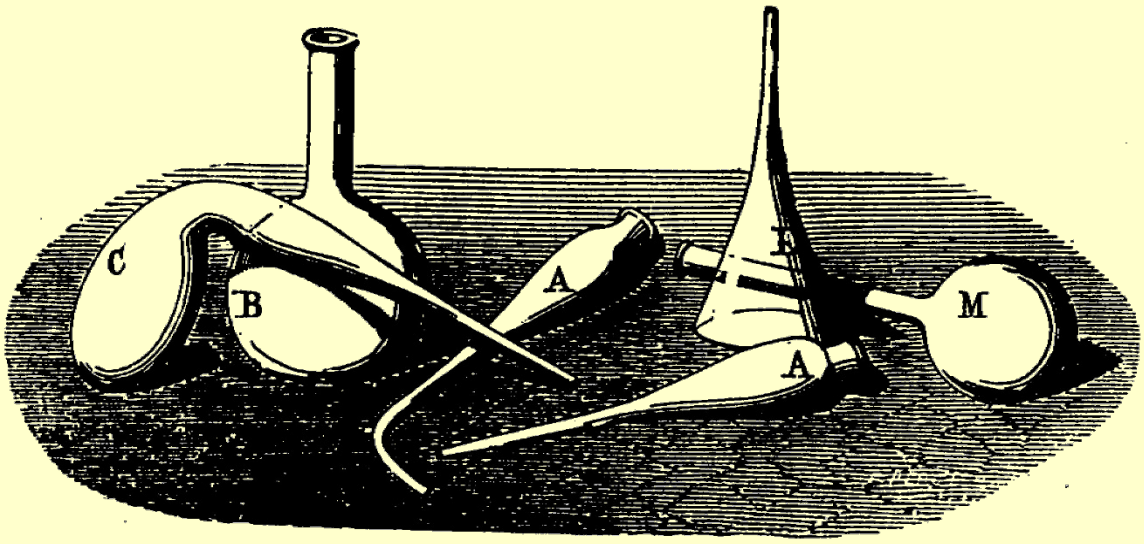
American Chemical Society

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY



NEWSLETTER

263rd ACS National Meeting
San Diego, CA (Hybrid)
March 20-24, 2022

Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Program Chair

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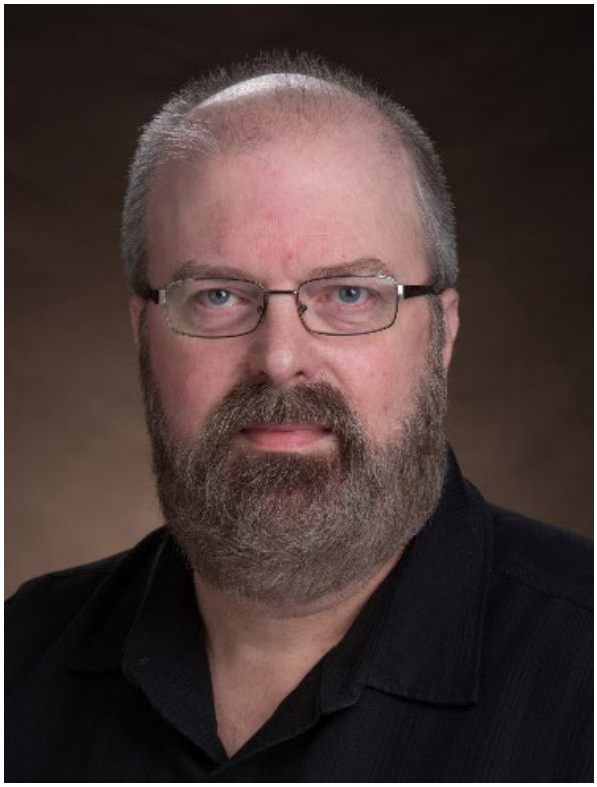
Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- Encouraging research and scholarship in history of the chemical sciences;
- Providing a welcoming environment for the discussion of history of chemistry in a variety of venues, particularly in symposia at national ACS meetings;
- Serving as a resource for chemical scientists in general, and members of the ACS in particular, who seek to understand the roots of their discipline, sub-discipline, or interdisciplinary subject;
- Recognizing major achievements from the past in the chemical sciences and the individuals who made those achievements;
- Publishing a scholarly journal in history of chemistry;
- Interacting with other organizations interested in the history of science; and
- Adding value to the ACS by helping it achieve its vision and missions.

Division Governance

Message from the HIST Division Chair



Even during this trying time under the shadow of COVID, HIST continues to march on. Since my last message to the HIST membership, the division survived its first hybrid format sessions as part of the Fall 2021 national meeting in Atlanta and learned much about what not to do for future meetings. The Division is now preparing for the Spring national meeting in San Diego next month, as well as the future of HIST programming. Again, San Diego will be another step towards a return to norm, and it will be the first meeting since the start of the pandemic with the bulk of the HIST Executive Committee in-person and meeting together onsite. Nevertheless, we have all worked hard to ensure that the division continues to move forward, while also taking advantage of everything we have both endured and learned during our forced separation. As I have said previously, the future of both national and regional meetings remains a particular focus, and we welcome your input as to ways we should meet the challenges of the new normal.

Of course, as a division dedicated to history, we are constantly looking to the past as well as the future, and HIST is happy to be celebrating its 100th birthday as an ACS Division throughout 2022! As part of those activities, the *Bulletin* has already published a special centennial issue with the general theme 'Novel Insights in the History of Chemistry: Looking Back Yet Mostly Looking Forward.' Edited by Jeff Seeman and Carmen Giunta, this special open access issue collects 18 papers on various aspects of the direction of the field and is freely available to all via the HIST website. In addition, Gary Patterson has been working on compiling and editing an online publication entitled *In Its Blood: A Centennial History of the Division of the History of Chemistry*. Completed content is again freely available via the HIST website, with additional material to be added throughout the year.

In terms of other ongoing HIST activities, the division has recently announced that the recipient of the 2022 HIST Award is Professor Marco Beretta of the University of Bologna. As Prof. Beretta and I have a common interest in the history of silica glass, I couldn't be happier with this well-deserved honor for him. More importantly, however, his selection for this award reinforces the true international nature of the HIST Award and contributes to the larger participation of the division within the greater global historical community, something which has been a particular focus during my term as HIST Chair.

The division has also recently added the new designation of HIST Fellow to our awards programs, in order to recognize HIST members who have made a significant impact on the advancement of history in the chemical sciences, as well as dedicated service to the division. The inaugural class of HIST Fellows has finally been selected and are announced separately within the current Newsletter. New classes of HIST Fellows will continue to be awarded each year to deserving members. I personally feel that this new award is critical to show that while it is important that HIST is part of the larger historical community, we also need to recognize noteworthy efforts within the local HIST membership as well.

Finally, in an effort to increase historical scholarship within the division, HIST has been working on a couple new initiatives. The first of these is a workshop that I have been spearheading which will provide formal training in traditional history research methods for chemists with an interest in historical research. This "Workshop on Traditional Research Methods in History" has recently been supported by an Innovative Projects Grant from ACS, which will fund travel for classically trained historians of science to serve as workshop educators. The workshop will be presented in symposium format, with the curriculum broken up into specific subtopics, and is planned for the 2023 Spring National Meeting in Indianapolis. A second initiative is being spearheaded by Steve Weininger and aims to bring together chemist-historians and professional historians of chemistry with the intent of promoting increased scholarship focused specifically on the history of recent and contemporary chemistry. This workshop is envisioned as a collaborative effort with the Science History Institute (SHI), tentatively planned for the summer of 2023. It goes without saying that I will share more details on both of these efforts as they become available, but these efforts will work to increase the number of active historians of chemistry, an extremely worthwhile goal for sure.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas, thoughts, or suggestions.

Seth C. Rasmussen, HIST Chair

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry
262nd ACS National Meeting – Virtual Council Meeting (August 26, 2021)

Actions of the Council

1. Elections

Council Policy Committee

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Donna G. Friedman, Matthew Grandbois, Fran K. Kravitz,** and **Louise M. Lawter** for a three-year term (2022-2024).

Committee on Committees

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Mary K. Engelman, Malika Jeffries-El, Brian M. Mathes, Susan V. Olesik,** and **Susan M. Schelble** for a three-year term (2022-2024).

Committee on Nominations and Elections

By electronic ballot, the Council elected **Allison Aldridge, Holly L. Davis, Peter K. Dorhout, Silvia Ronco,** and **Martin D. Rudd** for a three-year term (2022-2024) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E).

2. Other Council Actions

Key Actions

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Minority Affairs. The Petition was amended on the floor of Council to strike the word 'minority' in Standing Rule VIII, Sec. 1, b, (9). The Board added its approval in its meeting on August 28.
- The Council (and then the Board) also approved the continuation of the Committee on Environmental Improvement.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council (and then the Board) approved the 10th version of the Professional Employment Guidelines.

Council Special Discussion

President Cheng introduced and led a special discussion on ideas to increase involvement and membership from business and industry. For the last 5 years there has been a steady decrease in industry members. This can be attributed to a variety of factors, but there have been ongoing efforts to decrease the cost-related attrition while increasing member value.

To address value, ACS has a variety of offerings available to members to advance, discover, connect, and share. To address cost, actions were taken by the Council this past spring in the schedule of membership for 2022 that will provide industry members with flexibility as to membership options. Councilor input was then requested on the following two questions:

1. How can we improve the value that ACS provides to its industrial and business members?
2. How can we encourage academic inventors and entrepreneurs and support start-ups?

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of two deceased Past Presidents, Helen M. Free and Daryle H. Busch;
- In memory of deceased Councilors: Dr. Esther A.H. Hopkins, Ms. Jane V. Thomas, Dr. Joseph M. Antonucci, and Dr. Mark D. Frishberg;
- Expressing thanks to the officers and members of the Georgia Local Section; and
- Acknowledging H.N. Cheng's service as ACS President and presiding officer of Council

3. Highlights from Committee Reports

Budget and Finance

The Society's 2021 financial performance through June 30 yielded a Net Surplus from Operations of $55.0 million, which is $33.6 million favorable to budget and almost $6 million greater than the same period in 2020. These mid-year results are based on total revenues of $324.4 million that are 4.3% favorable to budget, and total expenses of $269.4 million, or 7% below budget, with unrestricted net assets estimated at $645 million.

Committee on Committees

ConC will again conduct a Committee Census (formerly called the Committee Demographic Survey) of all Society Committee personnel, including the members of committees elected by Council, in February 2022. This census gives ConC a snapshot of where the committee demographic picture stands as they look toward future recruitment and retention. To assist ACS in advancing its core value of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Respect, ConC would like to encourage all committee members and ACS leaders to take the two-hour course entitled "Leading Inclusively: Beyond Lip Service," developed by La'Wana Harris, a Certified Diversity Executive, International Coaching Federation (ICF) Credentialed Coach, and global leadership development professional. To Register, please go to https://learning.acs.org/course/view.php?id=996 to register.

Nominations and Elections

The Committee on Nominations and Elections solicits Councilors' input regarding qualified individuals for President-Elect and/or Directors for future consideration. Suggestions may be sent to nomelect@acs.org.

Meetings & Expositions

The Fall 2021 Meeting was held live from August 22-26, and on-demand from August 30 – September 30. As of August 25th, there were 8,205 registrations (1,895 hybrid and 6,310 virtual). Of the approximately 1,200 oral sessions held, 71 were only in-person, 244 were hybrid, and 855 were held virtually.

4. HIST Councilors

Mary Virginia Orna is serving as an associate member of the Senior Chemists Committee (SCC). She is on the SCC/YCC Networking Subcommittee and also on the Great Connections Working Group.

Roger Egolf is serving as a member of the Meetings and Expositions Committee (M&E) and its Technical Program Subcommittee. That subcommittee is responsible for advising the ACS meetings staff on the format of national meeting technical programming and the allocation of meeting rooms to the various divisions. Since the COVID pandemic began, M&E has been meeting regularly with the Program Chairs and ACS staff to get updates on the status of upcoming meetings and to make suggestions to ACS staff as they plan the future of ACS national meetings.

Prepared and submitted by Mary Virginia Orna and Roger Egolf, HIST councilors

News and Announcements

Awards

HIST Award for 2022

The winner of the HIST Award for Excellence in the History of Chemistry for 2022 is Marco Beretta of the University of Bologna for his leadership in the history of the materiality of chemistry.

Professor Beretta received his BA with honors in the History of Science from the University of Milan in 1986. He proceeded to the Department of the History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University. An early sign of things to come was the Partington Prize received in 1990 for his essay in *Ambix*: "The Historiography of Chemistry in the Eighteenth Century: A Preliminary Survey and Bibliography."

He received his Ph.D. degree from Uppsala in 1994 for his thesis: "The Enlightenment of Matter: The Definition of Chemistry from Agricola to Lavoisier." This work was awarded the Johan Nordström and Sten Lindroth Prize and the Prize for young historians of the International Academy of History of Science. Dr. Marco Beretta returned to Italy as a research fellow at the Museo Galileo in Florence in 1994. He compiled a critical edition of the library of Lavoisier: "Bibliotheca Lavoisieriana." His fascination with Lavoisier resulted in an important monograph: "Imaging a Career in Science: The Iconography of Antoine Laurent Lavoisier" (2001). Professor Beretta is generally considered a leading Lavoisier scholar and since 1994 has been a member of the Comité Lavoisier (the Comité was the recipient of the Franklin-Lavoisier prize in 2018).

Marco Beretta joined the University of Bologna in 2000, where he is now Professor of the History of Science. From this position he has broadly impacted the entire field of the history of chemistry. He was

the Editor of the journal *Nuncius: Journal of the Material and Visual History of Science.* He has retained his close ties with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He has contributed his knowledge and wisdom to the international project *Sites of Chemistry: 1600-2000.* He is a major organizer of scientific symposia, such as "Visual, Material and Sensory Cultures of Science" at the 9th ESHS Conference at the University of Bologna in 2020.

Professor Beretta is also a leading scholar of the history of glass in art and technology. He received the Paul Bunge Prize for his monograph *The Alchemy of Glass* (2009). He combines the full range of appreciation for the artifacts of science: curation, history, display, contextualization and artistic importance.

Marco Beretta has become a highly sought-after editor and collaborator for important publications in the history of science. Alan Rocke cites his role in editing volume I of the *Cultural History of Chemistry*. He is considered one of the leading scholars on ancient chemistry and has helped to create a vibrant research field of young and productive scholars.

For his numerous critical works covering an impressive timespan of history, as well as his noteworthy leadership and service to the field, HIST is pleased to present Marco Beretta with the 2022 HIST Award.

Submitted by Vera Mainz

Elemental Art Contest

The *Elemental Art Contest* was launched in 2019 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Periodic Table and was funded through an *Innovative Project Grant* from the ACS. The goal of the competition was to encourage the creation of original art (poems, cartoons, or photographs) related to the chemical elements or the Periodic Table. The contest was advertised in the HIST *Newsletter*, on the HIST website and Facebook page, and in *Chemical & Engineering News* (the issues of March 23, 2020 and January 18/25, 2021). A total of 60 artworks (22 poems, 27 cartoons, and 11 photographs) were received by the deadline (which was extended to April 30, 2021). Most submissions were from the US, but 3 came from abroad. Some participants submitted more than one artwork, sometimes in different categories. The entries were collected by the HIST Program Chair and, after any identifying information was removed, they were distributed to the Awards Committee, co-chaired by Mary Virginia Orna and Art Greenberg, for rating. Measures were taken to eliminate conflicts of interest during the selection process. The submissions were judged based on both artistic quality and educational value or potential to inspire the public to learn about chemistry or the history of chemistry. The authors of the highest ranked artworks received certificates and monetary awards. We are pleased to announce the winners.

Poems

1st place: Atto Rex Vincent for the poem *"The Canticle of the Alchemist"* (on mercury)

2nd place: Robyn K. Hayes for the poem *"Periodic Silliness"*

3rd place: Alan F. Weir for the poem *"The Alchymist Discovers Phosphorus"*

Honorable mention (awarded certificates): Margaret E. Schott for the poem *"A Silly Song of Carbon (for Organikers)"*, and Atto Rex Vincent for the Poem *"I, Silicon"*

Cartoons

1st place: Swaprabha Chattopadhyay for the cartoon *"Kingdom of Elements"*

2nd place: Naomi Masingale for the cartoon *"Carbon Bonds: Strong Hugs, Weak Hands"*

3rd place: Kenneth Abate for the cartoons *"Can't Take the Heat"* (on lithium, sodium, and cesium) and *"You'll Get Gas"* (on copper and zinc)

Photographs

1st place: Erik A. Rodriguez for the photograph *"Europium"*

Second and third prizes were not awarded in the Photographs category.

Congratulations to all the winners! Most importantly, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all participants in the contest and hope that for many of them will mark just the beginning of a lifelong engagement with the arts. The Awards Committee co-chairs and all the judges were truly astounded by the creativity and originality displayed by the authors. The members of the jury had the very difficult task to select from a large pool of artworks of great quality and I thank them for their dedication and help.

With permission of the authors, the winning artworks are published on the following pages of this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Submitted by Nick Tsarevsky

Call for Nominations: Franklin-Lavoisier Prize

The Science History Institute and the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie welcome nominations for the 2022 Franklin-Lavoisier Prize.

This award acknowledges commendable work in the preservation and highlighting of any aspect of Franco-American common scientific or industrial heritage in the fields of chemistry and its related applications, the promotion of the history of the chemical and molecular sciences and industries, or the fostering of closer Franco-American ties and the promotion of significant activities in the chemical sciences or industries. The award ceremony for this award will be held in the autumn of 2022 at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia; winners will receive €15,000.

Anyone is eligible to submit a nominee. Nominees can be individuals, a group of individuals, or an organization - a full list of rules and regulations, as well as the nomination forms, and a list of past winners can be found on the webpage: https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.sciencehistory.org/franklin-lavoisier-prize__;!!DZ3fjg!rVUNhVXOF-hSEn49FJri-Jr_-av2YSSfHYwBb152WR1JOwWY6NOOhZKZpf2YvLG4$

All completed nominations should be emailed to presidence@maisondelachimie.com (preferred) or mailed to:
Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie
28, Rue Saint-Dominique
5007 Paris
FRANCE

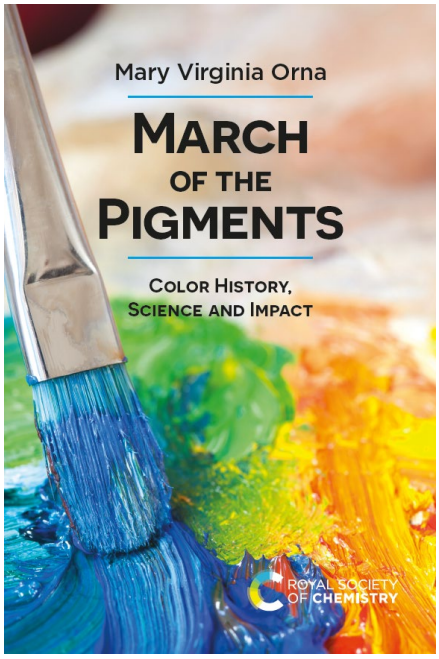
Nominations are due on March 31, 2022.

History of Chemistry Publications

March of the Pigments

A new book by Mary Virginia Orna, *March of the Pigments* (Royal Society of Chemistry), will appear in late May 2022. It is truly a communal effort and many HIST members graciously consented to review individual chapters, suggest references, supply images, recommend chapter headings and even deliberate on the title of the book.

From the back cover of the book: Take a colorful walk through human ingenuity. Humans have been unpacking the earth to use pigments since cavemen times. Starting out from surface pigments for cave paintings, we've dug deep for minerals, mined oceans for colors and exploited the world of plants and animals. Our accidental fumbles have given birth to a whole family of brilliant blues that grace our museums, mansions and motorcars. We've turned waste materials into a whole rainbow of tints and hues to color our clothes, our food and ourselves. With the snip of a genetic scissor, we've harnessed bacteria to gift us with "greener" blue jeans and dazzling dashikis. As the pigments march on into the future, who knows what new and exciting inventions will emerge? Mary Virginia Orna, a world-recognized expert on color, will lead you through an illuminating journey exploring the science behind pigments. Pausing for reflections en route to share stories around pigment use and discoveries informed by history, religion, sociology and human endeavour, this book will have you absorbing science and regaling tales. Jam packed with nuggets of information, *March of the Pigments* will have the curiously minded and the expert scientist turning pages to discover more. While the book is geared toward a popular audience, there is plenty of chemistry interwoven with the history in every chapter. It will be available from Amazon and Target, to name a few outlets.

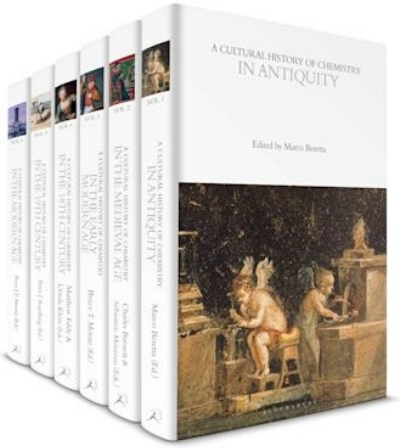


The following chapters are included in the book:
1. Dissecting Daylight: How We See Color
2. Dark Unfathom'd Caves: The Earliest Cultural Use of Color
3. Body Art in All Its Parts: Cosmetics Gone Wild
4. The Tombs of the Pharaohs: Egypt's Legacy to Civilization
5. Buried Treasure: The Earth Yields Up its Secrets
6. Purveyors of Purple: The Oceans' Gift to the World of Color
7. In the Shadow of Vesuvius: A Window on the Ancient Palette

8. Monastery Mysteries: Illuminating the Dark Ages
9. Botticelli's Bottega: The Glory of the Renaissance
10. Aztec Red and Maya Blue: Secrets of the New World
11. Alchemical Anomalies: Accidents Will Happen
12. Out of the Depths: Synthetic Colors From the Coal Tar Industry
13. Monet's Garden: Impressionist Innovation and Beyond
14. The Forest Primeval: Arboreal Bounty
15. Dr Ehrlich Meets the Poison Squad: Pigments in Food and Medicine
16. An Evolving Universe: The Pigments March On

Submitted by Mary Virginia Orna

A Cultural History of Chemistry



The newly published *A Cultural History of Chemistry* is a six-volume anthology, which is edited by Peter J. T. Morris and Alan Rocke. It charts the development of chemistry and related fields, from ancient artisanal crafts such as metallurgy and ceramics, through medieval and early modern alchemy and pharmacy, the Chemical Revolution of the late eighteenth century, the rise of chemistry as a modern science in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and the development of chemical industry and trade.

The six volumes, each edited by an authority in the chemistry of the respective era, cover:
Vol. 1: Antiquity (3,000 BCE to 600 CE)
Vol. 2: Medieval Age (600 to 1500)
Vol. 3: Early Modern Chemistry (1500 to 1700)
Vol. 4: Eighteenth Century (1700 to 1815)
Vol. 5: Nineteenth Century (1815 to 1914)
Vol. 6: Modern Age (1914 to the Present).

Over these six volumes, the set embraces a total of 54 topical chapters written or edited by 50 scholars, of ten different nationalities. It is the first multi-volume history of chemistry to be published since J. R. Partington's project concluded more than fifty years ago.

The six volumes were published simultaneously; they can be bought as a complete set or as individual volumes. They are available only in hardback.

Submitted by Alan Rocke

HIST Centennial Publications

The Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society is 100 years old in 2022, and the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* has issued two special publications to mark the occasion, a special issue of the *Bulletin* and a reissue of an Index to the History of Chemistry in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, 1925-1990.

The special issue of the *Bulletin* was co-edited by Carmen J. Giunta and Jeffrey I. Seeman. It is an extra issue, available electronically to anyone for free at:
http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/bulletin_open_access/bull22-vol47-1.php
Hard copies have been mailed to HIST members.

The Index to the History of Chemistry in the Journal of Chemical Education, 1925-1990, was prepared by Martin D. Saltzman and was published by HIST in 1995. For many years, the *Journal of Chemical Education* was the main journal in which American chemists researching the history of their discipline published their work. The journal began to move away from publishing historical articles, and that move was one of the motivating factors for HIST to found the *Bulletin* in the late 1980s. The Index, containing 800 records, remains a valuable resource for historical articles in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, and it is time to make it more widely available.

The reissue is in two electronic formats freely available on the internet. One format is a searchable pdf file, lightly edited but ordered using the categories of the original. The other format is an Excel spreadsheet (also searchable, of course) which can be sorted by author or chronologically. They can be found on the HIST website at:
http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/bulletin_open_access/special.php

Submitted by Carmen Giunta

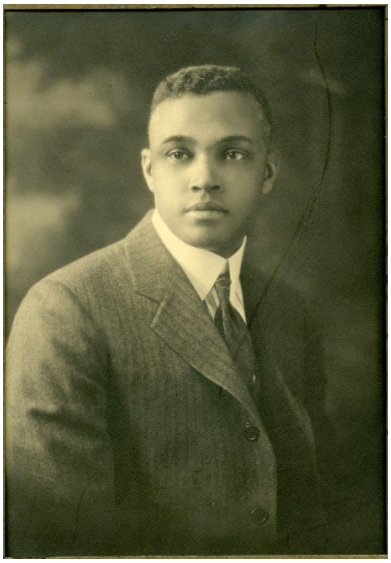
History of the Woodward-Hoffmann Rules

A 27-part series of papers on the history of the Woodward-Hoffmann rules written by Jeffrey I. Seeman has begun to run in *The Chemical Record*. The series began in the January 2022 issue with a paper called, "The Ways of Science Through the Lens of the Woodward-Hoffmann Rules. The Stories Begin" (doi.org/10.1002/tcr.202100211). The titles of all of the articles in the series can be found within the first article and on the first page of subsequent articles. The second installment, "History of the Woodward-Hoffmann Rules. The No-Mechanism Puzzle", was the cover article in the February issue (doi.org/10.1002/tcr.202100212). T*he Chemical Record* is a monthly "highlights" journal published by Wiley for the Chemical Society of Japan.

Submitted by Carmen Giunta

Lectures of Interest

An article about St. Elmo Brady, the first African American to receive a PhD in chemistry, appeared in the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*, **2021**, *46(1)*, 83-107. It was written by Dean F. Martin, Gregory S. Girolami, and Vera V. Mainz. A 40-minute lecture with material from this article has been recorded and is available to watch at the following link: https://mediaspace.illinois.edu/media/t/1_8acgxqog



Submitted by Vera Mainz

Mary Jo Nye and Alan Rocke made the effort to record the presentation they had prepared for the Franklin-Lavoisier 2020 award ceremony held in Paris at the beginning of February. This means that we can now all enjoy their papers, to be found on the following webpage from the Science History Institute:

https://urldefense.com/v3/__https://www.sciencehistory.org/franklin-lavoisier-prize__;!!DZ3fjg!oZk2nb44GJWT7AZLLucb897P9pxNeF4Ykt8YoLJn370i0AHFmDJKe2tz2-Z9i7xvJOc-mg$

Submitted by Brigitte Van Tiggelen

Announcements

Inaugural Class of HIST Fellows Awarded

As previously announced, the division has recently added the designation of *HIST Fellow* to its ongoing HIST awards programs, which recognizes HIST members who have made a significant impact on the advancement of history in the chemical sciences, as well as dedicated service to the division. For the inaugural class, the following members have been selected as the 2022 class of HIST Fellows:

Ronald Brashear
Ben Chastain
Carmen Giunta
Arthur Greenberg
Ned Heindel
Joe Lambert
David Lewis
Mary Virginia Orna
Tom Strom
Steve Weininger

The award consists of a certificate and a special HIST Fellow pin. HIST Fellows will continue to be awarded yearly and will be given out as part of the annual HIST Awards Banquet. Further details, including how to nominate potential candidates for the 2023 class of HIST Fellows, will be posted on the HIST website shortly.

Submitted by Seth Rasmussen

The HIST History of HIST

The HIST History of HIST is proceeding nicely. Many chapters have been finished and are posted on the HIST website.

This is a project of the entire Division. Many people have taken responsibility for particular chapters. Any interested member can help edit the posted chapters. Please read them and send any

suggested corrections or additions to the HIST historian, Gary Patterson, at gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu.

The goal is to finish this project in 2022, but a full roster of chapters may require more time. Anyone desiring to adopt a particular chapter should contact Gary.

Submitted by Gary Patterson

BULLETIN FOR THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

A publication of the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society

Available online: http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/bulletin/index.php

PAPER SUBMISSIONS: Articles of 4-20 pages, double-spaced (excluding references) should be submitted electronically by email attachment to the Editor, Carmen Giunta, at giunta@lemoyne.edu. The title of the article should be of reasonable length (up to 15 words); a subtitle may be included if appropriate. Authors should strive to make the title descriptive of the specific scope and content of the paper. Preferred file formats for submissions are .doc, .docx, and .rtf.

Full instructions for authors can be found at http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/info/bull-info.php

All matters relating to manuscripts, etc. should be sent to:

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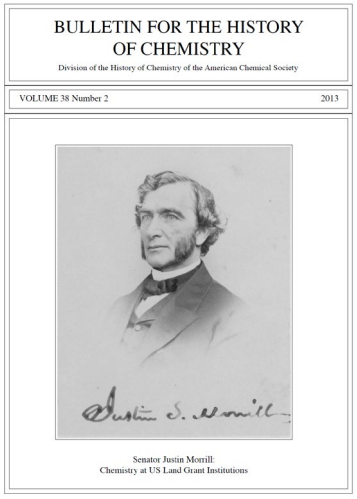


Elemental Art Contest

We are delighted to present the winning Elemental Art artworks, with our deepest gratitude to the authors who allowed us to share their creations with the readers of the HIST Newsletter. Copying, sharing, or distributing the artworks without the express permission of the authors is strictly prohibited.

POEMS

1st prize
The Canticle of the Alchemist
(Elemental Poem No. 80, on mercury)
by Atto Rex Vincent

The rosy cheeks of Venus pale
When Mercury bestows a kiss.
Her face, though covered with a veil,
Cannot conceal her joy and bliss.

Desirous to conquer more,
Content, her lover flies away.
In solitude she will adore –
Awaiting, hopeful, she will pray.

***

Elusive, seeking, unrestrained…
Yet, he is so supremely skilled.
With him I hope and ask to gain
Dexterity in every field.

***

The muddy river carries sand,
In which some glitter is admixed
The sediment is channeled, panned;
A crucible on coals is fixed.

The fire, hesitant and shy,
At once, emboldened, grasps the pot;
Amalgam forms, then vapors fly,
As everything turns glowing hot.

The deadly ghost, at last away,
Its guarded captive has released;
A precious nugget spraying rays,
Emerges, as the blazes cease.

Of time, of weather unafraid,
Its sunny luster will persist
And now, before you will be laid
A subtle chain to wrap your wrist.

***

The crimson rock gives up its blood;
These silver drops with brimstone fuse.
Black powder forms, red crystals bud –
Vermilion the flames produce.

To wax the pigment will be wed
And scents, and balsam will be used.
Your lips, so sensuously red,
Can now a stoic saint seduce.

***

Ferocious vitriol and salt,
And silver drops with heat ferment.
The effervescence slowly halts
And white corrosive smoke ascends

This fog will tenderly caress
Soft furs with beauty unsurpassed.
A cape I'll make that will impress
All those whose eyes on you are cast.

***

My goals appeared out of reach
I deeply wished my love to please
But Mercury I did beseech
And he provided all the keys

***

2nd prize

Periodic Silliness

by Robyn K. Hayes

I wonder to myself--
"Am I able to poetically wander through the periodic table?"
Will the Professors of Letters show their willingness?
Will they allow in their review, a poem of such silliness?

May I travel in a balloon of hydrogen or helium
To distant lands of Polonium or Indium?
Or must I stay at home in good old Americium,
Allowed to go no farther than Berkelium, Californium?

I might yet be able to catch a flight of fancy
To my ancestral land of Germanium.
Perhaps the winds of oxygen and nitrogen
Will carry me across the ocean to Europium.

I shall build myself a titanium spaceship;
Be the astronaut-farmer of department gossip.
"She's not allowed; she's totally illiterate!"
"Let's entomb her in calcium carbonate!"

I shall store lithium hydroxide in all my pockets,
Push the button to ignite my aluminum rockets,
And shoot through the ionosphere, past the moon,
Past iron-red Mars, but not so very soon.

"Where's she going?" some may ask staring
Through the photons of infrared glaring.
"Good riddance to that chemist turned poet!
How we've wanted to tell her 'Stow it!'"

Ah, now in my rear view mirror I'm free
To see at my back distant Mercury.
I hurtle toward far-away Uranium
Now to blue Neptunium, onward to poor Plutonium.

Are you smiling, Curium, Meitenerium, and Rutherfordium?
Are you shaking your heads, Bohrium and Mendelevium?
Are you laughing, Seaborgium and Fermium, as you are able
At my wanderings through the Periodic Table?

***

3rd prize

The Alchymist Discovers Phosphorus

by Alan F. Weir

In old Hamburg, Germany
Came Henig Brand's new recipe
Take 60 buckets of gold hued pee
Boil it down quite thoroughly.

A powder of the remnants make,
Redissolve and the filtrate take.
Then boil it to a salty cake
A preparation soon to bake.

Add caput mortuum, alcohol you know
Warm sand to evaporate, and so
Into the furnace it doth go
To heat it more than fire's glow

Eventually a smoke of white
Evermore to give delight
There is no need to be affright,
It is a giver of bright light!

***

Honorable mention
A Silly Song of Carbon (for Organikers)
by Margaret E. Schott

If one considers carbon as an element essential
For life on Earth (or Krypton?), it has marvelous potential.
Our planetary Kohlenstoff seems almost providential, yet
Its cosmologic origins are not inconsequential.

But how is one to comprehend the Table's entry 6 (six)?
It all depends, as one might guess, on how you choose to fix
Your mental gaze and plumb, for years, the depths of truth scholastic
In books of engineering, chem, or Kristalstruktur graphics.

In Nature, graphite, Lonsdaleite and diamond find their station,
As pressurized dead carbon forms of ancient allocation,
Along with peat and anthracite, and coke and coals — to mention
Just a few of many kinds of species ripe for conflagration.

To scan the realms of outer space for data spectroscopical
Reveals an awesome panoply of carbons allotropical:
The interstellar nanoscape hosts -enes and -ynes and radicals,
From buckyball (C-sixty) down to species diatomical.

With carbon's tetrahedral core just right for bond creation -
(its 1-0-9-point-five degrees invites elaboration)
- and
While not fogetting sp^2, and ^{1}, for C-construction
A thousand million compounds can be slated for production.

With proteins, carbs and lipids – and the helices genetic,
We've got a biologic kit for life on earth (and under it).
Should experts target hybrid forms, with schemes retrosynthetic… well,
Good luck! And may your product yields be better than "pathetic".

***

Honorable mention
I, Silicon
(Elemental Poem No. 14)
by Atto Rex Vincent

"A minor member of the family carbonic"
Whoever says this is illiterate, moronic!
For I am one with strength and omnipresence chronic
And whose existence is of consequence tectonic!

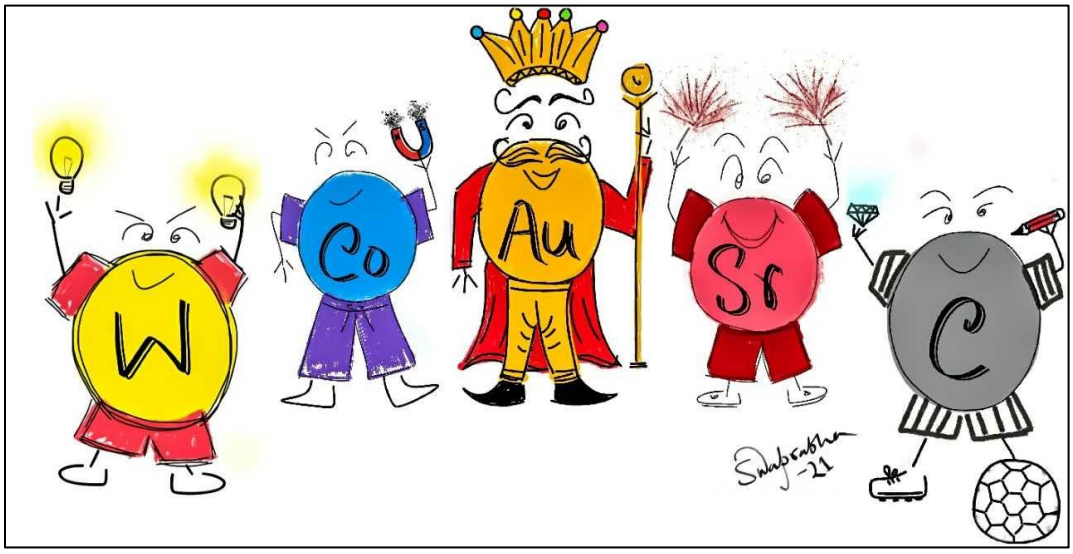
(To scatter doubt, fourteen does not reflect importance:
It's just my nucleus, which has that many protons.)

I'll risk to be perceived as auto-sycophantic.
My name derives from flint (for those who like semantics).
My merits, simply put, are numerous, gigantic -
I am in objects useful, medical, romantic.

(Transistors, polymers, and crystal chandeliers…
You write me off, I soon – triumphant – re-appear.)

CARTOONS

1st prize
Kingdom of Elements
by Swaprabha Chattopadhyay



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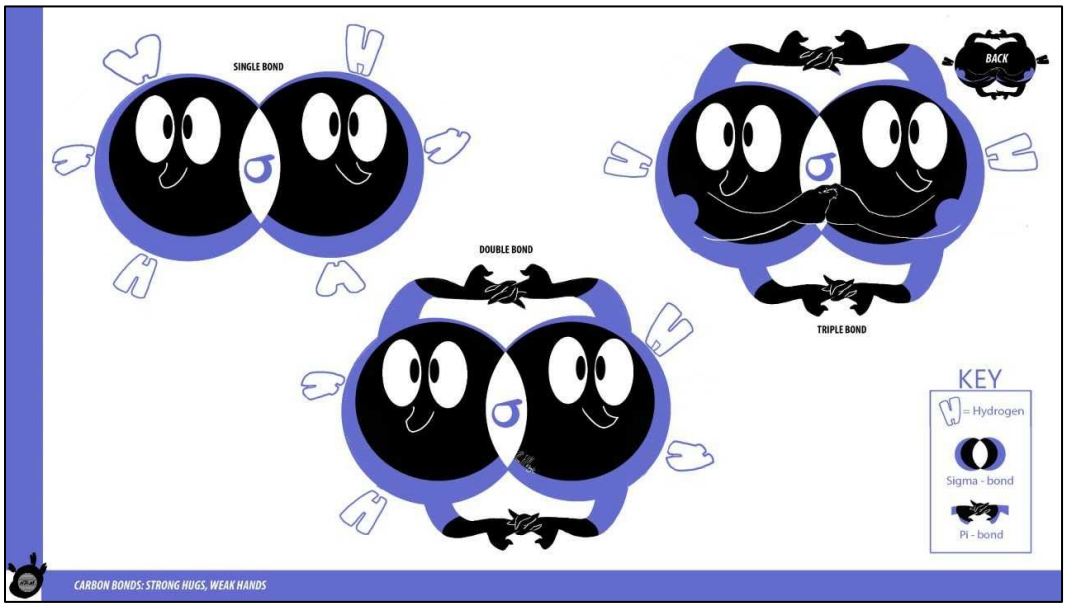
2nd prize
Carbon Bonds: Strong Hugs, Weak Hands
by Naomi Masingale



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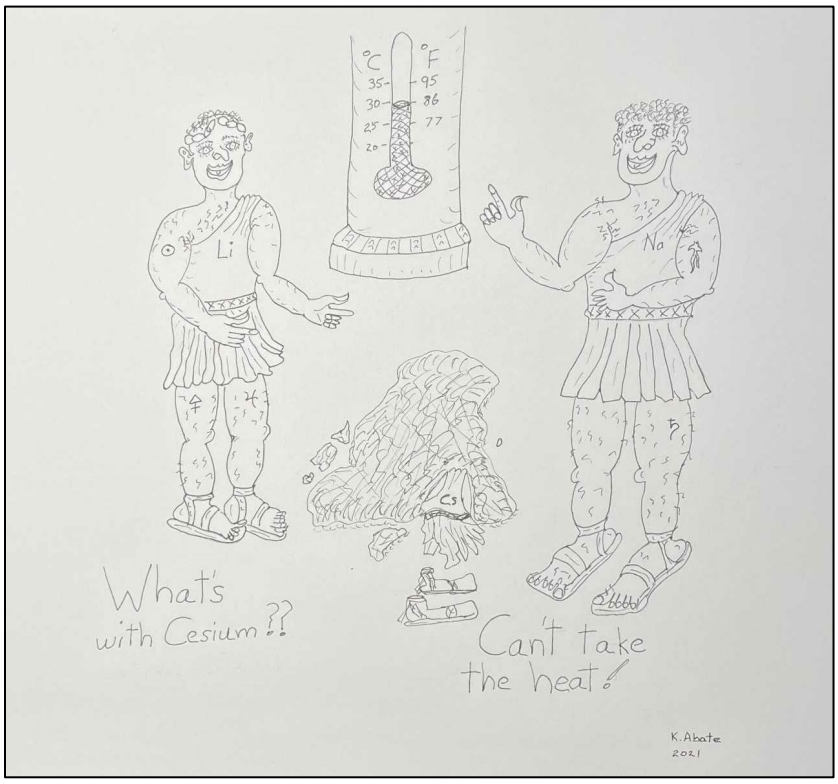
3rd prize

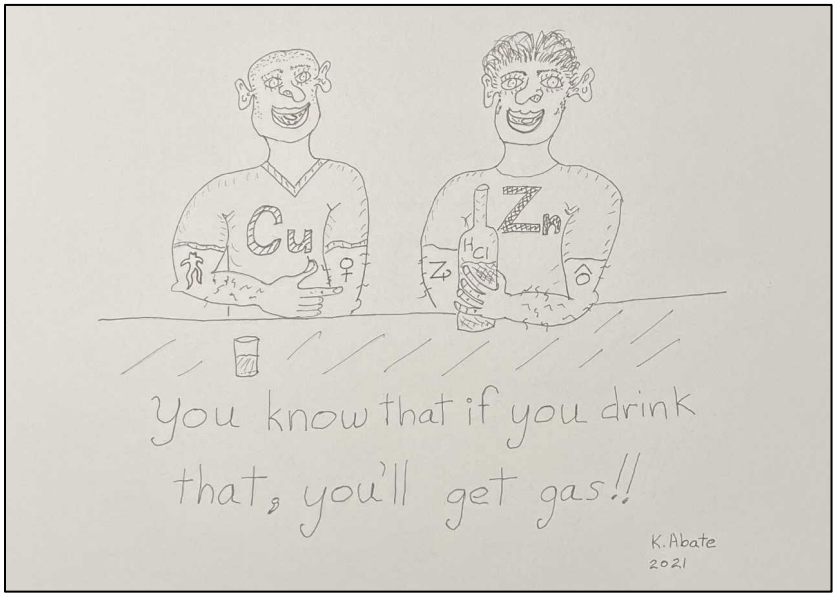
Can't Take the Heat

by Kenneth Abate



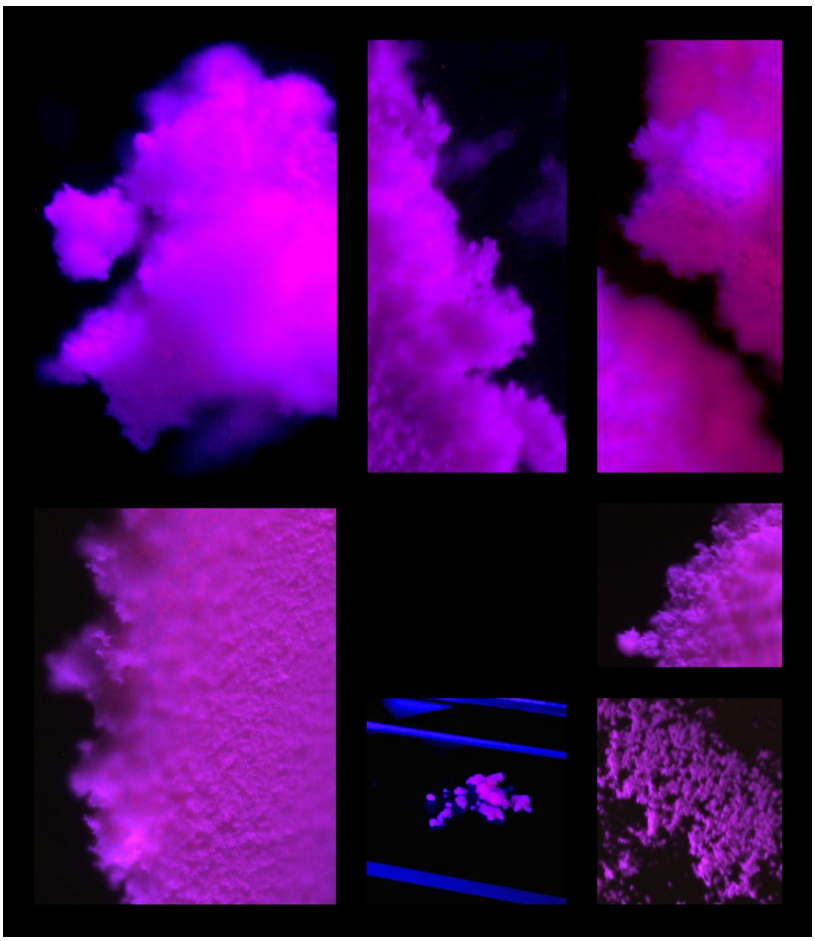
You'll Get Gas

by Kenneth Abate



PHOTOGRAPHS

1st prize
Europium
by Erik A. Rodriguez



Second and third prizes were not awarded in the Photographs category.

HIST Programming

Message from the HIST Program Chair

Once again, it is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to the National ACS Meeting and HIST – arguably the most interdisciplinary division of the Society. This time we will meet in San Diego. I hope that all in-person attendees will not only take advantage of the possibility to talk to like-minded individuals throughout the day, without having to rely on stable and fast Internet connection or high-resolution cameras but will also have the chance to experience this beautiful city. The virtual-only attendees and presenters should not despair, however, for they will still be able to enjoy the high-quality programming. Of course, we all eagerly anticipate a future when the pandemic and all restrictions related to it will belong in the history books but, in the meantime, having the chance to exchange ideas virtually, should not be underestimated.

On behalf of the Division and the presenters, I invite you to join as many as you can of our technical sessions. I know the contents and the quality of the lectures will keep you engaged, and you will retain great memories from the meeting and your interactions with other HIST members and friends. We will start on Monday with two – morning and afternoon – General Papers sessions. A great assortment of interesting topics will be offered. Diversity there will be but, if you feel that some subjects that you find important or even necessary were not covered, remember that we will continue to embrace suggestions as well as new speakers willing to participate in our events. We will continue on Tuesday with the HIST Award Symposium honoring Mary Virginia Orna. She has written multiple articles and books on chemistry and its history, and on the connection between art and chemistry. They have taught generations of students and educators, and have inspired many to develop their own activities and courses, or even to choose chemistry as a career. Bringing our discipline to the public is of paramount importance and Mary Virginia has indeed excelled in accomplishing that. The spectrum of her contributions is truly broad and colorful, and I invite you to attend the sessions and perhaps say hello to an exceptional individual, such as Mary Virginia, and meet some truly outstanding speakers. The schedule of our symposia and the abstracts are given on the subsequent pages.

This *Newsletter* is somewhat unusual in terms of its contents. As I mentioned in previous issues, the *Elemental Art Contest*, which was initiated in 2019 as a celebration of the 150th anniversary of Mendeleev's publication of the Periodic Table, concluded, after extending the original deadline, at the end of April 2021. We received 60 original artworks and the winners were already selected, notified, and awarded certificates and/or monetary awards. HIST's own Mary Virginia Orna and Art Greenberg kindly agreed to co-chair the awards committee and I thank them and the judges for their hard work. It was not easy to select from a large number of inspired, high-quality, works. Above all, I use the opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all competitors for creating beautiful and inspiring art and – importantly – for being willing to share their works. Now, with the kind permission of the authors of the prize-winning poems, cartoons, and photograph, you can enjoy those artworks. My hope is that this competition will

serve to encourage more talented individuals with interest in chemistry or science to create art. The history of chemist-artists is long and glorious, and I am certain the list will continue to expand.

Enjoy our program and the rest of the ACS meeting. As ever, I ask you to please share what you know about HIST with your friends, coworkers, and students. Be well and I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you soon!

Nick Tsarevsky, *HIST Program Chair*

HIST SYMPOSIA, 263rd ACS Meeting, March 20-24, 2022

Schedules and abstracts are listed at the end of this Newsletter.

HIST Award Banquet

As part of its activities at the 263rd ACS National Meeting in San Diego, the History of Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society is pleased to host the 2021 HIST Award Banquet honoring Dr. Mary Virginia Orna of Chemsource, Inc. The Banquet will be held at Casa Guadalajara (http://www.casaguadalajara.com/) on Tuesday, March 22. It will start at 7:00 PM and will feature a buffet dinner (the Fiesta Fajita option) and a cash bar. **Tickets are $50 and can be purchased from Vera Mainz, HIST Secretary-Treasurer.** (Tickets cover the full cost of the meal, tip and tax. Ordinary beverages are included in the ticket cost. Alcoholic beverages and coffee are additional from the cash bar. You can pay Vera via check or cash (exact amount preferred) at the banquet or when you see her during the meeting. If you do plan to attend, please **RSVP by March 18th (Friday)** via email to Nick Tsarevsky (nvt@smu.edu) and/or Vera Mainz (mainz@illinois.edu).

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Subject to change. Check the HIST website (http://www.scs.illinois.edu/~mainzv/HIST/) for updates.

264th ACS Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 21-25, 2022

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, North Dakota State University, NDSU Dept. 2735, P.O. Box 6050, Fargo, ND 58108, Phone: 701-231-8747, email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu

Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributors) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

265th ACS Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, March 26-30, 2023

HIST Centennial (Invited) Gary Patterson, Vancouver, WA 98661, 412-480-0656, email: gp9a@andrew.cmu.edu

History of Forensic Chemistry (Invited and contributed) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

Tutorial and General Papers (Seeking contributors) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

266th ACS Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 13-17, 2023

HIST Award Symposium (Invited) Nicolay V. Tsarevsky, Department of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX 75275, Phone: 214-768-3259, email: nvt@smu.edu

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