






Julianna Poole-Sawyer, HIST member and ACS employee working at CAS headquarters in Columbus, OH, presenting the Citation for Chemical Breakthrough Award to Dr. Michael Dennis, Vice President of CAS Legal, PMO and Innovation at CAS on Friday, September 20, 2019.

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Congratulations CAS!



Please join us on Friday, September 20th, at 11 a.m. in the auditorium as CAS is presented with a 2019 ACS Division of the History of Chemistry's Citation for Chemical Breakthrough award in recognition of our first edition of *Chemical Abstracts*.



Congratulations to CAS on receiving the 2019 ACS Division of the History of Chemistry's Citation for Chemical Breakthrough award!



Today's Citation for Chemical Breakthrough - Thank you to all of CAS's pioneers and leaders

- CAS's Success
- William A. Miller 1963-1982
- Ralph Anderson 1969-2014
- Bob Miller 1981
- E.J. Carey 1987-2008
- Dale Baker 1987-2008
- Kenneth J. Allyn 1988-2015
- Carolyn Calkins 1991
- Robert Meehan 2002-2011
- Marcel Quinlan 2011



From CAS's September 30, 2019 newsletter, page 6. Courtesy Christine Casey, CAS.

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CAS's Citation for Chemical Breakthrough award plaque hangs right inside the main entrance of the CAS building through which every employee and visitor enters and exits. From CAS's September 30, 2019 newsletter, page 6. Courtesy Christine Casey, CAS. Photograph courtesy Christine Casey.

For the history of the sculpture that appears above the door, please see the next two pages from the CAS December 16, 2019 newsletter.

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Honoring our Storied Past with a Bright Future Ahead

Message from Manny

As we approach the conclusion of another year with tangible accomplishments, I'm reminded that we are fortunate to work for an organization with more than 110 years' experience in making our world a better place. Countless innovations have been made possible thanks to our high-quality content, leading edge technologies and unmatched, unparalleled human expertise. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who came before us, leading our path to greatness. As I commend all of you for your continued contributions to our bright future ahead, let's share a moment to reflect on our past and appreciate the history on which we stand.

The CA Block Design

As you wander around the Columbus campus, the history of CAS is infused throughout our facilities in various pieces of art. You may have encountered one of these on your first visit to CAS, an artistic representation of the original CAS publication, *Chemical Abstracts (CA)*, which hangs in a block design on display in the Building A outer lobby vestibule. Recently, the question arose regarding this piece: what is its history?

The CA Block design concrete sculpture is a rendering of a design created by The Ohio State University (OSU) engineering Professor Thomas Ewing French (1871-1944), while he was working in the OSU Department of Architecture and Drawing. Professor French was a very influential person at OSU, becoming the second president of the OSU Athletic Board in 1912, and he is credited with "conceiving the idea" of the Ohio Stadium, which was designed in 1918 and opened in 1922.

The CA Block design was completed in 1928 and was introduced publicly for the first time on the 1st Issue CA cover in 1929 (volume 23). The CA Block was subsequently used on all printed issues of CA from 1929 until printed issues were discontinued on January 1, 2010, with volume 153 being the last.



The occasion of the design's creation and public use corresponds with the timing of CA staff, about 20 people at that time, moving from small quarters where offices were housed at OSU to a dedicated area on the 4th floor in the newly completed OSU McPherson Chemical Laboratory in June 1928. At that point, CA had operated for 20 years, starting in 1907, and had gained sustainable value with chemists in providing access to research information. Professor French was a friend of E. J. Crane, who served as the Editor of CA from 1915-1958, a position equivalent to the chief executive. Dr. Crane would have also provided guidance on the ideas conveyed by the design.

The verbal description of the design was commemorated by Dr. David Weisgerber (Director of Editorial and CA Editor from 1982-2001) in the 1990s, inspired by E. J. Crane's recollections, stating: "The globe and the books symbolize the world's literature. The evaporating dish on the tripod suggests that the chemical literature is meant and symbolizes the boiling down of that literature to abstract form. The CA monogram completes the design with a distinctive CA emblem."



Preserving History as Growth Ensued

In June 1953, as announced in *Little CA*, the company newsletter at the time, CA had grown to the point that a new building on the OSU campus was being planned and had been committed to by the American Chemical Society (ACS) and OSU. In June 1955, *Little CA* showed a picture of the "new building" under construction, noting it would be done later that year. In the same issue of *Little CA*, it was announced that CA had now become "Chemical Abstracts Service" by designation from the ACS.

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By the Christmas 1955 issue of *Little CA*, a picture of the completed 3-story new Chemical Abstracts Building on the OSU campus was shown, with the CA Block design concrete sculpture prominently displayed on the front of the building. CA operations, now comprising about 100 staff, moved again to the three-story building (a fourth floor was added later) at Woodruff and College Avenues on the OSU campus. Originally named “The Chemical Abstracts Building,” it was built with funds provided by ACS and OSU.

A building dedication ceremony was held in June 8, 1956 as shown in the photo below. From left to right seated: E. J. Crane (CAS Editor), J. C. Warner (Carnegie Institute of Technology and ACS elected President), Howard L. Bevis (OSU President), and at the microphone, Wallace Brode (National Bureau of Standards and elected ACS Director).



Circa 1956, the CA Block sculpture was located on the original 3-story building, to the right side of building ground floor near the front entrance as shown in the photo above. In February 1965, Chemical Abstracts Service vacated the OSU building, moving all operations to our existing location on the corner of Dodridge Street and Olentangy River Road as a division of the American Chemical Society. The OSU building, which CAS conveyed to OSU through an agreed fee, was re-named Watts Hall and remodeling began in 1965.

The CA Block design sculpture was moved from the OSU building to its new CAS home and installed in the outer lobby vestibule of the new building, where it remains today for all to see.

Our Heritage Celebrated

I hope you've enjoyed this glimpse into one aspect of our amazing history. Key takeaways from this story remain applicable today.

- Our history should be cherished, treasured and protected, just as our predecessors protected the Block CA sculpture, so that we may continue to enjoy it together in perpetuity; and
- Our team has continued to grow, and the role CAS plays in providing “sustainable value” to chemists and scientific information specialists is stronger than ever. We continue making history together!

My sincere thanks to our historians who contributed to this article, including Dr. Matthew J. Toussant, Dr. David Weisgerber, Mr. John Dickman, Ms. Judy Watson, and Ms. Marleen Weidner.

Building on our Legacy

We can all take pride in the difference we make as we strive together toward improving people's lives through the transforming power of chemistry. On behalf of the CAS Leadership Team, best wishes to all for a prosperous and happy new year as we look forward together to continuing to build on our cherished legacy!