

**AUTHOR SALTZMAN RESPONDS:**

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I am grateful to Fathi Habashi for pointing out that the first oil well was not the one drilled by Edward Drake on Oil Creek near Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1859, as is the common perception. In writing this paper my major concern was with the role that chemistry played in the realization of this venture. Benjamin Silliman Jr., who provided the analyses of the oil seeps, showed that by fractional distillation a product equivalent to the kerosene then being made by destructive distillation of coal could be obtained. It must be remembered that by 1858 the kerosene for lighting was being produced in large quantities by the processes developed by the Canadian Abraham Gesner and the Scot James Young. The Canadian well produced so little crude oil that it gained modest significance as a source of kerosene. It is the vast amount of crude oil that was found in Pennsylvania that led to the decline of the coal oil industry and the rise of the extraction of oil as a major industry in the United States initially and very soon thereafter in other parts of the world. *Martin D. Saltzman, Professor of Natural Science, Providence College, Providence, RI 02918.*

**HOPOS 2000**

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The history of Philosophy of Science Group (HOPOS) will hold its third international conference, in conjunction with the Institute Vienna Circle (IVC). Contributions to the history of philosophy of science from all time periods and from all scholarly approaches are invited.

Program Co-chairs: Michael Heidelberger, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Friedrich Stadler, Universität Wien and IVC.

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