

**Renewing the Heritage of Chemistry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:  
Conversations on the Preservation, Presentation and Utilization of Sources, Sites and  
Artefacts**

**A Symposium of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC)<sup>1</sup> in  
Conjunction with the IUPAC-UNESCO International Year of Chemistry, 2011  
Paris, 21-24 June 2011**

**SECOND CIRCULAR AND CALL FOR PAPERS**

We invite all those interested in the heritage of chemistry in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, to meet in Paris on 21-24 June 2011 for a symposium involving conversations between historians, chemists, archivists, museum curators, librarians, and industrial archaeologists. Our intention is to present not only the fruits of historical research based on the sources, sites and artefacts of chemistry but also the views of those concerned with the technical problems related to the preservation and presentation of these resources for both historians and the general public. To this end we invite proposals for papers pertaining to the wide range of topics outlined in this circular.

A century on from the award of the Nobel Prize for chemistry to Marie Curie, it is appropriate that the symposium should take place in Paris. The discussions we propose are also timely, since in our 21<sup>st</sup> century new scientific ideas and new technologies have changed not only the face of chemistry itself but also the nature of the sources for its future history. Along with the paper documents, oral histories, instruments, and other artefacts that have previously embodied the heritage of chemistry, we now need to include sources and artefacts of a quite different nature, including electronic documents, images, videos, databases, and software, as well as the hardware necessary for the exploitation of this enlarged range of resources.

The preservation of key sites associated with the heritage of chemistry is another matter in which historians, curators, and industrial archaeologists have a common interest. Such sites include academic and industrial research laboratories and centres of technological innovation which allow scholars to see original apparatus and equipment in their original settings, while informing the general public in ways that highlight key developments and avoid misconceptions. In view of the rapid development of current technologies and the many challenges they present, the organizers wish to engage specialists from as many national, professional, and institutional backgrounds as possible and to foster debate that will continue long after the symposium itself.

**Co-sponsors and supporters:**

Académie des Sciences, Paris; Société Chimique de France (SCF), Paris; Fondation internationale de la Maison de la Chimie, Paris; École supérieure de physique et de chimie industrielles (ESPCI ParisTech); Centre national de la Recherche scientifique (CNRS), Paris; Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia; Groupe d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences (GHDSO), Université Paris-Sud 11; Comité national français d'histoire et de philosophie des sciences (CNFHPS); Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale (SEIN); Comité national français de chimie (CNFC).

**Programme committee:**

R. Fox (chair of the committee, Museum of the History of Science, Univ. of Oxford), J. A. Johnson (Villanova Univ.; president, CHMC), H. Albrecht (Techn. Univ.-Mining Academy, Freiberg; President of the Scientific Board for Saxon Industrial Culture of the Zweckverband Sächsisches Industriemuseum [Association of the Saxon Museum for Industry]; member of the Board of

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<sup>1</sup> **Note:** the CHMC is one of several commissions of the International Union of History and Philosophy of Science Division of History of Science and Technology (IUHPS/DHST), which sponsors quadrennial international congresses. For more information see the websites of the DHST (<http://sites.google.com/a/dhstweb.org/www/>) and CHMC ([http://www.uni-regensburg.de/Fakultaeten/phil\\_Fak\\_I/Philosophie/Wissenschaftsgeschichte/CHMC.htm](http://www.uni-regensburg.de/Fakultaeten/phil_Fak_I/Philosophie/Wissenschaftsgeschichte/CHMC.htm))

Directors of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), R. G. W. Anderson (Univ. of Cambridge; chair, Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry; president, Association of Independent Libraries), B. Bensaude-Vincent (Univ. Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), A. Bieri (Curator of The Roche Historical Collection and Archive, Basle; vice chair, Arbeitskreis Chemiearchivare der VdW [Association of German Business Archivists]), R. Brashear (Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia), L. Cerruti (Univ. of Turin), Th. Charmasson (Chief Curator, Universciences, La Villette, Paris), Chr. Demeulenaere-Douyère (Chief Curator, National Archives, Paris), G. Férey (2010 Gold Medal CNRS; Institut de France, Académie des sciences, vice president of the SCF), S. Mauskopf (Duke Univ.), A. Nieto-Galan (Univ. of Barcelona).

#### **Local organizing committee:**

D. Fauque (chair of the committee, French National Committee of History and Philosophy of Science [CNFHPS], Société Chimique de France - Club d'histoire de la chimie (SCF- CHC), Univ. Paris-Sud 11, Orsay), P. Bret (secretary of the CNFHPS, Centre A. Koyré, CNRS, Paris), Th. Charmasson (Chief Curator, Universciences, La Villette, Paris), Chr. Demeulenaere-Douyère (Chief Curator, Archives nationales, Paris), Cl. Debru (president of the CNFHPS; corresponding member, Académie des sciences; École normale supérieure, Paris), G. Emptoz (CNFHPS, CHC-SCF, Centre F. Viète – Univ. of Nantes), G. Gablot (president of Parcours des sciences, excursions), C. Kounelis (Curator, Centre de ressources historiques, ESPCI ParisTech Library), M.-Cl. Vitorge (Public relations, SCF).

#### **The sessions:**

**Tuesday, 21 June** (18.30 to 20.00 at the Académie des sciences): welcoming reception

**Wednesday, 22 June** (9.00 to 18.30, at the Ecole supérieure de physique et de chimie industrielles (ESPCI ParisTech): introductory plenary lecture followed by morning and afternoon sessions, including a buffet lunch, and concluding with a second plenary lecture. The evening will be free.

**Thursday, 23 June** (9.00 to 18.30, at the Maison de la Chimie, Paris): introductory plenary lecture, followed by morning and afternoon sessions, including a buffet lunch. The concluding session will be a roundtable discussion covering all the general themes of the symposium, followed by a public lecture by the distinguished chemist Gérard Férey (winner of the 2010 Gold Medal of CNRS, member of the Institut de France, Académie des sciences, and vice president of the SCF). In the evening there will be a closing dinner for participants (optional; see costs, next page).

**Friday, 24 June:** optional tours will be arranged by the Local Organizing Committee, including a morning tour of scientific heritage sites in the Latin Quarter, such as the Musée Curie (see costs, next page), and a day trip to Versailles. Details will be posted on the symposium website.

#### **Topics of the sessions:**

General discussions of the issues, as well as appropriate case studies will be welcome. The following are the three main areas we expect to consider:

a) **The history of communication and documentation in chemistry.** This may include studies of conferences and commissions (especially for the establishment of standards, nomenclature, etc.), correspondence, journals, patents, textbooks and general reference works, popularizations, etc.

b) **Historians and their sources.** What use can historians make, of both traditional documentary sources found in libraries and archives, and digital sources and databases? How can they use other sources, such as artefacts (including instruments, apparatus, and chemicals) and laboratory or industrial sites, to enhance understanding of the heritage of chemistry?

c) **Institutions that secure and preserve the heritage of chemistry for historians and the general public.** These institutions include archives, especially industrial archives, libraries, museums, and historical sites. Here especially we should welcome case studies that highlight the

opportunities and challenges involved in collecting, preserving, and making accessible sources of all kinds. Papers might deal with policies for the collection and management of books, official documents, personal papers, industrial records, etc.; others might address the various means of preserving and using documents, from photocopying through microforms to scanning, OCR, and other electronic technologies for converting older forms of storage (microfilm, etc.).

**Format for submissions:**

Submissions should be in either English or French, in Word format (not PDF), font Times New Roman, 12 pt and double-spaced. Do not put any special formatting in the text. Submitters should include the following information: surname, first name, postal address, institutional address, institutional position, title of the proposed paper, abstract (maximum 300 words or 2,000 characters including spaces) and a list of no more than three relevant publications, as well as an email address to which notifications may be sent.

Papers are to be in English or French; each participant will allowed 20 minutes to present the paper, followed by 10 minutes for discussion. Digital projection equipment (beamers) will be available for PowerPoint presentations.

**Email address for submissions:**

Please send submissions by email as an attached Word document to:

[chmcproposal2011@gmail.com](mailto:chmcproposal2011@gmail.com)

**Deadlines - extension:**

Submissions must be received by 4 February 2011. The programme committee will review all submissions by 22 February 2011. By 1<sup>st</sup> March submitters will receive notification by email as to the committee's decisions.

**Symposium costs:**

Registration fees (including a reception on the evening of 21 June, lunches on 22 and 23 June, 4 coffee-breaks, documents for the symposium):

	Before 1 <sup>st</sup> April	From 1 <sup>st</sup> April
Normal Price	200 euros	250 euros
Member of SCF, university, archives, museums	150 euros	200 euros
Student, unemployed person	90 euros	90 euros
Conference dinner (23 June, evening)	50 euros (optional; paid for separately)	60 euros
Optional tours of heritage locations in Paris (24 June, morning)	20 euros (paid for separately; free for students and unemployed persons)	25 euros
Day tour to Versailles (24 June)	Will be posted on website	Will be posted

**Accommodations** are to be arranged by individual participants (a list of hotels convenient to the conference locations will appear on the conference website). **Grants** for students, the unemployed, and other participants in significant financial need, to help with costs of accommodations and local transportation, may be available through CHMC (send inquiries to [Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu)).

**Further information and particulars about registration and methods of payment will be available on the symposium website at [www.chmc2011.fr](http://www.chmc2011.fr).** Registration will begin 22 February.

**For inquiries contact:**

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