

Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of HIST  
March 24, 1996

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm.

- 1) The minutes of the Chicago meeting were accepted with emendation - see attached revised minutes of Aug. 20, 1995 meeting.
- 2) As there will be no HIST program at the Fall ACS National Meeting in Orlando, it was announced that there would be no HIST Executive Committee meeting this fall. Also, because of the lack of a program, the 1996 Dexter Award would be given to Prof. Keith Laidler of the University of Ottawa at the Spring 1997 National meeting in San Francisco. The 1997 Dexter Award would be awarded at the Fall 1997 National meeting in Las Vegas.
- 3) The Outstanding Paper Committee recommended that no award be given in 1996 because of the interruption in the Bulletin publication schedule. The award will be given out in 1997 at the Fall National meeting.
- 4) Official Division Vote on Council recommendation to discontinue ACS awards for divisional performance

Discussion: M. V. Orna noted that historically, the purpose of the award was to encourage the Divisions to send their Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports in on time, as this qualified the Division for participation in the award. She noted that if the award were discontinued, the ACS would find another way to evaluate the divisions, which might not be so "friendly". Those opposed to discontinuation were concerned about the absence of incentives to encourage the timely submission of divisional reports. The discussion indicated a support for alternative incentives, possibly financial, in addition to not releasing annual funds until receipt of the reports. One mechanism suggested would reduce the level of funds on a sliding scale (100% if on time, 95% if reports are two months late, 90% if four months, etc.). The vote was in favor of discontinuing the award, but the Chair included a summary of the discussion on the vote form.

5) Bulletin Report

Paul Jones, the Editor, had a lengthy report to bring the committee up-to-date on the Bulletin. Bill Jensen retired in late Summer 1995. Paul took over as Editor after the Wotiz lawsuit was settled in November 1995. He appointed Herb Pratt and Peter Ramberg to the Editorial Board, and started the business of the journal. The last issue which appeared was the double issue 13/14 (1992/1993) Benfey issue. The next issue will also be a double issue, 15/16 (1994) and is available now. Mailings will proceed upon Paul's return from this meeting. The next issue will also be a double issue, 17/18 (1995), and will be mailed out within the next two months. The issue after that, 19/?, will consist of papers from the Ingold Symposium, will be dated 1996, and might be a double issue. A slight complication is that several authors have already published elsewhere, and we are trying to secure permission to re-publish their work in the Bulletin. Paul plans one issue, after issue 20, to be a cumulative index.

Paul has found a good printing company to work with in Ann Arbor, as well as a graphic artist to replace the House of Equations. The House of Equations did the work on issues 15/16, but at a higher cost than expected, and took over four months to complete the work.

In other business matters, Paul has contacted the subscribers and has let them know that back issues will be provided at no cost, whether they have been keeping current on their subscription or not, as long as they pay for 1996. The current library subscription rate is \$20, and Paul is adding postage fees.

Paul provided a cost estimate for issue 15/16 (\$4428) and issue 17/18 (\$3600). M. V. Orna noted that the Executive Committee will need to consider whether the Division will be able to continue to publish the journal as the paper and mailing costs increase.

Paul noted that he had no copies of issues 3, 9, and 10, and asked for those present to check their libraries. If we find copies of these issue, we will probably do limited runs as a re-issue in order to be able to provide full runs (at \$10/issue) to our new subscription clients who request them.

Joe noted the tremendous job Paul and Marty Saltzman have done in getting the Bulletin back on its feet.

#### 6a) Treasurer's Report:

Vera Mainz reported that the Division financial health is currently good and directed the committee's attention to the Treasurer's Report for 1995. Funds were removed from the Prudential investment account last summer (following the recommendation of the Executive Committee) and \$20,000 was invested in the ACS Investment Pool. These funds are available quarterly, and require a written request one month prior to the quarter in order to be released. The dividends are paid quarterly to the Division.

The rest of the money available from cashing out the Prudential account was held in the money market account in anticipation of settlement of the Wotiz lawsuit. In November 1995 the Division paid \$10,000 to an escrow account as part of the settlement. The lawsuit is now settled.

Currently, the net worth of the Division is \$31,145.66 (\$20,000 in the Investment account and \$11,144.56 in the money market account). With the anticipated Bulletin expenses for issues 15/16 and 17/18 (\$8028), Vera recommended that Paul publish issue 19/? no sooner than September 1996. We will have received the next ACS allocation check by then, and increased the available cash.

#### 6b) Secretary's Report

Vera Mainz directed the committee's attention to the Secretary's Report for 1995. She reported that working from a draft by Joe Lambert she was able to complete a draft homepage for HIST, and had handouts showing the page. She requested the committee members look it over and let her know any suggestions/corrections. Vera also handed out a draft Handbook for everyone to look at and comment on.

#### 7) Program Chair Report

Richard Rice started by noting that for many of our Division members, history is a secondary interest. This is one of the reasons he believes the Division is having problems putting together symposia. He asked the Division to appoint a program committee to help him with this important issue; Joe agreed to do so.

a) Richard has been trying to make contact with the Royal Society about the proposed plans for a joint meeting around 1999. He is currently attempting to contact their history division.

b) Eric Scary is trying to put together a symposium on the history of environmental science for the San Francisco meeting.

c) Richard asked if he should request a room for a social hour for the Division for San Francisco; the committee approved this request.

General discussion: M. V. Orna noted that programs don't spontaneously develop, it is a tremendous amount of work. She suggested the need to co-sponsor appropriate symposia by other divisions, such as the two CHED symposia at New Orleans. Richard said he had contacted the CHED program chair about co-sponsorship of these and other symposia and had never heard back from her. Someone else requested the Secretary to see if she could get a list of HIST members who attended the New Orleans meeting. This could be a starting point for symposia, as we need to get members who are attending the meeting as part of their professional duties.

8) Laura Adelman was introduced as the Public Relations Officer from CHF, who would be the committee liaison. She informed the committee of the Eugene Garfield Postdoctoral Fellowship in the History of Scientific Information and the Glenn E. Barbara Hodsdon Ullyot Scholarship, and asked us to inform interested parties. Laurel also said she administers travel grants, and we might be able to apply for some of that money for symposia speakers.

Ted Benfey announced his retirement as CHF Newsletter editor, and that M. V. Orna would be taking over that position.

Laurel had a request that the Secretary give permission for CHF to get labels from the ACS for the HIST Division members. This was approved.

#### 9) Councillor's Report

M. V. Orna told the committee that she had been elected to the ACS Committee on Nominations, and therefore had to give up her other committee assignments to the Division Activities Committee and SOC/ED Committee. She is attempting to place Ben Chastain on these committees in her place, as she views these two committees the most important to HIST.

Ben Chastain is our liaison to the Council Committee on Public Relations. He reported that the best thing HIST has done, as far as this committee is concerned, was to help form the Chemical Heritage Landmark Program. This has gotten a tremendous amount of publicity for the Society and the Division. However, once the landmarks for this year are dedicated, there are no requests. The Division needs to let people know about this program and convince people to submit nominations.

10) The Chair noted that with the publication of the Bulletin, the dues needed to be readjusted. After some discussion, the recommendation was to increase the dues for 1997 to \$15 for Members, \$20 for Associates, \$25 for Associates outside of North America (to reflect the higher mailing costs), and \$30 for Library subscriptions. This proposal would be presented to the Division members at the Business Meeting on March 25.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.