



American Chemical Society
Division of the History of Chemistry

Newsletter

232nd ACS National Meeting
San Francisco, CA
September 10-14, 2006

J. S. Jeffers, Program Chair

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Mission Statement

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

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

Message from Jeff Seeman, HIST Division Chair

HIST is a vibrant, active and diverse organization! We are excited about our achievements and proud that you are joining us in our history-of-chemistry adventures. Your HIST leadership team as focused on a number of themes this past few years, all with a focus on enhanced value to our membership and to the American Chemical Society: enhanced professional activities; expanded programming; increased celebratory activities; and fiduciary responsibility.



HIST has formulated its first Mission Statement, found above and on HIST's home page at <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>! Carmen Giunta spearheaded the team effort on the Mission Statement. Paul Jones and his associate editors continue to publish a superb *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry*. It is on-time, and full of spectacular articles. Thank you to our authors! And, congratulations to Lyman Caswell for winning the 2006 Outstanding Paper Award for his paper on "The Twice-Discovered Element".

HIST's website is expanded with information about upcoming symposia, HIST's awards and recognition programs, and HIST's own history. You can find HIST's website by typing into Google or even into the Windows Explorer address line: HIST ACS. More and more information is now on this site, thanks to Vera Mainz (our webmaster) and Jim Bohning (our Historian).

For the third year in a row, I have contacted the candidates for ACS President Elect, asking for their message specifically to our membership. This interaction has led to a number of Presidential symposia at ACS National meetings (including one in Atlanta and one in San Francisco, both organized by Mary Virginia Orna, and we are planning more for 2007).

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a listing of the upcoming symposia. 2006 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Dexter Award and its successor, the Sidney M.

Edelstein Award. Sidney M. Edelstein was Secretary/Treasurer of HIST from 1948-1965; he originated and sponsored the Dexter Award. The Sidney M. Edelstein Award is now sponsored by the Ruth and Sam Barish family (Ruth is Sidney's daughter) and by the Chemical Heritage Foundation. HIST will celebrate this 50th anniversary at the ACS National meeting in September 2006. A symposium, panel discussions, and celebratory dinner are planned. Tony Travis is spearheading these festivities. Other symposia of note are also taking place.

The 2nd Annual Fall National ACS meeting Music Concert – *Chemists Making Music* – will be held at the SF meeting. Vicki Bragin, a winner of the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, will once again perform and direct the concert. Caltech student-chemists, all members of the Caltech chamber music program, will also perform. Bragin will play an innovative composition – featuring visual effects – by biochemist-composer Elaine Bearer of Brown University.

HIST's very active award program continues with gusto! HIST is proud that the inaugural year of the Citations for Chemical Breakthrough awards has begun so successfully. As reported in the July 3, 2006, *C&EN*, the first presentations to Harvard University and to the University of Chicago were highly successful. HIST recognizes the need for and validity of this award being internationally-based, and Roger Egolf has volunteered to begin an outreach effort to broaden HIST's reach. HIST honored two of its own officers last spring with its Certificate of Appreciation award: Paul Jones, *Bulletin* editor, and Vera Mainz, Secretary-Treasurer-Webmaster. Each of them had over a decade of leadership service to HIST.

Recently, after discussions with Madeleine Jacobs and negotiations with the Chemical Heritage Foundation, HIST gave its archives to the CHF. This gift, which must be retained in full by the CHF or returned in total to HIST, was negotiated by the entire HIST Executive Committee with the benefit of strong leadership from Jim Bohning, HIST's archivist. A plan is in place to develop the archives into a fully searchable resource, available to all interested scholars.

I have mentioned the Chemical Heritage Foundation a few times in this message. Together with Arnold Thackray, John Van Ness, Rob Lopata and others, the CHF and HIST have formalized what has been an on-going long term partnership. HIST is very pleased to partner with the CHF in so many mutually-beneficial ways.

I congratulate the eminent British historian of chemistry Peter Morris (Science Museum, London) for being selected as the 2006 Sidney M. Edelstein Awardee. Peter has made enormous contributions to the field. We are proud to have such scholars *amongst* us! I thank the many awards committee members for their hard work and judicious selections!

All the best,
Jeff

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Atlanta, GA, March 29, 2006

The first order of business was the selection of nominees for President-Elect of the Society for 2007. The four nominees presented to Council by the Committee on

Nominations and Elections were Bruce E. Bursten, Richard Eisenberg, Bassam Z. Shakhashiri and Matthew V. Tirrell. By paper ballot, the Council selected Drs. Bursten and Shakhashiri to run in the Society election in the fall.

The winners of the District I election to the Board of Directors were announced: Thomas R. Gilbert and Anne T. O'Brien. The winners in the District V election were John E. Adams and Judith L. Benham. The slate for Directors-at-Large was also announced: William H. Breazeale, Jr., Dennis Chamot, Peter K. Dorhout, Paul R. Jones, Valerie J. Kuck, and Dorothy J. Phillips. Since the present Chair of the Board, James D. Burke, will resign from the Board effective December 31, 2006, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to full three-year terms; the candidate receiving the third-highest number of votes will be elected to fill out Dr. Burke's term.

Reports from the Presidential Succession

President E. Ann Nalley repeated her theme of "Ensuring the Future," using three focal points: (1) To develop more effective ways of communicating the value of basic research and its relationship to applied research; (2) To recognize the value of volunteer service in the society; (3) To seek more effective ways of ensuring that we have good science and mathematics education at all levels in order to ensure the future. And within an ongoing study of the ACS's present governance system, she scheduled (later in the Council meeting) a special discussion on the issue of ACS membership requirements.

President-Elect Catherine Hunt saw as ACS's way to strengthen its commitment to science and technology the following pathways: (1) Education of legislators, the public and the next generation; (2) Collaboration to build a strong, vibrant and vocal technical community, and (3) Innovation to recreate our companies, universities and ourselves. In line with this, she outlined her programming goals for the two 2007 national meetings in Chicago and Boston: the chemistry of communication; sustainability in energy, food, water and beyond; scientific literacy through lifelong education; frontiers of materials science; and looking at diverse and multidisciplinary careers in chemistry.

Immediate Past President William F. Carroll reported that during his presidential year he was visible, credible, and accessible. He claimed success in launching the Chemical Enterprise 2015, in promoting the Chemistry-Teacher Connection in secondary schools, and in promoting overall the public's perception of chemistry.

Registration Report

As of March 28, 2006, the ACS spring national meeting had attracted 12,546 registrants as follows: Regular attendees 6,323; Students 4,158; Exhibitors 1,288; Exposition only 413; and Guests 364.

Society Initiatives

Many ACS committees and councilor caucuses discussed and/or provided input into three key Society initiatives:

1. The Society's new vision statement: "Improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry," which resulted from the input of several thousand ACS members, was unveiled and discussed at this meeting.
2. The Board-Council Policy Committee Governance Review Task Force was charged with reviewing the Society's governance, and Constitution and Bylaws, to ensure that

the Society has a governing framework to enable it to best fulfill its mission, meet member needs, and remain a world-class organization. The task force developed a framework that emphasized five key elements of the Society's governance, which are membership, geographical organization, disciplinary organization, governance structure, and governance operations.

3. A Program Review Advisory Group (PRAG) has been established to assist the Committee on Budget and Finance in reviewing all programs of the Society (with some exemptions) on a periodic and regular basis. The PRAG consists of councilors, members of the Board of Directors, members of the Committee on Budget and Finance, and representatives from the committees with oversight over the programs under review in a given year.

Member Statistics

ACS closed 2005 with 158,422 members, reversing a 4-year downward trend in Society membership. Of the 15,532 applications processed in 2005, nearly 900 came from the Member-Get-A-Member campaign, in which many councilors participated. The membership retention number remained stable at 92.4%.

Special Discussion

A special discussion item was put on the Council agenda for this meeting. The discussion focused on membership – specifically, the requirements for ACS membership, and whether they should be made more or less restrictive, or kept the same. ACS President E. Ann Nalley invited the co-chairs of the Board-Council Policy Committee Governance Review Task Force, James D. Burke and William F. Carroll, to help frame the discussion by presenting the results of a councilor survey on ACS membership requirements.

2006 Member Dues

The Council VOTED to set the member dues for 2007 at the fully escalated rate of \$132.

Future National Meetings

The Council VOTED to recommend to the Board of Directors that the spring meeting for 2015 be held in Denver, March 22-26, and that the fall meeting be held in Boston, August 16-20. The Council also voted to recommend locations and dates for the 2016 meeting as follows: the spring meeting to be held on March 13-17, in San Diego; and the fall meeting to be held in Philadelphia, August 21-25.

Councilor Activities

1. Mary Virginia Orna continues to serve her second term as a member of the Committee on Committees (ConC). She is also continuing to serve as ConC liaison to the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications (JBCCP) and the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA).
2. Ben Chastain continues to serve on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC), where he is co-chair of the Divisional Enhancement Sub-committee (ChemLuminary Awards and Innovative Project Grants). He is a liaison to the Biological Chemistry Division (BIOL) for DAC and to the Committee on Public Relations and Communication (CPRC) for HIST.

Ben B. Chastain, Mary Virginia Orna, Councilors

Outstanding Paper Award

The HIST Outstanding Paper Award, to recognize and encourage outstanding scholarship in the history of chemistry, is awarded this year to **Lyman R. Caswell**, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Texas Woman's University, for "Andrés del Río, Alexander von Humboldt, and the Twice-Discovered Element," *Bull. Hist. Chem.*, **2003**, 28 (1), 35-41. The award is presented to the author of the best paper published in *The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* during the previous three years. Professor Lyman lives in Seattle, Washington, where he divides his time among history of science, philately, and science fiction.

HIST Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs

The Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST) of the American Chemical Society recently announced the ten recipients of its new award program, the Citations for Chemical Breakthroughs. The award, which recognizes breakthrough publications and patents worldwide in the field of science embraced by the ACS, are presented to the institutions at which the work was performed. One book, three patents and six scientific publications will be honored in 2006, the earliest being Moses Gomberg's 1900 classic paper on free radicals. The term "breakthrough" refers to advances in chemistry that have been revolutionary in concept, broad in scope, and long-term in impact. Plaques, to be placed in the hallways outside the office or laboratory where the breakthroughs were achieved, will be presented to the departments and institutions at which these breakthroughs occurred. Jeffrey Seeman, Chair of HIST and originator of the award, said that the award is intended to "celebrate great scientific accomplishments and motivate, through shared pride of achievement, all who walk by and see the plaques. We hope they'll say, 'Wow! That was done here!'"

M. Gomberg, An Instance of Trivalent Carbon: Triphenylmethyl, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1900**, 22, 757-771. (University of Michigan)

G. N. Lewis, The Atom and the Molecule, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1916**, 38, 762-785. (University of California, Berkeley)

E. O. Lawrence, Method and Apparatus for the Acceleration of Ions, U.S. Patent 1,948,384 (20 February 1934), assigner to Research Corporation, New York, NY. (University of California, Berkeley)

A. O. Beckman and Henry E. Fracker, Apparatus for Testing Acidity, U.S. Patent 2,058,761 (27 October 1936), assignors to National Technical Laboratories, Pasadena, CA. (Beckman Coulter)

L. Pauling, *The Nature of the Chemical Bond*, Cornell University Press, 1939. (Caltech)

Roy J. Plunkett, Tetrafluoroethylene Polymers, U.S. Patent 2,230,654 (4 February 1941), assignor to Kinetic Chemicals, Inc. of Wilmington, DE. (DuPont)

H. F. Fisher, E. C. Conn, B. Vennesland, F. H. Westheimer The Enzymatic Transfer of Hydrogen. I. The Reaction Catalyzed by Alcohol Dehydrogenase *J. Biol. Chem.* **1953**, 202, 687-697. (University of Chicago)

B. Merrifield, Solid Phase Peptide Synthesis. I. The Synthesis of a Tetrapeptide, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1963**, 85, 2149-2154. (Rockefeller University)

R. B. Woodward and R. Hoffmann, Stereochemistry of Electrocyclic Reactions *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 1965, 87, 395-397. (Harvard University)

M. J. Molina and F. S. Rowland, Stratospheric Sink for Chlorofluoromethanes: Chlorine Atom-Catalysed Destruction of Ozone, *Nature* **1974**, 249, 810-812. (University of California, Irvine)

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 and Alternate 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 be receiving a ballot along with biographical statements by the candidates.

Steve Weininger (stevejw@wpi.edu), *Chair*, *Mary Virginia Orna* (mvorna@cnr.edu), *Joe Jeffers* (jeffers@obu.edu), *Nominating Committee*

General Papers Sessions Need Presenters

HIST symposia at recent ACS meetings have been numerous and excellent. The San Francisco meeting is similarly well stocked; Chicago and Boston in 2007 are shaping up nicely. Kudos to the organizers. They have done a magnificent job. The one place where we are really slipping is the General Papers session. We had only three papers in Atlanta and only two are scheduled for San Francisco. **Please consider presenting at Chicago** (March 2007) or **Boston** (August 2007). We really need five or more papers to have a worthwhile General Session.

Joe Jeffers, HIST Program Chair

HIST Symposia, 232nd ACS Meeting in San Francisco, CA September 10-14, 2006

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

Health Materials and Techniques: Research and Development over the Past 25 Years: Investment in Basic Research Leading to Benefits for Society

HIST is presenting the second of two cutting-edge symposia reviewing industrial and academic R&D progress over the past 25 years in conjunction with the Presidential-succession goals of ACS President Ann Nalley. This Presidential Symposium, sponsored by HIST on **Sunday morning, September 10**, will trace the development of chemical techniques and synthetic materials that have enabled the medical profession to enhance the overall health of humankind in ways heretofore unimaginable. The history of *in vitro*

diagnostic testing will be traced. Other papers will examine the development of “smart” polymers that respond to external stimuli, new electro-spun nanostructured materials, and biomimetic and biofunctional materials that permit the building of biocompatible scaffolds with many biomedical and industrial applications. Featured speakers include Helen Free (1993 ACS President), Anna Gutowska, Benjamin Chu, Benjamin Hsiao, and Jennifer West (Howard Hughes Scholar). [co-sponsors: PRES, CHED, MEDI, POLY, PMSE]
Mary Virginia Orna, Organizer

Classic Chemistry Books of the Twentieth Century II: Organic Chemistry

This symposium, scheduled for **Sunday afternoon, September 10**, is the second in a series of Classic Chemistry Books symposia, this time focusing on organic chemistry. Featured speakers include John Roberts, Marjorie Caserio, Jay Siegel, Roy Olofson, Kenneth Williamson, Gary Patterson, and Peter Morris. [co-sponsors: Bolton Society, CHED]
Ned Heindel, organizer

Celebrating a Legacy: Fifty Years of the Dexter and Edelstein Awards

Join us **all day Monday, September 11**, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sidney M. Edelstein Award (formerly the Dexter Award), the most prestigious award in History of Chemistry. This symposium will review progress in various sectors of the history of chemistry over the past half century and will describe recent advances in areas that were of interest to and encouraged by Dr. Edelstein. Following the presentations, a panel of experts will discuss the present and future of the history of chemistry. Featured speakers include Kenneth Knoespel, John Kenly Smith, Ute Deichmann, Zvi Koren, Anthony Travis, Peter Morris, George Kauffman, Alan Rocke, Mary Jo Nye, and Jeffrey Seeman. In addition, a panel discussion on the Future of the History of Chemistry will include Jeffrey Seeman (moderator), Catherine Hunt (ACS President-Elect), Ernst Homburg, William Jensen, Seymour Mauskopf, Arnold Thackray, and Anthony Travis.
Anthony Travis and Jeffrey Seeman, Organizers

Edelstein Award Symposium Honoring Peter Morris

We will honor the 2006 recipient of the Edelstein award, Peter J. T. Morris, Manager of Research and Principal Curator-Science at the Science Museum, London, for his extraordinary record of research publication in history of chemical industry in three countries and his exceptional achievement as editor of *Ambix* during the past five years. The **Tuesday morning, September 12** symposium will feature Seymour Mauskopf, Alan Rocke, Arthur Molella, Anthony Travis, and Peter Morris. Morris' research publications include several books about the development of chemical industry in Germany, in Great Britain, and in the United States. These books, some coauthored with other scholars in Great Britain and the United States, have focused on rubber and other polymer industries, on twentieth century instrumentation for chemistry, and on biography. His entry in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, on British chemist Archer J. P. Martin, was designated Editor's Choice for January 2006. During his five years as editor of *Ambix*, the journal has been expanded by 50 percent and has appeared in an on-line edition.
Martin Saltzman, Organizer

History of the FDA in Its Hundredth Year

For the past 100 years, the health of Americans and their confidence in the quality of their food and medicines have been protected by a sophisticated public health system that ensures the quality of food, drugs, vaccines, and medical equipment. The development of these protections goes back to 1906, when Congress entrusted the Bureau of Chemistry of the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the implementation of the Food and Drugs Act, the first federal law to regulate food and drugs in interstate commerce. The bureau later became the Food and Drug Administration, an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. Since then, Congress has expanded the FDA's regulatory role over products that represent more than 20 percent of U.S. consumer spending and that are used daily by most Americans. The FDA is responsible for ensuring that human and animal medications, blood products, tissues for transplantation, and medical devices are safe and effective; that food and dietary supplements are safe and truthfully labeled; and that animal feed, cosmetics, and radiation-emitting equipment do no harm. To fulfill its mission, the FDA has created a science-based system of product standards and requirements that is recognized worldwide as second to none. The **Tuesday afternoon, September 12** symposium will highlight some of the past history of the FDA and its current role in the safety of Foods, Drugs, and Cosmetics. Featured speakers include Suzanne Junod, Ned Heindel (1994 ACS President), Beth Myers, Christopher Middendorf, and Barry Poole. [co-sponsor: Chemical Society of Washington]

Kim Morehouse, Organizer

Chemists Making Music



The Second Annual Fall ACS National Meeting Concert (**Tuesday evening, 5:30-7:00**) will feature the student chamber music ensembles from the California Institute of Technology. Most of the ensemble performers are chemistry majors, both undergraduates and graduates. Vicki Bragin, a chemist and the winner of the prestigious Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 2002, will also perform her piano magic. [co-sponsor: Chemical Heritage Foundation]

Victoria Bragin and Jeffrey Seeman, Organizers

HIST Co-Sponsored Events

Dr. Percy L. Julian: Scientist, Humanist, Educator, Entrepreneur, and Inspirational Trailblazer (A Presidential Event Co-sponsored with **CMA**)

Dr. Percy Julian was one of the 75 eminent chemists chosen to be honored in the 75th anniversary issue of *Chemical & Engineering News*. An ACS National Meeting Symposium celebrating Dr. Percy Julian's 100th birthday in 1999 led NOVA-WGBH to begin production of a two-hour film biography on his life – as part of a series honoring Galileo, Einstein, and Marie Curie. ACS gave funds for the initial interviews for the film, which was also supported by the Dreyfus Foundation, NEH, NSF, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. The film, entitled "**Forgotten Genius**," is now complete and is scheduled to be broadcast nationally by NOVA/PBS on February 6, 2007, during Black History month. ACS has been invited by NOVA-WGBH to host a preliminary showing of a 30-minute excerpt from the film during the ACS Meeting. **Monday, September 11** a.m, p.m.

James P. Shoffner, Organizer

Fifty Years of Electron Transfer and RRKM Theories (Co-sponsored with **PHYS**)

Exactly fifty years ago, the first paper that led to the development of electron transfer theory was published by Rudy Marcus in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*. Not long before that, a series of papers providing a quantitative theory, later known as RRKM for unimolecular dissociation of polyatomic molecules, had appeared. That was the beginning of a truly amazing era of developments in physical chemistry. This symposium will review the past and present of electron transfer and unimolecular dynamics fields. **Monday** p.m. , **September 11 – Thursday** p.m., **September 14.**

Alexei Stuchebrukhov, Stephen Klippenstein, Robert Cave, Organizers

Great Technicians in History (Co-sponsored with **TECH**) Technicians throughout history have contributed to the advancement of the chemical enterprise by hard work and dedicated application of the scientific method, sometimes with little or no recognition. However, the technicians of today are considered integral members of the scientific team and their contributions are publicly recognized and rewarded. Speakers will address the qualities of great technicians, as well as the contributions of specific individuals. Some of these technicians are historically significant while others are modern day representatives of the very best of the profession.

Wednesday a.m., **September 13**

Daphne Eggers, Organizer

Lives in Science as Illustrations of Scientific Practice (Co-sponsored with **CHED**) Science is carried out by individuals in various institutional contexts. One way of making chemistry accessible to students and the wider public is to tie chemical progress to the life experiences of the chemical practitioners that helped bring it about. This symposium will explore the varying ways that lives in science can illustrate chemical practice and the nature of science and generate a greater interest in chemistry and the molecular sciences. **Wednesday** p.m., **September 13**

John Theibault, Organizer

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETING AND HIST DEADLINE

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

Chicago, March 25-29, 2007

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System (OASYS - <http://oasys.acs.org/oasys.htm>) by **November 24, 2006**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact the program chair by November 15, 2006. Check the call for papers in Chemical and Engineering News (<http://pubs.acs.org/cen/>) or the ACS website (<http://chemistry.org/portal/a/c/s/1/home.html>) 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

Going with the Flow: Water Sustainability: Past, Present, Future. (Invited) 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.

HIST at 85: Looking Back and Looking Ahead. (Invited) 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; Jeffrey I. Seeman, SaddlePoint Frontiers, 12001 Bollingbrook Place, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone: (804) 794-1218, Email: jiseeman@yahoo.com

Landmark Stable Free Radicals of the 20th Century. (Invited) E. Thomas Strom, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Texas at Arlington, P. O. Box 19065, Arlington, TX 76019-0065, Phone: (817) 272-5441, Fax: 817-272-3808, Email: tomstrom@juno.com.

The Landmarks Program: Celebrating the History of Chemistry. (Invited) Judah Ginsberg, American Chemical Society, 115 16th Street, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: (202) 872-6274, Fax: (202) 872-4370, Email: j_ginsberg@acs.org.

Hog Butchers, Tool Makers, and Stackers of Wheat: Chicago-Area Chemical Industry. (**Seeking contributors**) K. P. Fivizzani, Nalco Company, 1601 West Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563, Phone: (630) 305-2032, Fax: (630) 305-2982, Email: kfivizzani@nalco.com

Educating the Laughing, Stormy, Husky Youth of the Midwest: Chicago-Area Colleges and Universities. (**Seeking contributors**) K. P. Fivizzani, Nalco Company, 1601 West Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563, Phone: (630) 305-2032, Fax: (630) 305-2982, Email: kfivizzani@nalco.com

Science for the People: Chicago-Area Government-Sponsored Laboratories.

(Seeking contributors) K. P. Fivizzani, Nalco Company, 1601 West Diehl Road, Naperville, IL 60563, Phone: (630) 305-2032, Fax: (630) 305-2982, Email: kfivizzani@nalco.com

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.

From the Incoming Editor

I am honoured to have been invited to succeed Dr Katherine Watson, who over the past five years has done an excellent job of editing the Newsletter. My interests lie in the history of the chemical and pharmaceutical industries, and in the relationship of chemistry and other sciences to medicine in the twentieth century. I enjoy reading and learning about the history of chemistry more broadly, therefore I see this invitation as a great opportunity. I will follow the trend Cassie has set by inviting contributions, rather than writing the Newsletter myself. As before, I will welcome short essays from Members of the Historical Group, summaries of papers presented at meetings of the Historical Group and related societies, and book reviews. In addition, I would like to propose a new rubric, "News and Views". This will enable Members to send in opinion pieces, or other brief communications of interest to the Group. Submissions to the Newsletter should be made by e-mail (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). The deadlines are 15 July for the August issue and 15 January for the February issue. I look forward to receiving your contributions and hearing your views.

Viviane Quirke

Notes and Updates

Graham Rees, the Francis Bacon scholar, has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. Professor Rees, who is a professor of English at Queen Mary College, London, is a member of the editorial board of *Ambix* and was a member of the Council of SHAC from 1978 until 2004.

The winner of the 2005 Liebig-Wöhler-Freundschaft-Preis, funded by the Wilhelm-Lewicki-Stiftung and awarded annually by the Göttinger Chemischer Gesellschaft, is Dr Susanne Poth, a pharmacist and medical journalist of Wiesbaden. The prize was

awarded for her research on Liebig's pupil Carl Remigius Fresenius (1818-97), who is best known for his textbooks on qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Faraday Society Membership Lists: In connection with the Open University's ongoing project on the British chemical community in the 20th century (<http://www.open.ac.uk/ou5/Arts/chemists/>), Dr Gerrylynn Roberts is trying to locate Faraday Society membership lists. She has found archival evidence that lists were published in 1926, 1938, and 1962 and that there may also have been a list in 1954. However, these lists have not been bound with any sets of *Transactions of the Faraday Society* that she has been able to consult in London, while the Royal Society of Chemistry's online Journal Archive does not include any list published after 1919. Furthermore, the RSC itself does not have a copy at either Burlington House in London or Thomas Graham House in Cambridge. If anyone has a copy of any of the missing lists or knows where they might be located, please could you contact Dr Gerrylynn Roberts on G.K.Roberts@open.ac.uk or at Department of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, Faculty of Arts, The Open University, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA.

A report on the activities (2001-05) of the **Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry** (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 **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>

The Brewery History Society presents ***A Century of British Brewers plus – 1890 to 2004***. For many years the flagship publication of the Brewery History Society has been Norman Barber's *A Century of British Brewers*, formerly *Where Have All the Breweries Gone?* The Society has now completely revised and rewritten their standard work on the brewers of Britain and the new edition is now available. It brings things up to date with details of all the new small brewers, as well as significant revisions to the historical entries. This is the result of over 15 years of continued research by the Society and its members. The format will be familiar to those who have consulted previous editions. Each

town that boasted a brewery in the last 114 years is listed in alphabetical order within that county. Where details are known, a brief history of the site is given, even indicating the state of any remains. A comprehensive locations index lists over 2100 towns and the index by brewer and brewery runs to over 9500 entries. The book costs £13.95 plus £2.00 p&p. All enquiries to Ken Smith, Publications Editor, 102 Ayelands, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8JW; ken@kenneth72.fsnet.co.uk

The theme of the Peninsula Arts Spring Season 2006 is **Alchemy**. An exhibition in the Cube³ Gallery, 'Alchemy: the Art and Science of Transformation', will visualise and contextualise the diverse cultural backgrounds from the ancient to the contemporary, and will include an accompanying lecture programme. In April there will be a colloquium on the work of Robert Lenkiewicz; amongst the speakers will be Professor Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke from the Centre for the Study of Western Esotericism at Exeter University. For further information go to <http://www.peninsula-arts.com> or email Mike Hope, Director of Arts and Exhibitions, mike.hope@plymouth.ac.uk.

Katherine D. Watson

News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

Lawrence M. Principe, professor of the history of science, medicine and technology and of chemistry at Johns Hopkins University, received the History of Science Society's Pfizer Prize for outstanding scholarly publication. His award-winning book, *Alchemy Tried in the Fire: Starkey, Boyle, and the Fate of Helmontian Chymistry*, was co-written with William R. Newman, professor of the history and philosophy of science at Indiana University. The book is a model for the further extension of laboratory studies in history of science, and at the same time sets an example of how much we still can learn about science from close study of intellectual-historical sources. Based on extraordinary research in difficult primary sources, brilliantly analyzed and gracefully written, *Alchemy Tried in the Fire* is a landmark of contemporary scholarship in the history of science.

The Pfizer Prize was established in 1958 through the generosity of Pfizer. The award consists of a medal and \$2,500. In a typical year, over 60 books are considered for the Pfizer Prize. Winning books are chosen primarily for unsurpassed research and breadth of learning. The History of Science Society, custodian of the prize, is the world's largest and oldest society devoted to the study of the history of science.

Neville Bibliography to be published in September 2006: The bibliography of CHF's Roy G. Neville Historical Chemical Library is slated for publication in September 2006. The two-volume, approximately 1,500-page collection will be richly bound and illustrated – including a 16-page colour insert in each volume with important images from Neville's extraordinary collection. The Roy G. Neville Historical Chemical Library, a collection in the Othmer Library of Chemical History, represents one of the richest single deposits of books on the history of chemistry in the world. Roughly 6,000 titles in all, the Neville collection dates from the late 15th century to the early 20th century, and includes many of the most important works in the history of science and technology. The bibliography is the most complete guide to this unique collection of the history of science.

CHF has launched a new version of its **Chemical Achievers Website**. The site contains images and biographical sketches for 81 significant figures in the history of the chemical and molecular sciences. Chemical Achievers began as a book, written by CHF historian Mary Ellen Bowden and published in 1997 as a tool for teachers. The book was

first adapted for the Web in 2000; the site is now easier to navigate and contains several new features, including name and image indexes. Go to:

www.chemheritage.org/classroom/chemach/index.html.

The Beckman Center is the historical unit of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, which is located next to Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. The Center supports independent research aimed at preserving and publishing the history of the chemical and molecular sciences and industries for diverse audiences. For information about the variety of research and travel fellowships available, please visit the CHF website (www.chemheritage.org) or email fellowships@chemheritage.org. Closing dates for applications usually fall in January or February each year.

Fifth International Conference on the History of Chemistry: Chemistry, Technology and Society

From 6 to 10 September 2005, Estoril and Lisbon played host to the Fifth International Conference on the History of Chemistry. Organised by the Working Party on the History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS), the conference's objective was to facilitate communication between historically-interested chemists and historians of chemistry from all over Europe and further afield. Under the broad theme "Chemistry, Technology and Society", the conference focused on three topics which have all attracted public and scholarly attention in recent years. By discussing the cultural and material influences on chemistry, as well as the practical and cultural impacts of this discipline, the conference aimed to improve our understanding of the place of chemistry in its technological and social environments. Additionally, some special sessions were devoted to the development of Portuguese chemistry. Abstracts of the papers presented, in addition to full text of many of the papers, can be found at the conference's website <http://5ichc-portugal.ulusofona.pt/>.

The 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.freeserve.co.uk].

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. For details go to <http://www.rsc.org/ConferencesAndEvents/RSCEvents/Landmarks/index.asp>. 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).