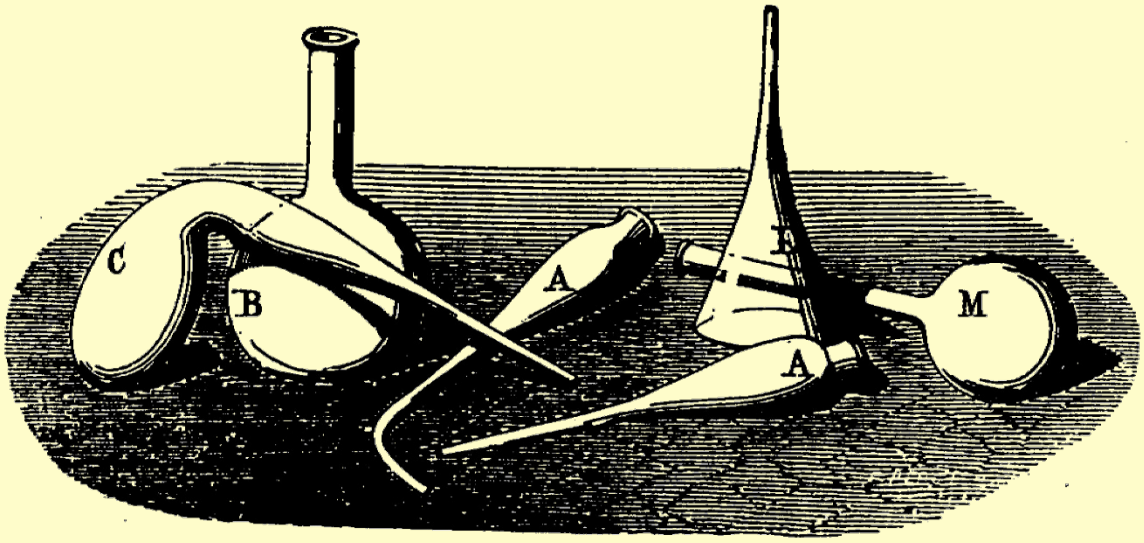
American Chemical Society

# DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY




## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2025 ACS National Meeting
San Diego, CA
March 23-27

*Christine Hahn, Program Chair*

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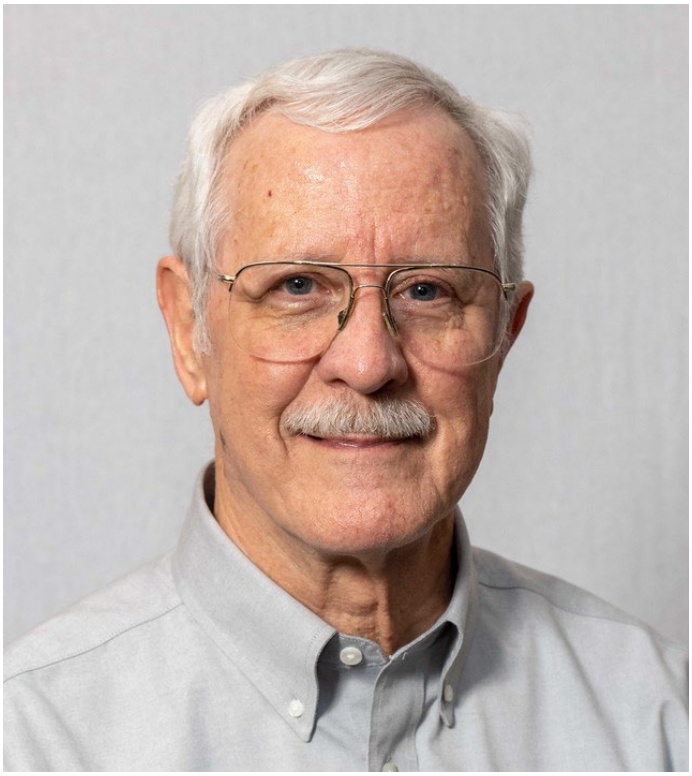
# Mission Statement

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, educators, 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



As I begin my two-year stint as HIST Chair, I want to thank my two immediate predecessors, Art Greenberg and Seth Rasmussen, for the excellent patterns they set. Moreover, I want to thank Vera Mainz for being the glue that keeps HIST on track and moving forward. Would that we could clone her. Thanks also to Nick Tsarevsky for his years as HIST Program Chair. He is the newly elected HIST Chair-Elect and will assume the Chair in 2027. Congratulations to Christine Hahn as she takes on the Program Chair responsibilities. A special thanks goes to Carmen Giunta as editor of The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry.

We are in a time of some turmoil as ACS changes the pattern of fall ACS meetings. We will no longer have HIST Sunday in-person programs, with divisional sessions beginning on Mondays. There will, however, be broader ACS programming on Sundays. Fortunately, the spring meetings will continue with the old pattern, so HIST programming will begin on Sunday.

ACS also changed the membership model in 2022, so HIST and most other divisions lost membership. HIST did gain 31 members in 2024. We hope to build on that pattern. HIST is active in

Division Row at Sci Mix, increasing HIST visibility. As part of the HIST Strategic Plan updated in 2024, HIST will have a greater presence at ACS regional meetings. We are planning HIST sessions at half of the 2025 regional meetings, and we hope to have similar sessions at the other half in 2026.

HIST initiated ChemHIST Talks in 2024. These free video lectures follow each national meeting, with two talks from the national meeting reprised as ChemHIST Talks. HIST collaborated with AGRO to develop AGRO's webinar program "Seaweed: The Perennial and Renewable Plant." Thanks to Solito Sumulong and Gary Patterson for taking the lead on that project. Jeff Seeman continues his efforts on the Citations of Chemical Breakthrough Awards with three 2024 recipients. The complete list of awardees from 2006 is on the HIST website https://acshist.scs.illinois.edu. HIST continues to work with other divisions on joint programming at national meetings. Most recently, HIST and COMP cosponsored the CINF program "Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Dr. Olga Kennard."

Congratulations to Seth Rasmussen from the North Dakota State University as the recipient of the 2025 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award. His award symposium will be held at the fall ACS meeting in Washington, D.C. Congratulations also to Peter Childs of the University of Limerick for the 2023 Paul R. Jones Outstanding Paper Award from The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry.
We hope to see you in San Diego March 23-25.

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**DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY COUNCILORS' REPORT**
**American Chemical Society – Hybrid Council Meeting**
**August 21, 2024, Denver, CO**

**Actions of the Council**

**A. Elections Results**

**1. Candidates for Council Policy Committee**

By electronic ballot, the Council elected Donna Friedman, Matthew Grandbois, Diane Grob Schmidt, and Kimberly Woznack for three-year terms (2025 – 2027) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC). Sheila Murphy was elected for a two-year term from 2025 – 2026 to fill the unexpired term of Jeanette Van Emon, who was elected to the ACS Board of Directors.

**2. Candidates for Committee on Committees**

By electronic ballot, the Council elected Allison Aldridge, Mary Engelman, Katherine Johnson, Daniel Rabinovich, and Brian Mathes for three-year terms (2025 – 2027) on the Committee on Committees (ConC).

**3. Candidates for Committee on Nominations and Elections**

By electronic ballot, the Council elected Peter Dorhout, Holly Davis, Kevin Edgar, Donivan Porterfield for three-year terms (2025 – 2027) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

## B. Other Council Actions

### 1. Highlights from Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of CPC, Council approved the Petition for Global Representation on Council, as amended on the Council floor [Yes 375 (90.58%) / No 39 (9.42%)]. This petition allows for the creation of Global Electoral Zones for the election of Councilors by ACS members living outside the territory of existing Local Sections. The petition was amended [Yes 400 (97.09%) / No 12 (2.91%)] to count these Councilors elected by Zones with Councilors elected by Local Sections for the purpose of calculating the number of Councilors elected by Divisions as shown in the equation below. This petition will be referred to the ACS Board of Directors for confirmation.

$$\frac{\text{Councilors elected by Local Sections + Councilors elected by Zones}}{\text{Councilors elected by Divisions}} = \frac{80}{20}$$

- On the recommendation of ConC, and with concurrence of CPC, Council approved [Yes 394 (99.49%) /No 2 (0.51%)] the Petition to Amend the Name of the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA) to the Committee on Chemical Technical Professionals (CTP). This change recognizes the fact that the term "technician" does not adequately reflect the variety of titles used for these positions across the broader chemical enterprise.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with concurrence of CPC, Council approved [Yes 393 (99.75%) /No 1 (0.25%)] continuance of the Committees on Ethics; Nomenclature, Terminology and Symbols; and Project SEED and, subject to the concurrence by the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Chemical Safety; Chemistry and Public Affairs; Community Activities; Minority Affairs; Professional Training; Science; Senior Chemists; Women Chemists; and Younger Chemists.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), Council approved the Academic Professional Guidelines, as amended to reflect the shared responsibility and accountability with the academic institution, faculty, and other mentors in creating a safe environment, [Yes 392 (98.49%) / No 6 (1.51%)] and the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct [Yes 382 (96.71%) /No 13 (3.29%)].
- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council approved the creation of the following International Chemical Sciences Chapters, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors: Bangladesh [Yes 375 (96.40%) / No 14 (3.60%)], East and Northeast India [Yes 377 (96.67%) / No 13 (3.33%)], and West India [Yes 370 (96.61%) / No 13 (3.39%)].
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of bylaws for a total of 11 units with five Local Sections: Columbus, Permian Basin, Inland Northwest, Midland, and Pensacola; three Divisions: Divisions of Colloid and Surface Chemistry (COLL), Environmental Chemistry (ENVR), and Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BIOL); and three International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Switzerland, Egypt, and Guangdong, China.
- The Committee on Younger Chemists (YCC), in celebration of their 50th anniversary, encourages early career chemists to join ACS. Through September, new members can join ACS for a 50% discount off their first year of annual dues by using discount code YCC24 when joining online.

**2. Resolutions**

- The Council passed several resolutions:
  - In memory of deceased Councilors;
  - In sincere appreciation of the Colorado Section, host Section for the ACS fall 2024 meeting, the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting;
  - In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Mary K. Carroll.
- Meeting Attendance
  ACS Fall 2024 was held from August 18 – 22, 2024. As of August 22, there were 11,569 registrations (10,245 in-person and 1,324 online).

**C. HIST Councilors**

Mary Virginia Orna is serving as a member of the Senior Chemists Committee (SCC) and of its Executive Committee. She serves as the Champion on Tutorials for the SCC Inreach Subcommittee. She also serves as Co-Chair of the Partnerships Subcommittee and the Co-Champion of the Undergraduate Networking Activity. She will term off her position on Council as of Dec. 31, 2024.

Roger Egolf has been appointed as an Associate on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) and its Governance subcommittee. This is the subcommittee that looks at petitions coming to Council and reviews the Annual Reports from the Divisions.

*Submitted by Mary Virginia Orna and Roger Egolf*

# News and Announcements

**Awards**

The recipient of the 2025 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award of the Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) of the American Chemical Society is Seth C. Rasmussen. Professor Rasmussen is a member of the faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND. The HIST Award is for outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry and is international in scope. This award is the successor to the Dexter Award (1956-2001) and the Sydney M. Edelstein Award (2002-2009), also administered by HIST.

The HIST Award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for $1500 and will be presented to Professor Rasmussen at the fall national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Washington, DC, in August 2025. Additional information about the award can be found on the HIST website at

http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/hist_award.php

Professor Seth C. Rasmussen receives the Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry for 2025 for his historical scholarship and revolutionary efforts to create a vibrant worldwide community of historians of chemistry.

A casual perusal of Professor Rasmussen's CV would reveal a typical academic chemical trajectory. He was raised in Washington State and received his B.S. in Chemistry from Washington State University in 1990. He ventured East to Clemson University to further advance his craft of synthetic chemistry with John Peterson and obtained his Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry in 1994.

He returned to the West at the University of Oregon as a Postdoctoral Fellow with James Hutchinson, where he developed expertise in semiconducting organic polymers and stayed on at Oregon as an Instructor of organic chemistry.

He joined North Dakota State University at Fargo in 1999 and is now Professor of Chemistry (2012). He spent his first sabbatical leave (2018) in Australia as a Fulbright Senior Scholar with the Centre for Organic Electronics in Newcastle. He is very active in the Divisions of the ACS that deal with polymers, and with his local Section.

Seth became active in HIST sometime around 2001, particularly after a chance meeting during a graduate school recruiting visit at the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire. His Host was David Lewis (the 2018 winner of the HIST Award), and after spending most of dinner discussing the history of chemistry, they became fast friends and have blessed HIST ever since. After a flurry of both individual talks and the organization of symposia, Seth was recruited to be the Program Chair of HIST (2008-2017). In this role, he stimulated great symposia, recruited an international array of

speakers, and placed HIST firmly in the international community of the history of chemistry. Naturally, he went on to serve as HIST Chair for 2021-2022.

Another fortuitous event occurred in 2010 at the San Francisco ACS Meeting. Springer was hosting a social event at a local microbrewery, where Seth met Springer Editor Elizabeth Hawkins. While discussing the publication of books and journals in chemistry, the topic turned to history. This ultimately led to an invitation to help launch a new series, *Springer Briefs in the History of Chemistry*. In addition to his own three contributions to this series, he has edited 21 others from its inception in 2011 to 2025. Based on the success of this series, a second longer-form series, *Perspectives on the History of Chemistry,* was founded in 2019; 8 titles have since been published or are in press. Seth continues to serve as Series Editor for both series and these additions to the venues for publications in the history of chemistry are entirely due to his efforts.

Seth Rasmussen is now uniformly respected in the worldwide community of the history of chemistry. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, the American Chemical Society, and was one of the second cohort of HIST Fellows. He serves on editorial and advisory boards of journals and represents HIST on various international bodies in the history of chemistry.

In addition to all Seth's "administrative" accomplishments, he has made major contributions to the understanding of the history of chemistry. One of his areas of specialization is the history of glass. There were glasses on earth long before there were humans. Some of this material arrived from other regions of the universe. Seth presented the early history of these materials in his highly popular monograph: *How Glass Changed the World* (2012). The success of this work has led to an expanded and revised edition to be released later this year. He is now recognized worldwide as an important scholar of early silica glass.

Another of Seth's areas of personal interest is ethanol. It has been a part of human culture for thousands of years. His wide-ranging monograph, *The Quest for Aqua Vitae* (2014), can be viewed as required reading for anyone interested in this subject and was recognized with a Gourmand Award for the Best Drinks History Book published in Germany for 2014.

In addition to his work in the history of chemistry, Seth is a scientific leader in the field of conjugated organic polymers (semiconducting polymers capable of conductivities rivaling metals). Thus, it is no surprise that he began contributing to the history of this field as well, becoming the first to fully document the history of these materials back to 1834. This combination of technical expertise and historical analysis characterizes all of Seth's work. His first monograph in this area is *Acetylene and its Polymers: 150+ Years of History* (2018). This was followed with a technical book on the chemistry of these materials in 2013 (which also included a bit of history) and a much more substantial history monograph *The Origins and Early History of Conjugated Organic Polymers: Organic Semiconductors, Synthetic Metals, and the Prehistory of Organic Electronics* (2025) is currently in production at Oxford University Press.

HIST is proud to award its Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry to one of its own rising stars, Seth C. Rasmussen.

*Submitted by Vera Mainz*

**Obituaries**

***Edwin Thomas "Tom" Strom***

*June 11, 1936 – October 26, 2024*

Tom Strom died October 26, 2024, at age 88, in Palma de Majorca, Spain while on vacation with his daughter and her husband. He was a chemist, teacher, editor, writer, and follower of Christ.

Edwin Thomas Strom was born June 11, 1936, in Des Moines, Iowa. His mother was a Swedish immigrant, Maria Kristina Johansson Strom, and his father was Edwin Lewis Carolina Strom, himself the son of Swedish immigrants. His parents and half-brothers, Norman Edwin Strom and William Val Strom, preceded him in death. Tom was also preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Charlotte Faye Williams Strom), who died in August 2023, and his son, Eric William Strom, who died in May 2024.

Tom Strom grew up in Des Moines, Iowa, and graduated first in his class at North Des Moines High School. He attended the University of Iowa on an Iowa Merit Scholarship and graduated with a B.S. Chemistry degree in 1958. He married his wife, Charlotte, the day after graduation. At the University of Iowa, he was a member of Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Lambda Upsilon honorary fraternities, and Theta Xi social fraternity. He received awards in both his junior and senior years as the outstanding student in chemistry. He went to graduate school at the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1961 with an M.S. Chemistry degree in nuclear chemistry. There followed graduate school at Iowa State University as an NIH Fellow, where he received a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry under mentor Glen Russell in 1964.

He joined Mobil Research and Development Corp. in Dallas in January 1964, but shortly thereafter entered the U.S. Army Chemical Corps as a 1st Lieutenant to fulfill an ROTC obligation. He rejoined Mobil in March 1966, as a Senior Research Chemist. He retired from Mobil in December 1995. He had been teaching chemistry in night school at institutions such as Dallas Baptist University, El Centro Community College, UT-Dallas, and UT-Arlington (UTA), so after retiring from Mobil, he immediately joined the faculty at UTA as an Adjunct Professor, where he taught organic, polymer, and industrial chemistry for more than forty years until May 2020. Scores of his students wound up in medical, dental, and pharmacy programs. As a researcher, he had around 50 publications, and he held 25 U.S. patents and numerous foreign patents.

He was active in church, community, and professional affairs. He was a member of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), and the International Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Society. He served ACS for many years as a Counselor and was also on the ACS Committees on Economic and Professional Affairs and International Relations. He won the Wilfred T. Doherty Award of the Dallas-Fort Worth Section of the ACS in 1989. Tom was Editor for over 27 years of the ACS regional publication, The Southwest Retort,

and wrote many articles, book reviews, and editorials for that magazine.

He was the co-editor of six books on the history of chemistry:

• 100 Plus Years of Plastics. Leo Baekeland and Beyond
• Pioneers of Quantum Chemistry
• The Foundations of Physical Organic Chemistry. 50 Years of the James Flack Norris Award
• The Posthumous Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Volume 1. Correcting the Errors and Oversights of the Nobel Prize Committee
• The Posthumous Nobel Prize in Chemistry Volume 2. Ladies in Waiting for the Nobel Prize
• Pioneers of Magnetic Resonance

For the last five of those six books, he wrote or co-wrote chapters on famous chemists.

In 2009 he was honored to be one of the inaugural groups of ACS Fellows, and he served the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry as Chair in 2011-2012. At the time of his death, he was Book Review Editor for the journal Bulletin for the History of Chemistry. With SPE he served many years on the International Oil Field Chemistry Symposium Committee.

When integration came to Southwest Oak Cliff in 1971, he worked in the area of neighborhood stabilization. He headed a group of interveners in the DISD school desegregation suit to see that integrated areas of Oak Cliff would not be subjected to forced busing. He also was a member of the Tri-Ethic Committee monitoring the DISD desegregation efforts. A member of Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church from 1983 on, he served on the Session of that congregation, and he participated in the church's Great Banquet programs.

Tom was a classical music buff and played the piano reasonably well. He loved the composers Rachmaninoff, Puccini, Delius, Rutter, and Debussy, and he was a tireless promoter of the music of Swedish composer Wilhelm Peterson-Berger. He had a fine, but subtle sense of humor, an example of which is present in this obituary. He enjoyed reading, and an important hobby was Egyptology. He was a member of the North Texas Chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt. He was also a long-time, 50+ years, member of the Oak Cliff Lions Club.

Excerpt from the obituary on Dr. Strom at the UTA Chemistry and Biochemistry website.

"Tom Strom was a wonderful person and a true all-rounder — a dedicated scientist, an inspiring teacher, a gifted writer, and a committed public servant,' said Rasika Dias, professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. 'His contributions to our department and the wider chemical community were substantial. Passionate and active in his research until the end, Tom inspired all who knew him. He will be deeply missed."

His family, friends and church community feel the same – Tom was an inspiration and will be missed in the hearts of all those fortunate enough to know him.

Link to UTA article on Dr. Strom: https://www.uta.edu/academics/schools-colleges/science/news/2024/11/14/in-memoriam-e--thomas-strom--longtime-adjunct-professor-in-chemistry

To honor Tom's memory as an Adjunct Professor in the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, the University of Texas at Arlington has set up a memorial scholarship in his name. The family asks that any contributions be made to one of the following.

• UTA Edwin Thomas Strom Memorial Scholarship https://www.give.uta.edu/strom
• Agape Fund or Scholarship Fund of Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church https://www.ocpres.com/give

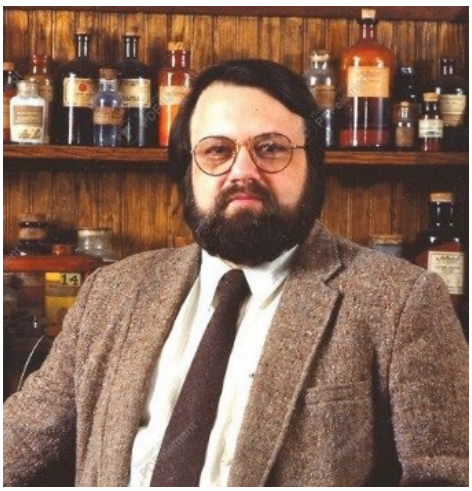
*From: Edwin Strom, Ph.D. Obituary - Dallas, TX*

*Submitted by Christine Hahn*

***William Barry Jensen***
*March 25, 1948 – November 2, 2024*

Professor William Jensen died on November 2, 2024 in Cincinnati, Ohio, at the age of 76. Jensen, son of a sign painter and librarian, was born in Marshfield, Wisconsin. He went to school in Wausau, Wisconsin. He became interested in chemistry at an early age and, after reading *Discovery of the Elements* by Mary Elvira Weeks, he also became interested in the history of chemistry. In 2013, Jensen wrote *Memoirs of an Amateur Chemist: Growing up a Science Nerd in the 1960s*, an autobiography detailing his earliest memories, such as receiving his first chemistry kit, collecting pieces of glassware, and winning science fairs. These memoirs were published electronically by the Oesper Collections in 2024 and can be found here:
https://hdl.handle.net/2374.UC/768605

Jensen studied chemistry at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, taking a bachelor's degree in 1970, a master's degree in 1972 and a doctorate in inorganic chemistry in 1982. He was then appointed assistant professor of inorganic chemistry at the Rochester Institute of Technology from 1983 to 1986, before becoming Oesper Professor of the History of Chemistry and Chemistry Education at the University of Cincinnati. There he was also curator of the Oesper Collection on the History of Chemistry, the largest such collection in the United States after that at the Smithsonian Museum. He had an *Ask the Historian* column in the *Journal of Chemical Education*. From 1988 to 1995, he was the founding editor of the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*. He was awarded the 2005 Edelstein Award for Outstanding contributions to the History of Chemistry by the History division of the American Chemical Society. As a chemical historian, he was primarily concerned with the history of physical and inorganic chemistry at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries, as well as the history of chemical apparatus. He endeavored to bring the history of chemistry closer to more chemistry students, detached from the history of science.



Jensen was an article contributor to *Encyclopedia Britannica*. He was also a caricaturist for MeasureNet Technology Ltd.. In 2010, Jensen published a book of his caricatures of famous scientists which the Oesper Collections published digitally in 2024. *Chymists: That strange class of mortals: Caricatures of famous chemists with a few physicists and biologists added*, can be found here:
https://hdl.handle.net/2374.UC/768601

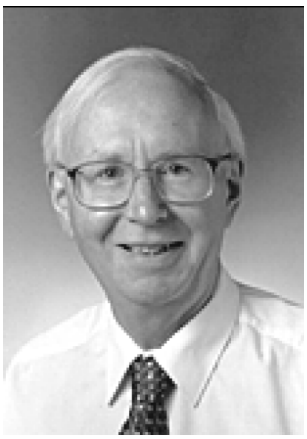
In 1982, an influential article by Jensen appeared in the Journal of Chemical Education, suggesting that group 3 in the periodic table should contain lutetium and lawrencium instead of lanthanum and actinium. This question has been much debated in literature. Jensen was a member of a 2015–2021 IUPAC project to decide on the composition of group 3, chaired by Eric Scerri; so far it has produced a provisional report (written by Scerri), which was in support of Jensen's 1982 conclusion.

Jensen's books published by the Oesper Collections can be found here:
https://hdl.handle.net/2374.UC/768600
and include books on the origins of the chemistry community in Cincinnati, OH, titles previously mentioned, and his beloved history of chemistry textbook, *Philosophers of Fire*.

*From: William B. Jensen - Wikipedia*

*Submitted by Christine Hahn*

***William Hodson "Bill" Brock***
*1936 – February 16, 2025*



Professor William H. "Bill" Brock was born 1936 in Brighton, England. He was a British chemist and historian of science.

Brock studied chemistry at University College London from 1956 on a scholarship, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1959. Even then, he turned to the history of chemistry and took courses in the history of science at the University of Leicester, where he became a lecturer and later professor of the history of science in 1959. In 1966 he received his doctorate with a dissertation on William Prout. From 1966 to 1990 he directed the Victorian Studies Centre at the University of Leicester, an interdisciplinary center of study during the Victorian era. He retired in 1998 and lived in Seaford, East Sussex.

He was a visiting scholar in Toronto (1977), Melbourne (1985, 1989) and Philadelphia (1990 to 1991). After his retirement, he was also an honorary visiting professor at the Centre for the History and Cultural Studies of Science at the University of Kent.

In addition to the history of chemistry, on which he wrote a standard work in English, which has also been translated into German, Spanish, Polish and Japanese, dealing with the social history of the natural sciences and mathematics of the Victorian period, the history of science education and the development of scientific journals. He dealt with Justus von Liebig and his student August Wilhelm Hofmann (and edited their correspondence) and with the debate about the existence of the atom in the 19th century.

In 1995 he received the Dexter Award of the ACS History of Chemistry division, and he received the Liebig-Wöhler Friendship Prize of the Göttingen Chemical Society. In 1997 he received the Justus von Liebig Medal of the Medical Sciences History Society and in 2000 the award for work on the history of the Justus Liebig University Giessen for his biography of Liebig. In 2009, he received the Roy G. Neville Prize for Biography or Bibliography from the Chemical Heritage Foundation (for his book on William Crookes).

From 1993 to 2006 he was president of the Society for the History of Chemistry and Alchemy, and from 1968 to 1983 he edited its journal *Ambix*. He published the following works:

- *The Fontana History of Chemistry* (London, 1992), *Norton History of Chemistry* (1993)
- *From Protyle to Proton: William Prout and the Nature of Matter, 1785–1985* (CRC Press 1985)
- *Science for All: Studies in the History of Victorian Science and Education.* (Aldershot 1996)
- *H. E. Armstrong and the Teaching of Science 1880–1930.* (1973)
- with Jack Meadows: *The Lamp of Learning: Taylor & Francis and the development of science publishing.* (Taylor & Francis 1984, 2nd edition 1998)
- with D. M. Knight, D. Dallas: *The Atomic Debates.* (Leicester University Press 1967 and New York: Humanities Press); Brock: *The Atomic Debates: Brodie and the rejection of atomic theory*
- *Liebig and Hofmann in their letters (1841–1873)* (Weinheim: Verlag Chemie 1984)
- *Justus von Liebig: The Chemical Gatekeeper.* (Cambridge University Press 1998)
- *William Crookes (1832–1919) and the Commercialization of Science.* (Ashgate 2008)

*From: William Hodson Brock – Wikipedia*

*Translated and submitted by Christine Hahn*

## HIST News

### *From the HIST Historian's Desk*

It has been a very busy year for the Historian of HIST.

The Springer book, ***From Heat to Thermal Science – A History of Thermodynamics,*** is now in the editing phase.

In my continuing project to engage the other Divisions, I helped organize and participated in a webinar with AGRO on Seaweed.

The webinar for 2025 is with ACS on the History of Quantum Chemistry. I will present the history in the pre-computer era and Henry F. (Fritz) Schaeffer III will talk about the history up to 2025. (Carmen Giunta is also on this project.)

The symposium at the New Orleans meeting on "The Birth of the 3rd Dimension" was a big success. My paper on "René Just Haüy and the Contribution of Crystallography to 3-Dimensional Chemistry" is now in press with Springer.

The symposium on "Chemistry in the 18th Century" for the March 2025 ACS meeting was planned and the research for the special issue of the Bulletin has been carried out.

*Submitted by Gary Patterson*

### ***Do you wish to continue to receive the* Bulletin *in the mail*?**

HIST members and subscribers to the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* are being polled to ask if they wish to continue receiving the *Bulletin* in hard copy or if online access is sufficient. Beginning with the next issue (50(1) in Spring 2025), hard copies will go only to those members and subscribers who specifically request it. If you have not responded to the survey, you may do so at

https://tinyurl.com/Hardcopy-Bulletin-Survey

Members and subscribers who do not respond to the survey will have only online access to the *Bulletin*.

This move is being made to curb the rising costs of producing the *Bulletin*, driven by printing and mailing costs. For further information, see the letter from the editor that was published in *Bull. Hist. Chem.*, 2024, *49*(2), 93 or contact the editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu. The executive committee is trying to avoid raising HIST membership dues. Having said that, it welcomes donations to defray costs of production. Donations may be sent to Secretary-Treasurer Vera Mainz, 2709 Holcomb Drive, Urbana, IL 61802.

*Submitted by Carmen Giunta*

## Other announcements of interest to HIST members

### *Historic sites of chemistry*

With the "Historic Sites of Chemistry" program, the German Chemical Society (GDCh) is honoring achievements of historical importance in chemistry. Places of work of important chemists are recognized as places of remembrance in a ceremonial act. The aim of this program is to keep the memory of the cultural heritage of chemistry alive and to bring chemistry and its historical roots more into the public eye.

The table informs about all Historic sites of the German Chemical Society:

| Year | Historic site |
|---|---|
| 2023 | The König Building of the TU Dresden with the historical dye collection |
| 2019 | The Göttingen Old Chemical Laboratory |
| 2018 | The Pützer tower from Merck |
| 2017 | August Wilhelm von Hofmann and the establishment of the German Chemical Society in Berlin |
| 2016 | Johann Wolfgang Döbereiner and the Hellfeld House in Jena |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2015 | Johannes Hartmann and the "Laboratorium Chymicum Publicum" in Marburg |
| 2014 | Friedrich August Kekulé and the Old Chemical Institute Bonn |
| 2013 | Dr. Otto Roelen and the Ruhrchemie plant in Oberhausen |
| 2013 | Chemical Laboratory Fresenius Wiesbaden |
| 2012 | Former salicylic acid factory Dr. Friedrich von Heyden in Radebeul |
| 2011 | Robert Bunsen's place of work in Heidelberg |
| 2010 | Wolfen Industry and Film Museum |
| 2009 | Ernst Beckmann's place of work in Leipzig |
| 2008 | Karl Ziegler's place of work in Mülheim / Ruhr |
| 2006 | Hans Meerwein's place of work in Marburg |
| 2005 | Wilhelm Ostwald's place of work in Großbothen |
| 2004 | Clemens Winkler's place of work in Freiberg |
| 2003 | Justus von Liebig's place of work in Giessen |
| 2002 | Fritz Straßmann's place of work in Mainz |
| 1999 | Hermann Staudinger's place of work in Freiburg |

The first memorial plaque was installed at the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry at the University of Freiburg in a joint initiative by ACS and GDCh to commemorate the founding of polymer science by Nobel Prize laureate Hermann Staudinger (1881–1965). The award as Historical site of Chemistry is dedicated exclusively to places where those chemists had been working who made outstanding contributions to the development of chemical sciences or chemical industry. The aura of the original, the sensory uniqueness of the historic site and its ambience is a central selection criterion. In addition, the site must be in Germany and publicly accessible; because it is the public to which chemistry wants to present itself as an indispensable element of the modern knowledge society: as a science of the transformation of materials, which at the same time transforms the world in which we live. For more information: https://en.gdch.de/gdch/historical-sites-of-chemistry.html

The König Building of the TU Dresden with the historical dye collection

*Submitted by Gisela Boeck*

### *An Update from The Oesper Collections*

As many of you are likely aware, the Oesper Collections are a premier collection of scientific instrumentation, books, journals, photos, and prints related to the history of chemistry located at the University of Cincinnati. These collections were founded by Ralph E. Oesper, first recipient of the Dexter Award and were curated, grown, and expertly nourished from 1986-2024 by our late friend and colleague William “Bill” Jensen, who received the Edelstein Award in 2005. The ACS recognized the Oesper Collections as a National Historic Chemical Landmark in March 2022.

I am writing to share that I am now the curator and primary contact for the Oesper Collections. My name is Mark Chalmers and I have been working with the Oesper Collections as a Science & Engineering Librarian at UC since 2018. As I have taken on a leadership role with the collections recently, I've been able to secure support to help extend my work bringing life to the museum by increasing visibility, awareness, tours, and partnerships with courses in different colleges and student organizations.

Thanks to the incredible Historic Landmark designation, I was able to secure more than 100 linear feet of display cases in a building on our campus that is undergoing renovations. These displays offer a great opportunity to bring the Oesper Collections out in front of students and engage them with rich and fascinating objects and narratives from the history of chemistry. This is an active project as the displays will be installed later this summer in ~July. In other good news, we are actively recruiting for a staff position to support dedicated open hours for the museum. I would also like to share that I have recently been able to digitally publish some of Bill's books. Favorites include his beloved caricatures and his *Philosophers of Fire* textbook, which was the subject of his Edelstein award paper.

I look forward to meeting you all in San Diego. I'm excited to work with you all to help bring the Oesper Collections into alignment with the new HIST vision statement and strategic plan. As many of these collections were developed to support Bill's research in the history of chemistry, I'm eager to be a conduit to these collections for the community of chemical historians. I welcome HIST members to reach out about research opportunities or to schedule visits to explore these valuable materials firsthand.

*Submitted by Mark Chalmers*
*Mark.Chalmers@uc.edu*
Curator, Oesper Collections
Science & Engineering Librarian
University of Cincinnati

# BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

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

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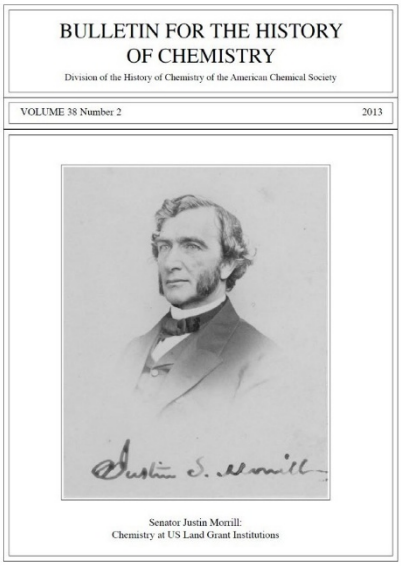
**PAPER SUBMISSIONS:** Articles of 4-20 pages, double-spaced (excluding references) should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the Editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu.
The title of the article should be of reasonable length (up to 15 words); a subtitle may be included if appropriate. 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://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/info/bull-info.php




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

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# HIST Programming

## Message from the HIST Program Chair

As mentioned earlier in this Newsletter by the new HIST Division Chair, Joe Jeffers, the Program Chair also has changed. In the last few years I worked with Nick Tsarevsky, who served in this position for seven years. We have organized together several HIST symposia for SWRM and National Meetings. In this way I have become more familiar with HIST and its Executive Committee members. It is my great honor and pleasure to serve as the new Program Chair for HIST. As Joe Jeffers pointed out, programming for the National Meetings is changing, and it is my task to make the best out of it within the new frames set by the ACS. Earlier this year, I attended the ACS Leadership Institute workshop on the Future of Meetings, where I learned more on the new strategies and features. The HIST half-day sessions at the fall meetings are now limited to four, while joint programming and virtual symposia are highly encouraged. The workshop was a great opportunity for networking, and I hope this will benefit the future HIST programming.

During this spring meeting, we will enjoy three symposia. On Sunday, we will start with "Light and Science: A Historical Perspective" organized by Nick Tsarevsky and me. We will learn about the history of photochemistry, photography, spectroscopy, and photochemicals. Monday is dedicated to the "Chemistry of the 18$^{th}$ Century" organized by Gary Paterson, who has invited several outstanding science historians. At the end of the symposium, we will have a panel discussion. I want to thank Gary Paterson for his enthusiasm and efforts to organize this symposium. We may need to organize a "Part II" symposium of the 18$^{th}$ Century Chemistry, since there is a lot of enormously interesting material to discuss. The third symposium, "Tutorials and General Papers," will take place on Tuesday morning. There are two talks dealing with 200 years' anniversaries: one on the discovery of aromatic compounds, presented by David Lewis, and another talk on the second Centennial Oxygen Meeting, by Roger Egolf. Finally, we will have two poster presentations on Tuesday at noon, one on the history of gun powder presented by Justin Hunter, and the other on celebration of the elements by David Cordes, who created some visual art to complement the elemental poems and sonatas, on which Nick and I have been working for the last few years.

Looking at the upcoming HIST meetings, there are plenty of interesting themes and proposed symposia, as a result of our networking activities. For Fall 2025, at Washington, D.C., we will have our HIST Award Symposium Honoring Seth Rasmussen, the recipient of the 2025 Joseph B. Lambert HIST Award. My congratulations to Seth Rasmussen again here! In addition, we will offer a symposium on the History of Quantum Chemistry. This will be a joint symposium with PHYS and COMP, and it will be a part of the celebration of the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology in 2025. Some of the invited speakers have already confirmed their participation. I very much look forward to this symposium. Furthermore, in Fall 2025 there will be a symposium "In Honor of Prof. George Schweitzer" organized by NUCL and co-sponsored by HIST. George Keen Schweitzer was an inorganic chemist and radiochemist at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, deceased September 20, 2024, at age 99. It should be noted that he was very involved in the history and philosophy of sciences.

For the spring of 2026 Meeting in Atlanta, we envision a symposium on the history of nomenclature, symbols, and terminology. For the Fall 2026 Meeting in Chicago, a symposium is scheduled on Frank Wigglesworth Clarke, organized by Gary Paterson and Carmen Giunta. This will be a part of celebrating the 150$^{th}$ anniversary of the ACS as F. W. Clarke was the founder of the ACS and served as ACS President in 1901. Moreover, as F. W. Clarke is considered the "Father of Geochemistry," GEOC will hopefully sponsor a half-day session for this symposium.

There are more potential joint symposia with AGFD, SCHB, and other Divisions and Committees. Regarding the new trend of "innovative programming," we may consider virtual symposia for international presenters, since hybrid symposia are no longer possible. For those who cannot travel, this would be an important step towards "innovating programming." I have some plans to contact international speakers and would be happy to organize virtual symposia in the future. We may discuss this option more in our Executive Committee Meeting and I will keep you posted about future developments in my column.

Now I welcome you to our spring 2025 Meeting at San Diego, and wish you all a pleasant stay, enjoyable program, and safe travels.

*Christine Hahn, HIST Program Chair*

## HIST SYMPOSIA, Spring 2025 ACS National Meeting (March 23-27, 2025)

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

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (https://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/) for updates.

### Fall 2025 ACS National Meeting (Washington, DC, August 17-21, 2025)

**HIST Award Symposium Honoring Seth C. Rasmussen** (Invited), David Lewis, 816 Third Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703 Phone: 715-563-2633, Email: lewisd@uwec.edu

**History of Quantum Chemistry** (Invited and seeking contributions), joint symposium with COMP and PHYS, Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu, and Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

**Tutorial and General Papers** (Seeking contributions) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu, and Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

*HIST Nominal co-sponsored NUCL symposium:*

**In Honor of Prof. George Schweitzer** (Invited), Deborah Penchoff, Department of Chemistry, University of Central Florida, 4111 Libra Dr., Orlando, FL 32816, Email: deborah.penchoff@ucf.edu

### Spring ACS 2026, National Meeting (Atlanta, GA, March 22-26, 2026)

**History of Nomenclatures, Terminology, and Symbols**. (Invited and contributed) Joint symposium with NTS Committee, Hayley Brown, Email: hbrown1@dow.com, Sharon Haynie, Email: lorimers@earthlink.net, Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu, and Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

**History of Chemists with Disabilities**, (Invited and contributed) joint symposium with Committee on Chemists with Disabilities (CWD), David Lewis, 816 Third Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703 Phone: 715-563-2633, Email: lewisd@uwec.edu, Carmen J. Giunta PO Box 522, Manlius, NY 13104, Phone: 315-632-4992, Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu

**Tutorial and General Papers** (Seeking contributions) Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

## Fall 2026 ACS National Meeting (Chicago, IL, August 23-27)

**HIST Award Symposium,** TBA

**Past ACS Presidents: Frank Wigglesworth Clarke (1847-1931)** (Invited and contributed), joint symposium with GEOC, Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, Phone: 412-480-0656, Email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu, Carmen Giunta, PO Box 522, Manlius, NY 13104, Phone: 315-632-4992, Email: giunta@lemoyne.edu, and Ian Bourg, Princeton, New Jersey 08544, Phone: 609-258-4541, Email: bourg@princeton.edu

**Tutorial and General Papers** (Seeking contributions) Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

## Future Meetings

***Proposed Symposia***

**History of Small Businesses,** (Invited and contributed), joint symposium with SCHB, Xu Simon, xufits@gmail.com, Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, Email: nvt@smu.edu, and Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

**History of Agricultural Chemistry,** (Invited and contributed), joint symposium with AGFD, Karley Mahalak, Karley.mahalak@usda.gov, kmahalak11@gmail.com, Christine Hahn, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Kingsville, TX 78363, Phone: 361-593- 3592, Email: Christine.Hahn@tamuk.edu

For updates and additional information, e.g., on symposia at regional ACS meetings, please check the HIST website (https://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/)