



American Chemical Society  
Division of the History of Chemistry

**Newsletter**

236<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting  
Philadelphia, PA  
August 17-21, 2008

J. S. Jeffers, Program Chair

## DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

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## Mission Statement

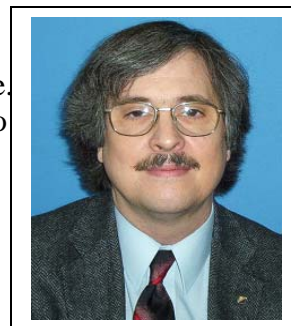
The Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST - <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>) of the American Chemical Society (ACS) seeks to advance knowledge and appreciation of the history of the chemical sciences among chemists, students, historians of science, and the broader public by

- 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,

It is amazing how fast time flies. It seems like yesterday that I was writing my first Chair's message and now I am writing my final one. The divisional torch will be passed in January 2009 to Janan Hayes, who also serves the ACS as a member of the Board of Directors. I'd like to recognize the work of a few people who will be leaving the HIST executive committee at the end of this year. I especially want to thank Joe Jeffers for his hard work the past four years as Program Chair. Programming at the national meetings forms the heart of what HIST does, and Joe has carried out his duties superbly. Seth Rasmussen has agreed to take over the Program Chair duties in 2009. He is currently learning the ropes by serving as Assistant Program Chair this year.



I'd also like to offer a special thank you to Jeff Seeman for all the work he has done as he finishes his final year as Past Chair. Jeff revitalized the division with his many new initiatives, especially his creation of the Citations for Chemical Breakthrough Award.

I'd like to welcome John Sharkey of Pace University to the executive committee of the division in his new role of division Archivist. Our long-time Archivist/Historian, Jim Bohning has decided to step down from his Archivist role. He has organized and catalogued the division's archives and placed them for permanent safe keeping at the Chemical Heritage Foundation. These archives are available for use by members of the division. Jim will remain Division Historian during 2009 as he puts the finishing touches on a series of seven papers that he plans to publish in the Bulletin for the History of Chemistry covering the history of the Division from its founding to the present day.

I also want to acknowledge the contributions of rest of the executive committee I've worked with during my years as Program Chair, Chair-Elect, and Chair: Mary Virginia Orna, Vera Mainz, Carmen Giunta, Paul Jones, Ben Chastain, Al Kirsch, Harold Goldwhite, Steve

Weininger, Richard Rice, and Dave Lewis. If I have forgotten anyone, I apologize, it wasn't intentional!

I hope to see many of you in Philadelphia. We have an excellent meeting planned, but I'll leave it up to Joe Jeffers to tell you all about it.

Sincerely,  
*Roger*

## **Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 9, 2008**

### **Election Results**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections presented to the Council the following nominees for selection as candidates for President-Elect, 2009: Thomas J. Barton, R. Stephen Berry, Joseph S. Francisco, and Josef Michl. By written ballot, the Council selected Joseph S. Francisco and Josef Michl as candidates for 2009 President-Elect. These two candidates will stand for election in the Fall National Election.
- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election to select candidates from the list of nominees to represent District III and District VI on the Board of Directors for the term 2009-2011. Nominees for District III included: Pat N. Confalone, Alan B. Cooper, Catherine C. Fenselau, and Judith A. Summers-Gates. Nominees for District VI included Bonnie A. Charpentier, Gary D. Christian, David M. Dooley, and Dennis L. Lichtenberger. By mail ballot, the Councilors from these districts selected Pat N. Confalone and Alan B. Cooper as District III candidates; and as District VI candidates, Bonnie A. Charpentier and Dennis L. Lichtenberger. Ballots will be mailed on or before October 10 to all members in District III and District VI for election of a Director from each District.

### **Candidates for Directors-at-Large**

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the selection of the following candidates for Directors-at-Large for a 2009-2011 term: William F. Carroll, Jr., Richard L. Deming, Thomas R. Gilbert, and Marinda Li Wu. The election of two Directors-at-Large will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be mailed to the Council on or before October 10.

### **Petitions**

(For Action)

- The Council received three amendments to the ACS Bylaws (Petitions) for action: the Petition on Election Procedures for President-Elect and District Director, the Petition on Election Procedures 2006, Part 2, and the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements.
  - The Council VOTED to approve the Petition on Election Procedures for President Elect and District Director. This petition seeks to make the balloting procedure more uniform and to avoid the complications and expense of run-off elections.
  - The Council engaged in a lively debate on the Petition on Election Procedures 2006, Part 2, and entertained two motions: a motion to recommit and a motion for a recorded vote. Both motions failed. The Council ultimately VOTED by a show of hands to approve the Petition on Election Procedures 2006, Part 2. This petition standardizes election processes for President-Elect and all Director positions based on percentages of voting

members, and increases the number of required signatures.

o The Council also debated the merits of the Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements and ultimately VOTED to approve this petition via a recorded vote. This petition broadens qualifications for membership and creates a new category of student membership. The Board of Directors will vote within 90 days on whether to ratify the approved petitions. The Petition on Membership Categories and Requirements contains changes to the ACS Constitution, and not just the Bylaws. Therefore, these changes must be approved by ACS members in the fall to be valid.

(For Consideration)

- The Council received one petition for consideration: Society Affiliate Dues. This petition sets Society Affiliate dues equal to the (full) membership dues, and not subject to any of the discounts otherwise applicable to membership dues. Action is expected on the petition at the fall meeting.

(Withdrawn)

- Local Section and Division Election Procedures was withdrawn. This petition offers resolutions for handling tie votes in Councilor or Alternate Councilor elections in a local section or division.

### **2009 Member Dues**

- The Council voted to set member dues for 2009 at the fully escalated rate of \$140. This rate is established pursuant to an inflation-adjustment formula in the ACS Constitution and Bylaws.

### **The Society's Finances**

- The Society ended 2007 with a net from operations of \$9.6 million, which was \$2.2 million favorable to the approved budget. This was based on total revenues of \$444.2 million and total expenses of \$434.6 million. The Society ended the year in full compliance with the Board established financial guidelines.

### **Attendance Report**

- As of April 9, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 13,302 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 6,681; Students 4,659; Exhibitors 1,156; Exposition only 374; and Guests 432.

### **Revision of the Division Funding Formula**

- After considerable discussion, the Council VOTED to recommit the revised division funding formula, as presented by the Divisional Activities Committee, to the committee for further action at the fall national meeting. This formula could affect the amounts of money that the HIST Division receives from ACS. One of the key points is the question of co-sponsorship, and there will be two categories of co-sponsorship in the future: nominal and active. Only the latter will be eligible to share the funds received by the Division.

### **Member Statistics**

- At the close of 2007, Society membership totaled 160,052, despite a net loss of 439 members at the end of the year. Also, 2007 recorded the second highest number of new applications, 16,533.

### **Academic Professional Guidelines**

- The Council VOTED to approve the Academic Professional Guidelines as submitted by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs. These guidelines apply to those members of the academic community whose job function impacts directly or indirectly on scientists

practicing the profession of chemistry.

### **Activities of HIST Councilors**

**Carmen Giunta** was appointed an associate member of the Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) and the Committee on Nomenclature, Terminology, and Symbols (NOM) as well as a consultant to the ad hoc Committee on National Historic Chemical Landmarks. On the DAC, he will serve on the Divisional Enhancement subcommittee and as liaison to the Divisions of History of Chemistry and Chemical Information. He attended the committee meetings in New Orleans.

**Mary Virginia Orna** was elected to a three-year term on the Council Policy Committee (CPC), which acts as the Executive Committee of the Council as a whole. She will also be serving on the CPC Subcommittee on Constitution and Bylaws and the CPC Subcommittee on Long Range Planning.

*Carmen Giunta, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors*

### **HIST Fall Elections**

HIST will be holding elections for the following positions:

- Chair-Elect (the winner will succeed to the Chair in two years)
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Councilor

The nominating committee urges members to send suggestions of candidates for the positions. In addition to the names put forward by the nominating committee, the ballot will contain spaces for members to write in the names of other candidates.

Elections not only allow us to choose members who will carry on the current work of the Division, they also allow us to identify those of our colleagues who may be available to assume those responsibilities in the future. Thus the Nominating Committee urges all HIST members to vote and help determine the future of the Division. Later this fall, you will receive a ballot along with biographical statements by the candidates.

*Albert Kirsch ([askirsch@yahoo.com](mailto:askirsch@yahoo.com)), David Lewis ([lewisd@uwec.edu](mailto:lewisd@uwec.edu)), Nominating Committee*

### **HIST Strategic Plan**

HIST is looking for volunteers to assist in the finalization and implementation of a divisional strategic plan. We held a successful planning session in New Orleans that was facilitated by ACS national staff. Twelve division members, half from the executive committee and half from the membership at large, participated in that session. I am now in the process of forming committees to expand and implement the working document that we created in New Orleans. If you are willing to help in any capacity, large or small, please email me.

*Roger Egolf ([rae4@psu.edu](mailto:rae4@psu.edu)), Chair*

### **HIST Becomes a Separate and Distinct Affiliate of CHF**

HIST will reestablish an official affiliation with CHF following a final formal approval of the ACS Committee on Division Activities during their fall meeting in Philadelphia. HIST has long had an informal relationship with CHF as is evidenced by the record in our newsletter of joint activities. One advantage of this new formal affiliation is that we will have a representative on the Heritage Council. Further information on this affiliation will appear in the next Newsletter.

*Janan Hayes, Chair-Elect*

### ***Bulletin for the History of Chemistry***

Members of HIST receive the *Bulletin* as part of their annual dues, which financially support its publication. It appears semiannually, in February and September. The next issue will be Volume 33, Number 2. Extra copies may be ordered through Vera Mainz, HIST Secretary/Treasurer, at \$20 each. All back issues are available at the same rate. About 70 academic libraries hold subscriptions to the *Bulletin*. If your library lacks a subscription, you should encourage your acquisitions librarian to consider one of the best bargains in periodicals. We are always seeking new reviewers of manuscripts and recent books. If you are interested, please let me know.

*Paul R. Jones* ([prjones@umich.edu](mailto:prjones@umich.edu)), Editor

### **Seth Rasmussen Named HIST Program Chair and Newsletter Editor**

It has been my pleasure to serve as HIST Program Chair and Newsletter Editor for the past four years. I assure you that Seth Rasmussen will be an excellent Program Chair. He brings consummate skills to the position. Seth earned his B.S. (chemistry, 1990) from Washington State University and his PhD from Clemson University, studying inorganic chemistry under Dr. John Peterson. He completed a postdoctoral study at the University of Oregon, studying conjugated polymers under Dr. James Hutchison. Afterward, he accepted a teaching position in organic chemistry at the University of Oregon, during which he actively began pursuing his interest in the history of chemistry with the development of an upper level survey course on the History of Chemistry. Seth joined the faculty at North Dakota State University in 1999. In addition to his primary research in organic materials, he has continued both teaching and research in the history of chemistry and was awarded a 2002 CAREER award from the NSF for his work in both materials and history. He was co-organizer of two national symposia (with Dave Lewis, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire) on the use of the history of chemistry in chemical education. These symposia led to a chapter (with Carmen Giunta, Le Moyne College) in the 2nd edition of *Chemistry in the National Science Education Standards*, to be published by ACS in July 2008.

*Joe Jeffers*. Program Chair

### **Call for Nominations for the 2009 Edelstein Award**

The Division of History of Chemistry solicits nominations for the 2009 Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry. This award, first given in 2002, honors the memory of the late Sidney M. Edelstein, who established the Dexter Award in 1956, and continues the tradition of the Dexter Award for Outstanding Achievements in the History of Chemistry, which was discontinued after 2001. Lists of previous recipients are available at <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>. The Edelstein Award is sponsored by Ruth Edelstein Barish and family and is administered by HIST. The recipient is presented with an engraved plaque and the sum of \$3500, usually at a symposium honoring the recipient at the Fall National Meeting of the ACS. The award is international in scope, and nominations are welcome from anywhere in the world. Previous winners include chemists and historians from the United States, Canada, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Hungary, Israel, and the United Kingdom.

A complete nomination consists of a complete curriculum vitae for the nominee, including biographical data, educational background, awards, honors, list of publications, and other service to the profession; a letter of nomination summarizing the nominee's achievements in the field of history of chemistry and citing unique contributions that merit a major award; and at least two seconding letters. Copies of no more than three publications may also be included. Only complete nominations will be considered for the award. All nomination materials should be submitted in

triplicate to Anthony S. Travis, Edelstein Center, Safra Campus, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Givat Ram, Jerusalem 91904, Israel ([travis@cc.huji.ac.il](mailto:travis@cc.huji.ac.il)) for arrival no later than December 31, 2008.

*Anthony S. Travis, Chair of the Edelstein Award Committee for 2009*

## **HIST Symposia, 236<sup>th</sup> ACS Meeting in Philadelphia, PA August 17-21, 2008**

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

### **General Papers**

Ten papers will be presented in sessions **Sunday morning and afternoon**, August 17, in the Hilton Garden Inn, Salon C/D. General Papers sessions provide a venue for any historian of chemistry to present his/her work. Please consider presenting a paper at ACS meetings in Salt Lake City, Utah, or Washington, D.C., during 2009 and/or at San Francisco, California, or Boston, Massachusetts, during 2010. Your participation is vital to the continued success of HIST. Review the schedule that follows later in the Newsletter to see the variety of topics. If you have questions, please contact Seth Rasmussen ([seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu](mailto:seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu)) or me.

*Joe Jeffers ([jeffers@obu.edu](mailto:jeffers@obu.edu)), Organizer*

### **Landmark Chemistry Books of the Twentieth Century V – Chemical Engineering.**

[co-sponsors: Bolton Society; CHED]

The Bolton Society, an organization of chemical bibliophiles associated with the Chemical Heritage Foundation, is organizing and sponsoring its twelfth HIST symposium and the fifth in the series on classic books in chemistry. In honor of the centennial of the founding of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, the Philadelphia symposium is featuring books in chemical engineering, ranging from Thorp's *Outlines of Industrial Chemistry* to the Kirk Othmer *Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology*. The symposium is **Monday morning and early afternoon**, August 18 in the Hilton Garden Inn Salon B. Each speaker will address the history of a respective publication from the users and the author(s) perspective, as well as address the issue of what makes the chosen volume a "classic." Membership in the Bolton Society is open to all who are interested in books, other print media, and ephemera related to chemistry and chemical technology. For more information see <http://www.chemheritage.org/about/about-nav6-bolton.html>.

*James J. Bohning, Organizer*

### **200 Years of Atoms in Chemistry: From Dalton's Atoms to Nanotechnology.**

The first volume of John Dalton's *A New System of Chemical Philosophy* appeared in 1808. The book includes a detailed exposition of Dalton's ideas about atoms, a fruitful atomic theory of chemistry still influential-with modifications, of course-200 years later. The publication is the occasion of a symposium on atoms in chemistry to be held **Monday afternoon**, August 18 and **Tuesday morning**, August 19, in the Hilton Garden Inn Salon B. William Jensen will lead off the symposium with an overview. Leopold May will remind us that Dalton was not the first atomic theorist. Alan Rocke will focus on the details of Dalton's theory itself. William Brock will revisit the atomic debates of the later 19th century, doubts over the literal existence of atoms. Gary Patterson will review some of the physical evidence which settled that question early in the 20th century. Indivisibility was long a part of the concept of atoms; Carmen Giunta will summarize



some of the indications that atoms have pieces. David Katz will discuss current pedagogy of the historically rich subject of atoms in chemistry. James and Virginia Marshall will conduct a virtual tour of key sites in the history of atoms.

*Carmen Giunta, Organizer*

### **Edelstein Award Symposium Honoring Sir John Rowlinson.**

Sir John Shipley Rowlinson, Fellow of Exeter College at Oxford, is to receive the 2008 Sidney M. Edelstein Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Chemistry. Rowlinson was chosen from a group of international nominees “because of the breadth and quality of his research publications in the history of physical chemistry and his contributions over the last three decades to the development of the history of chemistry at the University of Oxford.” Sir John (knighted by the Queen in 2000) spent most of his career exploring cohesion and capillarity, publishing an important textbook, *Liquids and Liquid Mixtures*, in 1959. His strong belief in the value of the history of science led to a number of important works, including a translation of van der Waals’ doctoral thesis *On the Continuity of the Gaseous and Liquid States* (1988), a collaborative biography *Van der Waals and Molecular Science* (1996, with A. Ya. Kipnis and B. E. Yavelov), and *Cohesion: A Scientific History of Intermolecular Forces* (2002), which covers the subject from Newton to the present time and which was praised by reviewers for its meticulous documentation and intimate knowledge of secondary sources. Although he retired from teaching in 1993, Rowlinson remains active in a number of scientific societies, especially the Royal Society in London where he is a strong supporter of its historical activities.

The Edelstein Award is supported by a gift from Ruth Edelstein Barish and family and by the Chemical Heritage Foundation of Philadelphia. The symposium will be **Tuesday afternoon**, August 19, in the Hilton Garden Inn, Salon B, with a dinner to follow Tuesday evening at Maggiano’s Little Italy.

*William H. Brock, Organizer*

### **HIST Cosponsored Events**

#### **100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium** [Sponsored: AGFD; cosponsored: HIST and PRES]

Michael H. Tunick, Dairy Processing & Products Research Unit, USDA-ARS, Eastern Regional Research Center, 600 E. Mermaid Lane, Wyndmoor, PA 19038, Phone: 215-233-6454, Fax: 215-233-6795, [Michael.Tunick@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Michael.Tunick@ars.usda.gov). Charles Brine, Dr. Charles J. Brine & Associates, 28 Tee-Ar Place, Princeton, NJ 08450-3946, Phone: (609) 924-7060, Fax: (609) 924-7060, [brinec@yahoo.com](mailto:brinec@yahoo.com)

#### **The Evolution of Analytical Sciences in the U.S.** [Sponsored: ANYL; co-sponsored: HIST]

Gary D. Christian, Department of Chemistry, University of Washington, Box 351700, Seattle, WA 98195-1700, Phone: 206-543-1635, Fax: 206-685-3478, [christian@chem.washington.edu](mailto:christian@chem.washington.edu)

#### **Pioneers of Chemical Information** [Sponsored: CINF; cosponsored: HIST]

Charles F. Huber, Davidson Library, University of California, Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010, Phone: 805-893-2762, Fax: 805-893-8620, [huber@library.ucsb.edu](mailto:huber@library.ucsb.edu)

#### **Preservation Issues for the Digital Library** [Sponsored: CINF; cosponsored: HIST]

Rob McFarland, Chemistry Library, Washington University, 549 Louderman Hall, Campus Box 1134, St. Louis, MO 63130, Phone: (314) 935-4818, [rmcfarland@wustl.edu](mailto:rmcfarland@wustl.edu). Andrea B. Twiss-

Brooks, John Crerar Library, University of Chicago, 5730 S. Ellis, Chicago, IL 60637, Phone: 773-702-8777, Fax: 773-702-7429, [atbrooks@uchicago.edu](mailto:atbrooks@uchicago.edu)

**Preserving our Chemical Heritage: Cool Collections** [Sponsored: CINF; cosponsored: HIST]  
Marcia L. Chapin, Chemistry & Chemical Biology, Harvard University, 12 Oxford St., Cambridge, MA 02138, Phone: 617-496-2728, Fax: 617-495-0788, [chapin@chemistry.harvard.edu](mailto:chapin@chemistry.harvard.edu). Erja Kajosalu, MIT Libraries, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 14S-134, 77 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307, Phone: 617-253-9795, Fax: 617-253-6365, [kajosalo@mit.edu](mailto:kajosalo@mit.edu)

**Legends of Environmental Chemistry** [Sponsored: ENVR; cosponsored: HIST]  
Victor Turoski, Division of Environmental Chemistry, 345 East Wisconsin Ave, Neenah, WI 54956, Phone: 920-729-9281, [vturoski@execpc.com](mailto:vturoski@execpc.com). Susan D. Richardson, National Exposure Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 960 College Station Road, Athens, GA 30605, Phone: 706-355-8304, Fax: 706-355-8302, [richardson.susan@epa.gov](mailto:richardson.susan@epa.gov)

**Centennial of the Physical Division: Celebrating the Past, Embracing the Future**  
[Sponsored: PHYS; cosponsored: HIST and PRES]  
George C Schatz, Department of Chemistry, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 60208-3113, Phone: 847-491-5657, Fax: 847-491-7713, [schatz@chem.northwestern.edu](mailto:schatz@chem.northwestern.edu). Steven J. Sibener, James Franck Institute and Department of Chemistry, University of Chicago, 929 East 57th Street, Chicago, IL 60637, Phone: 773-702-7193, Fax: 773-702-5863, [s-sibener@uchicago.edu](mailto:s-sibener@uchicago.edu)

**Fundamental Advances in Contemporary NMR Spectroscopy: ACS HIST Award for Paul Lauterbur** [Sponsored: PHYS; cosponsored: HIST and HEALTH]  
Lucio Frydman, Department of Chemical Physics, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot, 76100 Israel, Phone: 972-8-9344903, [lucio.frydman@weizmann.ac.il](mailto:lucio.frydman@weizmann.ac.il). Mei Hong, Department of Chemistry, Iowa State University, Gilman 0108, Ames, IA 50011, Phone: 515-294-3521, [mhong@iastate.edu](mailto:mhong@iastate.edu)

## UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

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

### SALT LAKE CITY, March 22-26, 2009

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System (OASYS - <http://oasys.acs.org/oasys.htm>) by **November 7, 2008**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact Seth Rasmussen ([seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu](mailto:seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu)). Check the call for papers in Chemical and Engineering News (<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/>) or the ACS website (<http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content>) for changes in the abstract deadlines. Symposia ideas are still being accepted.

**General Papers.** (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, Phone: 701-231-8747, [seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu](mailto:seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu)

**Busted - Myths of a Chemical Nature** (Invited and **seeking contributors**) Vera V. Mainz, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, School of Chemical Sciences, 142B RAL, Box 34 Noyes Lab, 600 S. Mathews Ave, Urbana, IL 61801; Phone: (217) 244-0564; Fax: (217) 244-8068; Email: [mainz@uiuc.edu](mailto:mainz@uiuc.edu)

**Henry Eyring: His Science and His Legacy** (Invited and **seeking contributors**) Janan M. Hayes, Merced College (retired), 6829 Barbara Lee Circle, Sacramento, CA 95842; Phone: (916) 331-6886; Email: [jmhayes@earthlink.net](mailto:jmhayes@earthlink.net).

**Science History Study Tours: Global Perspectives** (**Seeking contributors**) 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).

### **WASHINGTON, D.C., August 16-20, 2009**

**General Papers.** (**Seeking contributors**) Seth C. Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND 58105, Phone: 701-231-8747, [seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu](mailto:seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu)

**Classic Books in Chemistry VI – The Language of Chemistry.** (Invited) [co-sponsors: Bolton Society; CHED] James J. Bohning, Department of Chemistry, Lehigh University, 6 E. Packer Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18015, Phone: (610) 758-3582, Fax: (610) 758-6536, Email: [jjba@lehigh.edu](mailto:jjba@lehigh.edu)

**The Heritage of Chemistry: A Symposium to Honor Arnold Thackray.** (Invited) Jeffrey I. Seeman, Department of Chemistry, University of Richmond, Richmond, VA 23173, Phone: (804) 484-1629, Email: [jseeman@richmond.edu](mailto:jseeman@richmond.edu).

### **News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation**

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (<http://www.chemheritage.org/>) (CHF) is dedicated to preserving and promoting the progress of science. Located in Philadelphia, CHF maintains world-class collections, including instruments and apparatus, rare books, fine art, and the personal papers of prominent scientists, all related to the chemical and molecular sciences. CHF's programs and publications provide insight on subjects ranging from the social impact of nanotechnology to alchemy's influence on modern science.

### **The Museum At CHF: New Space and New Exhibitions**

This fall CHF will open three new spaces at its headquarters in Philadelphia: The two-story **Masao Horiba Exhibit Hall**, featuring CHF's permanent exhibition, *Making Modernity* (<http://www.chemheritage.org/exhibits/ex-nav6-exhibition.html>) ; **The Clifford C. Hach Gallery**, which will showcase changing exhibitions, starting with *Molecules That Matter* (<http://www.chemheritage.org/exhibits/ex-nav3-molecules.html>); and **The E. I. du Pont Conference Center**, offering a range of meeting and event spaces for professionals.

### **Two major new exhibitions**

*Making Modernity* is the new permanent exhibition at CHF; it will open October 3, 2008. Featuring artifacts from across CHF's collections and library, *Making Modernity* brings the

exciting untold story of the chemical and molecular sciences to life. *Molecules That Matter* is organized in partnership with The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, *Molecules That Matter* showcases ten organic molecules that profoundly altered our world in the twentieth century. Currently on view at Skidmore College, it will open at CHF this fall.

## 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 Editor

Thank you all for your contributions, which have been as plentiful as they have been stimulating. We begin with an item on a new service provided for RSC members by RSC Publishing. The February 2009 issue will contain a piece by Professor Sir John Rowlinson, winner of the 2008 Edelstein Award, entitled 'Chemistry and its relations in nineteenth-century Oxford'. I was honoured that he had agreed to give this paper at a session I organised on Oxford Science for the 3 Societies meeting that took place in Oxford on 4-6 July. In addition, I would like to draw your attention to a new initiative in which I have taken part. This is a joint Oxford University, Maison Française, and Oxford Brookes History of Chemistry Seminar Series entitled: 'Mastering Nature? Chemistry in History', which started running in Spring 2008. A number of our members have agreed to contribute to this series in 2009, including Peter Reed and Peter Morris. More on this will follow in the next issue of the Newsletter, for which the deadline for this is 15 December 2008. 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 CDROM (post to 16 Drayton Road, Dorchester-on-Thames, OXON, OX10 7PJ).

*Viviane Quirke, Oxford Brookes University*

### Free access to RSC Journals Archive

The Historical Group Committee has for some time been in negotiation with RSC Publishing to see how its RSC members might gain access to parts of the RSC journals archive, without the need to pay document delivery fees. I am pleased to confirm that agreement has been reached, which allows those *RSC members* in the Historical Group free access to full text articles in the archive published between 1841 and 1939. Instructions on how to access an article have been mailed to RSC members within the Historical Group. If you have any difficulties with the service please email [library@rsc.org](mailto:library@rsc.org), indicating you are a member of *both* the Historical Group *and* the RSC. More recent archive articles (1940 and later) are available for the member reduced fee of £5.00 each. For those in the Historical Group who are not RSC members but are interested in applying for membership, please see: <http://www.rsc.org/Membership/join/admission/index.asp> Please note that access to articles is for non-commercial fair use only; by "fair" it is meant that extensive article downloading is forbidden. Access levels are monitored and any abuse may result in the service being withdrawn temporarily.

*Phil Abrahams, Customer Services Director, Royal Society of Chemistry*

### **Partington Prize 2008**

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry would like to announce that the Partington Prize for 2008 has been awarded jointly to Jennifer Rampling of Cambridge University for 'Establishing the Canon: George Ripley and his alchemical sources' and Georgette Taylor of University College London, for 'Tracing Influence in Small Steps: Richard Kirwan's Quantified Affinity Theory.' The prize will be officially awarded to the recipients at the Society's autumn meeting.

## **RSC NATIONAL HISTORICAL CHEMICAL LANDMARK**

### **Humphry Davy Chemical Landmark Ceremony**

A ceremony was held at the residence of the French Ambassador in London on June 25, 2008, at which a chemical landmark plaque was presented by the RSC to the French Académie des Sciences. The plaque commemorated the award by the Emperor Napoleon of the Prix de l'Institut de France to Davy for his work in electrochemistry. The decision to award the prize was taken by Napoleon in 1807, even though France and England were at war at the time, the objective being to "promote and share scientific knowledge". Davy eventually collected his prize when he visited Paris in 1813. In his acceptance speech Jules Hoffmann, President of the Académie des Sciences, thanked the RSC for the award of the plaque, and explained how it will be displayed in the Académie as a symbol of the importance of international scientific collaboration.

### **RSC Chemical Landmark plaque to Dr. John Snow (1813-1858)**

An RSC Chemical Landmark plaque to honor John Snow, chemist, epidemiologist and anaesthetist, was unveiled on June 16, 2008, at the John Snow pub, 39 Broadwick Street, London, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Snow's death. Jim Feast, President of the RSC, spoke of the work that John Snow had done in identifying the true cause of cholera – unsafe drinking water. Snow's chemical knowledge was brought to bear on the scientific principles of anaesthetic inhalation, and he invented various pieces of apparatus that ensured the ether vapour was delivered to the patient at a constant temperature, and thus at a constant and predictable concentration in the inhaled air.

## **Forthcoming Meetings**

### **The Scottish Chemical Diaspora**

Saturday December 6, 2008, Birkbeck College, University of London

This half-day meeting will include papers by John Christie, Matthew Eddy and Georgette Taylor. It will conclude with a presentation to the winners of the Partington Prize 2008, Jennifer Rampling and Georgette Taylor. Further details will be available on [www.ambix.org](http://www.ambix.org) nearer the time or please contact Dr Anna Simmons, Hon Secretary on [secretary@ambix.org](mailto:secretary@ambix.org) or at Epsom Lodge, La Grande Route de St Jean, St John, Jersey, JE3 4FL.

### **Pharmacy in History**

Tuesday, May 12, 2009 2.30pm: Apothecaries' Hall, Society of Apothecaries, Black Friars Lane, London. This is a joint Meeting between the Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group, the Faculty of the History of Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Society of Apothecaries and the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry. Speakers will include Robert Bud, Tilli Tansey and Anna Simmons. The meeting will be held in the impressive surroundings of Apothecaries' Hall and attendees will have the opportunity to tour the building. There will be no charge for the meeting but participants will have to register in advance. A registration form will be included with the February 2009 Newsletter.

**European History of Science Society, Vienna, Austria**

September 10-12, 2008. Theme: 'Styles of thinking in science and technology'. For information, go to: <http://www.oeaw.ac.at/kgntmm/ESHS3rdCongress/>

**7th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, Sopron, Hungary**

July 23-25, 2009. Contact Peter Morris, [peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk](mailto:peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk).

**RSC Historical Group, Royal Institution, London**

*The chemist in non-chemical industries*. A one-day meeting to be held in the Fish Room, Burlington House, on October 28, 2008, organised by John Hudson, [johnhudson25@hotmail.com](mailto:johnhudson25@hotmail.com).

**USEFUL WEBSITES AND ADDRESSES**

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

<http://www-wissenschaftsgeschichte.uni-regensburg.de/CHMC.htm>

**The European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS)**

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

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

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

**The Society for the Propagation of the Music of the Chemist-Composers**

<http://faculty.cua.edu/SPMCC.htm>

**The Working Party on History of Chemistry (WP)**

Information on the activities of the WP can be found on its website,

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

**History of Science and Technology in Europe**

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

**Website of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France**

<http://gallica.bnf.fr>

**Digital library of the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers**

<http://cnum.cnam.fr>

**Historical Centre of the Ecole Polytechnique:**

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

**Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (Berlin)**

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

**Institute for the History of Science and Technology, Russian Academy of Sciences**

<http://www.ihst.ru>

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

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

**Nobel Prizes**

<http://nobelprize.org/>