

FESTSCHRIFT INTRODUCTION

The following Festschrift is based on a two-day symposium held in honor of Dr. Otto Theodor Benfey at the 41st Southeastern Regional ACS Meeting in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on 11-12 October 1989. Organized by Dr. Lawrence Gains of the Lorillard Research Center in Greensboro, NC and Dr. David MacInnes of the Department of Chemistry, Guilford College, Greensboro, NC to commemorate Dr. Benfey's retirement from Guilford, both the title of the original symposium - *The Context of Chemistry: Conceptual, Historical and Social* - and the list of participants mirrored the rich diversity of Dr. Benfey's career and the breadth of his personal and professional interests.

Dr. Benfey's work as a chemical educator was reflected in the presentations by Bassam Shkhashiri of the University of Wisconsin ("Science Literacy in the 1990s"), the late Frank Halliwell of the University of East Anglia ("The Educational Impact of the Limiting Characteristics of Science"), Laurence E. Strong of Earlham College ("Levels of Explanation in the Teaching of Chemistry"), and Edward Arnett of Duke University ("Chemistry for Non-Scientists at Duke following the 1988 Westheimer Report").

His interests in stereochemistry and the conceptual foundations of organic chemistry were reflected in the presentations by Eugene Garfield of the Institute for Scientific Information ("Prospective Uses of Citation Data for Identifying New Research Specialties in Chemistry"), Stephen Weininger of Worcester Polytechnic Institute ("Representation and Reality: Chemistry Considered as Language"), William Jensen of the University of Cincinnati ("Mers, Morphs and Tropes: Unraveling the Tangled Vocabulary of Chemical Composition and Structure"), Ernest Eliel of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ("Conformational Analysis, Past, Present and Future: A Personal Account"), and Jeffrey Seeman of the Philip Morris Research Center ("The Context of Organic Chemistry: Conceptual, Historical, Social").

His historical interests were reflected in the presentations of David Rhees of the Bakken Library and Museum ("The Chemists' War and the American Chemical Profession"), William Newman of Harvard University ("Eirenaeus Philalthes and George Starkey"), Kenneth Caneva of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro ("Robert Mayer and the Conservation of Matter"), Alan Rocke of Case Western Reserve University ("Pride and Prejudice in Chemistry: Kolbe, Hofmann, and German Antisemitism"), Derek Davenport of Purdue University ("On the Comparative Unimportance of the Invective Effect in Physical Organic Chemistry"), and O. Bertrand Ramsay of Eastern Michigan University ("The Use of Molecular Models by Chemists: Some Solved and Unsolved Problems in the Historical Development of Stereochemistry").

And last, but not least, Charles Price's address on "The Environment and War: Are There Technological Fixes?" re-



Dr. Otto Theodor Benfey

flected Dr. Benfey's continuing concern with the social responsibilities of scientists and with the social and cultural impact of science and technology in general.

Even this variety failed to do justice to the complete range of Dr. Benfey's interests (notably absent were presentations dealing with both Oriental science and with the Platonic solids), though it did unhappily preclude any reasonable hope of finding a single journal willing to open its pages to such a wide spectrum of topics. In the end, it was felt that the *Bulletin* could at least provide a home for those papers dealing specifically with the history of chemistry, and on this basis Dr. Gains and Dr. MacInnes undertook to collect manuscripts from the appropriate authors. Two of the original historical papers (Davenport and Ramsay) had been previously published and have not been reprinted in this collection. Likewise, the original paper by Dr. Rocke was already committed to publication elsewhere. However, he has substituted a new paper on a closely related topic ("Chauvinism and the Pursuit of Science") written especially for this Festschrift. Lastly, I have substituted a new paper, reflecting more recent work, in place of my original presentation, which will probably be published in the *Bulletin* at a later date.

In addition to the historical papers derived from the original 1989 symposium, Dr. James J. Bohning of the Chemical Heritage Foundation has provided a biographical sketch of Dr. Benfey ("From Stereochemistry to Social Responsibility") based on several hours of oral history interviews conducted by the Foundation, and Dr. Benfey has kindly consented to allow us to publish both his introductory comments at the symposium dinner ("By Way of Explanation") and a full-length Perspectives Lecture ("Precursors and Cocursors of the Mendeleev Table") originally prepared in honor of another well-known chemical educator, Dr. Ronald J. Gillespie of McMaster University. *William B. Jensen, University of Cincinnati*