

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

artifact, the Shroud of Turin, is the subject of two papers. In one, the newer methods for carbon dating are described. These advances, which have improved sensitivity, have made it possible to propose the definitive experiments for determining the age of the Shroud of Turin. In another paper, the prospects for determining the age of very old bones is discussed. This important new technique could revolutionize anthropology. All the papers demonstrate the level of scientific maturity that this field of study has reached. The continuation of the *Archeological Chemistry* series is a testament to this growth.

Beginning with the next issue, we also plan to introduce a regular column on archeological chemistry, called BONES AND STONES, which will hopefully encourage both groups of chemists to learn more about what others with historical interests are doing. Anyone interested in the fascinating applications of chemical techniques to archeological and historical studies or for the preservation of ancient materials can contact Ralph Allen, Department of Chemistry, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA 22901, for further information.

Ralph O. Allen, University of Virginia

ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. Albert S. Kirsch has been elected as Chair of the Division of the History of Chemistry for 1989; Dr. William B. Jensen of the Department of Chemistry, University of Cincinnati, has been reelected for a third term as Secretary-Treasurer; Dr. O. Bertrand Ramsay of the Department of Chemistry, Eastern Michigan University, has been reelected as Councilor, and Dr. Raymond B. Seymour of the Department of Polymer Science, University of Southern Mississippi, has been elected as Alternate Councilor and Membership Chair.

Jane A. Miller, University of Missouri-St. Louis

AWARDS

The Outstanding Paper Award for 1987 has been awarded to Dr. Grant Urry of the Department of Chemistry of Tufts University for his paper "Herman Irving Schlesinger: The Man, His Chemistry and His Impact Upon the Department of Chemistry at Chicago", delivered at the 1985 Fall National Meeting in Chicago, Illinois.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

John Wotiz (University of Southern Illinois-Carbondale) reports that he will become Professor Emeritus in the Fall

of 1989 and that he hopes to keep busy by making his extensive teaching experience available to other colleges and universities as a Visiting Professor in the History of Chemistry and/or Undergraduate Organic Chemistry. Given Dr. Wotiz's usual busy schedule, the editor would suggest that parties interested in availing themselves of Dr. Wotiz's services should contact him as soon as possible.

Jeffrey L. Sturchio (CHOC) has recently resigned as Associate Director of the Center for the History of Chemistry in order to accept the position of Historian at Bell Laboratories. Dr. Sturchio's new address will be Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio, Archives and Records Management Services, AT&T Bell Labs/WVA201, 5 Reinman Road, Warren, NJ 07060.

Bert Ramsay (Eastern Michigan University), who has just been reelected as Divisional Councilor, reports that he has been appointed as a Committee Associate for the National Committee on Meetings and Expositions for 1988 and invites input from the membership.

The Division of the History of Chemistry notes with sadness the passing of M. Christine King, who was a victim of an automobile accident in November of 1987 in London. Dr. King was the first recipient of the Division's Outstanding Paper Award in 1984 and made significant contributions to the history of chemical kinetics.

WHILE IN TORONTO

* The Croft Chapter House, which housed the original University of Toronto Chemical Laboratory (1859), will be open for viewing by interested persons on Tuesday, 7 June, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. A display of early artifacts will be featured, as well as a brochure on the early history of chemistry at the University, and the college archivist will be on hand to answer questions. Croft Chapter House is located at the southwest corner of University College on the main campus of the University of Toronto next to the Hart House (where the Chemical Education Dinner will be held).

* The Division of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology will be conducting a one-day symposium (Tuesday, 7 June) at Toronto to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Discovery of Fission. Interested persons should consult the meeting abstracts for further information.

* Due to the international nature of the Toronto meeting, the divisional cachet will depart, for this meeting only, from its ongoing ACS Presidential Series. This series will continue at the Los Angeles meeting, where a cover will be issued honoring James C. Booth, ACS President from 1883