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THE RHODE ISLAND SECTION OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

"THE FIRST SECTION"

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OLD — OCTOBER, 1990

Vol. 39, No. 7

SPECIAL MEETING

October 13, 1990

100th ANNIVERSARY — MEETING —

October 13th, 1990
OF THE RI SECTION of ACS
SPECIAL PROGRAM DETAILS

Chemistry in 1890 — The Formation of the Rhode Island Section of the American Chemical Society

The meeting will take place Saturday, October 13 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 166 of the Barrus and Holley building at the corner of Hope and George Streets at the Brown University campus in Providence, RI. A wine and cheese reception will follow after the talks at the Petteruti Lounge in the first floor of the Faunce House at 75 Waterman Street. A dinner, also in the Petteruti Lounge, will be at 6:00. The dinner will include appetizer, soup, salad, boneless breast of chicken with mushrooms, potatoes, vegetable, and dessert for \$25. Reservations for dinner should be made by Oct. 8 by calling 792-5090.

One hundred years ago the first national meeting of the American Chemical Society was held in Newport, Rhode Island. Shortly after this the ACS chartered a Rhode Island group as the first local section of the society. To celebrate the formation of our section, the Rhode Island Section is sponsoring a symposium reviewing the status of chemists both in Rhode Island and nationally 100 years ago.

Charles Marzzacco of Rhode Island College will present "The Early History of the Rhode Island Section of the American Chemical Society" focusing on the characters of the individuals who started the section and the nature of the early meetings. The key people in this effort were Charles Munroe of the Naval Torpedo Station in Newport and John Appleton of Brown University.

The education of chemists in the late 19th century provides the context for "Chemical Education in the United States During the Last Quarter of the 19th Century" to be discussed by **William Jensen** of the University of Cincinnati. A profile of American chemical education was prepared by Frank W. Clarke in 1880 that contained the complete chemical curriculum for those schools that offered degrees in chemistry, including the nature of textbooks used and the type of laboratory experience required.

Continued on next page...

Chemistry in 1890 - The Formation of the Rhode Island Section of the American Chemical Society (Continued)

"The Continental Chemical Society - Prelude to the Rhode Island Section" is a report of a rival organization to the ACS to be presented by **James Bohning** of the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry. A proposal by U.S. Government chemists Frank W. Clarke and Harvey W. Wiley to form a society to unify American Chemists who had scattered into at least ten different groups in North America was born out of professional frustration. Included in this analysis will be the attitude of the American Chemical Society towards the attempted amalgamation, and its response in reorganization which led to the first national meeting in Newport in 1890 and the formation of local sections.

About the speakers:

Charles Marzzacco received his bachelor's degree from Temple University and his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. After completing a post-doctoral position at Princeton University, he continued at Princeton as an Instructor for one year, then went to New York University for three years, and finally going to Rhode Island College in 1973, where he currently is a Professor of Chemistry. Dr. Marzzacco's research interests center around the photo-physical properties of aromatic compounds and chemical education.

William B. Jensen received B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin, the Rochester Institute of Technology, and the University of Cincinnati where he is an Associate Professor of Chemistry and holds the Oesper Position in Chemical Education and the History of Chemistry. He is editor of *The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* and serves as curator of both *The Oesper Collection of Books and Prints in the History of Chemistry* and the departmental apparatus museum. In addition to his activities in chemical education and history, Dr. Jensen's research interests include the theory and application of the Lewis acid-base concepts, the development of empirical structure-reactivity sorting maps in inorganic chemistry, inorganic crystal chemistry, and qualitative bonding theory.

James J. Bohning received a B.S. degree from Valparaiso University, an M.S. degree from New York University, and a Ph.D. degree from Northeastern University. Since that time, he has been affiliated with Wilkes University where he is currently a Professor Emeritus. He joined the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry in 1985 as an Oral Historian and is presently assistant Director of Oral History. Dr. Bohning was Chair of the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry in 1986 and currently is an Associate Editor for *The Bulletin for the History of Chemistry* and is the Chair for the National Meeting Cachet Committee. His interests in the history of chemistry focus on the early history of the American Chemical Society and the lives of those who shaped its future, the development of physical chemistry, and the origins of international chemistry meetings.

Report of Spring and Fall ACS Council Meetings

Carolyn Kendrow, Councilor of the Rhode Island ACS Section

The spring meeting was dominated by the discussion of the three petitions to amend the Bylaws involving the dues paid by members. These petitions: "Dues Incentives for New Members", "Membership Dues Calculation" and "New Member Discounts" were reported in C&E News. The Council voted to recommit the "New Member Discounts" and "Membership Dues Calculation" petitions to the appropriate committees for initiation of withdrawal and for the return in revenue-neutral form of the "Dues Incentive for New Members" for the Atlanta Meeting after a straw vote of the Councilors showed that they were heavily in favor of the existing Bylaw.

One of the concerns of the fall meeting was the Dialog lawsuit brought against the ACS and the affect upon the Society's financial situation. ACS will file a major counter-suit against Dialog soon. I have the documents pertaining to the lawsuit referred to by President Paul Gassman in his report to Council on August 29, 1990. If anyone wishes to see them they can contact me for them.

President Gassman reiterated his concern of the spring meeting about the structure of the American Chemical Society. He would like to see fewer committees and programs and is recommending a decrease of 12 governing committees.

The Chairman of the Board, Joseph A. Dixon, also expressed his concerns about the Dialog lawsuit. He indicated that ACS has built the finest set of indices and abstracts of chemical information in the world over a period of 85 years as a service to all scientists. The thirteen millionth abstract was just produced this July. All this was done without government support in contrast to what Dialog is claiming. He also reported that a survey of members showed that B.S. chemists wanted to be involved in the governance of the ACS. Steps to include them are being taken.

The concerns over the dwindling supply of future chemists activated the ACS to investigate the treatment of and attitude toward women and minorities in Academia. As a result of the findings Academic Professional Guidelines concerning professional relationships in the academic environment were presented Council to be voted upon at the Atlanta meeting.

Look for the first issue of the ACS Computer Guide which will appear in July, 1991 and one for Environmental Sciences in the near future.

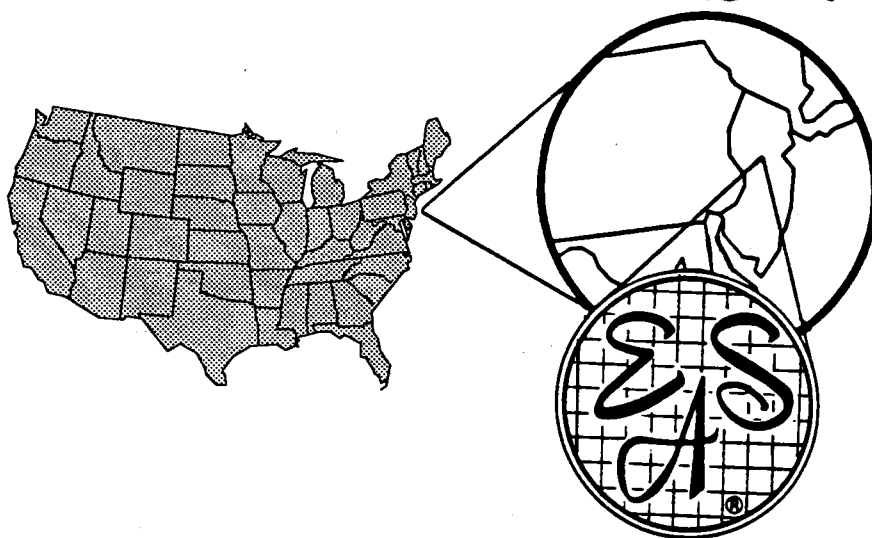
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Further information can be found in the Sept. 1, 1990 issue of *Analytical Chemistry*, the Sept. 17, 1990 issue of *C&E News*, the Sept/Oct 1990 issue of *Applied Spectroscopy*, by writing to EAS at P.O. Box 633, Montchanin, DE 19710-0633, or by calling:

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