

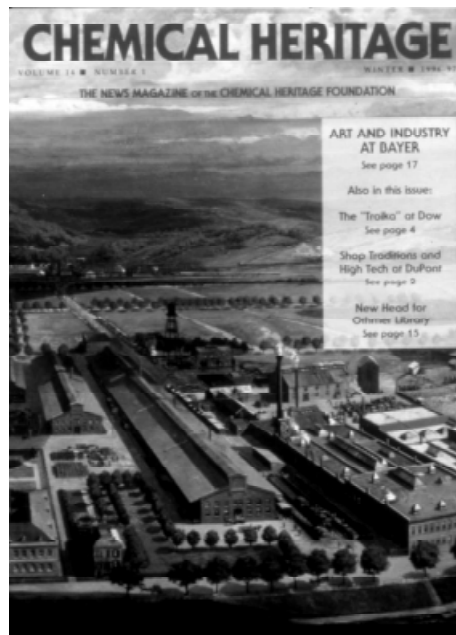
The Chemical Heritage Foundation

A growing resource for the chemical community

The Chemical Heritage Foundation, based in Philadelphia, is rapidly emerging as the chemical community's premier resource for preserving and recording our remarkable heritage, for historical research and scholarship, and for public education.

IUPAC and CHF

The relationship between CHF and IUPAC goes back to 1984, when CHF first received in its archives a number of historical reprints dealing with the International Commission on Atomic Weights of IUPAC. Subsequent years saw further archival deposits, and the establishment of CHF as one of IUPAC's Associated Organizations. In 1996, the Union decided to transfer all of its archival materials to CHF, to prevent further dispersion of historically significant material. In the summer of that year, the Union transferred to CHF 185 boxes of documents dating from 1919 through 1970. The earliest archive box (1919–25) includes such treasures as letters



A recent cover of *Chemical Heritage*, CHF's news magazine. The image on the cover is a painting of the Bayer factory in Albany by Otto Bolhagen of Bremen. *Image courtesy: Bayer AG.*



The exterior of the Chemical Heritage Foundation's permanent home, Spring 1997. Photograph by Gregory Tobias.

from Leo Baekeland, Marston Bogert, Arthur D. Little, Fred Rossini, Charles L. Parsons, W. Albert Noyes, and other key figures in the international chemical community. Among general groupings of papers contained in

this major donation are those of the Commissions on Organic and Inorganic Nomenclature. The total collection contains a rich compendium of correspondence, notes, conference material, commission proceedings, country files, and IUPAC Bureau documents, accounts, and budgets.

A Brief History of CHF

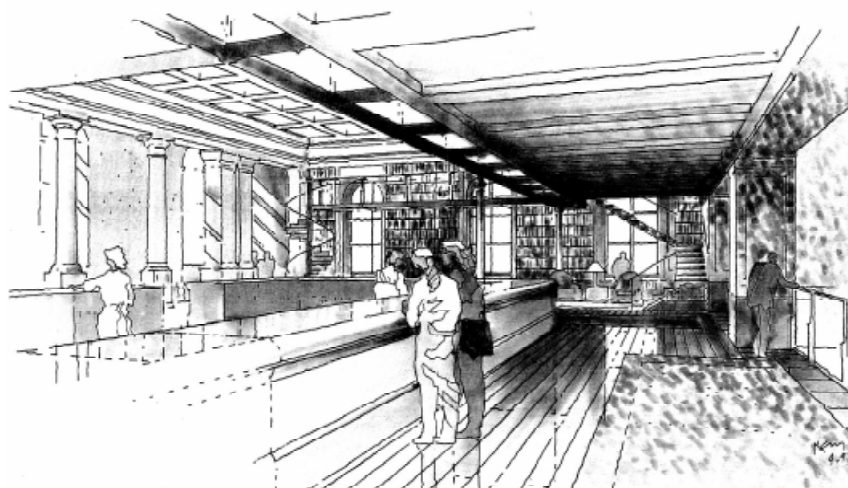
A detailed article on CHF's origins, mission and goals was printed in *Chemistry International* 1995, **17**, 5. CHF began modestly in 1982, as the Center for the History of Chemistry (CHOC), a pilot project between the University of Pennsylvania and the American Chemical Society (ACS). CHOC's goal was to address the urgent need to document, preserve, and make known the heritage of chemical achievement. In 1984, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) became the third sponsor of the Center.

In 1987, the Center was incorporated as a not-for-profit under the title, the National Foundation for the History of Chemistry, by joint action of ACS and AIChE. The Foundation rented space in a new building at the University of Pennsylvania, and restructured its activities into those of its Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry (established 1987), and its Othmer Library of Chemical History (established 1988).

In 1992, the Chemical Heritage Foundation assumed its present name to better reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the chemical sciences and industries, and the widening public scope of its activities. In 1995, CHF purchased, and in 1996, CHF moved to its permanent home, the First National Bank building at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia. Today, CHF enjoys the endorsement and support of 19 professional societies and associations.

An Othmer Library staff member unpacking some of the library's books and journals. Shelving and cataloguing are under way at the library's permanent site in Philadelphia. Photograph by Gregory Tobias.





Artist's sketch of a proposed reading room in the Othmer Library. Image courtesy: Richard Conway Meyer, Architect.

Programmes and services

The Othmer Library of Chemical History

CHF fulfils its mission—to foster the heritage of the chemical sciences and industries—in part through the operations of its Donald F. and Mildred Topp Othmer Library of Chemical History. The Othmer Library is a product of the vision and generosity of Donald F. and Mildred Topp Othmer, and underpins all the program activities of CHF. The library is rapidly becoming the premier repository, media resource centre, and research facility for the history of the chemical sciences and industries. The library promotes access to materials on the origins, development, and current directions of the chemical sciences and technologies. Its activities include:

- maintaining a comprehensive reference collection;
- developing special book, manuscript, artefact, and oral history collections;
- collecting papers of chemical scientists and organizations;
- providing database entry to other historical collections; and
- maintaining a pictorial collection, which includes prints, negatives, slides and audio visual items.

The core of the library consists of over 40 000 vol-

The Staff of *Chemistry International* apologize for the lateness of this issue. It was a result of unforeseen complications of the relocation of the office to Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, USA. We expect to return to a normal printing schedule for the May issue.

umes donated by The Chemists' Club of New York. Valuable additions to the library are being sought and received every day. The library has already grown to over 50 000 books and journals ranging in publication date from 1526 to 1970. An eventual stack capacity of 250 000 volumes is expected.

In 1996, Elizabeth Swan became Directory of Library Services, and set about the daunting task of re-organizing the library in CHF's permanent home. Staff positions were advertised for and filled, and now number four full time and five part-time employees. An acquisitions policy has been drafted to help potential donors identify the materials CHF is looking for. The process of creating an electronic catalogue using the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) bibliographic system has begun. The objective is to create an online catalogue which will be searchable via internet electronic access. Development of full stack capacity, improved infrastructure, and climate control for rare books and manuscripts are other major goals for the library.

The Beckman Center

Made possible by a grant from Arnold O. and Mabel Beckman, the Centre's mission is to undertake basic research on the history of the chemical sciences, to conduct scholarly events of interest to the chemical and historical communities, and to foster public understanding of the chemical sciences. Some examples of Beckman Center programmes include:

- A Spring 1997 symposium on 'The Emergence of Biotechnology: DNA to Genentech', as part of the Center's Biomolecular Sciences Initiative (BIMOSI). The symposium brought together major players in the biotechnology revolution to share reflections and



A gathering of distinguished scientists and historians at a Spring 1997 CHF symposium on 'The Emergence of Biotechnology: DNA to Genentech.' The event was recorded on videotape in front of a live studio audience. [The seated panel is comprised of (from left): Charles Weiner, MIT; Stanley Cohen, Stanford; Maxine Singer, Carnegie Institution of Washington; Herbert Boyer, Co-Founder of Genentech; Moderator Everett Mendelsohn, Harvard; Paul Berg, Stanford; George Rathmann, Amgen and ICOS; William Rutter, Chiron; and Arthur Kornberg, Stanford.]
Photograph by Harry Kalish.

assessments from biotech's early years. The videotape of this event represents a significant contribution to the historical archive, and an edited version will be used to create a classroom resource.

- The Oral History Project—A programme in which leading chemical scientists, industrialists, and practitioners are interviewed at length and their lives and careers documented. Over 100 histories have been completed, with individuals from Mildred Cohn to Linus Pauling and Edward Jefferson to Ralph Landau.
- Continuing fellowships and travel grants to support visiting academic scholars and educators, including the Edelstein International Fellowship and Studentship, the Gordon Cain Fellowship on Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the Eugene Garfield Fellowship. Many visiting and resident scholars use CHF premises to give Brown Bag talks to the wider community about their work.

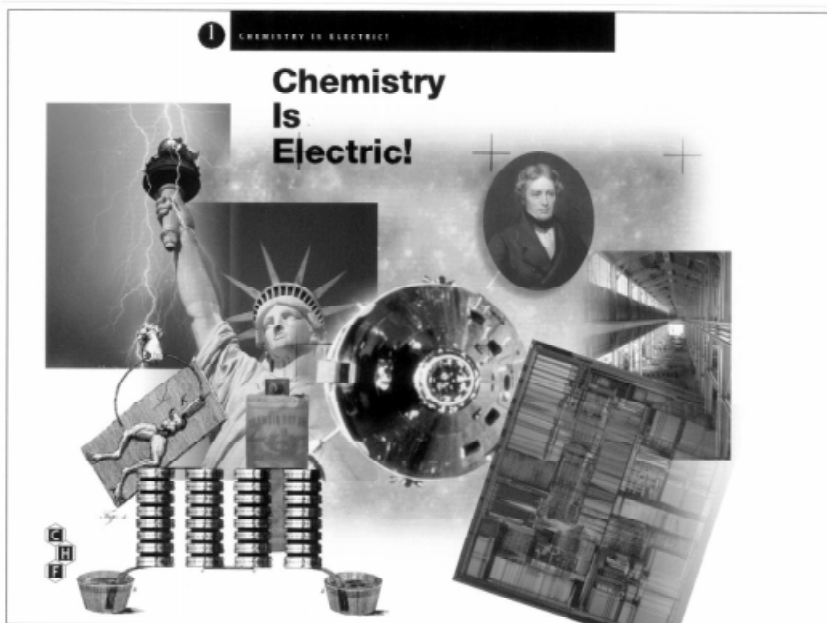
Public outreach

Public outreach activities are a critical part of CHF's mission 'to make known the achievements of chemical scientists and the chemical process industries.' These activities make an enormous contribution to the chemical community and broaden public understanding of the chemical sciences and technologies. Some examples are:

- The Glenn. E. Ullyot Lecture Series (co-sponsored with the ACS, Philadelphia Section and the Chemistry Department, University of Pennsylvania), which explores the impact of the chemical sciences on society. The lecture in 1997 was given by Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, former Chairman and CEO of Merck and Co., Inc.
- Travelling educational exhibits, that highlight the contributions of chemical scientists and the chemical industries to society. The most recent exhibit, *Chemistry is Electric!*, was developed to coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Dow Chemical Company. These exhibits have been displayed in museums, high schools and cultural centres in the USA and Europe.
- Events throughout the USA, such as a Spring 1997 symposium on 'Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Petrochemical Industry' at the Annual International Petrochemical Conference, San Antonio, Texas.
- Conversazioni at CHF's home in Philadelphia, which provide opportunities for leaders in the chemical community to speak to the Foundation and its friends.

Publications

CHF's publications activities are growing. CHF's news magazine, *Chemical Heritage*, has expanded into a 48-



A panel from CHF's most recent traveling exhibit: *Chemistry is Electric!* Image Courtesy: Joel Katz Design Associates.

page, four-color publication—one of the largest, most respected heritage periodicals in the world today.

CHF has begun an independent series on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The first volume, *Everybody Wins! A Life in Free Enterprise*, by Gordon Cain was published in 1997. Next in this series will be Ralph Landau's edited volume on *Pharmaceutical Innovation*. CHF has also published books in partnership with the American Chemical Society and the University of Pennsylvania (recent examples include *Eilhard Mitscherlich—Prince of Prussian Chemistry* by Hans-Werner Schütt, and *Lavoisier—Chemist, Biologist, Economist* by Jean-Pierre Poirier).

CHF is developing timelines on subjects from *Chemical Engineering* to *Electrochemistry* to *Scientific Information*. CHF also produces resources for high-school teachers, including *Chemical Achievers* and *Structures of Life*, and popular publications, like *American Chemical Enterprise* and *Polymer Pioneers*.

Further information about the Chemical Heritage Foundation may be obtained by contacting: Dr Leo Slater, Program Manager, Historical Services Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106, USA. Tel.: 215 925 2222 (x224), fax: 215 925 1954.