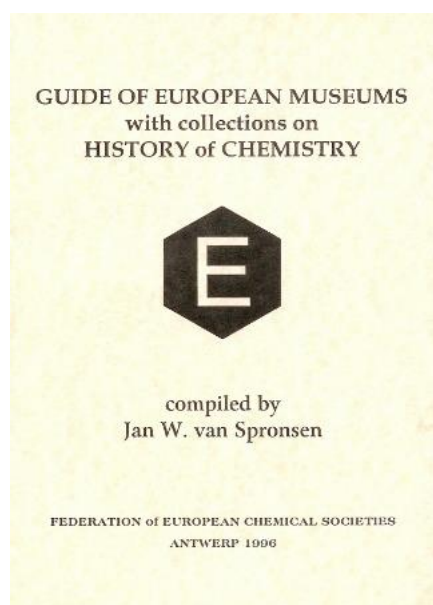


Johannes Willem “Jan W.” (Called Hans) Van Spronsen (1928–2010) is mostly known for his book *The Periodic System of Chemical Elements: A History of the First 100 Years*, published by Elsevier in 1969, the first complete such overview and still a reference work for all interested in the Periodic System. Lesser-known is Van Spronsen’s enthusiastic participation in all things of the Working Party on the History of Chemistry since its foundation: an active member, he chaired the WPHC between 1985 and 1993 and then acted a secretary until 1998. Among other projects, he also gathered information on museums and collections that contained chemical instruments and historically relevant artefacts, about which he wrote a series of articles in Dutch in the *Chemisch Weekblad*. A guide to all these places, which he visited personally, appeared in English in 1981 under the auspices of the Working Party on the History of Chemistry with the title *A Guide of European Museums and Expositions on Chemistry and History of Chemistry*. It was followed by a second in 1996 and third updated edition, in 1998, that included pharmacy, published by the Federation of the European Chemical Societies. It is this edition that we provide here. Now 20 years old, and containing outdated information, this guide has, however, not been replaced and is very hard to find.



More on Van Spronsen’s life and work can be found here (link to <http://acshist.scs.illinois.edu/awards/Dexter%20Papers/vanSpronsenDexterBioJJB.pdf> ) and his eulogy by Prof. Ernst Homburg, published in *Studium* in 2012 is to be found here <https://www.gewina-studium.nl/articles/abstract/10.18352/studium.8196/>

Thanks to Ernst Homburg who digitized the guide, and to Annette Lykknes who provided the OCR version.

Brigitte Van Tiggelen