



# EuChemS

## European Chemical Society

— Working Party on the History —  
of Chemistry

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## BELGIUM

### **Société Royale de Chimie, Division d'Histoire de la Chimie and Mémosciences Report 2020-2021**

The non-profit Mémosciences cooperates with the Division for the History of Chemistry from the Société Royale de Chimie since the creation of that Division in 1999.

The main activity is the organization of conferences "Elément d'Histoire de la Chimie" usually on a Wednesday afternoon, except for the case of one day meetings.

Chemists, historians but also science teachers are welcome to attend these conferences, which are offered for free, except in the case of one day events for which a small fee is requested to cover expenses and catering.

In 2009 the Division d'Histoire de la Chimie was merged with the Division d'Enseignement, however both groups have continued their own activities.

The Division collaborates from time to time with the Groupe d'Histoire de la Chimie from the Société chimique de France as well as other history of science, medicine and pharmacy organizations.

For 2020 and 2021, the following conference was organized by SRC Historical Division and Mémosciences:

This year the pandemic and the successive confinements adjourned any planned in-person activities. As the circumstances continued, the Division organized an online conference in collaboration with the Centre National d'Histoire des Sciences et la Bibliothèque des Riches-Clares in the frame of their annual cycle of conferences "La science à la lumière de son histoire"; on March 2, 2021.

- Observer l'eau de vaisselle ou comment Agnès Pockels a fondé la science des surfaces dans sa cuisine

Brigitte Van Tiggelen (Memosciences, Science History Institute-Philadelphia ).

En 1893, on offrit à Agnès Pockels (1862-1935) l'accès à un laboratoire à la prestigieuse université de Göttingen pour poursuivre ses recherches sur les phénomènes de surface.

Agnès déclina l'offre, arguant que son devoir exigeait d'elle de s'occuper de la santé déclinante de ses parents. Comment une jeune femme, qui n'avait pu bénéficier de cursus scolaire au-delà de ses 15 ans, avait-elle pu attirer l'attention pour qu'une telle offre lui soit faite ? Et comment expliquer sa décision alors qu'elle aurait pu bénéficier de conditions de recherche parmi les meilleures d'Allemagne ? L'exposé aspire à aller au-delà de ce qui a souvent été présenté comme un sacrifice inévitable dans le contexte du rôle de la femme à cette époque, et à souligner la façon dont Agnès Pockels a su au contraire user des possibilités que lui offrait son statut, sa famille et sa cuisine.

More information : <http://www.astrolabium.be/spip.php?breve36>

## DENMARK

### Report on activities in The Danish Society for the History of Chemistry 2020

At the annual meeting in June of The Danish Chemical Society the Historical Society planned to host three lectures:

Jan Tapdrup: "Ørsted, chemistry and controversies".

Jens Olaf Pepke Pedersen: "Ørsted and his dynamic chemistry".

Helge Kragh: "Ørsted and the discovery of aluminium".

Also planned for this annual meeting the Society was a stand selling books from the Society's production, now counting 23 volumes.

Due to the corona crises the annual meeting was cancelled.

Also because of the corona crises the annual field trip in August was cancelled.

The General Assembly was held virtually on the 12th of November. The lecture before this was:

Ture Damhus: "The registration work on the S. M. Jørgensen collection"

During the year the Society's treasurer, Christian Knudsen, finalized searching the old not-digitized volumes of "Dansk Kemi" for articles involving an often historical description of small experiments. This might be the basis for a new publication by the Society.

During the year the chair and secretary of the Society, Asbjørn Petersen and Ture Damhus, continued registration of at least 800 chemical compounds made by S. M. Jørgensen (1837-1914). The compounds are situated at the Technical University of Denmark and registration is needed for the survival of this unique collection of complexes.

## **Report on activities in The Danish Society for the History of Chemistry**

**2021**

Pt (June 20th) it is not known if the annual meeting of The Danish Chemical Society will be held this year. If this is the case the Historical Society will host the lectures planned for 2020. Also the Society will have a stand selling the line of books produced by the society.

The chair of the Society, Asbjørn Petersen, attended the virtual ICHC meeting May, 20th. with the presentation: A Historic collection of compounds from the birth of coordination chemistry.

After the corona crises we will resume our annual field trip in September. This year it will probably be a visit to the Old Gunpowder factory in Frederiksværk or a visit to a 99 year old ice cream factory in Jægerspris.

During this year the chair and secretary of the Society, Asbjørn Petersen and Ture Damhus, have finished registration of the more than 800 chemical compounds made by S. M. Jørgensen (1837-1914). The next steps in the work with the collection is not decided yet.

We plan to have our General Assembly in November. The lecture before this is not decided yet.

The major problems for the Society is still the lack of influx of younger members and slightly less serious is the low number of attendees at some of our arrangements.

## FRANCE

Groupe Histoire de la chimie de la Société chimique de France (GHC-SCF)  
Group for the history of chemistry of the Société chimique de France.  
Report 2019-2021

The year 2019 was very fruitful for the GHC, with an ambitious national symposium on scientific instrument collections (30 January, five lectures) followed by a workshop on different subjects (March): from mineral waters in the 18th century to a family pharmaceutical enterprise in the 20th century (1). This second subject continued the study of the evolution of the pharmaceutical family enterprise towards an industry in the 20th century beginning with a symposium in autumn 2017 (2). Keiko Kawashima gave a lecture on Toshiko Yuasa and her career in France (3). In November, a workshop on the history of alkaloids was held in association with the Société d'histoire de la pharmacie(4).

Tours focussed on the chemical heritage in Paris (December) were also organised by a group of young colleagues, members of the Council of the GHC (5).

As a reminder, several members of the GHC presented papers at the 11 th ICHC, Trondheim, in August. This was after some of them attended the symposia on history of chemistry at the IUPAC Congress in Paris on July 2019.

In February 2020, we organized an international symposium with two themes: one on Lavoisier and his world, the other marking the 150 th anniversary of the Periodic Table (6). More than 50 persons attended this meeting in the headquarters of the SCF. M. Beretta (Bologna) presented the Lavoisier collection in the Musée des Arts et Métiers, in Paris, and the instrument makers behind the objects. Armel Cornu (Uppsala) spoke about the Société royale de médecine and its work on the standardisation of mineral waters (7). Marie-Laure Saulnier (Bordeaux) presented a new auto-portrait by Madame Lavoisier (8), and Francesca Antonelli (Bologna) spoke about the work of Madame Lavoisier, secretary and translator in chemistry. Patrice Bret presented the volumes of Lavoisier's correspondence, and we celebrated the award he received: the Franklin-Lavoisier Prize (2018). This prize will permit the completion of the last volume (forthcoming, 2023) (9).

In the second part of the symposium, dedicated to the Periodic Table, Prof. Giovanni Ferraris (University of Turin, Academia dei Lincei) presented the role of isomorphism on the genesis of the PT, an aspect less studied by historians (10). Danielle Fauque completed this lecture with a short presentation on the diffusion of the PT in schools, high schools and universities in France from 1869 to the mid-1960s. The other papers will be published in *L'Actualité chimique* in 2022.

Some days after this symposium, the COVID 19 pandemic stopped our agenda, with (as yet) no possibility of organizing workshops online. At the same time, the reform of the SCF's statutes drove a reform of our GHC, which is still in train: for sixteen months now we have been working on the future statutes of the GHC (11). We hope that this will be done by the end of this year. We then hope to resume our activities in 2022 but in different ways from before.

Although it was impossible to organize our own meetings, we participated at several other congresses, symposia or workshops.

Notably, in October 2019, with the Gruppo Nazionale di Fondamenti e Storia della Chimica (chaired by Marco Taddia, Rome), at its 18 th Convegno Nazionale, Danielle Fauque, in her capacity as president of the GHC, gave a plenary lecture on the birth of the IUPAC (12). Two national congresses were postponed from 2020 to 2021. Their symposia on

scientific heritage, especially collections, were attractive for us. So, in April, we could attend the online congress of the French Society for the History of Science and Technology (SFHST) (13). Several members of the GHC presented papers, notably Francine Khantine-Langlois on the collections of scientific instruments at the University of Lyon. At the end of the session, the discussion stressed the role of volunteers and the use of old instruments for the science teaching.

As a free presentation, Marcin Krasnodebsky presented a paper on a research centre in industrial chemistry, at Aubervilliers near Paris.

In May, the online interdisciplinary congress of the Comité des travaux historiques et scientifiques (CTHS) (14), pursued the theme “Collect and Keep” (more precisely in French: Collecter, Collectionner, Conserver). And in our field, a symposium, “Pedagogical collections and scientific instruments”, chaired by D. Fauque and Dominique Bernard, included 11 papers in two sessions, mainly on collections for teaching and private collections (15). This symposium was highly successful, with more than 50 people attending. Here also, the discussion on these very different presentations, revealed a number of similar points. We noted the success of the support for collections in several establishments, specifically in universities (growing these last five or six years) and secondary schools, after several years of fighting by volunteers to save the collections. An emerging aspect was the role of private collectors who have often been teachers or employees in corresponding fields and have collected and restored specific instruments, constituting some original collections. The use of the collections as means/media for new methods of teaching, the attention to fake instruments, were other ways that were explored.

After these two congresses, the online conference organised by the WPHC also proposed some plenary lectures and short talks on chemical heritage, with two papers by French colleagues: Florence Hachez-Leroy spoke on the heritage of industrial chemistry in a special issue of *Patrimoine industriel* (16). This issue was edited by members of the council of the GHC in 2016: Patrice Bret (at this time GHC president), Gérard Emptoz and Jacques Breyse (two past vice-presidents), with the participation of another society for industrial heritage: VALPASTI. See E. Homburg’s analysis in *Ambix* (16). F. Khantine-Langlois, one of our very active members, president of ASEISTE (17), explained the role of this national association dedicated to the backup and preservation of the scientific collections of secondary schools.

It is remarkable that these three meetings quite independently offered such a concourse of similar subjects. The interest in scientific collections is now very significant. We have to encourage this attitude, notably with teachers interested in using these collections in classrooms, for some practical exercises. Several experiments of this kind are now under way in France.

The training of teachers in history of chemistry (and also of science in general) is already an important part of the aims of the GHC, and this will continue in the coming years, with a focus not just on the history and philosophy of chemistry but also in the use of old instruments and their presentation for pedagogical purposes.

Danielle Fauque, president of the GHC (29 July 2021)

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- (1) [https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ghc.2019.lettre\\_74.janvier.pdf](https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ghc.2019.lettre_74.janvier.pdf)
- (2) <https://www.biusante.parisdescartes.fr/blog/index.php/tag/societe-dhistoire-de-la-pharmacie/>

- (3) <https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/numero/toshiko-yuasa-1909-1980-une-japonaise-chercheuse-en-france-correspondance-avec-frederic-joliot-curie-1900-1958-p48-n449/>
- (4) [https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ghc.2019.lettre\\_75.novembre.pdf](https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ghc.2019.lettre_75.novembre.pdf)
- (5) <https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/groupe/histoire-de-la-chimie/promenade-parisienne-des-elements/>
- (6) [https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ghc.2020.programme\\_colloque\\_13\\_fevrier-2.pdf](https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/ghc.2020.programme_colloque_13_fevrier-2.pdf)
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- (9) <https://actions.maisondelachimie.com/les-prix-de-la-fondation/prix-franklin-lavoisier/les-anciens-laureats/>
- (10) <https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/numero/le-role-de-lisomorphisme-dans-la-conception-de-la-loi-periodique-de-dmitri-mendeleiev-p51-n462/>
- (11) <https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/GHC.2021.Lettre-79.Juillet.V2.pdf>
- (12) <http://www.gnpsc.it/convegna/convegno.html>
- (13) <https://sfhst.hypotheses.org/congres%20&>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=086cEzAlo1c>
- (14) [http://cths.fr/files/co/c\\_00173/2021\\_programme.pdf](http://cths.fr/files/co/c_00173/2021_programme.pdf)
- (15) Session 7.3, p.19, & session 7.9, p. 22.
- (16) <https://www.cilac.com/numero-69-patrimoine-industriel-chimie>. Review by E. Homburg in Ambix, 66/4 (November 2029).
- (17) <http://www.aseiste.org/>

All the activities of the GHC are presented on its newsletters:

<https://new.societechimiquedefrance.fr/groupe/histoire-de-la-chimie/lettres-histoire-de-la-chimie/>

## GERMANY

GDCh / GDCh-Fachgruppe Geschichte der Chemie (German Chemical Society: History of Chemistry Division)

The GDCh is represented in the EuChemS Working Party by two delegates: Gisela Boeck, University of Rostock, Chemistry Department <[gisela.boeck@uni-rostock.de](mailto:gisela.boeck@uni-rostock.de)>, and Christoph Meinel, University of Regensburg, History of Science <[christoph.meinel@ur.de](mailto:christoph.meinel@ur.de)>.

The German Chemical Society (GDCh) has a Division on History of Chemistry (*Fachgruppe Geschichte der Chemie*) with about 400 members, including a high proportion of students and young chemists. Carsten Reinhardt, University of Bielefeld, is chair of the *Fachgruppe*. It holds biannual meetings, but because of the pandemic the 2021 meeting had to be postponed.

The journal of the Division “*Mitteilungen*”, published since 1988 by Christoph Meinel, was relaunched under the editorship of Carsten Reinhardt from vol. 26 (2021). The issues appear in print and online simultaneously and are available in digital form free of charge from <<https://www.gdch.de/netzwerk-strukturen/fachstrukturen/geschichte-der-chemie/mitteilungen-der-fachgruppe-online.html>>.

In cooperation with the History of Chemistry Division a new book series “*Lives in Chemistry*” is launched aimed at publishing autobiographies of eminent chemists: <<https://www.gnt-verlag.de/>>. The first three volumes, due to appear in September 2021, are authored by Günther Maier, Nobel Prize winner Gerhard Ertl and Henri Brunner. The autobiography project is sponsored by Dr. Karl Reuter (RCA, Freiburg, Germany).

The annual calendar of historically memorable dates, compiled on behalf of the Division on History of Chemistry by Yvonne Remane and Władimir Reschetilowski continues to be published in every January issue of the GDCh membership journal *Nachrichten aus der Chemie*. The 2021 issue is free to read at <<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/nadc.20214102068>>. A special calendar for the members of the Division on Chemical Education is published in the journal *Chemkon* by Gisela Boeck.

Thanks to the initiative of Barbara Köhler of the GDCh, the program *Historische Stätten der Chemie* (Historical Sites of Chemistry) has provided belatedly the brochure for Berlin 2017, so that all brochures since 1999 are now available for download at <<https://www.gdch.de/gdch/historische-staetten-der-chemie.html>>. Due to the pandemic the inauguration of additional sites had to be postponed.



## **HUNGARY**

The History of Chemistry Division of the Hungarian Chemical Society usually organizes some one-day meetings per year dedicated to prominent Hungarian Chemists.

In the period 2020-2021 all events were cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Best regards, Beáta Bóka

Delegate of the Hungarian Chemical Society in the Working Party of History of Chemistry

## LITHUANIA

The Lithuanian chemical society (LChS, 40 members) chaired by Assoc. Prof. Rimantas Vaitkus has two representatives at WPHC EuChemS: Mudis Šalkauskas and Birutė Railienė. The headquarters of the LChS is at Vilnius University.

In the period of 2020–2021 following events were organised (or participated in organizing):

2020-05-18 State Television broadcasting lessons in chemistry for schools, Assoc. Prof. Rimantas Vaitkus. Įdomiosios pamokos tiesiogiai. Apie chemijos magiją danguje – pirotechniką Retrieved from: <https://www.lrt.lt/mediateka/irasas/2000108607/idomiosios-pamokos-tiesiogiai-apie-chemijos-magija-danguje-pirotechnika-bei-manto-stonkaus-namu-darbai>

2020 November a book about Jędrzej Śniadecki was translated to English (financial support by Thermo Fisher Scientific). Manuscript is still under revision.

2020-11-27 a website, dedicated to a chemist Jędrzej Śniadecki (1768–1838) sponsored by Rimvydas Baranauskas was updated with new material (<https://andrewsniadecki.org/en/readings/>); event “Lectiones Andreae Sniadecki”, introducing a book “Portraits of Jędrzej Śniadecki ” by Neringa Markauskaitė and Birutė Railienė was published (financial support from Lithuanian Council of Culture). An annual Jędrzej Śniadecki scholarship was awarded to Vilnius University students Guoda Radavičiūtė and Adelė Tiuchtaitė (scholarship was established in 2018 and is annually allocated by Thermo Fisher Scientific). Link to the event: <https://youtu.be/T-o8dWwCQj4>

2021 spring-summer. Presentation of chemistry lessons in high schools in Alytus and Vilnius, also in a summer camp of the National Academy of Schools in Druskininkai by Assoc. Prof. Rimantas Vaitkus.

2021 May website for the 13 ICHC is updated, with the support of Vilnius University.

2021-11-26 annual event “Lectiones Andreae Sniadecki” was organised, an annual Jędrzej Śniadecki scholarship was awarded.

Plans for future

2023-05-23-26 organise a 13 ICHC in Vilnius, on the venue of Vilnius University.

Birutė Railienė, a representative for Lithuania at WPHC EuChemS.

## THE NETHERLANDS

### **Annual report 2020, History of Chemistry Group of the Royal Netherlands Society for Chemistry (CHG-KNCV)**

At our last in-person meeting, on 11 March 2020, three events were planned for the rest of the year:

1. A symposium on the history of Chemistry and Chemical Industry in colonial Indonesia (1602- 1949) in Arnhem on 3 April 2020.

2. The award meeting for the 2020 winner of the National Chemical Heritage Award, the Sonnenborgh Observatory in Utrecht, on 9 June 2020.

3. A symposium on the history of distillation at the National Jenever Museum in Schiedam on 25 September 2020.

When the Netherlands went into lockdown on 15 March 2020, we decided to cancel the first two events. At the time, we still hoped the distillation symposium could take place, but in August it became clear this too would have to be cancelled. As we have a contract for the first symposium with the event location, this will be held once in-person meetings are allowed again.

The third event makes little sense to hold online, as much of its appeal is the museum tour and the tasting, so that too will be held sometime in the future.

We decided against organizing online events for 2020 as in the early days of the Covid-19 crisis many members were overwhelmed with the pressures of working from home, teaching online, and home-schooling their children, and the overall lethargy caused by doing everything online.

We have however organized three successful online events in 2021, but that is for next year's report.

Marieke Hendriksen, Dutch delegate for the EuChemS WP on the History of Chemistry July 2021

## NORWAY

The history of chemistry group of the Norwegian Chemical Society usually organizes one meeting per year. In 2020, no meeting was held due to Covid-19 restrictions. Elections were made during email discussions.

As of 11 November 2020, the board consists of Annette Lykknes (chair), Jonas Persson (deputy chair) and board members Leiv Sydnes and Ragnar Bye.

In August 2021, Associate professor Reidun Renstrøm, who has authored several textbooks in physics and the history of physics, was invited to lecture about the use of history of science in science textbooks for a combined audience at NTNU in Trondheim and at Zoom.

## PORTUGAL

### Report from the Portuguese Group on the History of Chemistry |2021

Linked to the commemorations of the International Year of the Periodic Table, in 2019, it was developed a cultural and educational project of which the exhibition “What if Mendeleev were here?” was the public result. In it, a copy of the original letter of Dmitri Mendeleev (1834-1907) to the Portuguese Baltazar Ozório (1904) is displayed and a 'journey' is proposed through the history of chemical elements, systematizing relevant stages in the history of science. Also conceived were a large interactive periodic table, allowing access to information about the elements and their applications, with a real and simultaneous visualization of samples of the minerals and of the simple pure substances. Some instruments used in early research on the structure of matter; three reference books on the new chemistry; an interactive panel on noble gases; a game about chemical elements in food; panels with the chemical composition of the human body, sea water, earth's crust and atmosphere; some prominent scientists and an interactive table with periodic tables from different epochs. This exhibition has been in public presentation at the FÁBRICA - Centro Ciência Viva de Aveiro, since 3 July 2021, following a first presentation at the Museum of the City of Aveiro (September-October 2019), followed by its exhibition at the Pavilion of Knowledge, in Lisbon (from November 2019 to January 2020).

The 12th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (Maastricht, The Netherlands, 29July-2August 2019) was attended by 11 Portuguese colleagues. The Portuguese representative also attended the Business Meeting of the Working Party (Aug. 1).

Raquel Gonçalves-Maia, retired professor from the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, published four other books on chemical biographies (*Francis Crick: DNA, o Puzzle 3D*; *Max Perutz: Lord Hemoglobina*; *Leo Baekeland*; *Wallace Carothers*), during 2018-2019 (collection ‘Dos Átomos e das Moléculas’).

Augusto Correia Cardoso, retired professor from the Chemistry Department of the University of Coimbra, published the book *Laboratório Chimico da Universidade de Coimbra – 200 anos de química em Portugal (1772-1974)*.

During 2020 lockdown, a few webinars started to the members of the SPQ Group of History of Chemistry, trying to get this community more involved.

The Business Meeting of the Working Party, held virtually on May 20, 2021, was attended by the Portuguese representative and a participation also occurred at the Heritage and History of Chemistry: WPHC Online Event, 20 May 2021.

The first Portuguese National Meeting on the History of Chemistry will be held completely online next September 2021.

30 July 2021

Isabel Malaquias

Portuguese Representative at the WP-HC



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## **Serbian Chemical Society (SCS) Biennial Report to the EuChemS Working Party on the History of Chemistry for 2019-2021**

### **Abstract:**

The activities of the SCS Working Party on the History of Chemistry during the period from December 2019 to August 2021 have been associated with: (i) organization of the scientific meetings; (ii) activities in the Great Serbian Chemists' Collection at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Chemistry; (iii) publication of the Chemical Review and the Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society. Some of the activities have been postponed or organized in online environment because of COVID-19 pandemic.

### **1. Organization of the scientific meetings which contain section for the history of chemistry**

The April days on chemistry teaching - the 31th national meeting of chemistry teachers and the 4rd Conference of Chemistry Didactics was initially planned for 24-25 April 2020, but it was postponed because of COVID-19 pandemic for the April of 2021. However, the epidemiological situation in the spring of this year did not allow organisation of this event and it was again postponed. The new date will be announced based on the epidemiological situation in the country during 2021/22 school year. This event has been traditionally organized for more than 30 years by the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Chemistry and the Serbian Chemical Society. The conference is attended by chemistry teachers from primary and secondary schools in Serbia and students and staff from universities where chemistry teachers are educated. One of the conferences' topics is History of chemistry in chemistry teaching.

### **2. Activities in the Great Serbian Chemists' Collection at the University of Belgrade**

Faculty of Chemistry In dependence of epidemiological situation several visits of students from primary and secondary schools to the Great Serbian Chemists' Collection were organized. Also, the Great Serbian Chemists' Collection participated in a few national on-line events in which academic heritage in domain of chemistry were presented.

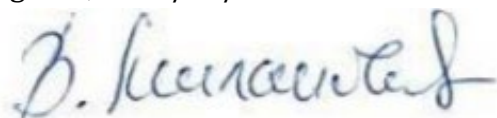
The Great Serbian Chemists' Collection at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Chemistry is in the Worldwide Database of University Museums and Collections (UMAC). (<https://university-museums-and-collections.net/belgrade/museum-of-chemistry-of-the-facultyof-chemistry-university-of-belgrade>)

### 3. Publications

The Serbian Chemical Society publishes six issues of the journal Chemical Review per year. Every year, the cover page of this journal is dedicated to one person from the national or international history of chemistry or to some important historical events related to chemistry. The cover page of Chemical Review in 2020 had been dedicated to Milenko Ćelap, one of the founders of coordination chemistry in Serbia, and the cover page in 2021 has been dedicated to Kosta Nikolić and Svetozar Jovanović, the first PhDs in chemistry in Serbia.

The Serbian Chemical Society publishes twelve issues of the Journal of the Serbian Chemical Society per year. This journal contains a section dedicated to the History of chemistry and chemistry education. The Impact Factor of this journal was 1.023 in 2019 and 1.144 in 2020.

Belgrade, 2021/09/14



Dr Vesna Milanovic, Assistant Professor University of Belgrade - Faculty of Chemistry Delegate from the Serbian Chemical Society.



## SPAIN

### Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (RSEQ) - History of Science Division Annual Report of to the EuChemS Working Party on History of Chemistry for 2020-2021

The specialised division on History of Science ([GEHCi](#)) of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (RSEQ) currently has 101 members, and it is directed by Inés Pellón-González (professor at the University of the Basque Country, UPV/EHU). In the period 2020-2021, the GEHCi has been involved –either participating or funding- in the following activities:

-The 8<sup>th</sup> Summer School on History of Chemistry “VIII Escuela de Verano sobre Historia de la Química ([VIII EVHQ](#))” jointly with the University of La Rioja (September 2021). The topic is “Más allá de la tabla periódica” (*Beyond the Periodic Table*).

-Members of GEHCi have participated in different conferences like:

-[II Congreso de Didáctica de la Química](#), paper by Bernardo Herradon “La historia y el arte como herramientas en la enseñanza de la química”(27-28/11/2020).

-“Ciencia y espionaje en tiempos de Carlos III: Los hermanos D’Elhuyar”, by Inés Pellón ([https://www.ayuntamientodenoja.com/2013\\_noticia.asp?id=6848](https://www.ayuntamientodenoja.com/2013_noticia.asp?id=6848), Noja, Spain (12/08/2020).

-“[Las mujeres de Bizkaia](#)” by Inés Pellon (03/01/2020).

-“[Saberes, ignorancias y estándares de prueba en torno al plomo durante el caso Ponchon \(1844\)](#)”, by José Ramón Bertomeu, at the [XVI Trobada SCHCT](#) (12-14/11/2020).

-“[Toxic Fascism: Pesticides During the Early Francoist Regime in Spain \(1939-1960\)](#)” by José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez (Skidmore College, USA, October 27, 2020)

-“[Fontilles y el patrimonio histórico de la lepra](#)” by Antonio García Belmar, at the [XVI Trobada SCHCT](#) (12-14/11/2020).

-“[Àtoms i estrelles: la col·lecció d’espectroscopis somniats i emprats a la UV](#)” by Ignacio Suay-Matallana, at the [XVI Trobada SCHCT](#) (12-14/11/2020).

-Antonio García Belmar and Ignacio Suay Matallana participated at the [6th International Conference on Food History and Food Studies](#) (31/05-04/06/2021)

-Members of GEHCi have offered different online talks like:

-“[Las Mujeres en Bizkaia: Luces y Sombras](#)” by Inés Pellon at the EITB Radio (05/02/2019).

-“[Aspectos científicos, históricos y sociales en el descubrimiento de fármacos en tiempos de pandemia](#)” by Bernardo Herradon at the RSEQ - STM (03/03/2021).

-“[En temps de Covid-19](#)” (Covid-19 times). Interview to Antonio García Belmar at the SCHCT (30/06/2020).

-“[Història i pandèmies. Què hem après del passat](#)”, by Agustí Nieto-Galan at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (06/04/2020).

-“[Drugs and medicines beyond borders: inspections and controls at customs in early 20th Century Spain](#)” by Ignacio Suay-Matallana, at the 3rd International Conference (28-29/05/2020).

-“[Viviendo en un mundo tóxico \(1800-2000\)](#)” by José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez at the Foro Social Mundial (25/01/2021).

-“[Espais de ciència](#)” by José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez at Nau Gran Conference Series (Nov 2020).

-“[Alquímia. Una història](#)” by José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez. Nau Gran Conference Series (Nov 2020).

-Some members of the GEHCi and the RSEQ were fully involved in the [XVI Trobada d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica](#) (12-14/11/2020). For instance, José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez and was member of the Scientific Committee, Antonio García Belmar member of the organizing committee, and Ignacio Suay Matallana chair of the conference. Some videos of the conference are available [online](#), including the plenary talks by Christopher Hamlin, «“Trust me, I’m an historian of science”: reflections on our field as a response to crisis» and Clara Florensa «Una ciència catòlica i internacional. Les teories de l’evolució en la construcció del franquisme».

-Some members of the GEHCi organized seminars series on history of chemistry and related topic. Many of them are now available online at [www.uv.es/ihmc](http://www.uv.es/ihmc). Some examples are: Rocío Gómez (Virginia Commonwealth University): "[Silver Veins: Ecología, agua, y minería en México, XIX y XX](#)";

-Members of GEHCi organized the exhibition "[L'Experiment com a obra d'art 125 anys creant química en la Universitat de València](#)" (Experiment as a Fine Art. 125 years creating Chemistry at the University of Valencia) from 17/11/2020 to 02/05/2021. The exhibition also has an [online](#) version.

-Members of GEHCi organized a new online [Open Course MOOC on history of science](#) (Spanish).

-Members of GEHCi have prepared a blog project on history of science mainly addressed to the general public, but especially university students. The first section is titled "[Saberes en acción-Periodos](#)" (Knowledge in Action- Years) and offers a panoramic and chronological view on the history of science from the ancient times to the late-20<sup>th</sup> century. The second section (still in progress) is titled "[Saberes en acción-Temas](#)" (Knowledge in Action-Topics) considers specific historiographical and thematic questions, like the connection between science and religion, experts, art, literary, instruments, democracy, popularization, etc.

-Members of GEHCi of the Valencian region organize every year a [Master and doctoral online program on History of Science and Communication](#), including several lectures on history of chemistry. Web page: <http://www.historia-ciencia-comunicacion.org/joomla/>

-Members of GEHCi of the Valencian region (Institute López Piñero) organized a session on e-resources for using history in science classrooms with secondary school teachers: VII MATINAL ON HISTORY AND TEACHING SCIENCE (February 26-27 and 5 March 2020): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5LczA4zwb4&t=191s>.

-Members of GEHCi of Catalonia organize every year a [Master and doctoral program on History of Science and Communication](#), including several lectures on history of chemistry.

-The GEHCi has an active communication activity, by sending updates and relevant news by email to all its members. It has also created a Facebook group titled "[Historia de la Ciencia](#) (GE de la RSEQ)" to inform about the activities of the group.

## CATALAN SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

### ANNUAL REPORT TO THE EUCHEMS WORKING PARTY ON THE HISTORY OF CHEMISTRY (2020-2021)

The following report covers the period between from November 2020 to June 2021. The activities of the Catalan Society of Chemistry during this period have been affected by the spreading of Covid-19.

- The tenth volume of the collection “Classics of Chemistry has been published in June 2021 (*Organic Synthesis of Complex Molecules*). This volume contains the translation into Catalan of two milestone papers in the history of modern organic chemistry by Elias James Corey: “General Methods for the Construction of Complex Molecules” (1967) and “Centenary Lecture. Computer-Assisted Analysis of Complex Synthetic Problems” (1971).
- The monographic issue No. 26 (June – 2020) of our journal *Educació Química: EduQ* was devoted to research works in upper secondary education in Catalonia and included the paper by Pere Grapí: “Research Works on Experiments in their Historical Context”.
- The Society has set up an award to recognise historical landmarks representative of chemistry in the Catalan-speaking territories, which goes in the line of the EuChemS Historical Landmarks Award. The XVIIIth century building that housed the laboratory of the Catalan chemist Antoni de Martí-Franquès (1750-1832) has been awarded this year 2021. The award has been given to recognise the historical importance of Martí’s development of a eudiometric test to determine the composition of common air for which he was distinguished in the European scientific field. That house is located in Altafulla, a town in the province of Tarragona on the southern coast of Catalonia.

Pere Grapí

Delegate of the Catalan Society of Chemistry in the Working Party of History of Chemistry

