

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of HIST
April 2, 1995 (Revised 3/21/96)

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm

1) Approval of minutes of previous meeting - no additions or corrections. Minutes accepted as written.

2) Dexter Award Committee

a) The winner for 1995 is Bill Brock

Committee members: Mary Jo Nye, Alan Rocke, Jeff Sturchio

b) Outstanding Paper Award 1995 - David Ries (Benfey student)

Committee members: Herb Pratt, Maurice Bursey, Natalie Foster c) Harold Goldwhite - member-at-large

3) Discussion of John Wotiz lawsuit

The Division continues to work with the ACS Legal Counsel to resolve this issue.

4) The Bulletin

The Bulletin had no issues published in 1994, or to date in 1995. A change in editorial staff was recommended.

5) Edelstein Symposium

In acknowledgment of Sidney Edelstein's great work for the History of Chemistry Division (served as Sec./Treas. for over 20 years), the division is sponsoring a symposium at Chicago. Contributors: Arnold Thackray - Edelstein's contributions to the Chemical Heritage Foundation; Mary Virginia Orna - Edelstein's contributions to ancient textiles; Tony Travis - Edelstein's contributions to the history of dyestuffs; and Dave Abrahams, who is currently a research director at Dexter, and who worked with Sidney at Dexter.

Marty was going to check to see if any Edelstein family members would be able to come to the symposium. We have been told that the estate has some provision to continue the Dexter award. At the symposium, Bill Brock, who was an International Edelstein fellow will give an informal appreciation of Edelstein.

The question was raised as to what percentage of HIST awardees (Dexter, Outstanding Paper) are members of HIST.

ACTION and DISCUSSION

1) The By-laws under discussion (attached) have to be printed in the Newsletter so the membership can approve them. The issue will put to a vote at the Chicago ACS meeting. The basic change is in the term of office for the chair, from a one year term to a two year term. A motion was made and seconded to put this to a vote of the membership and unanimously approved.

There was a discussion about the utility of having an Executive committee meeting in

January so the group can get acquainted early and start working early. This would probably be done via a conference call and will be explored for next year.

2) Chemical Heritage Foundation

The HIST chair is invited to attend the Board of Directors meetings, but has no vote and CHF does not pay any travel expenses. Discussion indicated that many present felt it was important to keep the contact current, as HIST is responsible for the formation of CHF (which started as an academic unit of the Univ. of Pennsylvania). Paul Jones went to the last meeting, and HIST paid half his expenses and CHF paid half. The committee voted that HIST would pay for the travel expenses of the chair to one CHF board meeting a year (these are usually on a Wedn/Thurs). In addition, Marty is to ask the ACS to appoint the chair of HIST as one of the three ACS board members. Ned Heindel is our current contact, and Marty is to explore this possibility.

3) The 75th Anniversary of HIST's founding will be celebrated at a dinner at Northwestern University's Kellogg School (Norris Center). The dinner costs will be approximately \$35.00 each. There was a discussion of subsidizing these tickets for the membership, and it was voted to have the ticket sold at a price of \$30.00, with HIST picking up the difference. It was also voted to charter a small coach bus from ACS to take people out to Northwestern from the Chicago meeting. Jim Bohning will be giving the after dinner talk. Joe Lambert was asked to see if Charles Hurd and Herman Pine would be able to attend.

4) Divisional Finances

Cash flow has been positive, but mostly due to the fact that so few issues of the Bulletin have been published in the last few years. The Treasurer reported that our investments in the Alliance North American Government Income Trust, where the majority of our funds are held, dropped substantially in the last few months due to the instability of the peso. In Oct. 1994 the portfolio value was \$44,701.83. In January 1995 its worth was \$32,885.69, and in March \$31,716.88, a loss of 26% and 29%, respectively. The broker's advice, with which the Treasurer concurs, is to keep our investment in this portfolio until we can recoup our current losses. Several members expressed interest in moving our funds to US funds, as the ANAG Income Trust is principally in South American funds. This issue will be re-examined at the August meeting.

It was noted that the Spring 96 meeting will be in New Orleans, Fall 96 in Orlando, Spring 97 in San Francisco, and Fall 97 in Las Vegas.

5) REPORTS

a) It was stated that the current chair of the HIST Archeological sub-division is the chair of the last Archeological Symposium. Therefore, Mary Virginia Orna is the new chair of this sub-division. Term of office usually lasts about 5 years, until the next Arch. Symposium, when the current chair appoints the new chair.

b) A new HIST brochure is available, designed by Mary Virginia Orna. The Secr. will put some in the CHF booth in the Exposition, in the divisions information display in the registration area, and on the CHED table by the room where the Arch. Symp. talks will

take place. She will also send some to Richard Rice to distribute at the History of Science meeting in Minneapolis.

c) Mary Virginia Orna had no Councilor's report as the meeting had not yet taken place.

d) Richard Rice, Program Chair

Richard reported that he would like to see an increase in the number of general papers submitted for meetings, and there was some general discussion on this topic but no conclusions. Richard also informed the committee of several symposia that have some overlap with HIST:

i) 14th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at Clemson University in August 1996 - Could we contribute anything on the history of chemical education as part of the meeting? Paul Jones and Jim Traynham suggested the topic of the evolution and development of Chemistry Departments as a possible topic.

ii) George Fimini, the Program Chair from the Computers Division, would like to find someone from HIST to coordinate activities for a Computational Chemistry Symposium. Joe Lambert said he knew someone at Northwestern who might be interested, and Richard was asked to write to Joe describing the situation.

iii) New Orleans ACS Meeting, Spring 1996 - a symposium sponsored by the Fuel and Ind. Eng. Div. and HIST on catalytic cracking.

iv) Several divisions are interested in HIST's help in putting together their Divisional History. These include Ind. Eng. Chem., CHED, Physical Chem. (anniv. of J. Phys. Chem.), and the Small Chem. Busn. Div.

v) New England Association of Chemistry Teachers, August 1995, meeting on the history of chemistry,

vi) Royal Society of Chemistry is proposing a joint symposium sometime between 1995 and 1999. A suggestion was made concerning the history of the joint effort between Great Britain and the US during WW II, but some committee members thought it might be a politically incorrect topic. Richard was asked to continue discussions.

vii) Arnold Thackray from CHF would like to cooperate with HIST in organizing a larger symposium for Sidney Edelstein for the Spring 1996 ACS meeting.

viii) There was some discussion about using focus areas at regional meetings and arrange symposium around these areas at the national meetings.

ix) Richard has submitted a proposal for the History of Science meeting in Minneapolis, to have a roundtable discussion of the history of chemistry with 5 participants. He needs to find sponsors and wondered whether HIST would be a sponsor.

x) C. K. Ingold(?) wants specific focus exhibits on people or topics.

xi) As Program Chair, Richard wanted to encourage our membership to put up posters at the Sci Mix, and noted that this would not preclude the presentation of the poster material in a talk at the same meeting.

e) Jim Bohning - liaison to HIST for CHF

i) CHF is buying a new building in Philadelphia.

ii) National Historic Chemistry Landmarks program - HIST needs to nominate someone to sit on the ACS Council Commission on Public Relations, which takes care of the Nat. Hist. Chem. Landmarks program. Marty was asked to write to Ann Messmore about the nomination process, expense reimbursement, etc.

iii) Other activities:

- oral history interviews program continuing under a grant from Jean Garfield
- develop links to other history of chemistry resources
- history of chemistry information project, funded by Jean Garfield
- ACS/CHF series is doing well, the next volume is on Woodward; Jeff Sturchio has retired as editor of the series, and they are searching for a new editor
- a dye exhibit has been set up by Tony Travis
- instrument group to establish an instrumentation museum
- in the process of developing a homepage for the WWW

iv) HIST pays for 1 /2 of the exhibit booth space, along with CHF.

v) As part of the HIST series on past ACS presidents -- Bill Jensen is in charge of W. E. Clark (22nd) and Ira Remsen (23rd) is next. Jim suggested collecting these after 25 and publishing them as a book as the series is complete except for the 2nd, John Smith.

vi) Jim is in charge of the division archive, and requests you to send material to him if you have a question about keeping it. He is trying to set-up CHF as a repository for the archives of all the ACS divisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.