

DIVISION OF THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY

SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER

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Message from Jeff Seeman, HIST Division Chair

Greetings, dear Colleagues!

The recent HIST elections included the nominations of a number of newcomers. We are warmly and actively inviting them to join and add additional leadership to HIST. I have personally written to each (and to others), discussing with them the roles they would like to and could play in the future.

The past few years have seen the initiation of many new HIST initiatives. We invite you to join us in these adventures!

The HIST website_Electronic communications are fast, inexpensive, and efficient. Vera Mainz, HIST's Secretary/Treasurer, has accepted the added responsibility of being HIST's webmaster. HIST is now rapidly communicating its business matters on our website, and HIST's own history is frequently-updated there as well. Please bookmark our site and check in frequently: <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>. If you cannot remember this address, and who can (?), you can always find HIST's website by way of www.acs.org → ACS Members → Technical Divisions Home Pages → History of Chemistry. We are currently considering an easy-to-remember website address.

HIST Communications with its Membership_The ACS constitutional amendments related to electronic balloting were just recently ratified. The vote was 18,329 for and 2,036 against. HIST is very seriously considering electronic balloting in the future. There are significant membership service and budgetary issues at stake. A large percentage of HIST's budget is taken up by the cost of producing and mailing the ACS National meeting abstracts and election ballots. On the other hand, many members like to have hard copy communications. I personally like receiving substantive communications from HIST in the normal mail, especially our *Bulletin*. Of course, the *Bulletin* will continue to be printed and mailed to each HIST member. But what about meeting abstracts and other divisional communications: will e-mail and internet-based information be sufficient and acceptable to HIST's members? What is your opinion?

HIST programming_HIST continues to present novel and interesting programming. The "Joseph Priestley, Universal Catalyst: A Bicentennial Celebration of his Life" symposium and the co-sponsored Presidential Event, "Responses to Changing Needs in Doctoral Education" (Philadelphia ACS National meeting) are two highlights. Coming up: "The Rise and Fall of Chlorofluorocarbons" (San Diego, March 2005); "Landmark Chemistry Books of the 20th Century: A Symposium in Honor of the Fifth Anniversary of the Bolton Society," "Chemist-Composers: Their Chemistry and Music," "Minority Chemists Telling our Stories," (Washington, DC, September 2005); and a major celebration to honor the 50th year of the Dexter and now Sidney M. Edelstein award (San Francisco, September 2006). More details of these symposia and others can be found later in this Newsletter.

HIST new awards_2005 will be the first year of HIST's new award program, Citation for Chemical Breakthroughs. Details can be found on HIST's website. We are currently

exploring the idea of an award to encourage an interest in the history of chemistry for undergraduates.

The HIST website now includes wider and richer range of information about HIST's current awards and past awardees. This includes (and more will be added) nomination instructions, facts, photographs, and biographies about past awardees, pdf files of the actual past outstanding papers awardees, and other useful information.

HIST has been very fortunate that many of our former officers have maintained close leadership ties with us. We acknowledge and thank Dave Lewis for the splendid job he has done over the past two years as Chair and thank him, in advance, for agreeing to remain an active participant in HIST.

Your leadership team is anxious to hear your thoughts and suggestions. Please be encouraged to contact me or any of your officers. Best wishes to you all!

Jeff
Richmond, Virginia
January 6, 2005

Message from David Lewis, HIST Past Chair

At the time of writing this, I am in the final month of my service to the Division of the History of Chemistry as Chair of HIST. The past two years have been both challenging and fulfilling, and I am hopeful for the future of our Division as the new leaders take their places.

I have been singularly fortunate in having an excellent support system in place during my two-year tenure as Chair of HIST, beginning with my immediate predecessors, Dick Rice and Steve Weininger. I have had the distinct pleasure of watching Steve's child, "See and Be Seen," take off to the point that this year we have disbursed grants to members to present papers at Regional Meetings; this same program was specially highlighted by the Divisional Activities Committee when they awarded us the ChemLuminary award last year.

This year, we have been especially active in promoting the history of chemistry: Tom Strom organized a well-attended, highly successful symposium at the Southwestern Regional Meeting in Fort Worth, Harold Goldwhite and Mary Virginia Orna organized another very successful symposium on the Ten Most Beautiful Experiments at the Western Regional Meeting in Sacramento, and Seth Rasmussen organized a symposium on Chemical History and its Applications to Chemical Education at the Biennial Conference in Chemical Education. Over the past two years, we have seen several symposia jointly with other divisions of the ACS: notable among these was Jeff Seeman's symposium on the centenary of chromatography.

With the passing of the dues initiative this year, HIST will begin to see a much-needed boost in our income from the National ACS. This will allow us to continue with our divisional support

of symposia at regional and national meetings. We still have a way to go, but I am confident that the new leadership is up to the challenges ahead. What may be more important, this most recent election was characterized by two very important facets; 1) we had new faces from HIST stepping up to the plate to stand for office, and to enter into helping us move HIST forward; and 2) we had over 20 percent of our membership casting ballots. We are all looking forward to working with every candidate, successful or not, to move HIST forward – there is work for all to do.

My two years as HIST Chair have been a learning experience, which is not always what one wants, but I now believe even more strongly in the importance of HIST to the mission of ACS. As we all look forward, it is really quite useful to look back, occasionally, to where we have come from. Major issues face chemistry in the 21st century, and HIST has an important perspective to bring to the table in those discussions. I hope that we will all make our voices heard.

HIST is lucky to have an excellent set of officers, and to my colleagues in the Executive Committee of the last two years, I express my thanks for your help and support. I most especially want to thank our outgoing Program Chair, Roger Egolf, for his yeomanly work on behalf of HIST, and I look forward to him working as out Chair-Elect. To Joe Jeffers, also, our incoming Program Chair, I want to extend my best wishes.

David

Message from Joe Jeffers, HIST Program Chair

Roger Egolf did an outstanding job as HIST Program Chair for the past six years. As he moves on to become HIST Chair-Elect, it falls my lot to fill his shoes, a large task indeed. (No pun on your shoe size, Roger!) Kudos to Roger for a job well done.

Programming is a job for all of us. If we are to continue to have outstanding programming, we need your involvement in presenting papers and organizing symposia. Please note the list of upcoming symposia later in this Newsletter. Several ACS Divisions are asking us to co-sponsor symposia, and they are actively soliciting our membership to present papers for consideration.

HIST now has a laptop computer that I will bring to meetings. You may bring your presentation on CD or flash drive for direct loading on the computer, if you prefer to avoid traveling with your own computer.

I am open to any input from you that will enhance our programming. Do not hesitate to contact me with any suggestions or other comments.

Joe Jeffers

HIST Election Results, Fall 2004

Total ballots cast: 176; total ballots received: 177 (1 not signed on outer envelope).

Chair-elect: Roger Egolf.

Secretary-treasurer: Vera Mainz.

Councilor: Mary Virginia Orna and Ben Chastain.

Alternate councilor: Carmen Giunta.

Report of Councilors, Division of the History of Chemistry ACS National Meeting, Philadelphia, PA August 25, 2004

Elections to the elected committees of the Society took place after perusal of the minutes from the New Orleans meeting. Elected to the Committee on Committees for the term 2005-2007 were Lawrence Barton, Lissa Dulany, Larry K. Krannich, Mary Virginia Orna, and Eleanor D. Siebert. Elected to the Council Policy Committee were Rita R. Boggs, Dean W. Cooke, Yorke E. Rhodes, and Peter J. Stang. Elected to the Committee on Nominations and Elections were Frank D. Blum, Michael P. Doyle, Carol A. Duane, Ruth Ann Hathaway, Kathleen M. Schulz (three year terms); Merle I. Eiss (two-year term); Ellen B. Stechel (one-year term).

Reports from the Presidential Succession

President Charles P. Casey reiterated at this meeting the prime importance of communication. He also stated some challenges we must face in the future, including increasing the diversity of the chemical enterprise. He called our attention with alarm to the fact that the National Science Foundation budget is down 3% as against a budget request that contained a 2% increase. He unveiled the Academic Employment Initiative (AEI) pilot project aimed at broadening the faculty recruitment process by personal interactions between candidates and recruiters before invitations to visit campuses occur. This is done through a poster session at the SCI-MIX evening session. The project will have to be monitored over several national meetings to assess its success.

President-Elect William F. Carroll, Jr., after citing his many activities over the past year, spoke of the opportunity we have as chemists to bring value to our society and to the global society, and our ability to shape the future. He mentioned three areas specifically: (1) the changing nature of industry, education, government, and the chemical enterprise and indicated that we must seek out the reasons for these changes and the factors bringing about the changes if we are to be able to address them; (2) the need to remove the barriers that would allow chemists to transition into high school teachers from other areas of chemistry, and that we must develop information and the tools to enable the process; (3) the importance of public outreach, of improving the public perception of chemistry, of the need to attract the media to our cause, and of the need for us to engage in a conversation with the public.

Immediate Past-President Elsa Reichmanis also focused much of her report on chemical education. She averred that in order for us to succeed as a 21st century discipline, we must do much more to prepare young chemists for the new world of interdisciplinary teamwork. She also showed that all levels of chemistry education are linked and that if we don't start preparing students early for interdisciplinary work, they will find it very hard to shift gears when they are working on advanced degrees. Her three watchwords were teamwork, diversity, and inclusiveness in all the senses of these words.

Other Reports

James D. Burke, the Chair of the Board of Directors, mentioned the fact that at the Philadelphia meeting, the Chemical Heritage Foundation hosted part of the meeting as a co-location. He repeated the CHF mission to preserve and promote our chemical heritage, and gave the history of chemistry a very positive "thumbs-up" in his report. (Indeed, HIST programming at the meeting deserved this accolade: it was outstanding both in the hotel meeting room venue and at CHF with many well-prepared exhibits and exciting symposia.)

ACS CEO and Executive Director Madeleine Jacobs announced that there would be a comprehensive, random member survey during the coming year – watch for it. She also announced that two ACS publications will cease publication in the coming year: "Today's Chemist at Work" and "Modern Drug Discovery."

Other Council Action

The Council voted to change the wording in the Bylaws to allow for electronic balloting by both the society as a whole and by the Divisions of the Society. The essential change was the removal of the requirement of a hand-inscribed signature on the external ballot envelope, thus opening the door to other methods of balloting. The plan is for mail ballots always to be available for those who wish them. Divisions who wish to change their method of voting will have to change their divisional bylaws.

The Council also voted to add a sixth category to those who are eligible for membership in the ACS: pre-college teachers of chemical science who are fully certified and have three years of employment as a teacher of chemical science.

A Special Discussion Item was introduced by the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA) on "The Dispersion of Chemistry as a Discipline." This is such an important issue that we are going to give you the Executive Summary and CEPA's Recommendation in full.

Executive Summary

1. In the past 20 years significant changes have occurred in what chemists do and in the occupational categories used by the government agencies to describe chemists. These changes are occurring at an increasing rate.
2. With the changes in the federal classification system (from SOC 1998 to SOC 2000), it appears that we are witnessing an alarming decrease in chemists – from more than

96,000 in 1998 to 84,000 in 2000. The apparent decrease occurs, not from job loss, but from redefinition.

3. This “loss” leads to an unintentional de-emphasis on the occupation of chemists. The federal definition reclassified some formerly called chemists into “materials scientists,” “biochemists,” “geochemists,” and others. As a consequence, it may be that a polymer chemist (now classigied as a “materials scientist”) may prefer to support the Materials Research Society, rather than the ACS.

CEPA’s Recommendation

CEPA recommends to the Board of Directors that a task force be created to monitor and assess the impact of the dispersion of chemistry. Issues include the:

- Types of services to be provided
- Recruitment and retention of members who may not have a strong identity as a “chemist”
- Need for ACS to connect to persons working in biotech/pharma areas, who may become the majority of our membership within the next 25 years.

The Committee on Meetings and Expositions reported that the total attendance at the Philadelphia meeting was 13,805 persons.

There was no further business of the Council following the committee reports.

Councilor Reports

1. Mary Virginia Orna was re-elected to her second term as a member of the Committee on Committees (ConC). She is also continuing to serve as ConC liaison to the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications (JBCCP) and the Committee on Technician Affairs (CTA).
2. Ben Chastain continues to serve on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC), where he is co-chair of the Divisional Enhancement Sub-committee (awards and grants). He is also co-chair of the joint sub-committee (with Local Section Activities) on Divisional-Local Section Interactions. He is a liaison to the committees on Local Section Activities (LSAC) and on Public Relations and Communication (CPRC).

Ben B. Chastain, Councilor

Mary Virginia Orna, Councilor

Bulletin for the History of Chemistry

In the spring of 1988, William B. Jensen, University of Cincinnati, founded the *Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* under the auspices of HIST. This was a response to a need expressed by chemists with a bent toward history for some outlet for communicating with one another on subjects pertaining to the historical background of their professional field. Ever since its first appearance 16 years ago, the publication has been distributed to members of HIST as a part of their annual

membership. Cumulative indexes have appeared in 1997 and 2000 and will be part of Volume 30(2), at the end of 2005. We welcome contributions on history of chemistry and particularly encourage those with an interest in history to come forward as reviewers of manuscripts and books. If your library lacks a subscription to the *Bulletin*, you should encourage your acquisitions librarian to consider one of the best bargains in periodicals.

Paul R. Jones, Editor

At San Diego: "The Rise and Fall of Chlorofluorocarbons"

A day-long symposium on the rise and fall of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) will examine the history of these compounds from invention through phase-out. It will highlight the role of chemistry and chemists at all stages of a complicated story of science and society. The morning session will examine the rise of CFCs, including topics such as refrigerants before CFCs, the invention of CFCs, and the expansion of CFCs into areas beyond refrigeration. This is largely a tale of invention and industry, of developing materials to meet a need in the refrigeration industry and then of adapting some of those same or analogous materials to other applications as well. The afternoon will focus on the "fall" of CFCs: the connection between CFCs and ozone, regulation of CFCs, and substitute compounds. This is a story about chemistry and the environment, of investigating and unraveling the rather serious consequences of the eventual decomposition of CFCs. This more recent history will be told by some of its prominent protagonists, Sherwood Rowland and James Anderson.

In addition to members of the division, who already appreciate the legacy of chemistry's past, we hope to attract the interest of chemists, chemical educators, and students, who are not yet actively engaged with the past of their discipline. We hope that this symposium, tracing an interdisciplinary topic from its beginning to the present, can illustrate how looking at the past can illuminate the present.

Carmen Giunta, Organizer

The 10th Biennial Chemical History Study Tour

The tour will take place from October 7 - 19, 2005. Our itinerary will take us to Prague, Vienna, and Northern Italy where we will explore the work of Czech Nobel Laureate Jaroslav Heyrovsky, visit a medieval silver mine and one of the world's oldest alchemy museums, have lunch at a restaurant that specializes in alchemical menus, visit the world's oldest zoo, examine the work of Austria's most famous chemist, Auer von Welsbach, at a museum dedicated to his work, visit Galileo's academic digs in Padua, view the magnificent architecture of Palladio, the model for many of our buildings in Washington, DC, etc. etc. There will be an optional four days in Rome, where we will visit the University of Rome's

Physics Museum, crammed with Fermi memorabilia, and the Chemical Education Museum. For more details of the itinerary and pricing, please contact Mary Virginia Orna at mvorna@cnr.edu or write to her at the Department of Chemistry, College of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY 10805.

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS AND HIST DEADLINES

Check the HIST website for updates: <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>

Washington, DC, August 28 - September 1, 2005

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System by **April 15, 2005**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact the program chair by April 1, 2005. Check the call for papers in Chemical and Engineering News or the ACS web site for changes in the abstract deadlines. Co-sponsors listed in **bold** are primary sponsors.

General Papers. Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: jeffers@obu.edu

Edelstein Award Symposium (invited only). Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: jeffers@obu.edu

Minority Chemists Telling our Stories (invited only). Jeannette E. Brown Symposium: Award for Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences. (Co-sponsored by the CHED, WCC) Roger A. Egolf, Pennsylvania State University –Lehigh Valley Campus, 8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051, Phone: (610) 285-5110, Fax: (610) 285-5220, Email: rae4@psu.edu

Landmark Chemistry Books of the 20th Century: A Symposium in Honor of the Fifth Anniversary of the Bolton Society. (Co-sponsored by the Bolton Society) James J. Bohning, Department of Chemistry, Lehigh University, 6 E. Packer Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18015, Phone: (610) 758-3582, Fax: (610) 758-6536, Email: jjba@lehigh.edu

Chemist-Composers: Their Chemistry and Music. Leopold May, The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC 20064, Phone: (202) 319-5392, Fax (202) 319-5381, Email: may@cia.edu : Invited and solicited papers. A concert of the music of the chemist-composers is planned. Chemist-performers are invited to participate.

Transitions in the U. S. Chemical Profession in the 20th Century: Crises, Turning Points and their Resolutions (invited only). (Co-sponsored with **Presidential Event**) A Presidential Symposium Initiated and supported by William F. Carroll, 2005 President of the American Chemical Society. Jeff Seeman, Saddlepoint Frontiers, 12001 Bollingbrook Place, Richmond, VA 23236, Phone: (804) 794-1218, Email: jiseeman@yahoo.com

The History of Chemical Safety. (Co-sponsored with **CHAS**) Russell Phifer, WC Environmental, LLC, PO Box 1718, West Chester, PA 19380, Phone: (610)-696-9220, Fax: (610) 344-7519, Email: rphifer@qlasmesh.com

Division of Business Development and Management: the First 50 Years. (Co-sponsored with **BMGT**, which is soliciting HIST for presenters) Janet L. Bryant, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, P.O. Box 999, MS: K6-50, Richland, WA 99352, Phone: (509) 375-3765, Fax: (509) 375-5921, Email: janetlbryant@pnl.gov

When They Were Small: The Early Years of Today's Major Chemical and Pharmaceutical Businesses. (Co-sponsored with **SCHB**, which is soliciting HIST for presenters) Peter Bonk, Rhodes Technologies, 498 Washington St, Coventry, RI 01216, Phone: (401) 823-2025, Fax: (401) 823-2035, Email: peter.bonk@pharma.com

Atlanta, GA, March 26 - 30, 2006

Submit your abstract via the ACS Electronic Submission System by **November 15, 2005**. If you do not have access to a computer for use in the submission, contact the program chair by November 1, 2005. Check the call for papers in Chemical and Engineering News or the ACS website for changes in the abstract deadlines.

General Papers. Joe Jeffers, Ouachita Baptist University, 410 Ouachita Street, Box 3786, Arkadelphia, AR 71998-0001, Phone: (870) 245-5216, Fax: (870) 245-5241, Email: jeffers@obu.edu

Science History and Its Applications to Chemical Education. Science History and Its Applications to Chemical Education. Seth Rasmussen, Department of Chemistry and Molecular Biology, North Dakota State University, 1231 Albrecht Avenue, P.O. Box 5516, Fargo, ND 58105-5516, Phone: (701) 231-8747, Fax: (701) 231-8831; Email: seth.rasmussen@ndsu.nodak.edu. David Lewis, Department of Chemistry, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, Eau Claire, WI 54702, Phone (715) 836-4744, Fax: (715) 836-4979, Email: lewisd@uwec.edu

Benjamin Franklin Tricentennial Symposium. (Co-sponsored with *Friends of Franklin*) Roger Egolf, Pennsylvania State University - Lehigh Valley Campus, 8380 Mohr Lane, Fogelsville, PA 18051-9999, Phone: (610) 285-5110, Fax: (610) 285-5220, Email: rae4@psu.edu

In addition, HIST will co-sponsor history events with TECH, CINF, and BMGT. Check the website for updates. <http://www.scs.uiuc.edu/~mainzv/HIST/>

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE HISTORICAL GROUP OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

Notes and Updates

The Göttingen Chemical Society has awarded the 2004 Liebig-Wöhler Friendship Prize to Professor Mel Usselman of the University of Western Ontario, in recognition of his work on the reconstruction of historical experiments, particularly his work on Liebig's Kaliapparat. The award was presented in Göttingen in early June, and a paper on the apparatus will be published shortly.

Dr Jim Donnelly, Reader in Science Education at the University of Leeds, has been promoted to a personal chair. It is a chair in science education, but the electors cannot have been unmindful of his contributions to the history of chemical engineering.

Book Offer: Anthony S. Travis, *Dyes Made in America, 1915-1980: The Calco Chemical Company, American Cyanamid, and the Raritan River* (Jerusalem: Sidney M. Edelstein Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, Technology, and Medicine, 2004). Pp. xii + 582, index, over 40 figures, line drawings, and half tone illustrations. ISBN 965-555-149-0. Normally priced at \$115, this book is available at the special discount price of \$60 or £37 inclusive of surface postage if ordered from the Sidney M. Edelstein Center by 30 May 2005. [Please contact me if you would like a copy of the order form. Ed.]

Book Offer: Allen G. Debus (ed.), *Alchemy and Early Modern Chemistry: Papers from Ambix* (Huddersfield: Jeremy Mills Publishing, 2004). Pp. 576. £33 or \$60 plus postage. ISBN 0-9546484-1-2 (pbk). A collection of notable papers originally published in *Ambix* (the journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry), which first appeared in 1937. Over the years *Ambix* has reflected changing currents in the history of science. The early issues emphasised the alchemy of late antiquity and the medieval period. In the 1960s there was a new interest in the relationship of chemistry and medicine to the Scientific Revolution and recently there has been an increasing interest in the patronage of science and its relation to religion. Examples of all these trends are included in this volume. Visit <http://www.jeremymillspublishing.co.uk> for details of how to order.

Escorial's Alchemy Library is an online collection of books ('Bibliotheca Alquímica Escorialense') on alchemy and early modern natural philosophy held at the Royal Library of the monastery of El Escorial, Spain. See <http://www.circulocientifico.com>.

The Chemical Heritage Foundation has received the most important private collection of rare chemical texts in the world. The Roy G. Neville Historical Chemical Library adds depth and breadth to CHF's extensive holdings of chemical books and manuscripts, alchemical artwork, scientific instruments, apparatus and other artifacts. The conservation of this collection (more than 6,000 works spanning six centuries) for future generations was made possible through the generous action of Gordon and Betty Moore. Gordon Moore, a chemist, is the cofounder of Intel Corporation and author of what has become known as Moore's Law. Lawrence Principe, a historian of science from the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, gave an introductory talk at CHF on 19 April previewing the collection. http://www.chemheritage.org/press/pr_19_04_04.htm

The Chemical Heritage Foundation invites applications for the Sidney M. Edelstein international fellowship in the history of the chemical sciences and technologies. The fellow will divide his or her time between residency at the foundation in Philadelphia and the Edelstein Center for History and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine in Jerusalem. The fellowship carries a minimum stipend of \$38,000 and a travel allowance is also available. The fellowship is open to PhD scholars who are conducting research in the history of the chemical sciences and technologies. Closing date: 15 January 2005. Email: fellowships@chemheritage.org.

Katherine D. Watson

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry caters for all those who are interested in the history of the chemical sciences or alchemy. It publishes a learned journal, *Ambix*, three times per year, and holds two one-day conferences each year, usually in London. See <http://www.ambix.org>. For details of how to join the Society, please see the on-line form (follow the links from the main page), or contact the Treasurer and Membership Secretary: Dr Noel Coley, 24 Kayemoor Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5HT [n.g.coley@surrey28.freeserve.co.uk].

The Partington Prize

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry has established the Partington Prize in memory of Professor James Riddick Partington, the Society's first Chairman. It is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry. The prize consists of three hundred and fifty pounds (£350).

The competition is open to anyone with a scholarly interest in the history of alchemy or chemistry who, by the closing date of 31 December 2004, has not reached 35 years of age, or if older, has completed a doctoral thesis in the history of science within the previous three

years. Scholars from any country may enter for the competition, but entries must be submitted in English, typewritten or word-processed and double spaced on one side of the paper. Essays must be fully documented using the conventions used in the current issue of *Ambix*. Essays must not exceed 10,000 words in length, including references and footnotes. All entries must be submitted with a word count. The prize winning essay will be considered for publication in *Ambix*, but publication cannot be guaranteed.

All entries should be sent to Dr Gerrylynn Roberts, Dept. of History of Science & Technology, Faculty of Arts, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA, England, with the words "Partington Prize" written clearly on the envelope. Each entry should contain a separate title page giving the author's name, institution, address, and date of birth (and if relevant, the date of completion of their thesis). This information will not be made available to the judges. Essays (no more than one from each competitor) must be received no later than 31 December 2004. The decision of the judges appointed by the Council will be final. The Society reserves the right to divide the prize between two or more entries of equal merit, or not to award a prize should no essay be deemed of suitable standard. The name of the winner will be announced by 30 April 2005, and all essays will be returned to competitors soon after that date.

Forthcoming Meetings

Anaesthesia – the Chemists' Input, 11 March 2005

The Historical Group will be holding a one-day conference on this theme, starting with a morning session hosted by the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland, Portland Place, London. Dr David Zuck, Past President of the History of Anaesthesia Society, will talk about the early days of anaesthesia and then there will be an opportunity to have guided tours around the British Oxygen Company's collection of historic anaesthetic equipment housed at the AAGBI Headquarters. The afternoon session will be held at Burlington House. Speakers include Peter Drury ("Vernon Harcourt, chemist and inventor"), Linda Stratmann ("Who really discovered chloroform?"), Ann Ferguson ("The early history of curare") and Frank Bennetts ("Halothane, the first anaesthetic designed by chemists"). Further details are available from Professor Alan Dronsfield, School of Education, Health and Sciences, University of Derby, Derby DE22 1GB (A.Dronsfield@derby.ac.uk) and will appear in this Newsletter in due course.

John Dee and Alchemy, 28 May 2005

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry will be holding a meeting in Spring 2005 entitled "John Dee and Alchemy". The meeting will be held at Birkbeck College, Malet Street, London and the speakers will include Peter Forshaw and Penny Bayer. For further details please contact Dr Anna Simmons, Department of History of Science, Technology and Medicine, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA or A.E.Simmons@open.ac.uk or visit the society's website.

XXIInd International Congress of History of Science, 24-30 July 2005

The 22nd ICHS will be held in Beijing, China, in July 2005, under the general theme of 'Globalization and Diversity: Diffusion of Science and Technology throughout History'. The official languages of the congress will be English and French. Abstracts may be submitted until 15 April 2005. The deadline for symposia proposals is 30 June 2004. (Preliminary applications for 20 minute papers to the symposium 'International Networks, Exchange and Circulation of Knowledge in Life Sciences, 18th to 20th Centuries' are due by 31 August 2004.) The deadline for regular registration is 20 December 2004, and for hotel reservations 15 March 2005. Please check the conference website for further information: <http://2005bj.ihns.ac.cn>. [I have copies of the Registration, Abstract and Hotel Reservation Forms for anyone who may be interested. Ed.]