

\* The International Academic Conference on Chinese Scientific and Technical History will be held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province of the People's Republic of China on 25-30 August 1992. For further information contact the Secretariat of the International Academic Conference on Chinese Scientific and Technical History, 211 Yan'an Road, 310006 Hangzhou, People's Republic of China or contact Shi Nam, Yao YaQin, Tel. 556105, 555006, Telex. Hangzhou 0571-551101.

\* An international symposium in celebration of the centenary of the death of August Wilhelm Hofmann, organized by the Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, The Royal Society of Chemistry, and Humboldt Universität, will be held in Berlin on 5-6 May 1992. Speakers will include W. H. Brock, L. Burchardt, W. Hornix, J. A. Johnson, O. P. Krätz, M. Rasch, C. A. Russell, and H. W. Schütt. For further details contact Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker, Abt. Tagungen, Postfach 900440, D-6000 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, Phone: (+69) 7919-360, Fax: (+69) 7917-475.

\* The 19th International Congress of History of Science will take place in Zaragoza on 22-29 August 1993. For details contact Professor Mariano Hormigón, Facultad de Ciencias, Ciudad Universitaria, E-50009, Zaragoza, Spain.

\* A European colloquium to commemorate the bicentenary of Lavoisier's death, organized by the Académie des Sciences, will be held in Paris on 3-6 May 1994. For further details contact Madame Michèle Goupil, Secrétaire du Comité Bicentenaire Lavoisier, Académie des Sciences, 23 Quai Conti, 75006 Paris, France.

\* 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 of two references. Deadlines are 1 February for grants covering the period April-June, 1 May for July-September, 1 August for the period October-December, and 1 November for the period January-March. Send applications to Lisa Kazanjian, Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, 3401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6228, (215) 898-4896.

\* The Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry of the University of Cincinnati is looking for donations of old chemistry texts, photographs, prints, molecular models, and chemical apparatus to add to its collections. Interested parties should contact Dr. William B. Jensen, Department of Chemistry, ML 172, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

**San Francisco .... 5-10 April 1992**

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 1 December 1991. Title of paper by 1 November 1991.

\* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio, Corporate Archives, Merck & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ 07065-0900, (908) 594-3981, FAX (908) 594-3977 or M. D. Saltzman, Department of Chemistry, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918, (401) 865-2298.

\* *Bay Area Biotechnology: History As It Happens*. Contact H. Lowood, History of Science & Technologies Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94066, (415) 723-4602 or J. L. Sturchio, Corporate Archives, Merck & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ 07065-0900, (908) 594-3981, FAX (908) 594-3977.

\* *The Role of Chemistry and Materials in the Rise of Silicon Valley*. Contact H. Lowood, History of Science & Technologies Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94066, (415) 723-4602 or J. L. Sturchio, Corporate Archives, Merck & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ 07065-0900, (908) 594-3981, FAX (908) 594-3977.

\* *Chemical Genealogy*. Contact P. R. Jones, Department of Chemistry, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH 03824, (603) 862-1550.

\* *The Role of Chemistry in Science Fiction*. Contact J. H. Stocker, Department of Chemistry, University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA 70148, (504) 286-6852.

**Geneva .... 22-24 April 1992**

\* *100th Anniversary of the Geneva Conference*. Organized by J. G. Traynham, Department of Chemistry, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803, (504) 388-3459.

**Washington DC .... 23-28 August 1992**

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 15 April 1992. Title of paper by 1 April 1992.

\* *General Papers*. Contact M. D. Saltzman (see address above).

**Denver .... 28 March - 2 April 1993**

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 1 December 1992. Title of paper by 1 November 1992.

\* *General Papers*. Contact M. D. Saltzman (see address above).

**Chicago .... 22-27 August 1993**

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 15 April 1993. Title of paper by 1 April 1993.

\* *General Papers*. Contact M. D. Saltzman (see address above).

\* *C. K. Ingold, 1893-1970. Master and Mandarin of Physical Organic Chemistry*. Contact M. D. Saltzman, Department of Chemistry, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918, (401) 865-2298, or Derek Davenport, Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-5465.

### Tentative Future Symposia

(Please contact J. L. Sturchio if you are interested in organizing or participating in the following.)

- \* *Chemistry and Communications*
- \* *History of Chemical Processes in Industry*
- \* *Case Histories of Drug Discovery and Development*

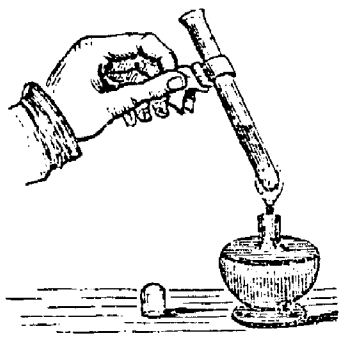
Note: The cosponsored symposia indicated with parentheses will have their primary sponsorships by the divisions so named and the programs will appear under their respective divisional headings.

## PARTING SHOTS

### The Stoddard Test Tube Clamp

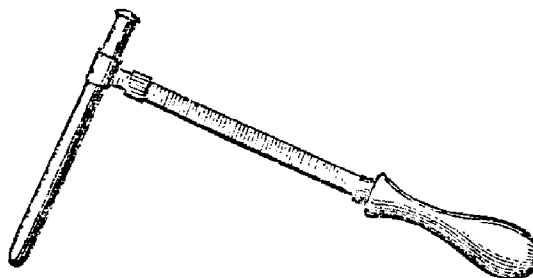
*William D. Williams, Harding University*

The ubiquitous spring wire test tube holder is such a simple, logical, convenient device that we tend to assume that it has been in use forever. Surprisingly, it was invented about 1886 by an American chemist, John T. Stoddard. Although chemical supply catalogs from 1893 to the present day have listed this item as the "Stoddard test tube clamp", Stoddard himself remains relatively unknown.



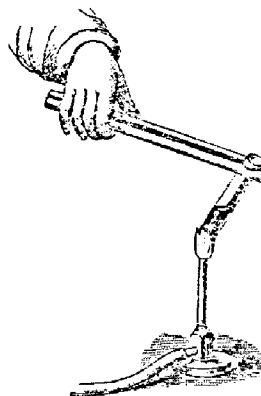
A paper twist test tube clamp, circa 1850 (1)

Prior to 1890 the most often used test tube clamp was a strip of heavy paper twisted around the test tube (1). Campbell Morfit, in his 1857 encyclopedic *Chemical and Pharmaceutical Manipulations*, described a sophisticated "spring holder, consisting of a wooden handle affixed to two flat pieces of sheet brass, indented at their ends so as to form a round catch, and tightened or loosened by a slide" (2).



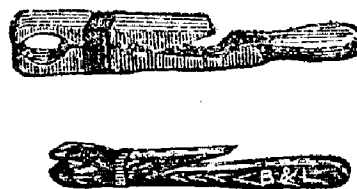
Morfit's metal slide clamp, circa 1857 (2)

A prominent text of 1873 described "wooden nippers, made with two bits of wood about a foot long, hinged together at the back and at once connected and kept apart by a sliding steel or brass spring, somewhat like those used on certain pruning shears" (3).



A wooden nippers clamp, circa 1873 (3)

Chemical supply catalogs of the 1890s and early 1900s offered a test tube clamp made of two notched pieces of wood held together by a heavy rubber band (4).



The rubber band clamp, circa 1890 (4)