

Minutes of meeting of EuCheMS Working Party on the History of Chemistry

Aveiro, Friday, September 11th, 2015

Chairman: Brigitte Van Tiggelen

Participants (WP delegates): Brigitte Van Tiggelen, French-speaking Belgium (vantiggelen@memosciences.be); Asbjørn Petersen, Denmark (ap@esteban.dk); Danielle Fauque, France (pierre@pierrelaszlo.net); Gisela Boeck, Germany (gisela.boeck@uni-rostock.de); Birutė Railienė, Lithuania (b.railiene@gmail.com); Ernst Homburg, The Netherlands (e.homburg@maastrichtuniversity.nl); Annette Lykknes, Norway (annette.lykknes@ntnu.no); Marcin Dolecki, Poland (maarcindol@wp.pl); Isabel Malaquias, Portugal (imalaquias@ua.pt); Vesna Milanovic, Serbia; Ignacio Suay-Matallana, Spain, (igsuayma@alumni.uv.es); Peter Morris, United Kingdom (Peter.Morris@sciencemuseum.ac.uk); Anders Lundgren, representing Sweden by proxy (anders.lundgren@idehist.uu.se)

Other participants: Gábor Palló, Hungary; Pierre Tessier, France; Sérgio Rodrigues, Portugal; Guillermo Restrepo, ISPC; Ron Brashear, ACS/HIST; Jeffrey Johnson, CHMC; Dragica Trivic, Division Chemical Education.

Agenda (distributed to the representatives prior to the meeting)

1. Opening, and apologies for absence
2. Minutes of last general meeting, Uppsala, 22 August, 2013
3. Composition of the WP
 - Delegates of member societies
 - Observers from other EuCheMS Divisions and WPs
 - Observers of other groups, societies and institutions
 - Board
4. News and reports from EuCheMS and other national groups
5. Website
6. Survey: History of Chemistry in Europe, 2015
7. Venue and organization of the 11th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, 2017

8. Programme chair for the 11ICHC
9. Potential collaborations with other EuCheMS Divisions and WPs
10. Any other business

1. Opening, and apologies for absence

Welcome by Brigitte Van Tiggelen. There were no comments to the proposed agenda.

Apologies for absence:

Delegates : Rudolf W Soukup, Austria; Paul Balduck, Flemish-speaking Belgium; Bernard Mahieu, French-speaking Belgium; Sona Strbánová, Czech Republic; Miroslav Novák, Czech Republic; Peter Mürsepp, Estonia; Laurence Lestel, France; Christoph Meinel, Germany; Efthymios P. Bokaris, Greece; Istvan Hannus, Hungary; Marco Taddia, Italy; Andreas Weber, The Netherlands; Bjørn Pedersen, Norway; Ana Maria Carneiro, Portugal; Elena Zaitseva, Russia; Jose Ramon Bertomeu Sanchez, Spain; Jan Trofast, Sweden; Hjalmar Fors, Sweden; Anna Simmons, United Kingdom.

Observers: Halina Lichoka, National Polish Academy of Science, PO

Also excused: Masanori Kaji, Yoshi Kikuchi, Carin Berkowitz, Simon Werrett.

One minute of silence was held in the memory of Éva Vámos. An obituary, written by Annette Vogt and colleagues, was read by Annette Lykknes.

2. Minutes of last general meeting, Uppsala, 22 August, 2013

There were no comments to the minutes.

3. Composition of the WP

- Delegates of member societies: 22 countries/EuCheMS member societies are represented today. Participants are asked to inform our chair should they know about history of chemistry groups in other countries not yet represented.

- Observers from other EuCheMS Divisions and WPs: Observers may be appointed from other divisions/WPs, to strengthen our connections and pursue collaborations. Prof. Duncan Th. Burns from the Division of Analytical Chemistry is such an observer. The assembly agreed to appoint Prof. Dragica Trivic (present) of the Division for Chemical Education.

Other contacts include the WP on Chemistry for Cultural Heritage and the WP for Ethics in Chemistry, but no observer has been identified at this stage.

- Observers of other groups, societies and institutions: Likewise, observers may be appointed from other historical societies or groups. The election of the following new observers was accepted:

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry:

Dr. Robert G.W. Anderson and Dr. Simon Werrett
Chemical Heritage Foundation
Prof. Carsten Reinhardt and Dr. Carin Berkowitz
Kagakushi (Japanese society for the History of Chemistry)
Prof. Masanori Kaji and Dr. Yoshi Kikuchi
Commission for the History of Modern Chemistry (DHST)
Prof. Jeffrey E. Johnson
International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry
Prof. Klaus Ruthenberg and Dr. Guillermo Restrepo
Division for the History of Chemistry (American Chemical Society)
Ron Brashear and Prof. Gary Patterson
National Polish Academy of science
Prof. Halina Lichocka (formerly representative for Poland)
International Committee for the History of Technology
Dr. Slawomir Lotysz and Dr. Maria Elvira Callapez

- Board: Actually board members are Annette Lykknes (vice-chair) and Brigitte Van Tiggelen. Dr. Ignacio Suay-Matallana who has started the survey on the History of Chemistry in Europe is proposed as secretary of the Working Party. He was elected by acclamation. This raises the question of the term for Board members ; the EuCheMS guidelines suggest three years term but this doesn't suit the schedule of our business meetings that always occur during our conferences, every other year. It is suggested to move to a four year terms. Brigitte Van Tiggelen will investigate the matter with EuCheMS.

4. News and reports from EuCheMS and other national groups

The WP now qualifies to become a Division under EuCheMS. It has been proposed that EuCheMS receives 10-20 % of conferences surpluses (and likewise, covers 10-20 % of deficits.) This rule does not apply to working parties.

Our chair therefore proposed that we remain a WP. The proposal was accepted by the delegates.

Due to lack of time, delegates are asked to send national reports to the chair as soon as possible, so a general report can be circulated after the conference.

5. Website

A new website has been in the making since the spring. Vice chair Annette Lykknes presented the new website and its structure. Delegates are asked to send her links to the websites/webpages of the historical section of their national societies/groups, to be posted online – especially if information in English exists. [Since the meeting, the new website has been launched.]

6. Survey : History of Chemistry in Europe, 2015

A survey on the teaching of history of chemistry in Europe has been undertaken, coordinated by Ignacio Suay-Matallana. Some preliminary conclusions, including data

from 18 European countries were presented. The presentation with the preliminary conclusions has been circulated to the delegates, who are asked to comment on it. In the following months a full version of the survey will be published online. Furthermore, a more elaborated report, condensing the whole survey and their conclusions in reference to the previous survey achieved in 2007 is being prepared for publication.

7. Venue and organization of the 11th International Conference on the History of Chemistry, 2017

Two proposals for hosting the 11ICHC were presented: Trondheim, Norway (Annette Lykknes) and The Netherlands (Ernst Homburg & colleagues).

Trondheim received 12 votes, The Netherlands 5.

Two possible dates were presented for ICHC in Trondheim: 29 August-2 September, or 5-9 September, 2017. Delegates were asked to vote through email. [After the meeting, the dates have been settled to 29th August-2nd September.]

There was a discussion about the fees as well. Norway is an expensive country, and the estimated fee was high. Annette Lykknes will try to get more sponsors to allow for a lower fee.

Peter Morris informed on his experiences with the 10ICHC. His points centered on fee, location, interest and age of active persons.

8. Programme chair for the 11ICHC

Christoph Meinel has accepted to serve as chair of the programme committee, in duo with Ignacio Suay-Matallana. The proposal was accepted by acclamation.

9. Potential collaborations with other EuCheMS Divisions and WPs

9.1. Division of Chemical Education

Gisela Boeck informed about a possible collaboration with the Division for Chemical Education. The division representative informed on an upcoming conference (<http://www.euchems.eu/divisions/chemical-education-2/conferences/>) Delegates interested in collaboration with this division should contact Gisela Boeck, to establish an informal group working on this.

9.2. Working Party for Ethics in Chemistry

The chair of the WP on Ethics in Chemistry has approached Brigitte Van Tiggelen for collaboration and support in the frame of the Programmatic Symposium of the EuCheMS Working Party on Ethics in Chemistry held in the memory of Carl Djerassi,

in Frankfurt/Main, 25 – 26 Sep. 2015. On this occasion, the German version of Roald Hoffmann 's theater play "Something that belongs to you" was presented.

Any member interested in pursuing reflection on the thematic of ethics in chemistry and wishing to collaborate with the WP on Ethics on Chemistry may contact Brigitte Van Tiggelen

9.3. Working Party of Chemistry for Cultural Heritage

This working party will hold its biennial meeting in Brussels, 5-7 July 2016 and is looking forward to collaboration with the WPHC. Any member interested to participate or join should contact Brigitte Van Tiggelen.

9.4. The 6th European Chemistry Congress

The 6th EuCheMS congress will be held in Sevilla, 11-15 September 2016; any member wishing to participate can contact Brigitte Van Tiggelen.

9.5. Other EuCheMS business

EuCheMS has recently been approached by the European Physical Society about a Landmark initiative, and the Executive Board has asked the WPHC to lead the workgroup on that topic. A survey will be undertaken through delegates, to identify what already exists and under which format. Any help, information or thought is welcome, contact Brigitte Van Tiggelen.

10. Any other business

Springer Verlag has sent a few sample books that can be found on the display table of the 10ICHC, as well as guidelines and proposal forms for projects to be included in their series "SpringerBriefs in the History of Chemistry" under the scientific guidance of the ACS/HIST Division.

Annette Lykknes, Ignacio Suay-Matallana and Brigitte Van Tiggelen

27 October, 2015.