John Dalton 250th Anniversary Symposium: Chemistry meets History

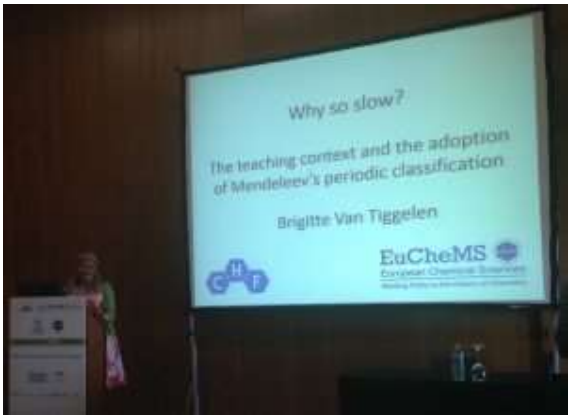
organized by Mats Tilset, Sylviane Sabo-Etienne and Brigitte Van Tiggelen

During the 6th EuCheMS congress in Sevilla, Spain, in September 2016 a one-day symposium in honor of the 250th anniversary of John Dalton's birth was held. The morning session was convened by ***Professor Mats Tilset***, University of Oslo, Norway. The symposium began appropriately with a 45-minute lecture by science historian ***Rachel Dunn***, Durham University, UK, on the life and scientific career of John Dalton. She packed much information and anecdotes into her presentation to give a lively impression of a most remarkable man. As a Quaker, who remained committed to his religion all his life, Dalton was soberly dressed in dark colors. Once the rule was broken in public, when he was awarded an honorary degree from Oxford University in 1832, for which he was given a red robe to wear. When asked afterward how he could reconcile the vibrant color with his faith, his response was that though others may call it scarlet, he saw it as brown-green, the color of nature. He was color-blind!

Dalton's wide scientific studies stretched from physics and chemistry through colour-blindness to meteorology. He was also committed to the communication of science in an efficient way, with succinct language and visualization, for example, of the elements and their combination in chemistry.

This lecture set the tone for the chemistry slam session in which eleven candidates were selected from the Dalton Symposium poster session. The participants had four minutes each to present the link between Dalton and their chemistry. The winner was ***Karolin Materne***, who showed parallels between her incipient career in science and the character and early career of Dalton.

The afternoon session was organized by ***Professor Sylviane Sabo-Etienne***, Toulouse, France. Two additional historical lectures gave the background and the reason for the initially slow reception of Mendeleev's periodic table (given by ***Dr. Brigitte van Tiggelen***, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, USA) and the innovation of Berthollet's chemical affinities at the turn of the 19th century (presented by ***Professor Pere Grapí,*** Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain). The symposium was rounded off with four oral presentations of 15 minutes each by young chemists.



Dalton symposium : Wednesday September 14 (situation on July 19th)

Session 2 - John Dalton 250th Anniversary Symposium: Chemistry meets History

Chair : Sylviane Sabo - Etienne

14.00 : Brigitte Van Tiggelen

Why so slow? The teaching context and the adoption of Mendeleev's periodic classification (1760)

14.30 : Rajen Kundu, Uni Colorado Boulder

Imagination of a compound/matter beyond our vision (1415)

14.45 : Kimberley Gallagher, Uni Bath

Iron catalysed hydrophosphination II: This time it's terminal (alkynes) (1485)

15.00 : Pere Grapi

Berthollet's chemical affinities. Educational context and textualization of an innovation in chemistry at the turn of the nineteenth century
(1761)

15.30 : Marte Sofie Martinsen Holmsen, Uni Oslo

Au(III) complexes and their reactivity towards alkenes and alkynes (759)

15.45 : Ernest Salomó i Prat, Uni Barcelona

The Max-PHOX family; P*,N iridium catalysts and their application in the completely enantioselective hydrogenation of cyclic enamides (1455)

Posters in addition :

- Ernest Salomó i Prat, Uni Barcelona

The Max-PHOX family; P*,N iridium catalysts and their application in the completely enantioselective hydrogenation of cyclic enamides (1455)

- Kimberley Gallagher, Uni Bath

Iron catalysed hydrophosphination II: This time it's terminal (alkynes) (1485)