



American Chemical Society  
Division of the History of Chemistry

**Newsletter**

233<sup>rd</sup> ACS National Meeting  
Chicago, IL  
March 25-29, 2007

J. S. Jeffers, Program Chair

## DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

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## Mission Statement

The Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) (<http://www.scs/uiuc.edu/~mainzv/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.

## Message from Roger Egolf, HIST Division Chair

Dear HIST Colleagues, I'd like to begin my first Chair's message by congratulating Janan Hayes on her recent election as HIST Chair-Elect. I look forward to working with Jan over the next four years during my tenure as Chair and Past-Chair. I also look forward to the continuing to work with Past-Chair Jeff Seeman. I especially want to recognize the important contributions Jeff has made to our division during his two years as Chair, especially his efforts which led to our newest award program, the Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs Award. Great job Jeff!



Thanks in large part to our Program Chair, Joe Jeffers, we once again have a very interesting program in Chicago. You may have noticed that a key word in Chicago is "Landmark," with three symposia containing that word in their titles. We will also be celebrating the 85th Anniversary of HIST with a symposium on Tuesday afternoon followed by a celebratory dinner at the Szechwan Restaurant at 625 N. Michigan Ave. If you haven't bought a ticket yet, be sure to get one before they all are gone! In all, we have eight sessions stretching from Sunday morning to Wednesday afternoon containing six symposia and 59 papers.

The division is healthy, growing, and active. Our budget is in balance, and we have been very successful in winning Innovative Activity grants from the ACS. Last year we received our second ChemLuminary Award.

I'd like to end this message by inviting you to volunteer to make the division even better. The division is always looking for members who would like to get more involved, by giving a paper, organizing a symposium, or volunteering to represent the division in some way at a local or regional meeting. My contact information is on the officer's page of this newsletter; don't hesitate to contact me with your ideas.

Sincerely, *Roger*

## Message from Jeffrey Seeman, HIST Past Chair State-of-the-Union 2007

As my two-year term as Chair of HIST ends and my two-year term as Past Chair of HIST begins, it is both my pleasure and my responsibility to report to you on the health and well-being of our division. HIST was the recipient of the ACS/Divisions Activity Committee's ChemLuminary award for 2004. Hence, HIST was strong and healthy as of December 2004! And HIST received the ChemLuminary award for technical division achievement in 2006, further demonstrating the vigor of the HIST. In the summary that follows, I shall list many of the individuals who are responsible for these achievements. The years 2005 and 2006 have witnessed extraordinary accomplishments by HIST, including

- A sound financial base and budget. We have carefully studied our financial position and redirected funds with the principle of leveraging our resources to their maximum value (Vera Mainz and the entire Executive Committee, E. C.).
- A completely redesigned website (Vera Mainz), up-to-date and containing many new features and historical information. For example, a biography of all Dexter and Edelstein awardees and many HIST officers is available (Jim Bohning, Tom Perfetti, Tony Travis); updated present and recent past programming information is also included (Joe Jeffers).
- HIST's new Mission Statement (Carmen Giunta and the HIST E.C.).
- HIST's logo (Mainz), which is found on our website and our official communications.
- Outstanding meeting programming (Jeffers), both in terms of novel Presidential symposia (Mary Virginia Orna) and also many other remarkable symposia (Books and CFC's and Priestley and the Edelstein 50th celebration, Giunta, Bohning, Roger Egolf).
- Obtaining external funding of many proposals (Orna, Giunta, Bohning and Seeman).
- The *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* is stronger than ever and continues its appearance on schedule, issue after issue (Paul Jones and his new associate editors); and we made and implemented a major decision regarding copyright ownership.
- HIST's awards programs are vibrant and healthy. HIST's new award, Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs, has resulted in immediate meaning and impact to our extended community (Seeman).
- Following discussions with Madeleine Jacobs (ACS) and negotiations with CHF, the HIST E.C. decided to gift its Archives to CHF. The archives are now being catalogued (Bohning).

We have developed extraordinarily strong working relationships with senior leadership at ACS: staff and ACS presidents. We have also nurtured important synergies with the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Two HIST-CHF music concerts at the ACS fall national meetings have spread our wings and added value to the entire ACS and given HIST special visibility (thanks to chemist-pianist Vicki Bragin).

HIST's greatest strength is its members and our diversity of interests, experiences, and talents. Perhaps this can be best exemplified by the remarkable differences of our past few Chairs, the current Chair, and our newly elected Chair-Elect. But the greatest similarities, which we all share, are our commitment to HIST, our passion to support HIST's mission, and our promises to our members and to the ACS.

It has been a pleasure and a blessing to have helped lead HIST forward these past few years. It has been an honor to work with and share so many experiences with so many of you. Thanks! *Jeff*

## **Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 10, 2006**

### **Election Results**

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Committees for the 2007-2009 term: Theodore M. Brown, H. N. Cheng, Milagros Delgado, Alan M. Ehrlich, Roland F. Hirsch, Neil D. Jespersen, Melanie J. Lesko, Vincent M. Mautino, Les W. McQuire and Charles F. Rowell. By written ballot the Council elected H. N. Cheng, Milagros Delgado, Neil D. Jespersen, Les W. McQuire and Charles F. Rowell.

The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Council Policy Committee for the 2007-2009 term: Martha L. Casey, Dwight W. Chasar, M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert, Joe W. Hightower, Barbara J. Peterson, Robert A. Pribush, and H. David Wohlers. By written ballot the Council elected Martha L. Casey, M. Elizabeth Derrick, Thomas R. Gilbert and Joe W. Hightower.

The Council Policy Committee presented to the Council the following slate of nominees for membership on the Committee on Nominations and Elections: V. Dean Adams, G. Bryan Balazs, Merle I. Eiss, Marie G. Hankins, Charles P. Rader, Barbara A. Sawrey, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Herbert B. Silber, Ellen B. Stechel and Don B. Weser. By written ballot the Council elected Merle I. Eiss, Barbara A. Sawrey, Sharon P. Shoemaker, Herbert B. Silber and Ellen B. Stechel.

### **Candidates for President-Elect and Board of Directors**

#### **President-Elect 2007**

Bruce E. Bursten, University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Yorke E. Rhodes, Retired - New York University, New York  
Bassam Z. Shakhshiri, University of Wisconsin, Madison  
James A. Walsh, Retired - John Carroll University, Florida

#### **Directors-at-Large – 2007-2009**

William H. (Jack) Breazeale, Jr. College of Charleston, South Carolina  
Dennis Chamot, National Research Council, Washington, D.C.  
Peter K. Dorhout, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins  
Paul R. Jones, University of North Texas, Denton  
Valerie J. Kuck, Retired - Bell Labs, New Jersey  
Dorothy J. Phillips, Waters Corporation, Massachusetts  
Marinda L. Wu, Science is Fun! Company, California

#### **Director, District I 2007-2009**

Thomas R. Gilbert, Northeastern University, Boston  
Anne T. O'Brien, Consultant (Retired – Wyeth-Ayerst Research), Tarrytown

#### **Director, District V 2007-2009**

John E. Adams, University of Missouri, Columbia  
Judith L. Benham, Retired – 3M Company, Minnesota

### **Petitions for Consideration**

The Council received three petitions for consideration: Petition on Election Procedures 2006; Petition on Multi-Year Dues; and a Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of Nominations and Elections for National Offices. A brief discussion ensued on the Petition on Rules for Nominating Members of Nominations and Elections for National Offices. Action is expected on these petitions at the 2007 spring national meeting in Chicago.

### **Committee Review and Committee Change in Status**

As part of a regular review, the Council VOTED to continue the Committee on Public Relations and Communication, the Committee on Environmental Improvement, and the Committee on International Activities subject to concurrence by the Board of Directors. The Council also VOTED to support the request of the Committee on Community Activities that its status be changed from an "other committee" of the Board to a joint Board-Council Committee. The purpose of the Committee on Community Activities is to improve the public perception of chemistry by providing programs to connect chemists with their communities.

### **Governance Review**

The Council received a report from the Council Policy Committee on activities related to Governance Review. The Board-CPC Governance Review Task Force generated 23 ideas following initial interaction with the Board, Council, Committees and other interested members. A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and CPC was held at this meeting to prioritize the 23 ideas into three categories: to advance the idea as worthy of further consideration by the cognizant committee and/or interested groups; to refine the idea which will be sent back to the Governance Review Task Force for further consideration; or to place the idea in a "stop" category as an idea that will receive no further consideration as part of the governance review. Councilors received a listing of the 23 ideas organized into the three categories as prioritized jointly by the Board and CPC.

### **Registration Report and 2007 National Meeting Registration Fee**

As of September 12, 2006, the ACS fall national meeting had attracted 15,603 registrants. Totals in select categories are as follows: Regular attendees 9,373; Students 3,350; Guests 510; Exhibit Only 504; and Exhibitors 1,666. The Committee on Meetings and Expositions reported that national meeting financial targets continue to be met, and therefore recommended to the Board of Directors that there be no increase in national meeting registration fees for 2007.

### **The Society's Membership**

The Committee on Membership Affairs reported that through August 2006, a record 12,137 new applicants have been added to the Society's membership, and that the Member-Get-A-Member campaign is well on its way to the goal of 1,000 new members in this year.

### **Special Discussion Item**

A special discussion item was again put on the Council agenda. The discussion focused on ensuring the American Chemical Society's future by engaging younger members throughout the Society's volunteer leadership. ACS President E. Ann Nalley framed the discussion by presenting the results of a councilor survey on the topic and many councilors offered useful comments and suggestions.

### **Review of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct**

The Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs submitted its latest version of the Chemical Professional's Code of Conduct for Council review. This document offers guidance for Society members in various professional dealings, especially those involving conflicts of interest.

### **Of Special Interest to HIST Members**

It was announced at the meeting that a special two-hour NOVA presentation, "Forgotten Genius," documenting the life and accomplishments of Percy Lavon Julian, will premier nationally in February, 2007. For a program preview and more, visit [pbs.org/nova/julian](http://pbs.org/nova/julian).

### **Activities Of HIST Councilors**

**Ben Chastain** continues to serve on the Divisional Activities Committee and to co-chair the Divisional Enhancement Subcommittee. Also continues as liaison to the Committee on Public Relations and Communication. **Mary Virginia Orna** continues her second term on the Committee on Committees. She serves as committee liaison to the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications and to the Committee on Technician Affairs.

*Ben B. Chastain, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors*

### **HIST Fall Election Results**

Janan Hayes is Chair-Elect, assuming the position of Chair in 2009. Vera Mainz remains Secretary/Treasurer. Carmen Giunta will replace the retiring Ben Chastain as Councilor in 2008; at that time, Peter Ramberg will become Alternate Councilor.

Chair-Elect: Janan Hayes, 71; Seth Rasmussen, 44

Secretary/Treasure: Vera Mainz, 109; Other, 0

Councilor: Frankie Wood-Black, 41; Carmen Giunta, 66; James Marshall, 56; Peter Ramberg, 61.

*Steve Weininger, Chair, Mary Virginia Orna, Joe Jeffers, Nominating Committee*

### **General Papers Sessions Need Presenters**

Keep up the good work! After having only three General Papers in Atlanta and two in San Francisco, we have eight General Papers scheduled for Chicago. **Please consider presenting at Boston** (August 2007) or **New Orleans** (April 2008).

*Joe Jeffers, HIST Program Chair*

### **Anthony S. Travis to Receive the 2007 Edelstein Award**

The Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society (HIST) announces that Anthony S. Travis of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem has been selected to receive the 2007 Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of

Chemistry. Travis was chosen from a group of international nominees primarily for his work on the history of the synthetic dyestuffs industry and the history of the European chemical industry in general. Author of almost a hundred papers on chemistry, education, and the history of science and technology, Travis is also the author of the monographs: *The Colour Chemists* (1983); *The High Pressure Chemists* (1984); *Farbenindustrie* (1984); *The Rainbow Makers: The Origin of the Synthetic Dyestuffs Industry in Western Europe* (1993); *From Turkey Red to Tyrian Purple: Textile Colours for the Industrial Revolution* (1994); *Heinrich Caro and the Creation of Modern Chemical Industry* (2000); and *Dyes Made in America, 1915–1980* (2004). He has also co-edited, among others, *The Chemical Industry in Europe: 1850–1914* (1998) and *Determinants in the Development of the European Chemical Industry, 1900–1939* (1998). Since 1988 Travis has served as Deputy Director of the Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine in Jerusalem. The Edelstein Award consists of an engraved plaque and a check for \$3500 and is supported by a gift from Ruth Edelstein Barish and family to HIST. The award is partially supported by the Chemical Heritage Foundation of Philadelphia and will be presented to Travis at the fall national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Boston in August of 2007.

### **HIST Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs**

The HIST Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs award for the 1900 publication in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* by Moses Gomberg on the identification of the first free radical will be presented to the Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan during the **Landmark Stable Free Radicals of the 20th Century** symposium Monday morning, March 26.

### **HIST Symposia, 233<sup>nd</sup> ACS Meeting in Chicago, IL March 25-29, 2007**

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

**Landmark Chemistry Books of the Twentieth Century III: Authors from the University of Illinois** This symposium, **Sunday, March 25, a.m., p.m.**, features classic chemistry books that were written by faculty and staff at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) (R. C. Fuson, T. Moeller, J. C. Bailar, Jr., Marion Sparks, A. J. Bard and L. R. Faulkner, W. H. Flygare, R. S. Drago, H. Malmstadt, and C. Enke), series that started at UIUC (Organic Syntheses, Organic Reactions, and Inorganic Syntheses), or those that evolved at UIUC (Chemical Abstracts). [Cosponsors: Bolton Society, ACS East Central Illinois Section, CHED, CINF]  
*Vera Mainz, Organizer*

### **Landmark Stable Free Radicals of the 20th Century**

The symposium covers the years from 1900, when Moses Gomberg made triphenylmethyl, the first stable organic radical, to 1991, when Minoru Takahashi synthesized p-nitrophenyl nitronyl nitroxide, the first organic ferromagnet. The symposium emphasizes both the chemistry and the discoverers. The remainder of the six-paper symposium includes presentations on nitroxide chemistry, starting in 1914 with Wieland's synthesis of diphenyl



nitroxide, and going into the modern era with chemists such as Lebedev, Rozantsev, Hoffman, and Rassat; the 1922 synthesis of DPPH by Goldschmidt; the initial synthesis (1932) and belated publication (1957) of Koelsch's radical; and the discovery in 1963 by Russell of the great stability of semidiones, anion radicals of alpha diketones. This ninety-one year period produced fascinating chemistry and significant chemical figures. Join us **Monday a.m., March 26**. [Cosponsor: ORGN]

*Tom Strom, organizer*

### **ACS Chemical Landmarks Program: Celebrating the History of Chemistry**

A discussion of the ACS National Historic Chemical Landmarks Program as a tool in the promotion of the history of chemistry will take place **Monday p.m., March 26**. How effective is the Landmarks' program in instilling pride among the practitioners of chemistry and in reaching the larger public with the message that chemistry and the quality of modern life are interwoven? The symposium also looks at the origins of the program, its goals, and the debts it owes to earlier examples of national historic preservation as well as divergences with those programs and the benefits of a Landmark designation. Further, the symposium looks at International Landmarks as a tool in promoting cooperation among national chemical societies. In addition, a methodological and historiographical question is posed: Who writes the better history of chemistry - historians or chemists?

*Judd Ginsberg, Organizer*

### **Going with the Flow: Water Sustainability: Past, Present, Future**

This Presidential symposium will present an overview of water purification from ancient times to the present including: Instrumental and commercial developments of water purification from 1900-2000; Development of ion exchange for water purification; Low impact methods of water purification for developing countries; and Future of water purification for the world. Join us **Tuesday a.m., March 27**. Concluding remarks will be offered by ACS President Katie Hunt. [Cosponsors: PRES, SUST, and ENVR]

*Mary Virginia Orna, Organizer*

### **HIST at 85: Looking Back and Looking Ahead**

HIST will celebrate its 85th Birthday with a special symposium **Tuesday p.m.** and dinner **Tuesday evening, March 27**. The symposium will focus on the role of HIST and the history of chemistry in the ACS and in the chemical profession, including looking back at HIST's origins and growth, communicating the history of chemistry to different audiences, HIST's relationships with the ACS and the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and a look ahead to new trends in the history of chemistry. The speakers are Rudy Baum (Editor-in-Chief, *Chemical & Engineering News*), Denise Creech (ACS Director, Division of Membership and Scientific Advancement), Arnold Thackray (President, Chemical Heritage Foundation), Paul Jones (Editor, *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*), Jim Bohning (HIST Archivist and Historian), Carmen Giunta (noted historian of chemistry) and Jeff Seeman (HIST Immediate Past Chair). The dinner will be at the Szechwan Restaurant, 625 N. Michigan Avenue,

<http://szechwanchicago.com/>. Tickets are \$45, available through ACS registration or on-site at HIST sessions.

*Jeff Seeman and Jim Bohning, organizers*

### **Hog Butchers, Tool Makers, and Stackers of Wheat: Chicago-area Chemical Industry and Government-Sponsored Laboratories**

The chemical industry and government-sponsored labs are well represented in the Chicago area. Obitier Research, a relatively young private company, specializes in custom manufacturing of materials that are typically difficult to produce. The National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research laboratory has a long and distinguished history of significant contributions to the field of applied carbohydrate chemistry; the lab is best known for its role in the development of penicillin. The Agricultural Research Service conducts research on new uses of agricultural commodities, metabolic engineering, fermentation, food safety, environmental quality, biomaterials, and processing technologies. DSM Desotech has a long and rich history of developing radiation curable products, including highly specialized coatings for the optical fiber industry. Several strands of history will be woven together to give an integrated view of the life cycle of the white lead paint industry in Chicago. From a core technology in industrial water treatment, Nalco has developed innovative products and programs for the pulp and paper, mining, automotive, catalyst, metal finishing, and petroleum industries. **Wednesday a.m., March 28** [Cosponsors: ACS Chicago Section, PROF, SCHB, and I&EC]

*Ken Fivizzani, Organizer*

### **Educating the Laughing, Stormy, Husky Youth of the Midwest: Chicago-Area Colleges and Universities**

This **Wednesday p.m., March 28** symposium explores how the teaching of chemistry is central to the educational mission of many schools. Two urban research universities present their colorful histories and impact on Chicago. A college specializing in the arts, media, and communications also incorporates chemistry into its curriculum. Chemistry is a major discipline at a premier community college that is larger than many universities. Learning and lecturing preferences of an incoming class of pharmacy students is the topic of another presentation. A state-supported math and science academy prepares talented students to assume leadership roles in future developments of science and technology. [Cosponsors: ACS Chicago Section, PROF, and CHED]

*Ken Fivizzani, Organizer*

## **HIST Cosponsored Events**

### **Claude S. Hudson Award in Carbohydrate Chemistry: Symposium in Honor of Pierre Sinaÿ, Monday, March 26, a.m and p.m.**

The Claude S. Hudson Award was established by the Carbohydrate Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society in 1946 to recognize outstanding contributions to carbohydrate chemistry whether in education, research, or applications. This year the ACS has elected Professor Pierre Sinaÿ of Ecole Normale Supérieure, at the University of Paris VI, to receive this award for his outstanding contributions to the field of carbohydrate

chemistry. This symposium that will take place on **Sunday, March 25**, starting at McCormick Place. The speakers will include Pierre Sinaÿ, Carolyn Bertozzi (University of California-Berkeley), David Bundle (University of Alberta), Laura Kiessling (University of Wisconsin-Madison), David Crich (University of Illinois- Chicago), Chi-Huey Wong (The Scripps Research Institute), Pierre Vogel (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne-Switzerland), Ganesh Venkataraman (Momenta Pharmaceuticals, Inc.), Bert Fraser-Reid (Natural Products and Glycotechnology Research Institute, Inc.), Robert J. Linhardt (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), and Muthiah Manoharan (Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc.) For additional information please contact [mmanoharan@alnylam.com](mailto:mmanoharan@alnylam.com) . [Sponsored by CARB; Cosponsored with HIST, MEDI, and ORGN]  
*Muthiah Manoharan, Organizer*

## UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINE

Offerings are subject to change. Check the [HIST website](http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/) (<http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>) for updates.

### BOSTON, AUGUST 19-23, 2007

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System ([OASYS](#)) by **April 6, 2007**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact Joe Jeffers. Check the call for papers in [Chemical and Engineering News](#) or the [ACS website](#) for changes in the abstract deadlines.

**General Papers.** (**Seeking contributors**) Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

**Chemical Abstract Service 100th Anniversary Presidential Symposium.** (Invited) [Sponsor: PRES; co-sponsor: HIST] Mary Virginia Orna, Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10805, Phone: (914) 654-5302, Fax: (914) 654-5387, Email: [mvorna@cnr.edu](mailto:mvorna@cnr.edu).

**Edelstein Award Symposium Honoring Anthony S. Travis.** (Invited) Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

**Landmark Chemistry Books of the Twentieth Century IV – Spectroscopy.** (Invited) [co-sponsors: Bolton Society; CHED] Ronald K. Smeltzer, 162 Cedar Lane, Princeton, NJ 08540, Phone: (609) 924-4789, Email: [mailto:rksmeltzer@worldnet.att.net](mailto:mailto:rksmeltzer@worldnet.att.net)

**Leo Hendrik Baekeland and the Invention of Bakelite: 100 Years of Plastics.** (**Seeking contributors**) Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

## **NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 6-10, 2008**

Symposia ideas are still being accepted. Contact Joe Jeffers. Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System ([OASYS](#)) by **November 23, 2007** (tentative). If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact Joe Jeffers.

**General Papers.** (**Seeking contributors**) Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: [jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)

**A Festival of Chemistry Entertainment.** (Invited) [co-sponsors: Bolton Society; CHED] Jack Stocker, University of New Orleans, 2224 Royal Street, New Orleans, LA 70117, Phone: (504) 942-1444, Fax: (504) 280-6860, Email: [JStocker@cox.net](mailto:JStocker@cox.net)

**Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs.** (Invited) Jeffrey I. Seeman, SaddlePoint Frontiers, 12001 Bollingbrook Place, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone: (804) 794-1218, Email: [jiseeman@yahoo.com](mailto:jiseeman@yahoo.com)

## **NEWS FROM THE CHEMICAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

The Chemical Heritage Foundation serves the community of the chemical and molecular sciences, and the wider public, by treasuring the past, educating the present, and inspiring the future. <http://www.chemheritage.org/> The Chemical Heritage Foundation is currently undergoing a major renovation of the first and second floors of the 1865 portion of its building. Scheduled to open in late summer of 2008, the new exhibits and conference center will include approximately 8,000 square feet of exhibition space. The two-story Masao Horiba Exhibit Hall will house the [Arnold O. Beckman Permanent Exhibit](#) and the [Clifford C. Hach Gallery](#). The E. I. DuPont Conference Center will be a multi-use space with six conference rooms offering prime views of Philadelphia's historic Old City district. The conference center will accommodate up to 180 people at any given time and will be available for various meetings and events.

## **CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE HISTORICAL GROUP OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY**

The Historical Group exists to encourage an interest in the history of chemistry and chemical industry among members of the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and others. Membership is open to non-members of the RSC and embraces a wide range from those whose interest in the history of chemistry is a hobby to teachers of chemistry at all levels and professional historians. The Group holds twice-yearly meetings when academic papers are read and discussed. Summaries of papers read at these meetings are included in the Historical Group Newsletter along with reviews of recent books in the subject and news of other meetings and forthcoming events. The Newsletter is published twice yearly. Contributions of not more than 500 words on topics of current interest in the history of chemistry are invited for inclusion at the discretion of the Editor. For more information, go to <http://www.chem.qmul.ac.uk/rschg/>. For membership forms, contact Dr. John Hudson, membership secretary, [johnhudson25@hotmail.com](mailto:johnhudson25@hotmail.com).

### **From the Incoming Editor**

It is with some trepidation that I present to you the first of my RSC Historical Group Newsletters, having taken over the task of editor from Cassie Watson whose hard work and dedication have helped to make it a great success. I thank all of you who have sent me items for inclusion in this issue, and apologise 1) for any items I may have omitted. Please send me reminders and I will do my best to ensure that they are included the next time around; 2) for the delay in producing it. I blame it on 'the book', which has occupied most of my time this summer, but shall be pleased to offer it to the group for reviewing when it comes out, hopefully soon. May I take this opportunity to thank José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez for producing the only book review included in this issue, and to encourage you to send me reviews of books in the history of chemistry and related topics which you have found interesting and/or significant. Please send your contributions to ([vquirke@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:vquirke@brookes.ac.uk)) as an attachment in Word or rich text format, or on CD Rom (post to 16 Drayton Road, Dorchester-on-Thames, OXON, OX10 7PJ). We are also pleased to accept photographs, but these need to be sent to me in hard copy form to the address above. *Viviane Quirke*

### **News and Updates**

**The Liebig-Wöhler-Freundschaft-Preis** was awarded by the Göttinger Chemischen Gesellschaft to the pharmacist Dr Christine Stock of Mainaschaff, Germany, for her University of Marburg dissertation, "Robert Wilhelm Bunsens Korrespondenz vor dem Antritt der heidelberger Professor (1852) - Kritische Edition". The work was done at the Institute for the History of Pharmacy in Marburg and will be published by Wissenschaftlichen Verlagsgesellschaft, Stuttgart during 2006. The prize is funded by the Wilhelm-Lewicki-Stiftung (Ludwigshafen).

### **The Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC)**

A report on the activities (2001-05) of the CHMC, written by CHMC's president (Professor Christoph Meinel), is available at:

(<http://www.euchems.org/Divisions/History/AnnualReports.asp>). The CHMC is a Commission of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science / Division of History of Science. Its aim is to focus interest on, and to create a framework for, research on the history of modern chemistry with particular emphasis on twentieth-century chemistry in its relationship to the biomedical sciences, physics, instrumentation, and technology. The CHMC website is at <http://www-wissenschaftsgeschichte.uni-regensburg.de/CHMC.htm>

**The European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS)** was founded 15 October 2004, thereby taking over the role and responsibilities of the Federation of European Chemical Societies (FECS), founded in 1970. EuCheMS has about 50 member societies in over 35 countries across Europe. The process of acquiring legal status as 'Association Internationale sans but lucratif' under Belgian law is almost completed; EuCheMS will have its own office in Brussels, in close cooperation with CEFIC, the association of European chemical industries. For more information, see:

<http://www.euchems.org/>

### **Groupe de la Société Française de Chimie**

Some of you may find the following websites useful. They were provided by Laurence Lestel, President of the Club d'Histoire de la Chimie, [lestel@cnam.fr](mailto:lestel@cnam.fr) in their Newsletter No. 4.

<http://www.euchems.org/Divisions/History/index.asp>

EuCheMS (European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences) History Division.

<http://histsciences.univ-paris1.fr/>

Website for the history of science and technology in Europe.

<http://gallica.bnf.fr>

Website of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

<http://cnum.cnam.fr>

Digital library of the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers

<http://www.bibliotheque.polytechnique.fr/centrehistorique/crh.htm>

Website of the Historical Centre of the Ecole Polytechnique.

<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/index.html>

Website of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin).

<http://www.ihst.ru>

Russian Academy of Sciences. Website of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology.

<http://web.lemoyne.edu/~giunta/papers.html>

Selection of English-language papers relevant to the history of chemistry.

### **Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry**

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry caters for all those who are interested in the history of the chemical sciences or alchemy. It publishes a learned journal, *Ambix*, three times per year, and holds two one-day conferences each year, usually in London. See <http://www.ambix.org>. For details of how to join the Society, please see the on-line form (follow the links from the main page), or contact the Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Dr Noel Coley, 24 Kayemoor Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5HT [n.g.coley@surrey28.freemove.co.uk].

**Working Party on History of Chemistry (WP)** was founded in Budapest in 1977. Since September 2003 it has been chaired by Professor Ernst Homburg (Maastricht). The aims of the WP are

- to promote and, when necessary, coordinate activities on the history of chemistry in Europe; especially those activities which involve more than one country;
- to exchange information on the activities of national history of chemistry groups;
- to stimulate interest in the history of their discipline among European chemists, especially among members of the societies which participate in the EuCheMS
- to inform the public at large on the social role of chemistry, via historical narratives.

During the last few years, the main activity has been the organisation of bi-annual conferences. But, since 2003, small task forces have also been formed for specific activities: history of chemical education; history of analytical chemistry; chemical heritage. Information on the activities of the WP can be found on its website,

<http://www.euchems.org/Divisions/History/index.asp>



## **RSC National Historical Chemical Landmarks**

The RSC Historical Chemical Landmark Scheme was introduced to commemorate, highlight and awaken public interest in historic developments within the chemical sciences. A maximum of four sites are awarded landmark status each year. Members of the Historical Group who have an interest in any of these events or who have any information that would be of use in the planning of the activities are welcome to contact Pauline Meakins, External Promotion Manager, Royal Society of Chemistry, Thomas Graham House, Science Park, Milton Road, Cambridge CB4 0WF, UK (meakinsp@rsc.org).

**National Chemical Landmark Award, Hexagon Site, Blackley, Manchester,** unveiled on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2006. French dyer Louis Borelle came to England in 1781 intent on starting up a Turkey Red dyeing business. His chosen site was in the Blackley/Crumpsall area two miles to the north-east of Manchester and his factory was certainly in operation by 1786. In 1864 ambitious young chemist Ivan Levinstein came from Berlin to start work at Blackley on the recently discovered synthetic “coal tar” dyes. Although he engaged in the manufacture of established dyes such as magenta, he pursued a research programme that led to the discovery of his own commercial products. “Blackley Blue” (1870) was one of his early dyes that enjoyed a popularity well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Until 1914 Britain imported 80% of its synthetic dyes from Germany and the remaining 20% synthesised from organic precursors that were themselves imported from Germany. The advent of World War 1 meant that we had to expand our own industry and by the end of the war Levinstein’s was one of the country’s leading producers of dyestuffs. In 1919 it amalgamated with British Dyes Ltd to form the British Dyestuffs Corporation Ltd and the new firm controlled some 75% of the UK’s entire dye production. However to challenge the world market it was thought necessary to integrate the major British chemical firms into one large combine and in 1926 Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI) was formed by merger of the British Dyestuffs Corporation, Brunner Mond Ltd, Nobel Industries and United Alkali. The new company, at least before the 1930s recession, was very successful. In its first year of life it employed 33,000 workers, sold £27 million of products and yielded a pre-tax profit of £4.5 million. The Blackley operation diversified into synthetic pharmaceuticals (from 1936) but its expansion was curtailed by the advent of WW2. Nevertheless, 1942 saw the start of a programme designed to develop anti-malarial drugs. Its success was *Paludrine*, first marketed in 1946. In 1944 part of its plant was converted for the large-scale production of penicillin which was first offered as a treatment for wound infections to our troops of the D-Day landings. But the main thrust at Blackley was research into synthetic dyes and their manufacture. Dyeing cotton (except with indigo) has always remained problematic, with the existing dyes generally showing a poor fastness to washing. The discovery of the reactive dyes in 1956 (the Procion range) changed all that. The dye molecules were henceforth to be fastened to the cotton substrate by means of covalent bonds and prised off only with difficulty. By 1961 14,000 people worked at Blackley, but increasingly the shift of textile manufacturing to Asia lowered the demand for dyes in the UK. ICI split into two sections (ICI and Zeneca) in 1993 with Zeneca retaining the dye business. This company sold its textile dye section to BASF in 1996, just retaining its profitable ink-jet dye operation. This formed part of a management buy-out scheme in 1999, with the company adopting the name *Avecia*. Its headquarters was the eleven-storey Hexagon Tower on the Blackley works. Avecia is currently divesting itself of several of its business groups, and the ink-jet activities were sold to Fuji Photo Film in February 2006. Now

much of the former Blackley operation has disappeared. Manufacturing stopped some years ago and the factory areas are earmarked for housing. Only a handful of employees remain on the site, compared to the 14,000 in 1961. Then it was the largest research facility in Europe. As such it occupies an important position in the history of the world's chemical industry, and the dyestuffs industry in particular. It is for this reason that it wholly deserves the award of an RSC National Chemical Landmark Plaque, which will be permanently on view in the foyer of Hexagon Tower. *Alan Dronsfield*