

Christoph Meinel



Professor Dr. Christoph Meinel was born on November 28, 1949 in Dresden, Germany. He earned the qualification “Diplom-Chemiker” from the University of Marburg in 1974; all his subsequent historical work reflects his deep knowledge of the underlying chemistry. He continued his education at Marburg in the history of science and graduated in 1977 with a Ph.D. His doctoral dissertation was on the history of chemistry at Marburg, an extensive subject subsequently published as a major monograph.

He continued in the history of chemistry as a postdoctoral fellow with Maurice Crosland at the University of Kent at Canterbury, then returned to the University of Marburg, earning habilitation at the University of Hamburg in 1987. After a year as Fellow at the Berlin Institute for Advanced Study, he was appointed to a full professorship at the University of Regensburg in 1990, where he continued until his retirement in 2015. Christoph spent two periods in the United States, as a visiting professor at Smith College and as a research associate at the Center for the History of Chemistry (now a division of the Chemical Heritage Foundation) in Philadelphia.

Christoph Meinel is a member of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina and a member of the Académie Internationale d’Histoire des Sciences in Paris. He has served as president of the German Society for the History of Science, and was the founding president of the International Commission on the

History of Modern Chemistry. From 1990 through 1997 and again since 2014 he chairs the History Division of the German Chemical Society (GDCh) and is editor of the Division's journal *Mitteilungen*.

Dr. Meinel's extensive body of historical work has earned him a position at the center of the international community of historians of chemistry. His research interests include the emergence of chemistry as a discipline, its social history, communication and publication networks. He has also published on various aspects of early modern natural philosophy. In addition to scores of articles in journals such as *Ambix*, *Hyle*, *Isis*, *Angewandte Chemie*, and *Berichte zur Wissenschaftsgeschichte*, Meinel's work has appeared in dozens of multiauthor books, both as an author and editor. His monographs include a major series of books on Joachim Jungius (1587-1657).

Such a rich career in the history of chemistry has been recognized by many honors: the Gmelin-Beilstein Memorial Medal of the German Chemical Society, the Alexandre Koyré Medal of the International Academy of the History of Science, and the Liebig-Wöhler Friendship Prize of the Göttingen Museum of Chemistry. The History Division of the American Chemical Society is honored to join the European societies in awarding Professor Meinel the HIST Prize. Now that he is officially retired from his chair, we hope he can spend more time in the United States among new friends as well as old students and colleagues.