

encourage participation in those sessions. The titles of some general papers for the Toronto meeting assure rewards: surely for attendees, perhaps for authors.

This separate newsletter is a fresh venture for HIST and the product of the can-do spirit and dedication of our busy Secretary-Treasurer, Bill Jensen. Previously included in *CHOC News*, the newsletter can now be published on a regular schedule that directly serves HIST members and can be expanded to include additional features. It may become a favored publication possibility for papers identified with awards made through HIST. Bill's desk-top publishing capability makes it possible. We hope that you are pleased with it.

You will soon be asked to vote on some amendments to the Division's By-laws. The proposed amendments have been reviewed by the Society Committee on Constitution and By-laws, as required. Because of the superb work on them by Jane Miller, they passed review easily. Only a few minor wording changes were suggested for clarification and consistency. Further work on the Division's Constitution and By-laws to bring them and practice into better accord is being continued by Bob Goldsmith, immediate Past-Chairman, and Jane Miller.

Since the creation of the Center for the History of Chemistry (now the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, BCHOC), there has been close interaction between the Center and HIST. Jeff Sturchio, former Associate Director of BCHOC, was an effective liaison member of the HIST Executive Committee. He has now moved from BCHOC to AT&T Bell Labs, to head up its Archives and Records Management Services, and Arnold Thackray, Director of BCHOC, has agreed to serve on the HIST Executive Committee as liaison to BCHOC. I am pleased that we shall be able to continue the close ties that have been so fruitful for both HIST and BCHOC.

Each division of ACS is unique in its interests, but HIST's uniqueness is associated with its having a finger in every other division. The history of their chemistry is HIST's focus, as jointly sponsored symposia indicate. The history of HIST has been neglected, however, and this year we shall begin the office of Historian of the Division. We, more than any other division, have the responsibility to set the pattern of reclamation, development, and preservation of Division memorabilia. I am delighted to report that Jim Bohning, the 1986 Division Chair, will, in the language of the theater, create the role of historian of HIST.

A colleague of mine recently added to the clippings and cartoons on his office door a bumper-sticker-like item that said: Physics happens. I wanted to add: - but chemistry depends on chemists. HIST, in particular, is involved in unveiling and enlivening the archival records, both formal and informal, of that dependence. That's why I am a member.

At the New Orleans meeting of the ACS last year, the Council Committee on Divisional Activities adopted a new document about divisions. Included in that document is a "Statement of Purpose" which states that divisions are organized to:

1. Provide a forum for the presentation of original research results in the areas of their expertise.
2. Provide members of the division and the Society as a whole with the latest information on advances in these areas.
3. Provide a forum for the exchange of technical information and expertise.
4. Provide members with a sense of identity.
5. Promote the status of the area of expertise, and of persons interested in this area.
6. Build and increase the interest of members in special areas of chemistry and, thus, in the American Chemical Society as a whole.

I invite your suggestions for enhancing HIST's appeal and effectiveness.

James G. Traynham, Louisiana State University

FAREWELL FROM THE PAST CHAIR

This is my final note as your chair for 1987. I wish to report to you that we did indeed have a very good year in nearly all areas. The programs under the direction of our Program Chair, M. V. Orna, included the symposium on carbocation chemistry, the history of chemical industry in Louisiana, the development of physical chemistry, the Kasmir Fajans session and our extended symposium on archeological chemistry, all of which were highly successful. The chemistry trivia session had a great location and was accessible to nearly everyone. Many thanks to all the organizers, symposium coordinators, presenters of papers, the program committee and all others who were involved in this effort.

Our membership increased about 8% under the leadership of our Membership Chair, Al Kirsch. Administratively, much has been done this past year that should help in the efficient operation of the division. Under the leadership of Jane Miller, our by-law changes were approved by the board, submitted to the ACS and returned with virtually no changes. A committee on by-laws, consisting of Dr. Miller and myself, was set up. The Dexter Award procedures were spelled out. The newsletter is being shifted to separate production. The cachet committee's terms were normalized and the division made a long-term commitment to the program and the presidential papers series. Arrangements with CHOC regarding booth operation were worked out, thanks to Jim Bohning, who also deserves credit for his work on the cachet program with his fellow committee

members and for numerous other things he has done for the division. Program committee guidelines were approved by the board. Division members helped the field of the history of chemistry in many ways, including publications, oral history projects, advice on archives, and national exhibits. Besides the persons mentioned previously, I wish to thank Jim Traynham for his help in numerous ways, Bill Jensen for his diligent work as Secretary-Treasurer, Bert Ramsay for his work as our Councilor, Ralph Allen for his leadership of the Subdivision of Archeological Chemistry, Jeff Sturchio for providing the important link with CHOC and other services, the Dexter Chemical Company for its support, and all our committee members who gave consistent service to the division. Thanks to all who made this a successful year. The division is in good hands for next year and should continue to prosper and grow.

Bob Goldsmith, St. Mary's College of Maryland

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CHAIR

The New Orleans HIST program was a full one in every sense of the word. The days were packed with symposia, poster sessions and general papers, and the sessions themselves were generally well attended. The Symposium on the History of the Chemical Industry in Louisiana, organized by Jim Traynham, led off the HIST offerings, with brief histories of several important chemical companies headquartered in Louisiana and topical papers on industries which formed Louisiana's chemical economic base: sugar, sulfur, petrochemicals, rubber and polymers.

The Chemistry Trivia Poster Session, organized most ably by Jack Stocker, attracted about 800 viewers during its two-day exhibition in the Convention Center Lobby. Papers on a variety of subjects from alchemical music to chemical Rorschach tests, complete with audiotape recorders for the more adventuresome, were featured in this potpourri. The session met with such enthusiasm that it should certainly be featured again, possibly at the Dallas meeting, and renamed "Chemical Potpourri," since many of the subjects dealt with were by no means trivial pursuits.

The General Papers session on Tuesday morning highlighted the Divisional Cachet Paper on the 1882 ACS President, John William Mallet, and the *piece de resistance* was Allen Debus' Dexter Award Address, "Quantification and Medical Motivation: Factors in the Interpretation of Early Modern Chemistry". This session was climaxed by the Dexter Award luncheon at which Dr. Debus was presented with the 1987 award by Dr. Sidney Edelstein, President of the Dexter Chemical Corporation.

Tuesday afternoon's featured symposium was a commemoration of the Centennial of Kasimir Fajans' birth, organized by Seymour Lewin and Ray Holmen. Fajans'

multifaceted contributions to such diverse areas as radioactivity, polarization, solid-state chemistry, colligative properties and adsorption phenomena were reviewed by speakers who had worked directly with Professor Fajans in these areas. We were also particularly honored to have one of Professor Fajans' two sons present for the symposium.

The Frank C. Whitmore Centennial Symposium was held all day on Wednesday of the meeting week, with a technical session on carbocation chemistry in the morning, co-sponsored by the Division of Organic Chemistry, and a review of Whitmore's work and influence in the afternoon. Many members of Professor Whitmore's family were present for the symposium and for the luncheon between the sessions.

I would like to thank Jim Traynham, Leon Gortler and Martin Saltzman, not only for their efforts in organizing their respective symposia, but for their excellent summary reports, and I hope to see all of you in Toronto where, among other things, HIST will be celebrating its 50th birthday with a special luncheon. Mark your calendars now for this event, and for the major symposium on the History of Electrochemistry, organized by John Stock.

Mary Virginia Orna, College of New Rochelle

REPORT OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SUBSECTION

Why is Archeological Chemistry a subdivision of HIST? What do those who enhance the study of history (and prehistory) by using chemistry have in common with those who enrich the subject of chemistry by studying history? It is perhaps the common interest in the past that has made this unusual partnership work to the advantage of both groups.

A very successful aspect of the unification of chemical historians and archeological chemists has been a series of books within the ACS Advances in Chemistry Series. The fourth in the series, *Archeological Chemistry IV*, is in its final stages of preparation and should be published sometime this summer. This volume includes many of the papers presented at the three-day symposium held at the Denver ACS meeting. These papers demonstrate the many diverse archeological problems that chemists have helped address using some of the most sophisticated methods of material characterization available. One paper addresses the possibility of using the innovative developments in biotechnology to study the residual DNA in dried blood samples. Other papers focus on natural fibers and ancient fabrics. It is clear that these chemical studies not only increase our knowledge of the past, but will also help museums preserve the many delicate historical artifacts made of silk and other natural fibers. A controversial linen