

SEAC *communications*

President's Message

In thinking about this last message as SEAC President, I began reflecting about the unfolding of several decades of electroanalytical chemistry. A few of you SEAC'ers out there have seen a few decades unfold too. What's changed in our experimental capabilities is especially overwhelming. What was then were Philbrick radio tube op-amps, bread-board potentiostats, transient recording with a 'scope and camera, and amazement at how good a computer is as a fast recorder. What is now are commercial ensembles that scan potential at 100KV/s, record currents on a pA scale, and make our Cottrell plots for us. The radio-tubes are in the museum and the 'scopes are donated to the Electronics Shop.

Do I yearn for the good old days? That's like asking the BMW owner if she wants her Model-T back. But it's still good to remember how new instrumentation changes chemistry. For you younger SEAC'ers, who own the future of electroanalytical chemistry, it means that you are able to confront and solve really complicated electroanalytical and chemical problems. Electroanalytical chemists have become part of the overall fabric of chemistry, and that's very very good. But, well, let's hear it once more for the Philbricks!

I close this reflection with my thanks to the SEAC officers, members of the Board of Directors, and our indomitable Newsletter Editor, for their service to our Society, and I leave my very best wishes to Dennis Evans as he approaches his SEAC Presidency. I know that he will lead us well.

Royce W. Murray

Editorial

After reading Royce's final President's Message, I had to add a few personal remembrances of the "good old days". Having built an "electronic" polarograph out of Philbrick USA-3 op amps as an MIT grad student, his comments really struck home. I do miss those days; mostly because of the simplicity of the state of the art and the absence of subsequent and present responsibilities that take me away from the lab bench. Also, I actually understood how most Instruments worked and could repair them! However, as Royce correctly points out, we were certainly limited by the Instrumentation available in those days. Remember the "method of swings" when weighing at the analytical balance? Many hours were spent going cross-eyed in the balance room. What a joy when we got our first magnetically damped balance! I wonder if the next 30 years will experience the dramatic technological advances seen in the past 30?

I'm sure that I speak for all of us when I thank Royce for his leadership as President of SEAC. He has certainly been a pleasure for me to work with and I'll miss his easy-going southern style. Now that the burden of this responsibility has been lifted from his shoulders, I hope he'll have time to go out and smell the flowers. Dennis certainly has a tough act to follow, but I'm sure he'll meet the challenge. In fact, Dennis, I already have a challenge for you. Read on.

Speaking of remembrances, it reminds me that one of the unwritten requirements of the Rellley Award winners is to provide SEAC Communications with an article reflecting on their illustrious careers. The indomitable, demon editor (Royce's and Barry's epithets for me) of this newsletter has been remiss in not pursuing these individuals more aggressively. To the best of my recollection, I am owed such articles from Ted Kuwana ('89), Jean-Michel Saveant ('90), Stanley Bruckenstein ('91), Steve Feldberg ('92), and Dennis Evans ('93). In fact, in reviewing back issues, it appears that the last Rellley Award winner to provide such an article was Royce, the 1988 recipient (see the Nov. 1989 issue)! Other winners and their reflections: Ralph Adams (Oct. '85), Fred Anson (Oct. '86), Bob Osteryoung (Oct. '87). It also appears that Al Bard, the first recipient, escaped without providing a reflections article. Consider yourselves put on notice; you can't avoid your destiny, I'll be after you.

Since the winners of the Young Investigators Awards have had less time to build up remembrances, I won't pursue them with as much vigor, but certainly I would welcome any reflections Leonidas Bachas and/or Werner Kuhr would care to provide from the younger generation's point of view.

Unfortunately, the depressing saga of the Grim Reaper continues. Once again, after the news of the deaths of Herb Laitinen, Harvey Diehl, John K. Taylor, Buck Rogers, Joe Jordan and Willi Simon, word quickly spread at Pittcon'93 of the death of I. M. (Plet) Kolthoff. What can you say about this man? How can you describe a legend? He certainly left his indelible mark on analytical chemistry. As the reputed "Father of Analytical Chemistry in the U.S.", he trained an amazing number of undergrads, graduate students, and postdocs, as well as producing a library-full of publications (see my editorial on Kolthoff in the February 1990 Issue of SEAC Communications). Although he was 99 years of age and in ill health for some time, his death still came as a shock. An obituary appears elsewhere in this Issue.

At the SEAC Board meeting held during Pittcon'93, the subject of a new logo for the Society was reviewed. Our logo contest entries were discussed and finally, after considerable discussion, a vote was taken among the assembled former and present Board members, officers and yours truly. As described in the last Issue, entries were received from Mike Elliot, Joe Maloy

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and me. A last-minute trio of entries was received from Sam Kounaves (Tufts University); and one of his turned out to be the winner. The **winning** entry is shown elsewhere in this issue. Congratulations, Sam and thanks. I'm sure the Board **will** reward you appropriately.

Once again, the readership has not provided me with much fodder for the newsletter cannon. For the first time, I haven't come across any awards or honors to our members, but **luckily** one was called to my attention. I'm sure there must have been others. Please keep me informed of newsworthy items.

Dick Durst

Kudos

Congratulations to Keith **Oldham** who was selected by the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry as the 1993 recipient of the Award in Electrochemistry. The award **will** be presented at a special symposium in his honor at the August ACS National Meeting in Chicago. Details to follow.

New Members

Victoria E. Granstaff

Sandia National Labs
5/28

Honghua Zhang

Duke University
6/11

Bernd Spelser

University of Tübingen
6/22

David N. Blauch

Naval Research Laboratory
7/25

Eric David Dodson

Colorado State University
7/29

Richard T. Carlin

US Air Force Academy
8/8

Bernadette T. Donovan

University of North Carolina-Charlotte
8/17

Bozidar Ogorevc

Ljubljana, Slovenia
9/8

Manuel Ponce Sorlaga

Texas A&M University
12/2

David T. Pierce

University of North Dakota
12/14

Shuping Bi

Nanjing University
12/25

Dan Buttry

University of Wyoming
12/25

D. Jed Harrison

University of Alberta
12/31

Yury Beylis

Nutley, NJ
1/21

Sandra S. Hill

University of Connecticut
1/24

Karin Pihel

University of North Carolina
2/3

Karolyn Maness

University of North Carolina
2/3

Ed Clolkowski

University of North Carolina
2/4

Calvin O. Huber

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
3/5

John Robert Allen

University of Kentucky
3/5

DeWitt A. Payne

Eastman Chemical Co.
3/12

Hongjun Yang

IGEN, Inc.
3/21

Izaak Maurits Kolthoff (1894-1993)

Izaak M. Kolthoff, 99, Professor Emeritus of **Chemistry** at the **University** of Minnesota, **Minneapolis**, and a world-renowned analytical chemist, died on March 4, in St. Paul, Minnesota. Kolthoff was born in Almelo, The Netherlands, in 1894. He entered the University of Utrecht in 1911 and his first paper of acid-base titrations appeared in 1915. By the time he received his Ph.D. degree in 1918, Kolthoff had published 33 papers. He remained at Utrecht **as** a lecturer for nine years. He then accepted the **position** of Professor and Chief of the Division of Analytical Chemistry at the University of Minnesota **until** his retirement in 1982. As Professor Emeritus, he continued research and **lecturing, publishing** nearly 1000 papers and nine books during the course of his career.

Many of Kolthoff's graduate students went on to successful careers in industry and academia. The latter, in turn, trained many more **scientists**. In 1982, it was estimated that about 1100 Ph.D. holders **comprising** six generations could trace their scientific roots to Kolthoff.

His research covered various areas of chemistry, and his honors included many awards, honorary degrees, and **memberships** in learned societies in the U.S. and abroad. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and elected to numerous other national science academies and chemical **societies**. When the ACS **Division** of Analytical Chemistry inaugurated its award for excellence in teaching in 1983, Kolthoff was the **first** recipient. Kolthoff **received** the Nichols Medal in 1949, the **Fisher** Award in Analytical Chemistry in 1950, and the **Willard** Gibbs Medal in 1964. He was awarded the Polarographic Medal in 1964, the **Hanus** Medal of the Czechoslovak Chemical Society and the Charles Medal of Charles University in Prague. In 1947, he was knighted in The Netherlands. Kolthoff was the first recipient of the Kolthoff Gold Medal Award in Analytical Chemistry of the American Pharmaceutical **Association** Academy of **Pharmaceutical** Scientists in 1987.

For more **information** on Professor Kolthoff's contributions, see the article published in **Analytical Chemistry** 58, **248A-262A** (1984) and 81, **287A-291A** (1989) on the **occasion** of his 90th and 95th birthdays, respectively.

Postdoc Opportunity

Through a collaboration with Andy Hamilton of **this** department, we have initiated a program on potentiometric sensors for organic ions. **The** objective is to define the requirements for **artificial** receptors that recognize their substrates **principally** through hydrogen bonding. Synthesis of the envisioned receptors will be followed by **investigation** of the **chemical** and physical properties of the membranes made for potentiometric sensors **which** incorporate the **recep-**tors. Contact:

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New SEAC Logo

The official logo of SEAC has **been** selected by the Board of **Directors** from the entries in our logo contest. The new logo, shown below, was one of three variations on a theme submitted by Samuel P. Kounaves of Tufts **University** in Medford, MA.

