

interest from that chemist's/scientist's background, preferably of a personal nature, that would make him/her more real and/or more interesting. For example: he had nine children, or was married four times, or fought in a particular war, or believed in spiritualism, or spent five years in jail, etc., etc.

The collection for general chemistry would appear first; subsequent work might depend on the reception of this first effort. Later books might be promoted through some sort of tie-in with the appropriate divisions, i.e., the Organic Division could market the "organic" one to its members at some profit to the Division per copy sold. The project would permit every chemistry teacher across the country to enliven his/her lectures by the simple investment of a very few minutes before class times. The service would be noted as coming to the teacher courtesy of HIST.

Obviously, all of the above makes certain assumptions. Do we want to have a significantly larger Division? Is it appropriate or desirable to devote the Division's energies and resources to what are, at best, marginally scholarly activities. I suggest "yes" to both questions - greater size and recognition can lead to greater influence and I believe all Division members share at least some measure of fervor in bringing to/reminding our colleagues of the value of HIST's activities. And it should be noted in defense that the proposed activities are clearly service-oriented.

So I should like very much to hear from HIST's members about their reactions to the above. Support? Hostility? Apathy? (i.e., your not writing could be so interpreted!) Are you interested enough to consider working on any of the several projects mentioned? Please do write. In any case, stay tuned for further developments.

Jack Stocker, University of New Orleans

AWARDS

The Dexter Award

The 1990 Dexter Award for outstanding accomplishment in the history of chemistry has been awarded to Dr. Colin A. Russell of the Open University. The award, which consists of a cash prize of \$2000 and an engraved plaque, will be presented at the Fall National ACS Meeting in Washington, D.C.

Born in 1928, Dr. Russell received his B.Sc. degree in chemistry in 1949 and a postgraduate degree in education in 1950. These were followed by a M.Sc. in the history and philosophy of science in 1958 and by Ph.D. and D.Sc. degrees in 1962 and 1978, respectively. After a 20-year career teaching chemistry, Dr. Russell became Senior Lecturer in the History of Science and Technology at the Open University in 1970 and Professor in 1981. Author or coauthor of ten books (including two chemistry texts) and more than 50 articles on chemistry



Dr. Colin Russell

and the history of science, Dr. Russell is perhaps best known for his classic study, *The History of Valency*, which appeared in 1971. He is currently in the process of completing the second volume of a biography of the 19th century English chemist, Edward Frankland.

The Division would at this time also like to solicit nominations for the 1991 Dexter award. Nominations should include a complete vita for the nominee, consisting of biographical data, educational background, awards and honors, publications, and presentations and other services to the profession; a nominating letter summarizing the nominee's achievements in the field of the history of chemistry and citing unique contributions which merit a major award; and at least two seconding letters. Copies of no more than three publications may also be included, if available. All nominations should be sent to Dr. John Heitmann, Secretary, The Division of the History of Chemistry - ACS, Department of History, The University of Dayton, Dayton, OH 45469 by 1 January 1991. It should be emphasized that the award is international in scope and that nominations are welcomed from all quarters. Previous winners have included historians and chemists from Germany, France, Holland, Hungary, and Great Britain.

The Outstanding Paper Award

The 1990 Outstanding Paper Award has been given to Dr. James J. Bohning of the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry for his paper, "The 1893 World's Congress of Chemists: A Center of Crystallization in a Molecular Mélange", which appeared in the Spring 1989 issue of the *Bulletin* (1989, 3, 16-21). The award, which consists of \$100, a certificate, and \$150 worth of books from Reidel, will be presented to Dr. Bohning at the Fall National ACS Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The 1990-1991 Edelstein Fellowship

The 1990-1991 Edelstein Fellowship in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technology has been awarded to Dr. William H. Brock, Director of the Victorian Studies Center of the University of Leicester. Dr. Brock will divide his fellowship year between the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry in Philadelphia and the Edelstein Center for History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine in Jerusalem.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

- * The Division notes the death of William J. Wiswesser on 16 December 1989 at the age of 75. Internationally known for the Wiswesser Line Notation and for his other activities in the field of chemical information, Wiswesser served as Chair of the Division in 1979. His most recent interests in the history of chemistry focused on the contributions of the Austrian physicist, Johann J. Loschmidt (1825-1895), to valence notation.
- * The Division has received a \$1000 bequest from the estate of the late Florence Wall, who passed away on 2 October 1988 at the age of 93. Beginning her chemical career in 1913 as a high school chemistry teacher, Wall became a well-known expert on the chemistry of cosmetics. She was active in the Division for many years and published numerous papers on the history of chemistry, with subjects ranging from the career of Wilhelm Ostwald to the role of women in science.
- * The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry has announced that its Partington Prize of 100 pounds will be awarded on 30 April 1991 for the best original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry. The competition is open to anyone with an interest in the history of chemistry who has not reached the age of 30 by the closing date of 31 December 1990. Essays must be submitted in English and be typewritten, double spaced, and single sided. They should not exceed 5000 words and should be fully documented following the conventions used in recent issues of *Ambix*. Though the prize-winning essay will be considered for publication in *Ambix*, publication cannot be guaranteed. Entries should be sent to Dr. A. K. Newmark, Hon. Secretary, The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, The Science Museum, South Kensington, London, SW7 2DD, England, with the words "Partington Prize" clearly written on the envelope. Each entry should contain a separate title page giving the author's name, institutional address and date of birth. This will not be given to the judges. The decision of the judges will be final and the Society reserves the right to divide the prize between competitors of equal merit or not to award a prize should none of the entries be deemed of proper quality. Essays will be returned after the announcement of the winner.
- * Dover books has recently issued quality paperback reprints of three classics in the history of chemistry: the 1939 Macmillan edition of James Partington's *A Short History of Chemistry*; the 1942 English translation of Vannoccio Biringuccio's 1540 classic on metals and metallurgy, the *Pirotechnia*; and the 1957 Penquin edition E. J. Holmyard's *Alchemy*.
- * The Société d'étude de l'histoire de l'alchimie, 45 rue Saint-Maur, 75001 Paris, has begun a new journal entitled *Chrysopoeia*, which is devoted to the study of alchemy in both its "spiritual" and "empirical" forms. The journal is now in its third volume and can be obtained from Gutenberg Reprints, 30 rue de Savoie, 75006 Paris.
- * A half-day symposium on the history of the chemistry set was held at the 11th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday afternoon, 9 August 1990. The speakers included George Gilbert of Denison University, William Jensen of the University of Cincinnati, David Katz of the Community College Philadelphia, and David Rhees of the American Philosophical Society. A collection of old chemistry sets was also on display during the session.
- * The Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry of the University of Cincinnati is sponsoring an exhibit entitled "From Colorimetry to Spectrophotometry: 1890-1940". The display, which will run from June 1990 to February 1991, is based on portions of the extensive spectrophotometer collection recently donated to the Oesper Collection by Dr. M. G. Mellon of Purdue University. A description of Dr. Mellon's collection will be featured in the "Chemical Artifacts" column in the Winter issue of the *Bulletin*. For additional information, contact Dr. William B. Jensen, Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, ML 172, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, 45221, (513) 556-9308.
- * Dr. Aaron J. Ihde's long-awaited history of the Department of Chemistry of the University of Wisconsin, *Chemistry As Viewed from Bascom Hill*, has just been published and can be obtained for the price of \$25.00 by writing to the Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706. A detailed review will appear in the Fall issue of the *Bulletin*.
- * Travel grants are available from the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry to enable interested individuals to visit Philadelphia to make use of the Othmer Library, the Edgar Fahs Smith Collection, and other associated facilities. The grants, which may be used for travel, subsistence, and copying costs, will not normally exceed \$500. Applications should include a vita, a one-paragraph statement on the research proposed, a budget, and the addresses and telephone numbers