

## Charles Albert Browne (1870–1947)

### HIST Chair, 1922–1923



Cofounder of HIST (with Edgar Fahs Smith), Browne studied at Williams College (B.A. and M.A.) and later earned his Ph.D. under Bernard Tollens at Göttingen in 1902. The sugar research begun in Germany remained the principal scientific focus for the rest of his career. After positions as a research chemist at the Louisiana Sugar Experiment Station and chief of the Sugar Laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Chemistry, he developed a national reputation in the field when he founded the New York Sugar Trade Laboratory in 1907. He returned to the Department of Agriculture as Chief of the Bureau of Chemistry in 1923. His several hundred scientific publications include the *Handbook of Sugar Analysis*, which went through several editions. Like his friend Smith, Browne was an avid collector of books and other items related to historical chemistry. He authored over 100 papers in the field, including his most important work, *Source Book of Agricultural Chemistry*, published in 1944. He was the editor of *A Half-Century of Chemistry in America*, published for the Golden Jubilee celebration of the American Chemical Society in 1926, and was at work on a new history of the society to be published for the 75th anniversary when he died. That volume, *A History of the American Chemical Society*, was completed by Mary Elvira Weeks and published in 1952.

See Claude Deischer, "A Memorial Tribute to Dr. C. A. Browne, With a Bibliography of His Contributions to the History of Chemistry," *Chymia*, 1 (1949): 11–24, and Herbert S. Klickstein and Henry M. Leicester, "Charles Albert Browne as an Historian of Chemistry," *Journal of Chemical Education*, 25 (1948): 315–317.

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