



Working Party on History of Chemistry

Report EuCheMS Working Party on History of Chemistry, 2005-2006

From 6-10 September 2005 the Working Party held its 5th International Conference on History of Chemistry, in Estoril and Lisbon, Portugal. This highly successful conference had about 120 participants from 23 different nations, including non-European countries such as the USA and Japan. 56 papers and about 30 posters were presented. Invited speakers were Prof. J. Ferreira da Silva (Porto), Prof. D.M. Knight (Durham), and Prof. J.K. Smith (Bethlehem, USA).

In July 2006 the Proceedings (687 pp.) were published: Isabel Malaquias, Ernst Homburg, and M. Elvira (eds.), *5th International Conference on History of Chemistry: "Chemistry, Technology and Society". 6-10 September 2005, Estoril & Lisbon – Portugal. Proceedings* (Aveiro 2006).

A smaller conference, with about 40 participants, from almost 20 different nations, and 25 papers, on 'History of the Food Chain – From Agriculture to Consumption and Waste' was held in Gödöllő, Hungary, from 31 August to 3 September 2006. Dr. S. Horrocks (Leicester) was invited speaker. The Proceedings of that conference will be published by Eva Vamos (Budapest). This conference was co-organized with the Divisions of Analytical Chemistry and Food Chemistry of EuCheMS.

Just before this conference, on 30 August 2006, the Working Party organized a symposium during the First European Chemistry Congress, Budapest, on 'Teaching Chemistry - Past, Present and Future', together with the Division of Chemical Education. The symposium was well attended. There were four speakers on the history of chemistry, including the invited speakers Prof. W.H. Brock (Canterbury) and Prof. B. Bensaude-Vincent (Paris).

The Working Party has sent a questionnaire to all its members and to other colleagues in Europe on the situation of the teaching of the history of chemistry at universities and schools.

Almost all answers have been received by now. The final report will be drafted by Dr. José R. Bertomeu Sanchez (Valencia).

The 6th International Conference on History of Chemistry will be held in Belgium, Leuven, from 28 August to 1 September 2007. The First Circular has been distributed in September 2006. The Programme Committee is chaired by Dr. José R. Bertomeu Sanchez (Valencia), and the Local Committee by Dr. Brigitte van Tiggelen (Louvain-la-Neuve).

Business meetings of the Working Party were held in Estoril on 9 September 2005, and in Gödöllo on 3 September 2006.

Ernst Homburg, WP Chairman, 10 October 2006