

Minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2002
Boston, MA Sheraton Hotel

Meeting started at 5:15pm

Paul Jones, Carmen Giunta, Mary Virginia Orna, Vera Mainz, Richard Rice, Ben Chastain, David Lewis, Roger Egolf, Jeff Seeman, Steve Weininger

1. Minutes. Vera didn't have minutes from the August 26, 2001, meeting to distribute at this meeting, but did circulate her copy for comments/corrections.

2. Chair's Report: We welcome new members prior to the start of their terms.

- a) Edelstein symposia dinner: Tuesday, 20 August, 7:30 p.m., at the Bristol, 200 Boylston Street (at the entrance to the Four Season Hotel).
- b) Ruth Barish has sent HIST the \$3500 for the Edelstein Award, and David Brock from CHF has also sent HIST \$3500 to help with Edelstein symposia expenses.
- c) John Sharkey at Pace University has agreed to serve on the Edelstein Award Committee to replace Jim Bohning, whose term ends at the end of this year. Roald Hoffman will be the committee's chair next year, and Sy Mauskopf is the other continuing member.
- d) Kenneth Caneva at UNC Greensboro has agreed to serve on the Outstanding Paper Award Committee to replace Leo Slater whose terms ends at the end of this year. Ken is a previous winner of the award. The chair of the committee next year will be Paul Buonora at Cal State Long Beach, and Paul Schubert at Syntroleum Corporation in Tulsa is the other continuing member.

3. Secretary/Treasurer's Report: We are ahead for the year about \$9K but subtract Edelstein Award and symposium expenses (estimated \$5K), as well as the upcoming *Bulletin* v27(2) (about \$4.5K), and a Michigan billing for miscellaneous expenses (about \$2K). The second dues payment will be sent soon and should be about \$5.8K. In summary, upcoming expenses are ~\$11.5K. Upcoming income is ~\$5.8K. Total in reserve by the end of the year - ~\$3.5K.

4. Program Chair's Report:

- a) SciMix will allow us to present oral papers as posters, but this will be held to 10% of total number of papers presented in Division at meeting. David Lewis suggested we have a poster session, perhaps as joint with ChEd. Paul said it was important for HIST to participate in SciMix as it gives us our greatest exposure. A poster session by HIST alone would not bring any more people than we get with our oral sessions. Joint ones would be more useful, but still not as useful an exposure as SciMix.

b) Upcoming symposia:

1. New Orleans – Alchemy – John Adams and Gary Anderson - co-sponsored by Alpha Chi Sigma. They want to try to put together one program a year.
2. 2004 – Philadelphia – Priestley symposium.
3. Roger will be attending Program Chair's meeting in Chicago in November 2002.
4. May be one more in New York organized by Steve Weininger.

5. *Bulletin* Editor's Report: Paul was able to add a filler with the *Bulletin* search site in v27(2). V27(2) will be mailed in September.

a) Future of the *Bulletin* and areas of concern:

1. Editor, associate editors currently do not have set duties, but maybe this is impractical given the size of the journal.
2. Establishing those who would be good reviewers or good authors.
3. Book reviews – again, finding people to do it in a timely fashion. The discussion checking with CHF staff and ask for what they are reviewing.
4. Subscriptions – keeping track of this is a pain but we continue to have claims for non-receipt; seems to follow a pattern. We have never done any type of pro-active trolling for subscriptions.

b) Archival collections – Paul spends a lot of time searching for photos and other print materials but thinks we should try to build a collection of archival material. Non-copyright protected is anywhere from 20-75 years. EF Smith collection provides access at no cost.

c) Indexing should be done on an annual basis.

d) Isis just indicated they will allow on-line availability for a few months, and then an on-line subscription.

e) Herb Pratt's availability is in question – executive committee needs to think about getting some associate editors to take some of the burden. It might be good to think of term limits for editors and associate editors. Could also appoint more associate editors.

f) We have two main contributors – historians who write about history of chemistry and chemists who get interested in history but are not trained as historians.

6. Councilors' Reports.

Mary Virginia Orna: Ben and she present a written report in the HIST abstracts (see attached).

Report on Council meetings and be active on committees if they can get on them. MV is finishing up her first year on Committee on Committees (COC). This committee evaluates ACS committees and decides who should be removed and or added to these committees. Each gets assigned duties to liase with other committees, so you have to attend those committees also. COC meets M-Tu-W all afternoon during national meetings. Mary Virginia is giving up Landmarks committee and Board of Examinations of CHED.

Ben Chastain: 2nd year on Divisional activities. Still serving on divisional enhancements subcommittee – awards, innovative project awards, good bit to do with dispersal of stop-gap funding [if you got money last year, what did you do with it and can you show how it helped, if you got more money this year what would you do with it], reviews the annual division reports. Outreach is defined as things not associated with programs. Also on task force with members from divisional activities and sectional activities – how they can cooperate. They would like for each division to have a regional meeting coordinator. We need to appoint such a person, should naturally be chair or program chair. Roger Egolf designated to be the regional meeting coordinator.

Aware of opportunities to outreach – e.g., send back issues and current subscription to a traditionally black school, etc.

7. Business;

a) Edelstein Award committee guidelines vs. make-up of award committee.

1. ought to have very detailed guidelines for choosing winner
2. or have a balanced committee (chemists and historians) but more importantly, under the control of HIST. This year, Jim Bohning, Sy Mauskopf and Roald Hofmann. (professional chemist, professional historian, and one other). Jim Bohning is rotating off, Richard has asked John Sharkey to rotate into his place.

Richard believes the balanced committee idea is the way to go and works very well. Steve said he believes that he does not want a set of rules; he believes the committee should be allowed to do their work in their own way. It needs to be remembered that non-historians need to be nominated, as well.

Deadline is December 31 this year so that symposium has more time to be scheduled.

Ben thought that it would be best to let the current system go for the next 2-3 years. Concern has been that only professional historians have been winning in the last few years, but since we don't know who has been nominated, it is unknown if only historians were nominated.

It seems a good practice to keep unsuccessful nominations active for the next two years if unsuccessful. The nominator will be contacted to ask if they will want to add anything to the file.

Edelstein Award – Can we assume anything about the \$3500/year. Richard's conversations with Ruth Barish indicate that she will give HIST the \$3500 each year for the foreseeable future. She will endow the award when she is in the situation to do so, and hopes to do so in the near future.

b) The following was written by Jeef Seeman and distributed prior to the meeting:

IDEAS FOR HIST OUTREACH EFFORTS

Personnel

Outreach Director (Possibly officer of HIST, possibly appointed by Executive Board)

Website Director

Webmaster Staff

Strategies and Tactics

Possible Ideas Include:

Increase communication with HIST members

Does the journal have sufficient funds?

What can be done to increase distribution of journal?

Are sufficient numbers of articles being submitted?

Increase communication with ACS members

- Contact (or meet) with program chairs of other ACS divisions, seeking ideas for joint symposia. Many (most?) symposia could have a history component.
- Contact (or meet) selected ACS committees (e.g., Committee on Science) which sponsor symposia, seeking ideas for joint symposia
- Contact (or meet) selected funding agencies or industry (e.g., PRF) which sponsor symposia, seeking ideas for joint symposia

Enhance HIST website

WEBSITE

Possible Goals of the website

Communicate information to members and non-members

Increase knowledge about HIST

Increase membership in HIST
Develop new activities for HIST
Broaden participation in HIST activities
Appear on Internet searches, when using terms such as “history of chemistry”

Strategies and Tactics

Keep website up-to-date

There are two strategies: basically a static web site that is updated monthly or quarterly or a dynamic web site updated weekly or daily. If you have a dynamic web site, you are basically in the publishing business. The choice will probably depend on available resources, but also division goals and information.

Key information updated in a timely fashion, e.g., election of officers, call for papers for meetings

Division leadership provides webmaster with a calendar of events

Identify individuals who will provide information, connect with calendar

Have maximum quantity of high quality, diverse content

Goals and objectives have to be balanced against the effort and resources required to maintain site.

Have Division leadership brainstorm ideas

Need to think about how information is transferred from the division to the membership and between the division and anyone interested in history of chemistry. How does the web fit into that picture. Is it a primary or secondary source of information. Is it just information for membership or will it be didactic and serve a larger community?

Provide feedback area within website for members, visitors to provide questions or comments to Division, to website manager

Have as wide a range of content as possible

Probably better to target interest of potential viewers (may be non-members). While content is the most important issue, web must be manageable with the resources available. It is a very ambitious to want as wide a range of content as possible, but what is practical may turn out to be more limited. In the beginning, however, all ideas should be considered and then the best selected. Maintaining a web site is more time intensive than it may appear.

Encourage submissions from as many sources as possible

Encourage membership involvement.

Encourage submissions from

Include (excerpts from) the Bulletin
Include appropriate photographs, to enhance as many of the pages as possible

This is the easiest way to make an effective web site. Also, it is important to be a face on the organization. Impersonal web sites are not effective.

Connect with ACS staff, to improve the website, increase resources
Develop processes that can efficiently transmit on-hand information, e.g., ACS meeting programs of the Division, to the website

Could a link to the ACS web site provide this information?

Maximize the number of links to and from the site
Enhance relationships across the community
Connect those relations with Division webmaster

Develop organizational processes for communications within the Division

Develop organizational processes for communications outside the Division

Create a Division position (officer?) for communications, ala "Corporate Affairs"

Develop qualifications for web master
Have webmaster develop guidelines for website, which are to be approved by Division leadership, with a goal of engaging full participation by leadership

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Discussion:

The webmaster would not be the person who generates the information, but would serve as the poster. Steve said we need to start by deciding how to talk about this.

First topic we should address is who is our audience. Prioritizing the audience and how you want to set the resources. MV asked if there were any way to find out what kind of outreach activities other divisions are engaged in. Jeff noted that every division has a history but find it fascinating when it comes up. Roger has found that some divisions are outright opposed to symposia on history of their discipline. COMP program chair recently turned down a symposium. Pharmaceutical symposium asked Medicinal chemistry to cross-list – program chair would not even cross-list it.

Allocation of money may be a reason for problems cross-listing. Some groups want not just a history but one with luminaries and the history. Steve - message is that these attitudes arise from the fact that education does inculcates lack of respect for history. It should help us direct our efforts. Where will we get yield for effort – how we can make

ourselves available in the k-12 and undergraduate programs. David – looking to teach a first course on history of chemistry at Univ. Wisc.

Richard agrees that we need to look at the other divisions, but how high are they. Younger people – young graduate students are some of the most interested people who stop by. Grad students at Texas A&M put together a 5 part series on the history of chemistry. SciMix is one place where the interest can be nurtured. Person at Sacred Heart puts on a symposium on history of chemistry. Teachers are required to incorporate the history and nature of science into their courses. We are looking to collaborate with CHF. Peter is looking to setup history of chemistry syllabi. Steve suggested running a workshop on college teachers for incorporating history of chemistry. MV says this costs \$60K.

**Report of Councilors, Division of the History of
Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Orlando,
Florida April 7 - 11, 2002**

The Council voted to nominate Charles (Chuck) Casey of the University of Wisconsin and Alvin Kwiram of the University of Washington to run for President-Elect for 2003.

Reports from the Presidential Succession

President Eli Pearce reiterated the main themes of his presidency, which are diversity, communication, electronic services, and interdisciplinary research. He also added a fifth emphasis, that of re-inventing the chemical curriculum from the ground up. He has charged the Society Committee on Education (SOCED) with this task and the committee will begin to work to develop a "white paper" on this topic during the summer of 2002. Those of you who would like to see the presence of the history of chemistry in the curriculum advanced, now is your chance. History of science is mandated in the K-12 sector by the National Research Council's National Science Education Standards - but getting it into the graduate and undergraduate curricula will be very difficult. You might want to communicate your ideas to the Chair of SOCED, Daryle Busch (University of Kansas).

Other Reports

Because of the "fallout from 9-11" the ACS is experiencing a severe operating budget deficit this year for the first time in its history. Therefore, also for the first time in history, there was no comment from the floor when the Council voted to escalate the dues for 2003 to \$116.

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) invited anyone interested in serving as a consultant to contact them at careers@acs.org.

ACS Secretary Halley Merrill is retiring and his successor, Flint Lewis, has already taken over most of the Secretary's duties.

The Council voted to postpone consideration of a petition to enlarge Society committees to the Boston meeting.

The Orlando meeting was attended by 14,308 persons and the Exposition was the largest ever. The Boston Exposition is already sold out and plans are under way for constructing a "virtual" exhibit for those who did not succeed in getting into the actual exhibit.

Councilor Reports

1. Mary Virginia Orna has begun her first term as a member of the Committee on

Committees (ConC). She is also serving as ConC liaison to SOCED and the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA). Counting service on these committees, and including service on the HIST Executive Committee, she spends an average of 45 hours of National Meeting time in these sessions. She also serves on the National Historic Chemical Landmarks Committee, which also occasionally meets at national meetings.

2. Ben Chastain is in his second year on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC). He serves on the Divisional Enhancement Sub-Committee, whose tasks include Divisional Chemluminary Awards, Divisional Program Grants, and (probably) suggesting the method for dividing up the stop-gap funds for 2002. He is also on a Task Force exploring ways and means for DivisionLocal Section cooperation. He continues as liaison to the Committee on Public Relations and Communication.

Respectfully submitted,

Ben B.
Chastain
Mary
Virginia
Orna

HIST Councilor