

“Books are the treasured wealth of the world and the fit inheritance of generations and nations.”—Thoreau

Boltonia

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A COLLECTOR’S CONFESSIONS — ROY G. NEVILLE

A chemist and bibliophile is an interesting combination, but it describes Roy G. Neville so well and explains why he was a charter member of the Bolton Society when it was founded in 1999. At the time Roy’s collection of more than 6000 volumes made the collections of the other charter members pale by comparison, not necessarily because of numbers but more importantly because of its quality and content. Chemist collector Franz Sondheimer described it as “probably the best private library in chemistry in the world,” which certainly has earned Neville the sobriquet of “extraordinaire.” There was no question, then, that when the Bolton Society started its oral-history program of book collectors in 2005, Neville’s name was at the top of the list.

Roy Neville led two lives—one in chemistry and the other in books—and they were mostly separate from each other. While his passion for books allowed him to build a bridge to chemical history, none of that was applicable to his daily life as a chemist, where he had to do real chemistry, write scientific papers for the chemical journals and obtain patents for his inventions. The two were so separate that when I interviewed him at his home in Pebble Beach, California, in July 2005, I spent one afternoon talking to Roy Neville the chemist and another afternoon talking to Roy Neville the collector.

I arrived at my motel in Carmel, California at 1 a.m after a very long flight and subsequent drive from San Francisco. Fortunately, I wasn’t scheduled to meet Neville until that afternoon. He and his wife, Jeanne, insisted on picking me up at the motel, citing my potential difficulty in finding their residence near the Pebble Beach Golf Course. But first, they had to show me the scenic wonders of the famous Ten-Mile Drive, from seals cavorting in the surf to the “most photographed tree in the world,” which I dutifully took a picture of. When we began our first session I quickly found Neville to be forthright and open, not mincing words about his life as a chemist and his books and how he acquired them. Before we finished on the second afternoon, I had more than eight hours of tape to process.

Roy G. Neville was born on 15 October, 1926, in the

English resort town of Bournemouth on the south coast between Portsmouth and Plymouth. Neville can trace his family heritage back to 700, and a direct ancestor was the fleet admiral for William the Conqueror during his invasion of England in 1066. Neville excelled in both chemistry and art in school, and during World War II decided it was his patriotic duty to learn how to make a bomb. During an attempt to ignite a mixture of barium chlorate and red phosphorous with a strip of magnesium, the resulting explosion blew out the windows in the family greenhouse, left a small crater in the yard, and temporarily blinded him.

Undaunted by the experience, and with the support of his parents and a chemistry teacher who subsidized him, Neville set up a home laboratory and proceeded to continue



Roy Neville at his home with his books and Charles II, patron of the arts and sciences, attributed to Pieter Vander Faes (Dutch, 1618-1680), now at CHF.

his chemistry experiments, on the promise that he would NEVER try to make another bomb. Awarded a scholarship to Oxford, Neville became trapped in a bureaucratic nightmare brought on by the juxtaposition of the end of World War II in Europe and his high-school graduation, which were just a month apart. As an alternative to three years of military service, Neville was drafted for an “industry of national importance.” He ended up working at the Gas Research Board in Poole for several years while attending classes part time at the University of Southampton, where he majored in chemistry, an arrangement that put an end to his Oxford dreams.

Nevertheless, Neville was eventually able to attend Southampton full time, and because Southampton was an outpost of the University of London,

it was the latter that awarded Neville his chemistry degree in 1951.

A month later he was on a boat to New York with \$56 in his pocket, the maximum amount one was allowed to leave Great Britain with at that time. He was armed with a Fulbright Scholarship and headed to the University of Oregon, where he followed another student from Southampton who had come the year before. After a series of misadventures in a new and unfamiliar country, Neville arrived in Eugene, Oregon, with only forty cents in his pocket, and faced with a \$25 rent due upon his arrival. The resourceful Neville borrowed \$70 from the registrar’s office and had it paid back in six months. As he recalled many years later, “I

know what it's really like to be up against it."

A year later he had a master's degree in surface chemistry, and in 1954 he received a Ph.D. in organic chemistry. His thesis resulted in a series of five papers in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. Neville subsequently held various positions with Monsanto, Boeing, Lockheed, Aerospace Corporation, North American Aviation, and the Bechtel Corporation before starting his own consulting firm in 1973. "When you're working for somebody else, in one place," he noted, "you're like a consultant who has one client. I thought, 'I'm up to here with working for one business and getting shortchanged in my salary. I'll be a consultant for lots of clients.'"

Neville had always been impressed by the old libraries he had seen in the stately old homes his parents took him to visit. "I'd look at the walls of books. Brown books, red books, huge folios, and I thought I could never own anything like that. All I could see was the outside of the books. I was introduced to the inside of some books at Wimborne Minster Library. Wimborne Minster is a lovely old town, with a pretty Norman church, about ten miles from where I lived. They had this little church library with a total of about four hundred books in there, many folios and quartos. Some of them were in glass cases and the rest were on shelves, and they ranged in age from the early 1500s right up to the very early eighteenth century; pretty much all on religion, naturally, for a church library." In fact, the library of the Minster, dating to 1686, was one of the first public libraries, and among its treasures is a manuscript written on lambskin in 1343.

Bournemouth had a number of bookshops, and in a store run by Allan Graden Thomas, Neville found *Book Collecting as a Hobby in a Series of Letters to Everyman*, by Percy H. Muir. He bought it for three shillings six pence (about 70 cents), and quickly read it cover to cover, learning that "you could build up a nice little library of modern books, not-so-modern books, and just downright old books for not large sums of money." A week later he returned with 15 shillings (about \$3) and asked Gordon if it was possible to buy inexpensive books from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries as Muir had said in his little book. Gordon replied that he was always "anxious to please a young collector" (an appellation that pleased Neville greatly) and rummaged around his store. Neville left with a book of Italian love letters, *Cherebizzi* (1572), *The English Spa* (1649), which piqued his chemical interest, and an odd volume of Laurence Sterne's nine-volume work *Tristram Shandy* (1750s).

Not discouraged by his father's comment that Gordon

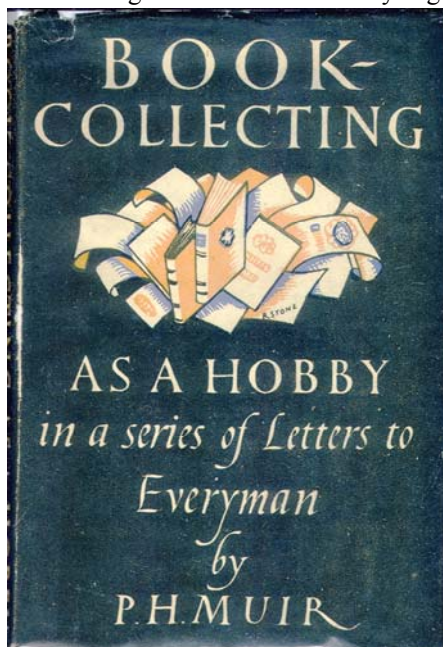
"certainly saw you coming," Neville continued to search for more books of interest, collecting in those days books on poetry, history, Samuel Johnson, and the English Civil War. He found a copy of *Practique de Chymie* by Sébastien Matte la Faveur (1671), but his most expensive book, at two pounds ten shillings (about \$10) was *A Chronicle of the Kings of England* by Sir Richard Baker, "a beautiful book with a lovely engraved frontispiece of King Charles II." By the time he left for the U.S. in 1951 his little library contained about 200 volumes.

Once established at the University of Oregon, Neville made his way to the rare-book department and talked to the curator, who supplied him with many catalogs from dealers all over the world. He decided to concentrate on volumes published by Elsevier that were mostly in Latin. They were so cheap "you could almost collect nothing but the Elsevier Press of the 17th century." In fact, Neville says that as a graduate student he would "buy basically anything that was cheap (\$5-\$10) and interesting." By the time he received his Ph.D. in 1954 he had almost sixty "old" books, which were later "traded for more expensive books."

Neville developed an early attachment to the works of Robert

Boyle, in part because the tercentenary of Boyle's first works would be in the early 1960s. Even as a graduate student he scraped together 25 pounds (about \$100) to purchase the third edition of Boyle's *New Experiments Physico-Mechanical Touching on the Spring of the Air* (1683), bound together with the first edition of the first supplement (1669) and the first edition of the second supplement (1682). Unable to afford the first edition of *The Sceptical Chymist*, he paid \$200 for a copy of the second edition that had a wormhole straight through the volume. By the time he stopped collecting in 2004, Neville owned 85 different copies of various editions of Boyle's works. He finally found a first edition of *The Sceptical Chymist* and a better copy of the second which cost him \$335. "Now," Neville said, "if that copy can be found in as good a condition as my copy, it would be around \$25,000."

During the period he was working in the aerospace industry, Neville was establishing relationships with a number of dealers such as Emil Offenbacher, Lathrop C. Harper, and "tucking away every buck I could into rare books, with the goal of having "a very important private library." He expanded his collection from just chemistry to include mining, metallurgy, and the properties of matter. He found a first-edition copy of Newton's *Opticks* for about



The book that Roy Neville bought at age nine that began his serious interest in book collecting that lasted sixty years.

\$4000, which now costs \$60,000–\$80,000, depending on the copy.

In 1965, when he was pretty tired of working in the aerospace industry, Neville also thought seriously about selling his collection. He brought in Harry Levinson, a Beverly Hills book dealer, and asked him what he thought the collection was worth. Levinson's reply was around \$20,000. To Neville that was a huge sum of money, almost what they had just paid for a house. "But," Neville admits, "some little voice inside me said, 'No, you are not through with collecting books yet and you are going to regret this.'" Neville also knew that the dealer would probably sell the collection for twice that price, so he decided to hold off on disposing of the collection.

As with most collectors, Neville experienced more than one moment when he said to himself, "I've just got to have those books, but I don't know how I am going to pay for them. I just can't afford them." For example, on a visit to a dealer named Warren Howell in San Francisco he spotted three books that caught his interest. There was *Bericht, vom Bergwerck* (1617), of which there were only twelve known copies. It came from the library of Robert Honeyman IV, and as with most Honeyman books, it was in a bright crimson, gilt-edge, morocco slipcase. Another book was the first complete edition of Lazarus Ercker's *Beschreibung aller-fürnemisten mineralischen Ertzt und Bergwerks Arten* (1580). Finally, there was *Gründlicher Unterricht von Hütte-Werken* by Christoph Schlüter.

Driving home, Neville just couldn't get those three books out of his mind. Finally he said, "I don't care. I'm going to go for it." His solution was to talk to Howell and arrange time payments. It was a mechanism Neville used with a number of dealers. "Since I always paid on time, they didn't mind." In his day there were all kinds of deals to be made with rare book dealers. Neville claims to have had a good reputation with book dealers. "I paid promptly and always within a month. I gained a reputation of being very dependable. Then they not only would trade with me a lot, but they would find books and say, 'Did you know about this book? Would you be interested in this book?' If it was a book I had never heard of I would trade or buy it. If I could pay for it immediately I did; if not, I did time payments. And I never went into debt. I never borrowed on my credit card."

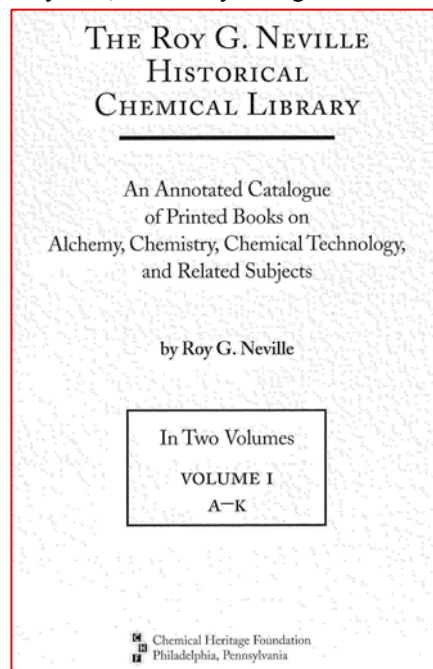
Neville reserved the right to see a book before he actually paid for it. In the 1950s a dealer in London would send a book by sea mail, but he would send the invoice by air mail, then dun Neville for non-payment. Some dealers, according to Neville, had the attitude that "if it's old, it's got to be valuable, and I'm going to stick it to you." More reputable dealers were more honest in their evaluation of the condition of a volume and charged accordingly.

In addition to working with dealers, Neville bought a lot of books at auction. But many books came from his own browsing in various places. "I'd base that on my travels as a

consultant or going to American Chemical Society meetings. I would go to some lectures, but I must confess that if I was in a strange city, the bookstores sort of took precedence. I went scouting." He found a "beautiful" copy of a Thomas Thomson book on mineralogy for \$10 in a little store in Dayton, Ohio. And at a discount store in Long Beach, California, called Acres of Books he found a book that had Lord Kelvin's signature in it and had come from his library. Another book came from the library of Ludwig Mond, the inventor of the nickel process, and had Mond's bookplate in it,

When Neville once visited another collector he was appalled at "how dilapidated his copies were." There were loose boards, missing or cracked spines. "He never polished his books, he never glued the leather back onto where it was suppose to be. If there was a label missing, he wouldn't get a label made. He never took an eraser and erased thumbprints, but I did, without raising the nap of the paper. I really looked after my books. I did my best to get good-looking copies on the shelf."

Neville started out managing his collection with handwritten 3 x 5 cards. When that proved insufficient he went up to the next size of file card, but finally moved to a three-ring binder system, eventually filling eleven binders. "In



my catalog I try to explain the difference between a first edition, the enlarged second edition of an important work, the additional plates, and so on. It's a pretty straightforward system." In 2006 the Chemical Heritage Foundation published Neville's catalog essentially as he typed it. As Lawrence M. Principe said in his introduction, "Dr. Neville has himself put the contents into such form that nothing else was to be done but publish. [In] discussing bibliographic terms of art, intricacies of attribution, details of the history of science, and matters of authorial biography and

significance Dr. Neville displays equivalent mastery and connoisseurship.”

In the preface Priestley states that he published this work expressly for those who could not understand his larger *History of Electricity* (London, 1767). It thus forms an introduction to that more detailed and comprehensive work. On the verso of the half-title is an advertisement of "Electrical Machines" which will be ready for sale in March, constructed under the direction of Dr. Priestley. It would be interesting to learn if these machines were ever on the market, and if any have survived. He describes the effects produced by passing electricity through gases at low pressure; stating (p. 38) that "Some of the finest appearances of electric light are exhibited in *vacuo*." The four plates are from his *History of Electricity*; i.e. plates 2, 3, 6, and 7. Other editions appeared in 1769, 1777, and 1786. The first edition is very scarce: Crook located only 8 copies (England, 3; France, 1; USA, 4). (Crook, S471; Gartrell, 437; Wheeler Gift, 422)

Excerpt from the Neville catalog entry for Priestley's A Familiar Introduction to the Study of Electricity (1768)

Neville's collection was always kept in his home.

When he first tried to insure the collection, he found that at the time his total purchase price of the volumes in the collection was \$380,000. He had little in the bank or in real estate, but most of his money was tied up in books. When he approached an insurance company about protecting this financial investment, he was told that he would have to take a deductible of at least \$25,000, or store them in a bank vault. At the time the deductible seemed a huge amount and he couldn't afford to rent a bank vault, nor did he want to remove them from his home. "Basically, I said, the heck with that. I'm going to take a chance. So, I never went past the \$380,000 in insurance. And now the whole shooting match is at CHF."

The decision to part with the collection was "agonizing." Neville did not want the collection to be broken up. Around 1990 Neville started asking book dealers for an evaluation of the collection, and the figures came back between \$4 and \$5 million. An effort was made by Stanford University to acquire Neville's collection. Neville was adamant that one could do research in his library, unlike the Barchas Collection Stanford had purchased, which Neville considered a "once over lightly—high spots but no depth." When he told Stanford his asking price was \$6 million, the reply was, "I can write you a check right now for \$1 million. The problem is the other \$5 million."

Neville eventually approached CHF and asked if they might be interested in acquiring a collection that had almost doubled in size since Arnold Thackray had first seen it in 1984. Eventually, with the assistance of Gordon Moore, CHF acquired the Neville Collection for \$10 million. Roy Neville died on 27 November 2007, but his legacy will forever be remembered through his beloved books (see <http://www.chemheritage.org/library/lib-neville.html>). A complete and annotated oral history transcript #317 (from which the quotes herein are taken) is also available at CHF. —J. J. Bohning

BROCK'S BOOK WINS 2009 NEVILLE PRIZE

The 2009 Roy G. Neville Prize in Bibliography or Biography was presented to William H. Brock for his book *William Crookes (1832-1919) and the Commercialization of Science* (Ashgate, 2008). Established in 2006, the Neville Prize is now presented biennially by the Chemical Heritage Foundation to recognize an outstanding monograph that contributes to our bibliographical knowledge of the chemical and molecular sciences, in the tradition inaugurated by Henry Carrington Bolton and exemplified in the lifetime achievement of Roy G. Neville, or a major work of biography in the chemical and molecular sciences. The work must have been published during a period of five calendar years immediately preceding the year of competition.

Brock is Emeritus Professor of History of Science at the



Arnold Thackray, Chemical Heritage Foundation Chancellor, presents the 2009 Neville prize to William H. Brock (right) on 15 October 2009 during the CHF Board dinner in Philadelphia.

University of Leicester, UK, and the third winner of the Prize since its inception in 2006. (See *Boltonia* Number 8, (2007), 5 for previous winners). His biography of William Crookes finally does justice to this once-towering figure in Victorian Science, widely regarded as Britain's leading scientist at the beginning of the twentieth century. Scientist, spiritualist, and entrepreneur, Crookes' career spanned both scientific and business activities and his many accomplishments include the discovery of thallium, founding editor of *Chemical News*, crucial work on cathode rays, and developing business enterprises that included water analysis, gold mining, and electric light-bulb design. The judges commended Professor Brock's book as "truly a masterpiece and a fitting tribute to William Crookes and his contributions to the chemical and molecular sciences."

—Ronald Brashear

PRAISE FOR PRATT

Incoming Chief Bibliophile Ned D. Heindel (right) presents a certificate of appreciation for service to the founder and first Chief Bibliophile of the Bolton Society, Herbert T. Pratt. The Society itself sprang from Herb's



vision and enthusiasm as a long-time collector of chemistry books and he guided the organization through its first nine years of existence. A portion of the certificate is reproduced below. At the top of the certificate is a likeness of Henry Carrington Bolton and a quote from Denis I. Duveen found in his *Bibliotheca Alchemica et Chemica*—"There can be no denying that the gentle art of book collecting or bibliophilia is one of the most engaging pursuits in which man can indulge his leisure."

With appreciation for his vision and leadership in establishing the Bolton Society, his colleagues hereby proclaim

Mr. Herbert T. Pratt

as Chief Bibliophile Emeritus

on this the 15th day of October in the year 2009



EDITORIAL EMANATIONS

After a hiatus of almost three years, *Boltonia* has reappeared with a new look and a new distribution system. In past issues, color was minimized because of printing costs. Beginning with this issue, *Boltonia* will be distributed electronically. If you wish to print a hard copy, please be sure in the Adobe pdf print dialog box to select "no scaling" to prevent Adobe from compressing the copy to fit its default values. Also, in the electronic version, links to Web sites are active and can be accessed directly by depressing the CTRL key and clicking on the URL. The editor is always looking for articles, and because of the new distribution system the number of pages per issue can easily be increased. "Reader's Retorts" are always welcome.

HENRY CARRINGTON BOLTON: HIS BOOKS AND HIS BOOKPLATE

Named after the remarkable bibliographer (1) of the chemical literature, the Bolton Society of the Chemical Heritage Foundation has established itself as a lively and active group of bibliophiles, librarians, and scholars interested in the history of chemistry and its literature and in encouraging the tradition of using primary-source materials for research. With the recent reprint of Bolton's massive bibliography (2) of 1893, members have the opportunity to acquire a copy of his *Select Bibliography* at a modest cost and to use the fruits of Bolton's labors. With my copy of the reprinted bibliography as a starting point, I recently carried out a preliminary investigation to determine if Bolton's books, given (3) to the Library of Congress by his wife in 1912, are still present in the stacks of the Library of Congress and to seek at least one of his books with a bookplate suitable for reproduction to produce an image that the Bolton Society could use. It was known that Bolton had a bookplate, and a small image of it can be seen in the paper by Browne (4).

In an official publication (3) just after the gift of Bolton's library, it is stated that 1631 volumes and pamphlets were in his library and given to the Library of Congress. Browne (4), on the other hand, noted that 606 books have an asterisk, denoting books owned by Bolton, in his *Select Bibliography*, which leaves a discrepancy of slightly more than 1000 items presumably owned by Bolton but not listed in his published bibliography. As provenance information is not provided in the online catalog for books in the general collection at the Library of Congress, probably these 1000 items, if they exist, will never be identified.

In the hope of finding an original bookplate from which to obtain a good image and to make an assessment of Bolton's books that have survived at the Library of Congress, I set off to Washington recently with a long list of titles with asterisks from Chapters III and IV in the Bolton *Bibliography*. Working in the reading room of the Adams Building, in which are the science stacks of the Library of Congress, I investigated about forty publications known to have been in Bolton's library and another twelve publications authored by Bolton.

The results of my sampling of the roughly forty publications that were in Bolton's collection yielded the following observations. Seventeen publications were found with one or more markings of Bolton ownership. The markings observed were as follows: Bolton's personal bookplate in seven of the seventeen; Bolton's signature on the title page in eight of the seventeen; two different Library of Congress bookplates making reference to the Bolton Collection in nine of the seventeen; and on the reverse of title pages a rubber stamp reading "Gift Mrs. H. C. Bolton 1912" in fifteen of the seventeen publications. Only three of the seventeen publications examined have all four ownership markings. A number of the items had obviously been rebound by

the Library of Congress, leading therefore to the loss of any early bookplates, except in one case in which a Bolton bookplate was tipped-on inside, suggesting perhaps that a supply of unused Bolton bookplates came with the bequest.

Another seventeen items with an asterisk in Bolton's *Bibliography* were not in the catalog at all, or "not on shelf" when requested, or in a few cases cataloged as on microfilm only. It is probably the case that "not on shelf" is equivalent to being lost forever—either truly lost or mis-shelved. There were four items with no ownership evidence and one item with definite non-Bolton origins. There also were a couple of items as multiple copies one of which is in the Department of Special Collections; the latter were not examined so the statistics could be slightly imprecise. Notwithstanding the less than absolutely accurate statistics, it would seem that for the sampling done, roughly one-half of the books from Bolton's personal collection given to the Library of Congress in 1912 are lost.

As mentioned above, I also selected twelve publications authored by Bolton for investigation. Six of the twelve were either not in the catalog or "not on shelf." Four items had no evidence of ownership and two items are definitely not from Bolton's library but are Smithsonian Deposit items. The interpretation of these results is not as straightforward as for the other set of publications investigated, as other factors could be significant. Bolton, for example, may not have put any ownership markings in his own works.

Among the seven books located with Bolton's personal bookplate I was able to obtain a crisp and clean photocopy from only one, reproduced in the figure below. The basic element, repeated three times, within the shield is a rebus of the Bolton name: a bolt in a tun. The bird appears to be a falcon.

The heraldic devices used by Henry Carrington Bolton are based upon old family traditions in the Bolton family (5). Originally the "bolt" was a bird-bolt, an arrow with a blunt point, but some family members made the "bolt" into an arrow with a sharp point. The rebus on the name Bolton is documented as far back as 1666. Some family members used only the "bolt" without the "tun." The falcon was also frequently placed above the shield by members of the Bolton family.

In summary, my sampling of titles given to the Library of Congress in 1912 from Bolton's personal library suggests that upwards of one-half of the items may be lost and not present in the collection. But for the purposes of the Bolton Society it was pleasing to come back with a good image of Bolton's bookplate for our use.

NOTES

1. C. A. Browne, "Henry Carrington Bolton," *Journal of Chemical Education* 1940, 17, 457–461.
2. Henry Carrington Bolton, *A Select Bibliography of Chemistry 1492-1892* (Washington, DC: Smithsonian

Institution, 1893 [Reprint Mansfield Centre, CT: Martino Publishing, 2005]).

3. *Report of the Librarian of Congress and Report of the Superintendent of the Library Building and Grounds* for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1912, 25–26).
4. Browne, op. cit., p. 460.
5. Henry Carrington Bolton and Reginald Pelham Bolton, *The Family of Bolton in England and America, 1100-1894* (New York: 1895, (privately printed). [New York Public Library, Genealogy Room; "not on shelf" at the Library of Congress]

—Ronald K. Smeltzer

The Bolton bookplate mentioned by Smeltzer first appeared in Boltonia No. 8, page 1 (2007). It will now appear on the last page of each issue as part of the standard boilerplate (see page 8). Seven copies of the Martino reprint (Note 3) are still available from the Secretary, This article was originally submitted in 2005.—Ed.

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ARTFUL ADDITIONS – BOOKPLATES



Two slightly different bookplates of Sir William Crookes have been documented. The one illustrated here (from a book in Ronald K. Smeltzer's collection is the earlier of the two (John R. Millburn, *The Bookplate Journal*, n.s., 2004, 2, 121–122). The author surmises that this bookplate must date from between 1897 and 1910 since his knighthood status is shown but his Order of Merit title does not appear after his name. In a later note (Bryan Welch, *The Bookplate Journal* n.s., 2005, 3, 70) a correspondent reports a second Crookes's bookplate with "O.M." included in the list of titles after his name.

—Ronald K. Smeltzer

IN MEMORIAM: JACK STOCKER (1924 – 2009)

The American Chemical Society's Division of the History of Chemistry and the Bolton Society lost a stalwart supporter in the death of Jack H. Stocker, 85, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at the University of New Orleans, in New Orleans on 7 July. Jack was a man of many interests who had friends among academics, book collectors, historians, Mardi Gras "krewes," and ACS loyalists. Jack made the cover of *C&EN* (21 November 2005) over the headline "Faces of the Storm" about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the infamous Ninth Ward. Most of book-lover Jack's more than 20,000-volume collection of fantasy and science-fiction books was destroyed when Katrina breached the levees. He was hard at work rebuilding his personal library (heavy with science fiction) when he passed.

Jack was born in Detroit, Michigan, joined ACS when he graduated from Olivet College (B.S. 1944) and continued his Society interests as a biochemistry graduate student at University of Indiana (M.S. 1947). He then joined Gelatin Products as a quality-control chemist charged with improving the bursting strength of softgel capsules; when the company's patents expired, he was laid off. Jack departed for Tulane (Ph.D. 1955) and remained in New Orleans for the rest of his career except for brief professional excursions. Jack did a postdoctoral fellowship at Tulane and a second one at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, before returning to the South as an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi (1956–1958). In 1958, he was hired as an Associate Professor of organic chemistry and one of the founding faculty members at the University of New Orleans, from which he retired in 1991. During his long teaching and research career (organic electrochemistry), he took sabbaticals at Oak Ridge National Labs and at the University of Lund (Sweden).

Elected to the ACS Council in 1972, he held the Louisiana section seat until his death. He served in countless local section, regional, and national committee assignments, including Nomenclature, Nominations and Elections, Meetings and Expositions, Economic and Professional Affairs, and the Committee on Science. He was Chairman of the Division of the History of Chemistry in 1990 and more recently was elected to the Council Policy Committee and appointed as the ACS representative to the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) Heritage Council. Jack much enjoyed his participation in the Bolton Society, a bibliophilic group within CHF. He was a frequent ACS Local Section speaker, and his most favorite topic was the humor in chemistry. Jack edited a popular ACS book, *Chemistry and Science Fiction*, and was in the process of editing a second book, *A Festival of Chemistry Entertainment*, based on a symposium he organized at the Spring 2008 New Orleans meeting co-sponsored by the

Division of the History of Chemistry and the Bolton Society.

These facts of a life cannot begin to sum up what it meant to know Jack Stocker. We have lost a colleague with a unique wit and facility for language that in an earlier time would have earned him the title of raconteur. Jack loved to share his passion for a "good read" by sharing his books with other readers; his collection of thousands of volumes was truly a moveable feast. And any of us who have ever had the pleasure of dining with Jack at a breakfast buffet have lost a colleague who seemed to inhale strips of bacon piled high on his plate while proclaiming his philosophy: "Once a year, you should be able to enjoy something you like and have as much of it as you want." Jack was a gentleman, a valued colleague, and a warm and generous friend. We will miss his voice, we will miss his beret, but mostly we will just miss Jack.

At his family's request, memorial gifts in Jack's name for Project SEED Scholarships can be made to the ACS Office of Development, 1155 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036.

—Ned D. Heindel



Jack Stocker (right) coordinating his watch with HIST Program Chair Joe Jeffers at the ASC/Bolton Society symposium entitled *A Festival of Chemical Entertainment* (New Orleans, April 2008). Speakers included W.F. Carroll, Jr. (*Reese's Pieces: the Best of C&EN Newscripts written by K.M. Reese*), R.M. Baum (*Letters to C&EN's editor: the good, the bad and the ugly*), J. Bunnett (*Are the versed scientific papers among the best?*), J.E. Mears and R.J. Schenck (*Intriguing records in the CAS databases*), H-Y. Shapiro (*Curriculum witty: chemistry in verse and song*), M.V. Orna (*Always a crossed word*), D. Davenport (*Rotten reviews*), N. Foster (*From the pens of thirsty chemists and the occasional cat: Chemists' humor in publications*), M.L. Good (*ACS history in personal political debates*), and J. Stocker (*A small cornucopia of miscellaneous whimsy*). Jack was remembered with a special symposium at the ACS meeting in San Francisco in March 2010.

EVENTUAL EVENTS

23 August 2010: 240th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society, Boston, Massachusetts. Classic Books in Chemistry. 7. Physical Chemistry Books From New England. (A symposium in the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry organized by Gary D. Patterson and sponsored by the Bolton Society.) Papers to be presented include

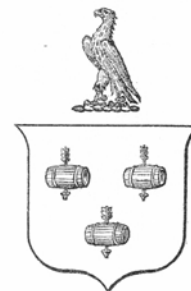
1. William Jensen (University of Cincinnati)—Physical chemistry before Ostwald: The textbooks of Josiah Parsons Cooke.
2. Roger Egolf (Penn State University)—Henry Adams and the application of thermodynamics to history.
3. Cathy Cobb (Aiken Preparatory School)—Measures of the spread: The influence of statistics on J. Willard Gibbs and Gibbs on statistics.
4. Paul Karol (Carnegie Mellon University)—Theodore William Richards and *Determination of Atomic Weights*.
5. Tom Keyes (Boston University)—Kirkwood and Oppenheim: *Chemical Thermodynamics*.
6. Gary D. Patterson (Carnegie Mellon University)—MIT and the Physical Chemistry Laboratory: Charles Kraus and *The Properties of Electrically Conducting Systems*. The Bolton Society has a long history of sponsoring symposia at ACS meetings, beginning with “Collecting chemistry books for fun and profit” at the ACS MARM meeting in Newark, Delaware, in May 2000. The forthcoming Boston symposium will be the fourteenth symposium organized and sponsored by the Bolton Society.

14 October 2010: Bolton Society Biannual Meeting, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



In June 2005, then Chief Bibliophile Elect Ned D. Heindel and Chief Bibliophile Herbert T. Pratt pose with a Bolton Society plaque in the Reading Room of the Othmer Library that recognizes members of the Society who have donated or bequeathed significant collections to the library. To date five members are listed—Stanley C. Israel, Arnold Thackray, Roy G. Neville, David O. Sparkman and Marvin Charton.

BOLTONIA is the newsletter of the Bolton Society, an organization of chemical bibliophiles founded in 1999. As a subsidiary of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, the Bolton Society promotes the individual love for and collection of all types of material related to the history and development of the chemical sciences and related technologies. It also advances the cause of the Donald F. and Mildred Topp Othmer Library of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. Contact the Secretary for more information.



Bolton Bookplate

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The Bolton Society derives its name from Henry Carrington Bolton (1843–1903), an historian and bibliographer of chemistry who is noted for his *A Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492-1892*, originally published by the Smithsonian in 1893 and reprinted in 2005 by Martino Publishing under the auspices of the Bolton Society. Membership is open to any person who supports the objectives of the society as stated above, and there is no membership fee. For more on the Society and a membership application form see <http://www.chemheritage.org/about/about-nav6-bolton.html>. Meetings are held twice a year in Philadelphia.

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