

ALL THINGS BAKELITE

The Age of Plastic

ACS National Meeting & Expo Macromolecular Chemistry: The Second Century Division of the History of Chemistry

FILM SCREENING: March 23, 2020 11:40AM Room 120C
Presented by Executive Producer, Hugh Karraker, a great-grandson of Leo Baekeland

All Things Bakelite: The Age of Plastic is a wondrous and eye opening documentary about the "Father of Modern Plastic," Leo Hendrik Baekeland. In 1907, the Belgian/American chemist/entrepreneur made one of the most transformative discoveries of the 20th century, the first wholly synthetic plastic, which he called Bakelite.

This invention was integral to the beginning of the modern industrial age and ushered in a myriad of plastics that have improved our lives and supported critical advancements in the automotive and aerospace industries, construction and electrical engineering, medicine and design.



In 1924

Leo Baekeland was president of the American Chemical Society and, in the same year, appeared on the cover of Time Magazine.

History comes alive in this unique and innovative 59-minute documentary with reenactments of Baekeland's life, rare archival footage, photographs and personal journal entries. Interviews with scientists, historians and artists as well as satirical musical performances capture both the wonder and the curse of Baekeland's discovery.

While the film celebrates Baekeland, his invention and its descendants, it does not shy away from the global plastic problem. In the end, it offers a view into essential solutions.

This event is co-sponsored by CELL.
G.D. Patterson, S.C. Rasmussen, N.V. Tsarevsky Organizers, Presiding
Learn more about the history www.AllThingsBakelite.com.



In 1993

Baekeland's early autoclave, "The Bakelizer" was designated the first ACS National Historical Chemical Landmark. The original Bakelizer and a commemorative plaque are housed in the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.



Leo H. Baekeland



"Baekeland's invention had a huge impact on our lives, but little is generally known about him. His peers were the likes of Thomas Edison, the Wright brothers and Henry Ford. I hope his story will inspire present and future innovators."

~ Hugh Karraker, Baekeland's great-grandson

