

Chemical Engineers (see *Book Notes*) and are looking for prospective candidates for inclusion in the volume, as well as for potential contributors. Possible candidates include any American alchemist, teacher of chemistry before 1800, person who spent a reasonable portion of their career in chemistry before 1870, any chemist who wrote or translated a chemistry text before 1840, wrote a famous text before 1940, edited a major chemical journal, was awarded a major chemical prize, was a major consultant, founded a chemical company, was president of a chemical society, became president of a college, had a chemistry building named in their honor, was a major figure in literature, music, art, politics, etc. or had a reaction, process or apparatus named after them. Potential contributors or persons with suggestions should contact Dr. Wyndham Miles, 24 Walker Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 1989 season! We are looking forward to an exciting year and hope to have as much member participation as possible. Symposia scheduled for the Dallas meeting include one on the Bicentennial of the Chemical Revolution and another on the Role of Chemistry in the Discovery and Production of Petroleum. In Miami Beach we look forward to the Impact of Radiopharmaceuticals on the Frontiers of Chemistry and Medicine and to the History of Fertilizers (cosponsored by FERT). Both meetings feature True Stories of Small Chemical Businesses (cosponsored by SCHB) and the usual fascinating array of general papers, which authors may submit for consideration for the division's Outstanding Paper Award as selected by the Program Committee. This award consists of a plaque, \$100 cash, and the winner's choice of \$150 worth of books from Reidel's current catalog, thanks to the generosity of that company.

While on the subject of awards, let me remind everyone of the Dexter Award, made possible through the continuing generosity and support of the Dexter Chemical Corporation, its Chairman, Dr. Sidney Edelstein, and its Vice-President, Dr. David Abrahams. The award, for outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry, consists of \$2,000 and a plaque and is the only one given by an ACS division in this field. The roll of winners comprises a "Who's Who" of historians of chemistry. Congratulations are also in order to Dr. Edelstein himself, who was awarded the 1988 Leonardo da Vinci Medal of the Society for the History of Technology.

Many members of HIST are new; our membership has doubled since 1981, which is to say that half our people have been on board for eight years or less. We look forward to the contributions and word of the accomplishments of all our members, but have a special interest in the newer ones. As with most organizations, the "old guard" tends to occupy the principal offices, but we're making a conscious effort to bring in new faces wherever possible. So far this year Ben Chastain has

been appointed one of the Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee and John Heitmann will serve on the Program Committee. Newer members who would like to serve: Let us know you're out there!

There have been some other changes on the Executive Committee. Bob Goldsmith is no longer Immediate Past Chair, but he and Jane Miller are continuing their superb work as our Bylaws Committee in revising the bylaws to suit an organization of over 700 members, as opposed to the pint-sized group we were when they were first written. Jim Traynham, after a very productive year as Chair, now continues as "elder statesman" in Bob's shoes, while I face the daunting task of filling Jim's. Jack Stocker, who will have no trouble filling mine next year, comes on board as Chair-Elect.

Bill Jensen is continuing his excellent work as Secretary and as Editor of the *Bulletin*. These latter duties, coupled with the expanded size of the division, made it sensible to elect a separate Treasurer for the first time last year. Mary Virginia Orna, who had been Program Chair, was elected to fill the new position; we are fortunate to continue to have her wise counsel on the board. Jeff Sturchio is taking over her duties as Program Chair, and we expect him to continue HIST's tradition of outstanding programming. Bert Ramsay and Ray Seymour continue as Councilor and Alternate, respectively, with Ray doubling as Membership Chair. (A REMINDER: if you have a possible recruit or any ideas to aid in recruitment, contact Ray). Last year we added Jim Bohning as the Historian of HIST (about time we had one!), and Ralph Allen continues as Chair of the Subdivision of Archeological Chemistry. Our other Member-at-Large is Dexter Awardee Arnold Thackray, Director of the Beckman Center for History of Chemistry ("BCHOC"), who acts as liaison between BCHOC and HIST so that the two organizations can continue the close ties that have been so fruitful in the past.

One last point, again on membership, this time concerning money. Aside from our divisional dues, our ACS budget allocation is based on attendance at national meetings and responses on the meeting registration form (where it says: "Which division's program influenced you to attend?"). Jim Traynham reported last year that we ranked sixth in allocations per member. He was absolutely right in crediting Virginia Orna's programming for this outstanding showing, and also right in pointing out that we look even better considering that most of us are members of other divisions which compete for our attention. This is an excellent reflection on our members' enthusiasm as well. I'm certain the quality of our programming will continue to draw new members and attendees, all of which redounds to the financial as well as the intellectual benefit of the division. As Jim said last year: "Remember to record HIST on your meeting registration form: It pays." (And it doesn't cost anything, either!)

We're looking forward, then, to a stimulating and rewarding year, and hope that still more of our membership will get

involved in national meetings and divisional affairs. Welcome aboard!

Al Kirsch

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM CHAIR

Two symposia and the Dexter Award/General Papers Session were featured at the Los Angeles ACS meeting, held on 25-30 September 1988. The first symposium, held Monday morning and afternoon, was the Golden Anniversary Symposium in Celebration of the Hahn-Strassmann Experiments and the Discovery of Nuclear Fission. Organized by Leonard Fine of Columbia University, the symposium covered the scientific perspective, the historical perspective and the literary perspective. Speakers were, for the most part, persons who had been at the cutting edge of nuclear research and have made many notable contributions to our knowledge of fission and fission products. Among them were Alfred O. Nier, Glenn T. Seaborg, John Wheeler and Ellis Steinberg. Much of the historical perspective centered around the contributions of Lise Meitner, the centerpiece of which was a remarkable paper by Ruth Sime, Lise Meitner's biographer. Finally, Richard Rhodes, winner of the 1987 National Book Award in nonfiction for his book, *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, delivered a thought-provoking paper on the complementarity of the bomb. Mr. Rhodes' thesis is that knowledge of how to release nuclear energy has led not only to a nuclear arms race of potentially holocaustal proportions but also to a slow but progressive and irreversible modification of the system of nation-states, detaching national sovereignty from the power to make war. The symposium was punctuated by a luncheon in honor of the speakers.

The second symposium, Information Sources in the History of Chemistry: California and the West Coast, was organized by Harold Goldwhite of California State University, Los Angeles. This symposium was the fourth in a series which included the Midwest (St. Louis meeting), the East Coast (Philadelphia meeting) and specialty libraries (New York meeting). Speakers representing the major West Coast libraries with important holdings in the history of chemistry expounded upon their collections with a view to aiding the serious researcher in the history of chemistry. Among them were Katharine Donohue of the Louise Darling Biomedical Library at UCLA, Robin Rider from the Bancroft Library of UC-Berkeley, Paula Hurwitz from the Millikan Memorial Library at Cal Tech, Thomas F. Wright of the William Andrews Clark Library, and Daniel Woodward of the Huntington Library.

The Dexter Award/General Papers Session had as its dual highlight a paper by the 1988 Dexter Award recipient, L. F. Haber, entitled "Historians and the Chemical Industry," and the Divisional Cachet Paper on James Curtis Booth, Eighth President of the American Chemical Society. Other papers

included discussion of Fourcroy's *Elemens*, Otto Bayer and the History of the Division of the History of Chemistry. The session concluded with adjournment to the Dexter Award Luncheon, where Dr. Haber received his prize and where Jeff Sturchio, incoming Program Chairman of HIST, received the Division's Outstanding Paper Award for 1988.

Mary Virginia Orna, College of New Rochelle

ELECTION RESULTS

Dr. Jack H. Stocker of the University of New Orleans has been elected as Chair of the Division of the History of Chemistry for 1990; Dr. William B. Jensen of the University of Cincinnati, has been reelected as Secretary and Mary Virginia Orna of the College of New Rochelle has been elected as Treasurer. Dr. Jeffrey L. Sturchio of AT&T Bell Labs will succeed Dr. Orna as Program Chair.

NOTES FROM MEMBERS

John Sharkey (Pace University) has been reappointed to the Local Section Activities Committee of the ACS and has been elected President of the Chemistry and Physics on Stamps Study Unit of the American Topical Association.

Ted Benfey (Beckman Center) has recently retired from Guilford College and has accepted the position of Publications Editor at the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry in Philadelphia.

Raymond Seymour (University of Southern Mississippi) has received the 1989 Society of Plastics' International Award. Previous winners have included Paul Flory, Carl Marvel and Herman Mark.

EVENTS OF INTEREST

* The 18th International Congress of History of Science will be held on 1-9 August 1989 in Hamburg and Munich, Federal Republic of Germany. Interested parties should contact Alexandra K. Wigdor, Principal Staff Officer, U.S. National Committee for the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, 2101 Constitution Ave. [GF 176], Washington, D.C. 20418, Phone (202) 334-3026.

* The Hangzhou International Conference of Chinese Scientific and Technological History will be held on 5-10 May 1989 in Hangzhou, China. Interested parties should contact Dr. Li Zihen or Dr. Ji Jinghang, Department of International Exchange Affairs, Hangzhou Association for Science and Technology, No. 211, Yan'an Road, Hangzhou, P.R. China.