HIST Award Symposium in Honor of Annette Lykknes
Fall National ACS Meeting 2026

"W. E. S. Turner: Pioneer in glass history and education"

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The British chemist William Ernest Stephen Turner (1881–1963, commonly known as W. E. S. Turner) started from very humble beginnings, but went on to become an important pioneer in the history, education, and study of glass technology. Following the awarding of his M.Sc., Turner was appointed a junior demonstrator and assistant lecturer at the University College of Sheffield. There, he began interacting with local industry, which led to him convincing the University to establish a technical advisory committee to aid local industry. Many of the questions brought to the advisory committee were connected with the manufacture of glass, leading Turner to then recommend that the University establish a center for instruction in glass manufacture. As a result, the first university department dedicated to the study of glass was established at Sheffield in 1915 as the Department of Glass Manufacture, with Turner as its head. The name was changed to the Department of Glass Technology the following year, as Turner felt that glass manufacture was too limited in scope. For the rest of his career, Turner focused on the chemistry and technology of glass, significantly advancing the understanding of how the composition of glass affected its material properties. Following his retirement in 1945, he then shifted his focus to the history of glass, producing a series of landmark papers that served as the basis of much of our current understanding of this history. In addition to his work with the department at Sheffield, Turner also established the Society of Glass Technology, along with its Journal of the Society of Glass Technology, as well as being involved in the formation of the International Commission on Glass. An overview of the life and contributions of Turner to the history, education, and technology of glass will be presented.

Past ACS Presidents: Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847-1931)
Joint Programming HIST, GEOC - Fall National ACS Meeting 2026

"F. W. Clarke – Research, teaching, and professional activities in Cincinnati 1874-1883"

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This talk will focus on Frank Wigglesworth Clarke's efforts while in Cincinnati, a period between 1874-1883. During this time, he was the first chair of the newly formed chemistry department, taught courses in chemistry and physics, established the research priorities of the new department, involved undergraduate students in the research program, and

nurtured the young professional societies in the area, bridging the gap between the embryonic University of Cincinnati and the well-established Ohio Mechanics Institute through his work bringing together the efforts of the Cincinnati Chemical Society and the Ohio Mechanics Institute. This talk will detail Clarke's efforts in Cincinnati and attempt to show how his philosophy and practice in research, instruction, and professional societies laid the foundation for his trajectory of excellence and numerous accomplishments.