3. Candidates for Directors-at-Large

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announces the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for 2021-2023 terms: Dawn A. Brooks, Wayne E. Jones, Jr., Kristin M. Omberg, and Carolyn Ribes. These candidates, and any candidates for whom we receive valid nominating petitions by July 15, will be presented this fall to the members of Council as candidates for Directors-at-Large. Ballots will be distributed to the Council on or before October 1, 2020.

2.4. Special Elections to Fill Vacancies on Council Elected Committees

The Committee on Nominations and Elections announces the results of two special elections to fill vacancies on two Council Elected Committees. Susan M. Schelble was elected to serve a 2020-2021 term on the Committee on Committees, and Alan B. Cooper was elected to serve on the Committee on Nominations and Elections for a 2020-2022 term.

3. Council Policy Committee acting Ad Interim for Council

The Council passed resolutions

- in memory of Past President Mary L. Good;

- in memory of Past Secretary Halley A. Merrell, Jr.; and
- In memory of other deceased Councilors.

4. Continuation of Committees

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, the Council Policy Committee approved the continuation of the Committees on Technician Affairs and on Patents and Related Matters - the latter contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

D. 2021 Member Dues

The Council Policy Committee voted on the recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) to set the member dues for 2021 at the 2020 rate of \$175. The Board of Directors previously committed to ensure that this pause in the dues escalator will not have a negative impact on the overall amount in the dues pool, from which allocations to local sections and divisions are made.

5. Petition on Benefits and Dues

The Council Policy Committee voted on the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs to approve the Petition on Benefits and Dues, which is contingent on confirmation by the Board of Directors. This Petition amended Standing Rule I, Sec. 5, b, 9, 10; and Standing Rule II, Sec. 5, a. By amending these two Standing Rules, the Committee on Membership Affairs is able to offers versions of ACS membership that are less expensive to the Society, more appealing to members who are price sensitive, and with enhanced products that are more relevant and targeted. All membership information would be annually published in a Schedule of Membership and future changes require Council approval.

F. 2021 Schedule of Membership

The Council Policy Committee also approved the 2021 Schedule of Membership, which is contingent on the approval of the Petition on Benefits and Dues by the Board of Directors. The 2021 approved Schedule maintains all current membership classifications, benefits, dues, discounts and rules. Future changes in 2022 and beyond would require Council approval but these Schedules would allow for flexibility in proposing various dues and benefits concepts for members.

HIST Councilors

Mary Virginia Orna is serving as a member of the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and the DAC Technical Programming and Collaboration Subcommittee. She was able to participate in a ZOOM meeting of the Committee on March 25 during which several items of importance were discussed, include an initiative for Convergent Communities Programming at National Meetings and Divisional Annual Reports status. Additional ZOOM meetings will be scheduled in the coming weeks to address other Committee business. One important point for members making IPG proposals: a new criterion, inclusion was added.

Roger Egolf is serving as a member of the Meetings and Expositions Committee (M&E) and its Technical Program Subcommittee. M&E was very involved with the decision to cancel the Spring meeting in Philadelphia and has additional Zoom meetings scheduled to discuss the Fall meeting in San Francisco and the possibility of a virtual meeting if necessary.

Report prepared and submitted by Mary Virginia Orna and Roger Egolf, HIST councilors

News and Announcements

Meetings of Interest

International Conference on the History of Chemistry, Vilnius, May 18-22, 2021

Since 1991, when the first meeting was organized in Veszprem (Hungary), the Working Party on the History of Chemistry (WPHC) of the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) organizes an international conference on the history of chemistry, open to colleagues from all over the world. Thirty years later, the 13rd International Conference on History of Chemistry (13ICHC) will be held in Vilnius (Lithuania), from the 18th to the 22nd of May 2021. See:

(<https://www.ichc2021vilnius.chgf.vu.lt/>).

The ICHC aims to bring together historically interested chemists, chemistry educators and historians of chemistry from all over Europe and beyond. For more information on the WP, see the website:

<http://www.euchems.eu/divisions/history-of-chemistry-2/>.

The conference will be hosted by Vilnius University (established in 1579), in the premises of the old city. The Department of Chemistry was established in 1797, still holding a position of one of the most popular departments at the University. The conference will include scientific sessions, key-note lectures, the WP business meeting, a poster session as well as social events such as excursions, receptions, and a conference dinner banquet. It is a pleasure to inform that the plenary lectures by Marta Lourenço (Director of the National Museum of Natural History and Science of Lisbon), Rimantas Vaitkus (President of the Lithuanian Chemical Society), and Rimvydas Baranauskas (Prime Partners), are already approved, and other keynote speakers will be announced soon. Some useful information on the city, the excursion organised on 22 May 2021 to Kernavė and the Trakai History Museum, and accommodation can be found on the conference website, and the Facebook page.

The 13ICHC in Vilnius will be organised in conjunction with the Belorussian-Lithuanian-Polish Jędrzej Sniadecki Memorial Conference “Frontiers in Molecular Life Sciences” – JSMC2021. Jędrzej Sniadecki was the first head of Chemistry Department

at Vilnius University (during 1797–1822). The conference JSMC2021 will continue to commemorate the 250th anniversary of Sniadecki's birth.

Important Dates (Please note that, due to the worldwide sanitary crisis, it might be necessary to alter some of these dates at a later stage.)

- Deadline for submitting proposals: 1 December 2020
- Notification of acceptance: January 2021
- Provisional program: Early February 2021
- Final program: April 2021
- Conference dates: 18th to the 22nd of May 2021.

Proposal guidelines:

The Steering Committee encourages the submission of panel/session proposals, but also accepts the submission of stand-alone papers. The 13ICHC welcomes proposals on any topic on the history of chemistry, broadly understood, including historical works on molecular sciences, life sciences, industry, technology, and education. We will also welcome papers on the teaching of history of chemistry, in order to reach out to the wider community and to the younger generation.

All proposals must be in English, the language of the conference. Submitted abstracts and session proposals (max. 200 words) will be subject to review by an international Advisory Committee. Sessions should include about 3–5 papers, and no more than one session can be proposed by the same organizer. There is a limit of one paper per presenter (including the papers listed inside a panel or a session). All paper proposals must use the templates provided on the conference web site.

The Steering Committee consists of Ernst Homburg, Maastricht University, and Ignacio Suay-Matallana, IILP-Universidad Miguel Hernández, (chairs of the Steering Committee), Brigitte Van Tiggelen, Science History Institute, (chair of the WPHC), and Rimantas Vaitkus, Vilnius University, (co-chair of the Local Organising Committee, president of the Lithuanian Chemical Society).

Pacifichem 2020 is now officially Pacifichem 2021

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the *2020 International Chemical Congress of Pacific Basin Societies*



(Pacifichem 2020) that was to be held in Honolulu this coming December has been postponed until 2021. The conference will still be held in Honolulu with the new dates of December 16-21, 2021. Included in the original programming was the HIST-organized symposium *Hands across the Pacific: History of Collaborations and Exchange Programs between Countries of the Pacific Rim* (Corresponding Symposium Organizer (CSO): Seth C. Rasmussen), which includes 15 talks by a diverse collection of international speakers. This symposium is still scheduled for the new dates with all originally scheduled talks retained. However, the conference will reopen abstracts on January 4, 2021 for anyone interested in adding a contributed talk. The call for additional abstracts closes on April 12, 2021 and all abstracts need to be submitted through the conference portal (<https://pacifichem2020.abstractcentral.com>).

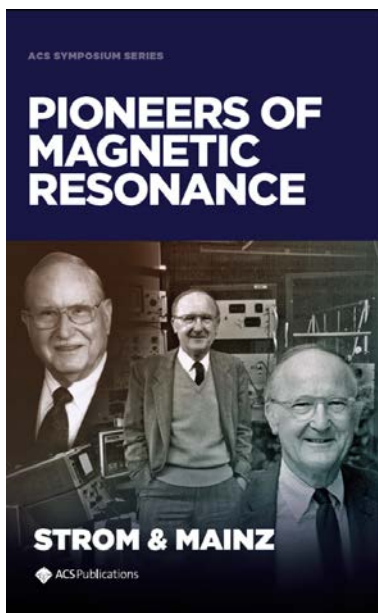
Additional information on the conference can be found at <https://pacifichem.org/>.

History of Chemistry Publications

New ACS Volumes

Scholarly activities in HIST have been severely hampered by the social separation necessary because of the Corona-19 virus. However, HIST members are still advancing down the various paths of chemical history.

Audio/Visual connections in many instances are being handled by Zoom, but history of chemistry books still play a vital role in communicating the flow of ideas. HIST is certainly small when



compared to ACS divisions such as ORGN, CHED, and INORG, but HIST has previously been responsible for 21 of the ACS Symposium Series volumes! To use an analogy from boxing, HIST consistently “fights above its weight.” The most recent HIST ACS Symposium volume is “Pioneers of Magnetic Resonance.” The initial symposium was organized by Tom Strom and Vera Mainz for the Orlando, FL, ACS 2019 spring meeting. The symposium took place on April 2, 2019, and the turnaround to the ACS Symposium book was accomplished in the amazingly short time of essentially one year. The online edition of “Pioneers” appeared on April 10, 2020. Hard copies from Oxford University Press should be available around the end of this year. Kudos must go to the chapter authors, ACS Books staff, and the editors for this rapid pace.

The book consists of eleven chapters, five on NMR and six on EPR. The Orlando presentation on solids NMR pioneer John Waugh given by Bob Griffin couldn’t be transformed into a chapter because of the press of Griffin’s activities. Also, the presentation given by Tom Strom and Morton Mason on the Lauterbur/Damadian dispute on the credit for NMR imaging did not appear as a chapter because of unresolved copyright issues. However, the five remaining NMR chapters still gave a significant overview of NMR history. Carmen Giunta and Vera Mainz covered the NMR discoveries of Rabi, Bloch, and Purcell. Herb Gutowsky was a crucial pioneer in applying NMR to chemistry, and H. N. Cheng and Gregory Girolami gave a survey of Gutowsky’s many achievements. Pierre Laszlo has had a long career in NMR, and his chapter covered the highlights regarding NMR people and the advances they made. Donald Woessner may have been Gutowsky’s best student, and Tom Strom discussed Woessner’s important studies in NMR relaxation. Tom Strom also covered the Lauterbur/Damadian controversy on MRI priority, making use of previously unknown Woessner/Damadian correspondence to cast new light on the dispute. Jake Schaefer wrote about work he did with Ed Stejskal on magic-angle spinning for NMR.

All six of the Orlando EPR presenters were able to transform their oral presentations into book chapters. Dave Lewis covered EPR discoverer Y. K. Zavoiskii; James Norris wrote about Sam Weissman; and Jack Freed discussed the career of George Fraenkel. Former Harden McConnell student Larry Berliner wrote about his mentor; Alex Smirnov described the work of R. Linn Belford; and the final chapter by

Gareth and Sandra Eaton surveyed the relationship between spin relaxation and EPR history.

This may be the most recent example of a HIST symposium appearing as an ACS Symposium Book, but we are sure that HIST members will continue to provide book-worthy HIST symposia. We look forward to the many fine books yet to come.

Submitted by Tom Strom and Vera Mainz

The ACS Symposium Series volume, *Chemistry's Role in Food Production and Sustainability: Past and Present*, has finally appeared in hard copy (August 2020). Edited by

Mary Virginia Orna, Gillian Eggleston and Alvin F. Bopp, this book is the published record of the symposium "Food at the Crossroads: Chemistry's Role in Sustainability, Past and Present." Inspired by the Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group (MPPG) theme for the

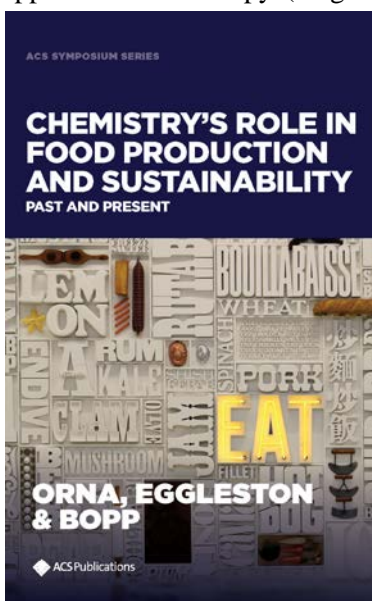
Spring 2018 ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, "Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water," the book contains 16 chapters, almost all of which were papers delivered at the meeting. The chapters collectively explore food science chemistry, a topic often overlooked in the typical chemistry curricula at all levels. It was a particularly appropriate topic for the New Orleans venue given the fact that the city is not only a historic center of fine dining but also a victim of a series of environmental disasters that threatened the very availability of signature foodstuffs for which the city is famous. Thus, the volume was broadly outlined to cover not only the dining table, past and present, but also the water table and all the environmental forces that impinged upon it.

The volume steps out, appropriately enough, with a chapter on the historic role of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in food production, quality and security. Written by Victoria Finkenstadt of the USDA's National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, the chapter

documents how the USDA has touched and improved the lives of generations of Americans through research in food production, nutrition, agricultural systems, natural resource conservation, economics and marketing. The USDA story is followed up by a chapter on the history of the impact of agriculture on food supply by Livia Simon Sarkadi, of the Department of Food Chemistry and Nutrition at Szent István University, Budapest. Simon Sarkadi chronicles how the scientific community has responded to the challenges of increasing population growth, higher life expectancy, and dwindling private farming giving way to the takeover of multinational agribusinesses in supplying food for the masses. Later in the volume, the same author tackles the issue of the boon brought to the growing demand for food by modern fertilizers as well as overfertilization's deleterious impact on the environment.

Three chapters on the impact of three specific types of food additives, salt, sugar, and color follow. Marilyn Duerst's chapter outlines how ordinary table salt has been one of the most critical factors in the social, geographic, cultural, economic, and technological development of human societies and cultures, and transports us into the 21st century by addressing the modern controversies about the role and chemistry of salt in the human diet. Gillian Eggleston of the Audubon Sugar Institute launches our time travel through the seven main phases in the history of sugar and sweeteners over the course of 10,000 years. Mary Virginia Orna documents the fraud and downright lethal criminal activity that were rampant in the food coloration area until the adoption of modern regulations for the safe coloring of food and labeling requirements. Jonathan Rees's closely related chapter on Harvey Wiley's crusade that led to the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act shows how it transformed the American diet. No book on the history of food would be complete without a chapter on alcoholic beverages and their role in the human diet not only as a pleasurable buzz, but also as a combination antiseptic, analgesic and anesthetic that was far safer than untreated water. Patrick McGovern of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology was the perfect choice for this task.

The next part of the book focuses on sustainability in the present with an introductory chapter on the evolution of flour by Linda Civitello, award-winning author of *Baking Powder Wars*. A seamless follow-up on how to wrestle one's way through the nutritional advice wilderness that shapeshifts with



every new fad or “truth telling” book is in the capable hands of our navigator, Elke Schoffers, of Western Michigan University. Food safety and food authentication are essential challenges that can be addressed by the advanced analytical techniques now available to the modern chemist. Eric de Ronde of Eurofins, Inc. describes how consumers can be protected by these means. Albert Gaudé, of the Louisiana Sea Grant Program, gives the reader a close look at a local problem, sea level rise as it is presently taking place in Louisiana, and its devastating effects on the food supply. But this local situation is only a microcosm of what is going on worldwide, a super challenge for multinational environmental agencies. In the next chapter, Patrick Daubenmire tells you everything to need to know about genetically modified organisms (GMOs) from their inception to their widespread applications and the controversies that accompany their use. Alvin Bopp literally wraps things up with his chapter on food preservation and packaging, two areas that go hand in hand in delivering safe food to the public. And finally, Lili He unveils her crystal ball to take a peek at the future, highlighting the meaning of “all natural” claims in foodstuffs, the concomitant issue of authenticity, and how food safety can be enhanced by development of more advanced analytical techniques.

The original symposium received financial support from the ACS President and was designated a Presidential Symposium. Other substantial sponsors were the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry, the ACS Divisional Activities Committee, the ACS Louisiana Local Section and the ACS Multidisciplinary Program Planning Group.

The image on the cover of the book is a detail of the iconic “food wall” that resides at the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York. Designed by Lou Dorfsman and formally called “Gastrotypographical Assemblage, it encapsulates graphically much of the contents of the book. The basic message is that food chemistry is a vital science of universal importance; the 248 pages of this book are a perfect tutorial for the interested scientist or layman.

Submitted by Mary Virginia Orna

History in HIST

Even though the whole world is disrupted, history marches on. Things have been especially productive on the history front. HIST is now recognized as a place where colleagues around the world can find willing collaborators. I have written three major

chapters for European books or journals in the last quarter: “A Brief History of Antimony,” “Cellulose before CELL,” and “Natural Philosophy and the Humanities”. I have edited a book (with Alan Tonelli) based on the San Diego 2019 Symposium honoring Flory’s “Statistical Mechanics of Chain Molecules.” I have finally produced the highly revised version of “*Josiah Parsons Cooke, the Natural Philosophy of Sir John F.W. Herschel and the Rational Chemistry of the Elements.*”

There are two major book projects in process: The Centennial History of CELL and the Centennial History of HIST. The introductory chapter, “History before HIST” is now approaching completion. Anyone with material relevant to the history of HIST is encouraged to contact me (gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu). The HIST history is scheduled for completion in 2022. Anyone willing to help with this project is warmly welcomed. The CELL history is also proceeding nicely and should be complete by 2021.

Submitted by Gary Patterson

Continuing to Celebrate the Periodic Table

Deadline Extended: Elemental Art: A Competition Open to All

During the uncertain times we are experiencing, forced by the pandemic to stay at home and limit social contacts, we all have more than usual time for reflection and many of us may discover their “internal artist”. We therefore invite you to create and share with us original art, including *poems, cartoons, or photographs*, dedicated to a specific chemical element (e.g., its discovery, properties, uses), group of elements, or the Periodic Table itself. The submissions must be received by December 31 2020 (please note the extended deadline). They will be reviewed by a panel, and three winners will be selected in each of the art categories. The winners will receive certificates and monetary awards (\$250, \$200, or \$150 for first, second, and third place, respectively) and the best artworks will be published in the HIST Newsletter, on the HIST website, and other publicly available sources. Submissions should be sent to the HIST program chair, Nick Tsarevsky (nvt@smu.edu or nicksarevsky@gmail.com), as attachments to an email, the subject line of which reads “Elemental Art Competition – name”.

The winners will be informed in early 2021 and will be announced at a future ACS meeting at a HIST symposium.

Letters from Our Members

A Query

Jack Sylvester Hine (1923-1988) was an outstanding physical organic chemist. His Ph. D. was with Roger Adams and he did his post-doctoral work with John Roberts who regarded him highly. He was the author of about 170 papers and three books: Divalent Carbon, Physical Organic Chemistry [2 editions], and Structural Effects on Equilibria in Organic Chemistry. He was Regents Professor of Chemistry at Georgia Tech before moving to Ohio State. The purpose of this letter is to express my surprise that I have been unable to find a proper biographical account of Prof. Hine. I would have expected to see a plethora of obituaries in the standard journals and in C&EN. I can find almost nothing. Perhaps your readers can help?

*E. J. Behrman, Prof. Emeritus
Chemistry & Biochemistry, Ohio State University*

BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

A publication of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society

Available online: <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/bulletin/index.php>

PAPER SUBMISSIONS: Articles of 4-20 pages, double-spaced (excluding references) should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the Editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu. The title of the article should be of reasonable length (up to 15 words); a subtitle may be included if appropriate. Authors should strive to make the title descriptive of the specific scope and content of the paper. Preferred file formats for submissions are .doc, .docx, and .rtf.

Full instructions for authors can be found at <http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/info/bull-info.php> or in the back cover of all issues of the *Bulletin*.

All matters relating to manuscripts, etc. should be sent to:

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HIST Programming

Message from the HIST Program Chair

All who study history are aware that every now and then, seemingly insignificant events can have dramatic consequences and lead to great life changes. At the time I was finishing the spring 2020 HIST *Newsletter, Program, and Abstracts*, merely 6-7 months ago, most of us could not yet fully grasp the idea that business, scientific, and all other types of meetings, travel, and social events would quickly and justifiably be perceived as health- and even life-threatening, and that soon we would be doing our best to avoid them. Yet, this became our reality. The entire spring National Meeting was cancelled, although the occasional lecture could still be watched online. As the summer and the fall approached and no way to fight the virus was yet in sight, my HIST comrades and I had to make the difficult decision to cancel our fall 2020 program. Taking into account the relatively small number of HIST abstracts we had received (undoubtedly, due to the COVID-19-related uncertainties, which are still quite palpable), the expense of attending in person, and – most notably – the health risk I mentioned, we felt it would not be justified to hold a traditional meeting in San Francisco. On the other hand, a virtual HIST meeting, especially one that had not been properly designed and prepared, would be less than ideal, for it would not allow for proper discussion and networking. This is why, you are now reading a short document, aptly titled just *Newsletter*. There may be no abstracts in this booklet, but we know you want to stay in touch with and be informed about your Division – HIST. More importantly – this document is here to assure you there will be abstracts and talks, starting with the very next (spring 2021) meeting. Until a cure is found and made available to the public, all normal aspects of life should go on – with proper and informed precaution, of course. We hope many of the papers, which could not be presented in 2020, will be presented in the future and ask our contributors to consider resubmitting their withdrawn or cancelled (I think the more suitable word is “postponed”) abstracts.



Alas, as I write, it is still unclear what the next ACS National Meeting(s) will look like. Most likely, the symposia will either be entirely virtual or will be “hybrid”, i.e., will consist of a small number of in-person lectures and a much larger number of talks to be delivered remotely. The exact format of the spring Meeting (currently planned to take place in San Antonio, TX) will be announced at a later date. Please make sure you check the ACS and the HIST websites for updates. Whatever the style of the meeting happens to be, we decided to offer some of the postponed 2020 HIST symposia in March 2021. As you have noticed, the original theme of the terminated spring 2020 meeting – *Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century* – will be reused in the spring of 2021. Therefore, we will offer the symposium on *History of Polymer Science*, co-organized by Gary Patterson, Seth Rasmussen, and myself. Seth Rasmussen will also organize a symposium (originally planned for the fall of 2020) on the very successful book series, edited by him, now celebrating its 10th anniversary, namely the *Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry*. The life and work of the eminent Russian chemist Aleksey Chichibabin (1871-1945) will be celebrated in the year of his 150th anniversary with a symposium organized by David Lewis. In addition, the HIST award symposium honoring Lawrence M. (Larry) Principe will also take place in the spring. Indeed, life at HIST will (as it should) go on.

It is probable that even when the pandemic is completely behind us, the traditional grand-scale ACS meeting will be a thing of the past. We will therefore have to react and adapt. Many or all of our future lectures may have to be virtual. We are also contemplating alternative HIST meetings in the slightly more distant future – and perhaps at a special location. We believe they will be just as stimulating and friendly but at the same time – more intimate and allowing for ample and more efficient discussion. Please do not hesitate to contact me, if you have any ideas and suggestions about our future events.

At the end, I would like to remind you that great works of art were created or at least conceived in times of isolation and utmost distress. In the early days of the crisis, Giovanni Boccaccio's *Decameron* was often mentioned on social media as an example of such a work, which is still read and treasured. Perhaps we can take advantage of the current pandemic and invite the Muses. I already announced a HIST-sponsored contest, open to all, which we dubbed *Elemental Art*. We decided to extend the original submission deadline to December 31, 2020. If you create a poem, a photograph, or a cartoon, the subject of which is a chemical element, its discovery, or applications, or the Periodic Table itself, please submit it and you will be able to compete with your peers. There will be awards in all three disciplines. The submissions should be sent to me at either nvt@smu.edu or nicktsarevsky@gmail.com. Tell everyone you know about this competition. We would love to receive as many interesting and inspired works of art as possible.

I wish you happiness and I very much look forward to seeing you (on screen or in person) at future HIST events. Be well and stay healthy and safe!

Nick Tsarevsky, HIST Program Chair

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (<http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>) for updates.

261st ACS Meeting, San Antonio, TX, March 21-25, 2021

(Abstract submission deadline to be announced. Please check the HIST website)

History of Polymer Science. (Invited and Seeking contributions) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu; 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; Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, (412) 480-0656, email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry: 10th Anniversary. (Invited) 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

The Life and Work of Alexey Chichibabin. (Invited and Seeking contributions) David E. Lewis, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Phone: (715) 836-4744, email: lewisd@uwec.edu

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, (412) 480-0656, email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

HIST Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributors) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

262nd ACS Meeting, Atlanta, GA, August 22-26, 2021

History of Forensic Chemistry (Invited and contributed) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

African American Chemists: Academia, Industry and Social Entrepreneurship. (Invited and Seeking Contributions). Organizers: Taiya Fabre, Department of Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics, Houston Baptist University, Houston, TX 77074, Phone: (281) 649-3191, email: tfabre@hbu.edu; Tracey Simmons-Willis, Department of Chemistry, Wharton County Junior College, Wharton, Texas 77488, Phone: (979) 532-6572, e-mail: wilist@wcjc.edu; Sibrina Collins, The Marburger STEM Center, Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, MI 48075, Phone: (248) 204-2227; e-mail: scollins@ltu.edu

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

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263rd ACS Meeting, San Diego, CA, March 20-24, 2022

History of Glass (Invited and contributed) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108, Phone: (701) 231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu; Dan Rabinovich, Department of Chemistry, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte, NC 28223, Phone: (704) 687-5105, email: drabinov@uncc.edu

History of Chemistry Competitions and Olympiads (Invited and contributed) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: (214) 768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

HIST Anniversary (Invited) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, (412) 480-0656, email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

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