

## Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry

### Symposium S-15, 23<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on the History of Science and Technology (Budapest, Hungary, 28 July - 2 August 2009)

#### “Chemistry in the Aftermath of World Wars”

**Description:** War is one of the most significant forms of modern social activity, shaping the modern world in ways both constitutive and destructive. As great modern wars have affected modern politics, economics, geography, and culture, producing often dramatic transformations, so they have also affected science and technology, not least chemistry, which by the beginning of the twentieth century was already systematically integrated into industrial production and innovation, as well as war through the development of modern explosives and propellants. Our concern is not to examine chemistry in modern war as such, however, but to consider chemistry in the aftermath of twentieth-century global conflicts.

The contexts of the aftermaths of both world wars present many interesting historical issues in which the history of chemical science and technology plays a significant role. These include postwar changes in chemical methodologies, instrumentation and theories (e.g., quantum chemistry); the role of chemistry in the reshaping of international and national scientific organizations; the impact of social and cultural factors such as war-related changes in gender roles, or intellectual migrations and their impact on shifts in scientific centers; and changes in the chemical industry and in chemical technology. The following list gives the participants in the symposium and the titles of their talks, which include considerations of all of these issues from various perspectives. There will be two sessions, the morning one dealing with the aftermath of the First World War, and the afternoon one dealing with the aftermath of the Second World War. Following the second session there will be time for general discussion. We encourage everyone to join us for some extremely interesting talks.

#### **Speakers and topics**

**Keynote address:** “Crisis, Change and Creativity in Science and Technology: Chemistry in the Aftermath of Twentieth Century Global Wars,” Jeffrey A. Johnson, Villanova Univ., USA

#### **Session 1: Chemistry and Chemical Industry in the aftermath of World War I**

(Chair: Yasu Furukawa)

“Soviet Chemistry after the Civil War,” Yakov M. Rabkin, University of Montreal, Canada

“Isolation & Innovation: German Chemicals and American Political Economy after World War I,” Kathryn Steen, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA

“The Impact of World War I upon Japanese Chemistry,” Yoshi Kikuchi (Japan), Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia; MIT, Cambridge (beginning June 2009)

“French chemists and the Reorganization of Chemistry in the International Community after the First World War,” Danielle Fauque, GHDSO, Faculty of Science, University of Paris-Sud, France

Commentary on Session I, Anthony S. Travis, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

## **Session 2: Chemistry and Chemical Industry in the aftermath of World War II**

(Chair: Ernst Homburg)

“Postwar Transfer of Synthetic Rubber Technology between Germany, Russia and the USA,” Peter Morris, Science Museum, London, UK

“World War II, the Cold War and British Women Chemists,” Sally Horrocks, University of Leicester, UK

“The Difficult Beginning of the German-Israeli Scientific Cooperation,” Ute Deichmann, Jacques Loeb Centre, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (also Leo Baeck Institute of London and University of Cologne, Ger.)

“Chemistry at the University of Strasbourg in the Aftermath of World Wars I and II,” Pierre Laszlo, Ecole polytechnique, Palaiseau, France, and University of Liège, Belgium

“Role of Prettre’s Lyons Laboratory in the Postwar Development of Fischer-Tropsch Synthetic Oil Technology in France,” Baptiste Voillequin, Scientific Development Division, Total S.A., Paris, France

Commentary on Session 2, Carsten Reinhardt, University of Bielefeld, Germany

### **Organizers’ names and emails:**

Please contact one of us if you have any questions.

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Jeffrey Johnson, Villanova University, USA ([jeffrey.johnson@villanova.edu](mailto:jeffrey.johnson@villanova.edu))

Gabor Pallo, Hungarian Academy of Sciences ([gabor.pallo@ella.hu](mailto:gabor.pallo@ella.hu))

**CHMC Symposium S-15 for 23<sup>rd</sup> ICHST 2009, Budapest:  
Chemistry in the Aftermath of World Wars: List of Participants**

**Keynote address:** "Crisis, Change and Creativity in Science and Technology: Chemistry in the Aftermath of Twentieth Century Global Wars," Jeffrey A. Johnson, Villanova University, USA ([Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu))

**Session 1: Chemistry and Chemical Industry in the aftermath of World War I**

Chair: Yasu Furukawa ([furukawa.yasu@nihon-u.ac.jp](mailto:furukawa.yasu@nihon-u.ac.jp))

<b>Title of presentation</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Soviet Chemistry after the Civil War	Yakov M. Rabkin, University of Montreal, Canada	<a href="mailto:rabkin@hst.umontreal.ca">rabkin@hst.umontreal.ca</a>
Isolation & Innovation: German Chemicals and American Political Economy after World War I	Kathryn Steen, Drexel University, Philadelphia, USA	<a href="mailto:steen@drexel.edu">steen@drexel.edu</a>
The Impact of World War I upon Japanese Chemistry	Yoshi Kikuchi (Japan), Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia	<a href="mailto:yoshik25@hotmail.com">yoshik25@hotmail.com</a>
French chemists and the Reorganization of Chemistry in the International Community after the First World War	Danielle Fauque, GHDSO, Faculty of Science, University of Paris-Sud, France	<a href="mailto:dymfau@wanadoo.fr">dymfau@wanadoo.fr</a>
Commentary	Anthony S. Travis, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel	<a href="mailto:travis@cc.huji.ac.il">travis@cc.huji.ac.il</a>

**Session 2: Chemistry and Chemical Industry in the aftermath of World War II**

Chair: Ernst Homburg ([e.homburg@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:e.homburg@maastrichtuniversity.nl) [note: updated email address])

<b>Title of presentation</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Postwar Transfer of Synthetic Rubber Technology between Germany, Russia and the USA	Peter Morris, Science Museum, London, UK	<a href="mailto:peter.morris@NMSI.ac.uk">peter.morris@NMSI.ac.uk</a>
World War II, the Cold War and British Women Chemists	Sally Horrocks, University of Leicester, UK	<a href="mailto:smh4@leicester.ac.uk">smh4@leicester.ac.uk</a>
The Difficult Beginning of the German-Israeli Scientific Cooperation	Ute Deichmann, Jacques Loeb Centre, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel (also Leo Baeck Institute of London and University of Cologne, Ger.)	<a href="mailto:ute.deichmann@uni-koeln.de">ute.deichmann@uni-koeln.de</a> OR <a href="mailto:uted@bgu.ac.il">uted@bgu.ac.il</a>
Chemistry at the University of Strasbourg in the Aftermath of World Wars I and II	Pierre Laszlo, Ecole polytechnique, Palaiseau, France, and University of Liège, Belgium	<a href="mailto:pierrelaszlo@usa.net">pierrelaszlo@usa.net</a> [until April 2009] <a href="mailto:pierre@pierrelaszlo.net">pierre@pierrelaszlo.net</a> [April-October]
Role of Prettre's Lyons Laboratory in the Postwar Development of Fischer-Tropsch Synthetic Oil Technology in France	Baptiste Voillequin, Scientific Development Division, Total S.A., Paris, France	<a href="mailto:baptiste.voillequin@gmail.com">baptiste.voillequin@gmail.com</a>
Commentary	Carsten Reinhardt, University of Bielefeld, Germany	<a href="mailto:carsten.reinhardt@uni-bielefeld.de">carsten.reinhardt@uni-bielefeld.de</a>