

SEAC *communications*

President's Message

PITTCON '94 presented the unusual opportunity for some nostalgia about instrumentation. I hope that many of you had the opportunity to visit the exhibit of historical analytical instruments that occupied a tiny corner of one of the exhibition halls. Someone had taken the trouble to gather together dozens of ancient spectrophotometers, pH meters, balances, spectrographs, and the like, so that each of us could experience some scientific flashbacks.

On second thought, the word "ancient" is ill advised. I wondered how many undergraduates would notice that many of these instruments are exactly the same as those currently in use in their undergraduate instrumental analysis laboratories. Such is the sorry state of instructional instrumentation in academia.

On the other hand, many of these instruments were excellent. One needn't be as decrepit as this writer to have used and admired some of these relics while conducting graduate research or in one's first job. A large share of my "start-up" funds were used to purchase a Wenking potentiostat (not represented at PITTCON) and it served us well until it became impossible to find replacement vacuum tubes.

The Wenking potentiostat, as well as many other instruments of that era, featured a cavernous cabinet into which the essential electronic components could fit several times over. My favorite along these lines was the L&N Electrochemograph, which, as was commonplace before the advent of operational amplifiers, applied the ramp voltage to the polarographic cell by means of a motor-driven slidewire. The guts of this beast were completely lost in its huge cabinet, upon which was mounted a massive strip chart recorder with a glass-windowed door that one could slam with a satisfying "thunk," much like that produced by closing the trunk of the family Buick.

Back to PITTCON. I must say that the PAR 174 seemed much too recent a vintage to be featured in a museum—but there it was. We still have a couple of those guys floating around the lab.

Nowadays, people make potentiostats on a chip, multipurpose instruments on a PC card, cells for doing voltammetry on picoliters of sample and electrodes small enough to insert rudely into living cells. Indeed, small is beautiful. What a wonderful contrast to the dinosaurs of yesteryear.

So I would like to thank PITTCON for providing

Editorial

All I can say is "mea culpa" for the lateness of this issue. This has been an extremely hectic time for me since PITTCON '94. I had been involved in some very timeconsuming consulting activities, followed by trying to catch up on all the work back in the Cornell Analytical Labs that had been put on hold. Now that the alligators are back down around my ankles, I can return to my extracurricular activities, such as eating, sleeping, and the newsletter.

However, in the meantime, there hasn't been much news from the troops. But that's not to say that there hasn't been exciting news about SEACers.

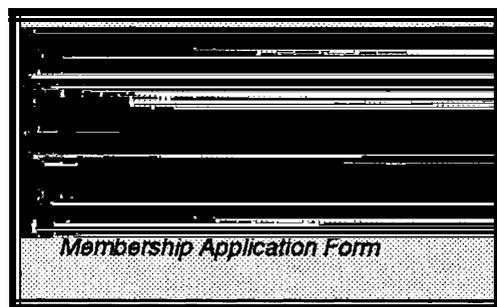
Dennis Evans called me with the information that the Awards Committee has named the recipients of next year's **Reilley** and Young Investigator Awards—they are Bill Heineman and Mark Anderson (Va. Tech.). If I got the facts straight, Bill will receive the Reilley Award and Mark the Young Investigator Award. I expect that Royce Engstrom, the selection committee chairman, will supply me with more information about the awardees for the next issue.

The other big news concerns former SEAC president Janet Ostryoung. The recent head of the Chemistry Department at NC State, Janet has just been named director of the NSF Chemistry Division. In addition, she is currently chair of the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry. And here I complain about being busy!

While on the subject of the ACS Analytical Chemistry Division, our other NSF SEACer, Henry Blount, is chair-elect of the division. Henry, as you may remember from previous issues of the newsletter, is also putting together the SEAC membership directory. At the Board of Directors meeting at PITTCON, Henry handed out copies of the directory, and it really looks great! It contains names, addresses, and, where available, phone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, and areas of specialization. I'm not sure when the directories will be distributed to the members, but I assume it won't be too long.

Have a great summer, and please keep me posted on new developments concerning SEAC people and any activities of interest.

Dick Durst



**The Society For
Electroanalytical
Chemistry**

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SEAC Election of Officers

The results were announced by Joe Maloy at the Board of Directors meeting in Chicago:

President	Rick McCraery	Board of Directors
Secretary	Joe Maloy	Ed Bowden Jed Harrison Joe Hupp
Treasurer	Joe Gordon	

Congratulations to all!

Janet Osteryoung Appointed

Janet G. Osteryoung, professor and head of the chemistry department at North Carolina State University and chair of the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry, will join the National Science Foundation as the director of the chemistry division. She will oversee a budget of \$120 million in support, for research and education activities in the chemical sciences. Osteryoung commented, "We're obviously in a period of great change and therefore in a period of great opportunity to advance the field." She will work at NSF this summer as a consultant before actually beginning her duties as director on September 1.

Osteryoung received her B.A. degree from Swarthmore College and her Ph.D. from the Carolina Institute of Technology. She has been a member of the faculties of Montana State University, Colorado State University, and the State University of New York at Buffalo.

A founding director and past president of the Society for Electroanalytical Chemistry, Osteryoung is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and received the Garvan Medal in 1987.

Helpful Hints

As Al Bard suggested a few issues back, it would be useful if members would provide useful hints (i.e., "tricks of the trade") on better ways of doing **electroanalytical** chemistry. While I don't have a helpful hint at the moment, I do have a problem that I'm sure can be readily answered by one or more of you. Has Epotek gone out of business? I need some conducting epoxy and the old address doesn't work anymore. **If** they're gone, what other sources are there? Any info will be greatly appreciated.

It's amazing how an apparently trivial component can be so troublesome. "For want of a nail, a shoe was lost. For want of a shoe, a horse was lost. For want of a horse, a kingdom was lost." (Of course, I could have called up one of my **electroanalytical** friends and gotten this info more quickly, but **I'm** not in that much of a hurry, and I wanted to test **this** approach. Don't disappoint me!).



Treasurer's Report

SOCIETY FOR ELECTROANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY
 1994 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 MARCH 1, 1994
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

SOCIETY FOR ELECTROANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

Financial Statement

The net worth of the Society increased to more than \$45,000 during 1993, up about \$6,500 from the previous year. The Society's assets consist of a Certificate of Deposit valued at \$18,202, earning 4.2% annually, and a Checking Account valued at \$27,490, earning 3.2% annually. Both are held with NBD Bank in West Lafayette, Indiana. Within these funds, \$20,376 is identified as the Charles N. Reilley Endowment and \$12,614 as the Life Membership Endowment (generated from payment of Life Memberships). The remainder (**\$12,701**) constitutes the Working Fund of the Society.

FY93 and FY94 Budget Analyses

The society has an annual budget of approximately \$10,000 and has operated within this figure over the past two years. Major expenses include honoraria for the Reilley and Young Investigator Award recipients (**\$1,750**), travel for the symposium participants (**\$3,500**), and the Reilley Award reception (ca. \$1,000). The Pittsburgh Conference provides the Society an annual allocation of \$3,500 to defray symposium expenses. Bioanalytical Systems contributes an annually increasing donation (\$1,331 in 1993) to support the Reilley Award. Growth in the Society's net worth during 1993 derived from Life Membership payments, voluntary Endowment contributions, interest, and under-budget operation in several categories.

Franklin A. Schultz
 SEAC Treasurer

REASURER'S SUMMARY 1993

Balance Forward 12/31/92	\$39,194
Receipts	
Support from Pittsburgh Conference	3,500
Award Stipend from Bioanalytical Systems	1,331
Annual Dues Collected	5,581
Life Membership Dues Collected	1,550
Endowment Contributions	545
Working Fund Contributions	78
Interest	1,510
Miscellaneous Income	7
	<u>\$14,102</u>
Disbursements	
Reilley Award Honorarium	1,500
Young Investigator Award Honoraria	500
Symposium Travel	2,628
Reilley Award Reception	1,012
Membership Expenses	1,068
Newsletter	876
Miscellaneous Expenses	200
	<u>\$7,604</u>
Balance 12/31/93	(\$39,194 + 14,102 - 7,604) = \$45,692

BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 1993

Asset Accounts		
Working Fund		\$12,701.21
Reilley Endowment		20,375.76
Life Membership Endowment		12,614.61
	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$45,691.58</u>
Liability Accounts		
Newsletter Expenses Payable		\$0.00
Membership Expenses Payable		0.00
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$0.00</u>
Net Worth		\$45,691.58

LOCATION OF ASSETS

NBD Bank, N.A. (West Lafayette, IN):		
Checking Account		\$27,489.47
Certificate of Deposit		18,202.11
	TOTAL	<u>\$45,691.58</u>

Lou Meites Memorial Session

*Eastern Analytical Symposium
November 1994*

We have an opportunity to honor Louis Meites by presenting a session in his memory at the Eastern Analytical Symposium in New Jersey in November 1994, and to this end we are organizing a session on electrochemistry.

We appeal to all of Lou's friends, colleagues, and students who can contribute an electrochemical paper to do so. We do not have much time, so if you can contribute, please call one of us.

In memory of Lou Meites, we are:

*Prof. Stewart Karp
Department of Chemistry
C. W. Post College
Greendale, NY 11546
(516) 299-2491*

*Dr. John G. McCullough
176 Amsterdam Avenue*

Report on Ninth Australasian Electrochemistry Conference

Over the period February 6–10, 1994, the Ninth Australasian Electrochemistry Conference was held at Wollongong (south of Sydney). These international conferences are held approximately every four years and are a highlight of the Australasian region activities in electrochemistry. The conference attracted approximately 175 participants. Since the meetings are held nearly every four years, they are akin to the Olympic Games and tend to attract a very high quality field of participants.

The two major awards in Australasian Electrochemistry are the Breyer Medal and the Stokes Medal. The medals are named after well known electrochemists who spent at least part of their working lives in the Australasian region. The Breyer Medal was awarded to Professor Allen Hill from the **University** of Oxford for his pioneering contributions to the field of bioinorganic electrochemistry. The Stokes Medal was awarded to Professor Barry Welsh who has made very significant contributions in the electrochemical industry (electrorefining).

A highlight of the meeting was the electrochemical quiz organized by David Rand. The quiz has now been held on three occasions and David Rand has developed a superb collection of questions related to electrochemistry, as well as a range of trivia that were not even known by most of the expert audience. Anyone wishing to liven up a conference on electrochemistry should consider inviting David Rand to enlighten the conference with his remarkable quiz presentation.

The conference was organized by Professor Gordon Wallace and, as might be expected, he and his hard-working committee produced an excellent **scientific** program and some social highlights. Many electrochemists may not be aware of the singing talents of Professor Malcolm Smyth and the guitar playing ability of Gordon Wallace. The conference dinner action included a **display** of talents of the theatrical kind by many well known electrochemists, who apart from the abovementioned prefer (or should prefer?) to remain anonymous.

The subjects covered in the scientific part of the program were devoted to electrochemical aspects of studies on the environment, materials, surfaces, **bioelectrochemistry**, engineering and corrosion, energy and electrode mechanisms. A session devoted to teaching of electrochemistry in the next decade attracted considerable interest.

Given that the conferences are held in February and reading the latest weather reports from the United States and Europe during that period, I would strongly encourage visitors from the Northern Hemisphere to consider attending one of these meetings. There is now a relatively young committee in the Electrochemistry Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute and the subject is flourishing in Australasia.

A/an Bond

Don't Read This If You Enjoy Good Humor

This has got to take the prize for the most audaciously bad pun story I have ever read. However, in spite of considerable resistance on my part and the potential outcry from many of you, I decided to share this revolting story which was taken from the current issue of the Mini-Journal of Irreproducible Results.

"A reward is offered for information leading to the arrest of EDDY CURRENT, charged with induction of an **18-year-old** coil, named **MILLI HENRY**, who was found half choked. CURRENT escaped Weston Primary Cell and was missing since Faraday."

Letters

Dear Dick:

I want to inform you and other SEAC members that Professor **Gleb Maman-tov** (University of Tennessee) has been selected to receive the Max Bredig Award in Molten Salt Chemistry for his outstanding research work in molten salt electrochemistry. This award is sponsored by the Electrochemistry Society and will be presented to Gleb at the San Francisco Meeting of the Society in May, 1994. I hope that all of the SEAC members in attendance at this meeting **will** make an effort to congratulate Gleb on this honor.

Charles L. Hussey

Dear Dick:

I was just given Vol. 11 No. 1 of the SEAC journal by your member Steward Karp. I want to join the organization, but found no instructions how to do so in that issue. Please tell me how much money to send and to whom. [**See Membership Application Form later in this issue. —Ed.**] I was trained in electroanalytical chemistry by Louis Meites at the same time as Stew Karp, but I was a corrosion engineer for twenty years, and lost touch with publications such as yours. Now I am **consulting** in both corrosion and analytical chemistry, and would like to join.

Stew and I are organizing a memorial session in honor of our late preceptor at the EAS, and we would be grateful if you could publish the enclosed letter in the earliest issue of your journal. [See Lou Meites