

### 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has announced that its Partington Prize of 100 pounds will be awarded on 30 April 1991 for the best original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry.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

of two references. Deadlines are 1 February for grants covering the period April-June; 1 August for the period October-November, and 1 November for the period January-March. Send applications to Dr. Mary Ellen Bowden, Assistant Director of Programs, 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 and chemical apparatus to add to its collections. Interested parties should contact Dr. William B. Jensen, The Oesper Collection in the History of Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, ML 172, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH 45221, (513) 556-9308.

\* Applications are now invited for the 1991-1992 Edelstein International Fellowship in the History of Chemical Sciences and Technology. For further information on how to apply, contact the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, 3401 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104-6228, (215) 898-4896. The deadline for applications is 31 October 1990.

## FUTURE MEETINGS

### Washington .... 26-31 August 1990

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 15 April 1990. Title of paper by 1 April 1990.

\* *General Papers*. Contact J. L. Sturchio Corporate Archives, Merck & Co., Inc., P.O. Box 2000, Rahway, NJ, 07065-0900, (201) 594-3981.

\* *History of the Development, Use and Testing of Food Additives* (Cosponsored by CHAL). Contact H. T. McKone, Department of Chemistry, St. Joseph College, W. Hartford, CT 06117, (203) 232-4571.

\* *Chemistry and Crime II*. Contact R. O. Allen, Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901, (804) 924-3622.

\* *History of Environmental Pollution and Protection in Relation to Federal Regulations*. Contact R. Sarmiento, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Analytical Chemistry Section, Bldg. 306, BARC-East, Beltsville, MD 20705, (301) 344-2266.

\* *50th Anniversary of the Discovery of the Transuranium Elements*. (Cosponsored by INOR and NUCL).

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

\* *Chemistry on Stamps*. (Cosponsored by CHED).

### Atlanta .... 14-19 April 1991

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 1 December 1990. Title of paper by 1 November 1990.

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

\* *Michael Faraday - Chemist* (Cosponsored by CHED). Contact Derek Davenport, Department of Chemistry, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, (317) 494-5465.

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

\* *History of Synthetic Fibers*. Contact R. B. Seymour, Department of Polymer Science, University of Southern Mississippi, Southern Station, Box 10076, Hattiesburg, MS, 39406, (601) 266-4868.

\* *Emil Fischer: One Hundred Years of Carbohydrate Chemistry* (Cosponsored by CARB).

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

### New York .... 25-30 August 1991

Five copies of 150-word abstract (original on ACS Abstract Form) by 15 April 1991. Title of paper by 1 April 1991.

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

\* *History of Steroid Synthesis*. Contact L. Gortler, Department of Chemistry, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY 11210, (718) 780-5746 or J. L. Sturchio (see address above).

\* *A Century of Chemistry in New York (Commemorating the Local Section Centennial)*. Contact J. Sharkey, Department of Chemistry, Pace University, Pace Plaza, New York, NY 10038, (212) 488-1502.

\* *Chemistry and Crime III - Forensic Methods: Past, Present and Future*. Contact S. M. Gerber, Color Consultants, 70 Hillcrest Road, Martinsville, NJ 08836, Phone (201) 356-4721; or R. Saferstein, New Jersey Forensic Laboratory, P.O. Box 7068, West Trenton, NJ 08825, (609) 882-2000, Ext. 2692.

\* *Social Responsibilities of Scientists*. (Cosponsored by CHED).

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

### 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 (see address