

History of Chemistry

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The 4th International Conference of History of Chemistry, on “Communication in Chemistry in Europe, across borders and across generations“, was held 3-7 September 2003 in Budapest, attracting over 80 chemists from 20 countries. There were sessions on textbooks, journals, research schools, Liebig’s international network, chemical technology, physical chemistry, biochemistry, and on the role of museums and (secondary) schools in the transmission of chemistry and its history.

During a meeting of the Working Party at the Conference, Ernst Homburg succeeded Hendrik Deelstra as chairman of the WP. It was decided that the next European conference on the history of chemistry will be held in Portugal in 2005. The WP is also planning to organise joint sessions at the First European Chemistry Conference, Budapest 2006, together with the Division of Chemical Education and the Division of Analytical Chemistry.

A small task force has been formed which will collect information on “chemical heritage“ in Europe, as a preparation to organising a conference on that topic.