

involved in national meetings and divisional affairs. Welcome aboard!

Al Kirsch

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Two symposia and the Dexter Award/General Papers Session were featured at the Los Angeles ACS meeting, held on 25-30 September 1988. The first symposium, held Monday morning and afternoon, was the Golden Anniversary Symposium in Celebration of the Hahn-Strassmann Experiments and the Discovery of Nuclear Fission. Organized by Leonard Fine of Columbia University, the symposium covered the scientific perspective, the historical perspective and the literary perspective. Speakers were, for the most part, persons who had been at the cutting edge of nuclear research and have made many notable contributions to our knowledge of fission and fission products. Among them were Alfred O. Nier, Glenn T. Seaborg, John Wheeler and Ellis Steinberg. Much of the historical perspective centered around the contributions of Lise Meitner, the centerpiece of which was a remarkable paper by Ruth Sime, Lise Meitner's biographer. Finally, Richard Rhodes, winner of the 1987 National Book Award in nonfiction for his book, *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, delivered a thought-provoking paper on the complementarity of the bomb. Mr. Rhodes' thesis is that knowledge of how to release nuclear energy has led not only to a nuclear arms race of potentially holocaustal proportions but also to a slow but progressive and irreversible modification of the system of nation-states, detaching national sovereignty from the power to make war. The symposium was punctuated by a luncheon in honor of the speakers.

The second symposium, Information Sources in the History of Chemistry: California and the West Coast, was organized by Harold Goldwhite of California State University, Los Angeles. This symposium was the fourth in a series which included the Midwest (St. Louis meeting), the East Coast (Philadelphia meeting) and specialty libraries (New York meeting). Speakers representing the major West Coast libraries with important holdings in the history of chemistry expounded upon their collections with a view to aiding the serious researcher in the history of chemistry. Among them were Katharine Donohue of the Louise Darling Biomedical Library at UCLA, Robin Rider from the Bancroft Library of UC-Berkeley, Paula Hurwitz from the Millikan Memorial Library at Cal Tech, Thomas F. Wright of the William Andrews Clark Library, and Daniel Woodward of the Huntington Library.

The Dexter Award/General Papers Session had as its dual highlight a paper by the 1988 Dexter Award recipient, L. F. Haber, entitled "Historians and the Chemical Industry," and the Divisional Cachet Paper on James Curtis Booth, Eighth President of the American Chemical Society. Other papers

included discussion of Fourcroy's *Elemens*, Otto Bayer and the History of the Division of the History of Chemistry. The session concluded with adjournment to the Dexter Award Luncheon, where Dr. Haber received his prize and where Jeff Sturchio, incoming Program Chairman of HIST, received the Division's Outstanding Paper Award for 1988.

Mary Virginia Orna, College of New Rochelle

ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. Jack H. Stocker of the University of New Orleans has been elected as Chair of the Division of the History of Chemistry for 1990; Dr. William B. Jensen of the University of Cincinnati, has been reelected as Secretary and Mary Virginia Orna of the College of New Rochelle has been elected as Treasurer. Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio of AT&T Bell Labs will succeed Dr. Orna as Program Chair.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

John Sharkey (Pace University) has been reappointed to the Local Section Activities Committee of the ACS and has been elected President of the Chemistry and Physics on Stamps Study Unit of the American Topical Association.

Ted Benfey (Beckman Center) has recently retired from Guilford College and has accepted the position of Publications Editor at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry in Philadelphia.

Raymond Seymour (University of Southern Mississippi) has received the 1989 Society of Plastics' International Award. Previous winners have included Paul Flory, Carl Marvel and Herman Mark.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

* The 18th International Congress of History of Science will be held on 1-9 August 1989 in Hamburg and Munich, Federal Republic of Germany. Interested parties should contact Alexandra K. Wigdor, Principal Staff Officer, U.S. National Committee for the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, 2101 Constitution Ave. [GF 176], Washington, D.C. 20418, Phone (202) 334-3026.

* The Hangzhou International Conference of Chinese Scientific and Technological History will be held on 5-10 May 1989 in Hangzhou, China. Interested parties should contact Dr. Li Zihen or Dr. Ji Jinghang, Department of International Exchange Affairs, Hangzhou Association for Science and Technology, No. 211, Yan'an Road, Hangzhou, P.R. China.

* A Conference on the History of Alchemy will be held on 17-19 April 1989 at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. For further information, contact Z.R.W.M. van Martels, Schaepmanlaan 15, 9722 NP Groningen, The Netherlands.

* The 2nd International Symposium on the Philosophy and History of Analytical Chemistry will be held on 6-7 October 1989 in Vienna, Austria. For further information, contact Professor M. Grasserbauer, Institut für Analytische Chemie, Technische Universität Wien, Getreidemarkt 9, A-1060, Wien, Austria.

* The Edelstein Center International Workshop on the History of Chemical Technology will be held in Jerusalem on 28-31 May 1989. Interested parties should contact Tony Travis, Deputy Director, Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel. Persons wishing to receive the Center's Newsletter should also write to the same address.

* The full text of Allen Debus' 1987 Dexter Address, *Quantification and Medical Motivation: Factors in the Interpretation of Early Modern Medicine* has been printed in *Pharmacy in History*, 1989, 31, 3-11. Authors writing articles on the history of chemistry with a slight pharmaceutical slant might also consider publication in this journal, which is published quarterly by the American Institute of the History of Pharmacy. For further information, contact Dr. Gregory J. Higby, Editor, American Institute of the History of Pharmacy, Pharmacy Building, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706-1508, Phone (608) 262-5378.

* The History of Chemistry Section or Fachgruppe Geschichte der Chemie of the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker has begun a new publication on the history of chemistry. For further information, contact Dr. Christoph Meinel, Universität Hamburg, Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Mathematik und Technik, Bunderstraße 55, D-2000, Hamburg 13, Germany.

* Dr. William H. Brock, noted British historian of chemistry, will be in the United States in April of 1990 and will be available for university seminars and other speaking engagements. Persons interested in contacting Dr. Brock or in obtaining a list of potential talks should contact Dr. John H. Wotiz, Department of Chemistry, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901.

* The Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry of the University of Cincinnati will sponsor a museum display entitled "200 Years of the Chemical Balance" from June 1989

to June 1990. Persons interested in viewing the display should contact Dr. William B. Jensen, Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati OH, 45221, Phone (513) 556-9308.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Miami Beach 10-15 September 1989

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 1 May 1989. Title of paper by 15 April 1989.

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio, HIST Program Chair, Archives and Records Management Services, AT&T Bell Labs/ WVA102, 5 Reinman Road, Warren, NJ 07060, Phone (201) 756-1591.

* *Polymeric Organic Coatings: Their Origins and Development*. Organized by R. B. Seymour, Department of Polymer Science, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Station, Box 10076, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, Phone (601) 266-4868.

* *History of Fertilizers* (Cosponsored by FERT).

* *True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses* (Cosponsored by SChB).

Boston 22-27 April 1990

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 1 December 1989. Title of paper by 1 November 1989.

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio (see address above).

* *History of Biotechnology*. Organized by J. L. Sturchio, Archives and Records Management Services, AT&T Bell Labs/ WVA102, 5 Reinman Road, Warren, NJ 07060, Phone (201) 756-1591.

* *The 1890 Benzol Fest 100 Years Later*. Organized by J. H. Wotiz, Department of Chemistry, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Carbondale, IL 62901, Phone (618) 453-5721.

* *Chemistry in Science Fiction*. Organized by J. H. Stocker, Department of Chemistry, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148, Phone (504) 286-6852.

* *Chemistry in Colonial America* (Cosponsored by CHED).

* *Wartime Research at RDX and its Political Aftermath*. Organized by J. T. Edwards, Department of Chemistry, McGill University, 801 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, PQ, Canada H3A 2K6, Phone (514) 398-6233 or (514) 489-1663.

* *True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses* (Cosponsored by SChB).

Washington 26-31 August 1990

* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio (see address above).