

The 1988 Bibliography

With this issue we introduce a new feature to the *Bulletin* - an annual bibliography of books and papers published in the history of chemistry. The bibliography will contain only items for the year in question, though occasionally an earlier item will be included if it has been overlooked in previous bibliographies. The categories are generally self-explanatory. Thus the category on *Disciplinary, Institutional and Social Relations* includes histories of chemistry departments, studies of the development of research traditions and specialties, and histories of chemical education and the popularization of chemistry. Items which fall into more than one category have been placed according to their primary emphasis. If you published a relevant book or article in 1988 which has been inadvertently overlooked, please bring the omission to the attention of the editor for inclusion in a later bibliography. In future issues the bibliography will appear in the Spring issue of the succeeding year. In other words, the *1989 Bibliography* will appear in the Spring 1990 issue (No. 6).

Museums, Historiography, and Miscellaneous

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Biography and Autobiography

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BOOK NOTES

Chemische Studien und Konstitutions-Formeln der Organischen Chemie in Graphischer Darstellung, Johann J. Loschmidt, Reproductions of the Original 1861 and 1913 Editions, Aldrich Chemical Company, Milwaukee, WI, 1989. 54 pp. and 152 pp. Paper (Typeset) \$12.00 each.

These volumes, issued by the Aldrich Chemical Company, are reproductions of the famous pamphlet published by the Austrian physicist, Johann Josef Loschmidt (1821-1895), in 1861 and of the later annotated edition of the same work, published by Kekulé's biographer, Richard Anschütz, in 1913 as part of Wilhelm Ostwald's famous series, *Klassiker der Exakten Wissenschaften*. Loschmidt's story certainly has all the elements of a romance of the "forgotten genius" genre: born in poverty, forced to privately publish his ideas on chemical structure - many of which appear to have anticipated the work of Kekulé and others, forgotten and then rediscovered after his death by Kekulé's biographer, etc., etc. Indeed, in the article in *Aldrichimica Acta*, in which the republication of these pamphlets is announced, William J. Wiswesser lists a dozen "firsts" in the theory of chemical structure supposedly contained in Loschmidt's masterpiece (1).

Unfortunately, many of Wiswesser's claims involve the exercise of a good deal of historical hindsight and others are simply wrong. The most serious of these is his contention that Loschmidt proposed the first correct cyclic structure for benzene (II) four years before Kekulé (I) and that his structure even anticipated aspects of the delocalized MO structure used today (III), a premise which he illustrates pictorially by comparing the three formulas: