

Alfred Baber Fonds

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The Kansas City Chemist

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September 1996
Volume 50, No. 6

the Kansas City Chemist

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING

Thursday, September 5, 1996

Dr. Alfred Bader

Founder - Aldrich Chemical Company

Art Collector and Restorer

Author

I. "Kekule's Predecessors"

II. "Adventures of a Chemist-Collector"

Dr. Bader will sign copies of his book on collecting

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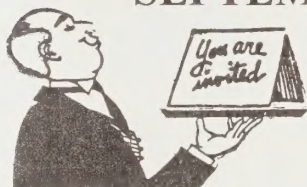
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POSTMASTER: DATED MEETING NOTICE — DO NOT DELAY

SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING



Date: Thursday, September 5, 1996
Place: Golden Ox Restaurant
1600 Genessee
Kansas City, MO (816) 842-2866
(located near Kemper Arena)

- Time:** 5:30 p.m. ----- Social Hour (cash bar)
and book signing
- 6:30 p.m. ----- Dinner - \$15 (Meal, Tax & Gratuity)
\$12 (students)
- Dinner includes: *petite filet mignon, garden salad, baked potato, dinner rolls, beverage, and dessert.*
- 7:30 p.m. ----- Program
1st lecture - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
2nd lecture - 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
- Speaker:** DR. ALFRED BADER
Founder - Aldrich Chemical Company
Alfred Bader Fine Arts
Milwaukee, WI
- Topic(s):** First lecture: "Richard Anschutz, Archibald
Scott Couper and Joseph Loschmidt"
Second lecture: "Adventures o a Chemist-Collector"
- Reservations:** Call Ernest Parente (Hoechst Marion Roussel) at 966-7138. Deadline for reservations and cancellations: Noon, Wednesday, September 4, 1996.
- Note:** To avoid standing in line at the door, please have a check prepared in the correct amount, ready to present to the treasurer. Make checks payable to:
American Chemical Society -- K.C. Section
-

ABOUT THE TOPIC

First Lecture: Richard Anschutz, Archibald Scott Couper and Joseph Loschmidt

ABSTRACT: Unlike the name of August Kekule, the names of Archibald Scott Couper and Joseph Loschmidt will probably mean little to most chemists. But, as explained by Dr. Alfred Bader, perhaps it is now time to reconsider who should take the credit for some of chemistry's greatest discoveries. Although Kekule is universally credited with the concept of the benzene ring, the possibility is proposed that it was actually Josef Loschmidt, a high school teacher, who worked out a description of double and triple carbon bonding that was more accurate and more easily visualized than those of Kekule and other chemists of the time. Is it more likely that Kekule got the idea of the benzene ring from reading a little known book by a little known high school teacher or was it from the now famous description of it coming from a dream of a snake chasing its tail? And if Loschmidt did originally propose the benzene structure why didn't he receive the credit he deserved? These questions and others are explored as Dr. Bader examines the works of Couper and Loschmidt.

SEP. MEETING INFO. (cont'd from pg. 2)

ABOUT THE TOPIC CONTINUED. . .

Second Lecture: Adventures of a Chemist-Collector

As a collector of old master painting, I look every year at several hundred old paintings - in junk and antique stores and at auctions all over the world - and have to decide, usually within minutes, whether a painting is worth buying. The first criterion is, of course, the general artistic merit of the work - often hard to discern in paintings covered with centuries of dirt. Secondly, is the painting really what I think it is. I am offered a painting said to be by a Dutch 17th century artist -- are the pigments those used by 17th century artists? Are the wood or canvas and the ground those used by 17th century Dutch artists? Once I have acquired an old painting, the surface dirt is usually easily removed with mild solvents, and the decision has to be made how much restoration to do. Is the painting an original, a workshop production or a later copy? Is the painting in its original size? What is the condition of the support -- be it canvas, wood, metal or slate? How much old restoration is there and should it be removed? Almost every old painting has some over paint -- was this added to hide losses or subjects considered undesirable by previous owners? If the painting is signed, is the signature original? The last questions can generally be answered by a combination of physical and chemical means, chiefly examination with uv light and under a magnifying glass, and tests with various solvents. Many specific examples will be given to illustrate these questions and their answers.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Alfred Bader was born in Vienna in 1924, graduated from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario in Engineering Chemistry in 1945, and from Harvard in Chemistry in 1950. Between his university studies, he worked for a Canadian paint company which was acquired by Pittsburgh Plate Glass (PPG), which offered him a position in it research laboratories in Milwaukee in 1950. In 1951, he founded Aldrich Chemical Company which merged with Sigma Chemical Company of St. Louis in 1975. Sigma-Aldrich is now the world's largest supplier of research chemicals. After serving Sigma-Aldrich as president and CEO and then as chairman and chairman emeritus, he started an art gallery in the Astor Hotel in Milwaukee in 1992.

Dr. Bader was the curator of "*The Bible through Dutch Eyes*" Exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Center in 1976, and with Isabel, his wife, curator of the "*The Detective's Eye*" Exhibition in 1989. He has published widely on chemistry, art and the Bible.

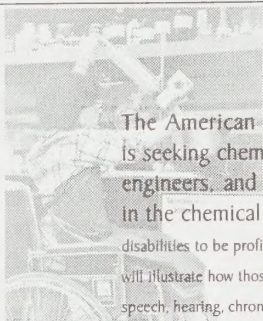
BOOK SIGNING

During the Social Hour signed copies of Dr. Bader's book "*Alfred Bader: Adventures of a Chemist-Collector*", will be available for purchase. The book which regularly retails for \$25.95 will be specially priced at \$20.00 for members and at \$15.00 for students and teachers. Members are also invited to attend the above second lecture entitled "*Adventures of a Chemist Collector*" which will follow his first lecture.

ACS Seeks Role Models:

If you are willing to be interviewed for possible inclusion in the booklet, please contact Allison Edmondson by e-mail, a_edmondson@acs.org.

You may also telephone her at 800/227-5558 x2120; or write to her at the American Chemical Society, 1155 16th St., NW, Washington, DC 20036.



The American Chemical Society is seeking chemists, chemical engineers, and those who work in the chemical sciences with disabilities to be profiled in a booklet that will illustrate how those with mobility, visual,

speech, hearing, chronic health, invisible, and learning disabilities can work productively in the chemical professions. The booklet will also show through photographs and illustrations the successful strategies and workplace modifications used by chemists with disabilities.

Working Chemists with Disabilities

SEABORG MEETS LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SUPPORTER

At the ACS national meeting in New Orleans, Nobel Laureate Glenn T. Seaborg met one of his staunchest supporters for the first time. In the ACS Press Room, the towering senior scientist extended his hand - and his gratitude - to Shawnee Mission South High School Senior Kristin Woulfe, who had written a research paper in support of naming element 106 "seaborgium" in honor of Seaborg's role in the discovery of transuranium elements.

In 1994, the International Union of Pure & Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) created something of an international stir when it refused to name the element after Seaborg "because I was alive and they could prove it" Seaborg said with a laugh during the recent meeting with Woulfe.

As the controversy swirled - and press reports became abundant - Shawnee Mission South High School (Shawnee Mission, Kansas) science teacher Anna Crabtree worked to interest students in writing about the affair. Woulfe picked up on the story and its dramatic possibilities. Her title - "Seaborgium: To Be or Not To Be" - echoes the dramatic themes of Shakespeare. Crabtree was so impressed with the work that she sent copies to Seaborg, among others, and to C&EN Editor Madeleine Jacobs, who wrote about it on an Editor's Page last summer. Eventually, copies of the paper were passed around among IUPAC members - who after intense criticism from the American Chemical Society, among others - voted to reconsider their earlier decision.

Woulfe says she took Crabtree upon the essay project "because this was something I could do in my own way." She says she worked in Shakespeare's themes about friendship because that's how she came to feel about Seaborg. In his gracious response to receipt of Woulfe's essay, Seaborg wrote, "Clearly, the hubbub over seaborgium has had at least one happy effect, if it excited you about chemistry. I can only encourage you to pursue your interest with all the enthusiasm you can muster." At the end of their in-person meeting in New Orleans, Seaborg left Woulfe with an appropriate souvenir - an autographed copy of the periodic table.

William Schulz Source - C&EN 4/22/96

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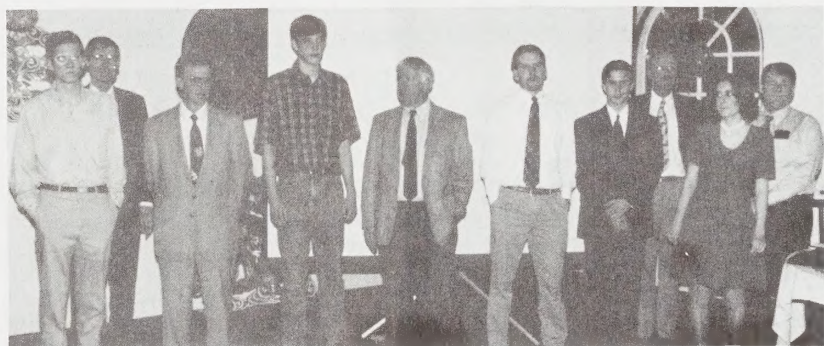
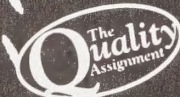
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above . . . Student winners of highschool awards and national chemistry Olympiad local finalists are pictured with their teachers

right . . . Past Chairman Julie Geary receives her certificate pin from Dr. Jackie Applegate



MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Membership and Hospitality Committee performs a variety of activities promoting membership involvement in the American Chemical Society in Kansas City. New members are recruited, welcomed and placed in a committee of their choice. In addition, this group disseminates pertinent ACS information, maintains the ACS directory, provides a membership roster and establishes contact at various companies in the local area. This group enjoys social interaction and communication.

Twice during the last several years the Kansas City section of the ACS has won the awards for Best Performance of a midsize section. This outstanding performance is entirely due to the contributions by its members and our activities. We maintain continuity and strength through good communication and commitment and awareness of the chemical industry. The American Chemical Society is the largest organization for chemical industry professional. It performs a vital function for industry, academia, individuals and students by providing a collective medium for national communication, national action and influence.

The ACS is run for its members, by its members. Your contribution and that of other chemical professionals is a vital ingredient in the success and effectiveness of the ACS in Kansas City. Participate in an activity of your choice today . . . by the way, we have a great time in the process!

If you would like to help, call Dr. Jackie Applegate at 242-2847.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Summer is still in the air, but the fall season has arrived for the ACS section. During the summer, the executive meeting was busy working on numerous projects. The Kansas City Chemist committee evaluated new printing and formatting options for the Kansas City Chemist. The Science City committee has been planning for the Saturday, October 19, 1996 event at Union Station. This is the Kansas City Museum's kickoff event for the construction of the new museum. Our summer social at the Kansas City Zoo was a great success due to the hard work of our Social chair, Sarah Leibowitz. We had a great response from our members. Our remaining tickets were donated to the children of Niles Home and Synergy House. Our Program committee will start off the year with an impressive speaker, Dr. Alfred Bader. Dr. Bader, past President and Chair of Aldrich Chemical Company, is a well-known authority on art restoration. I am certain that this will be a great kickoff for our Fall season!

Jackie Applegate, Chair

ACS SHORT COURSE CHEMICAL ENGINEERING FOR CHEMISTS

One of the most popular ACS short courses, Chemical Engineering for Chemists, presented by Richard Griskey, will be available in St. Louis on October 21 & 22 for less than half of the normal ACS fee. Through special arrangements with national ACS and the Center for Science and Technology at UM-St. Louis, the course will be only \$345 (normal fee is \$695 for ACS members). According to ACS, this course is one of the first filled at national meetings. For more information and registration, contact Joe Williams at UM-St. Louis @ (314) 516-5971.



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UN Units Call Global Warming a Health Risk

In the midst of already heated negotiations on controlling greenhouse gases, three United Nations agencies are warning that global warming poses a serious threat to human health. A "wait-and-see approach" to the problem "would be imprudent at best and nonsensical at worst," says their report.

"Climate Change and Human Health" - by the World Health Organization, the World Meteorological Organization, and the UN Environment Program - predicts increased suffering and death from both direct and indirect effects of global warming.

Direct effects of climate warming on human health include increased summer-time heat stress and greater air pollution. According to current models, the report says, "by around 2050 many major cities around the world could be experiencing up to several thousand extra heat-related deaths annually, not taking into account the effects of population growth."

Indirect effect - such as contamination of freshwater supplies by rising sea levels or wider ranges for tropical infectious diseases - are harder to predict but equally serious, notes Paul R. Epstein, associate director of Harvard University Medical School's Center for Health & the Global Environment and a lead author of the report. For example, he tells C&EN, the mosquito-borne diseases malaria and dengue fever are both occurring at higher altitudes than they used to.

Source: C&EN - 7/15/96

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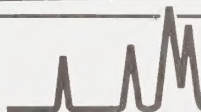
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Fruit Flies Like Ripe Bananas**

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the smell of burning leaves that
used to mean October**

**We understand the U.S. debt
has topped a trillion dollars. Is
that Fahrenheit or Celsius?**

**No investigation of Congress
will turn up much more than
the folks back home have
known all along.**

**Coffee has caused so much
cancer in rats that they may
have to be declared an endan-
gered species.**

TRAIN DERAILS IN CANADA

**KERWOOD, Ontario - A train
carrying a corrosive acid derailed
Saturday in southwestern Ontario,
and police evacuated 250 residents
of a village after one tanker car rup-
tured, "leaking acid into a ditch at
about five gallons a minute," said
Paul Webb of the provincial
Environment Ministry.**

**"They sent in a guy with a wood-
en plug to plug the hole in a corner
of the tanker," said Webb. "It's off
the rails and dug into the ground."**

**CN spokesman Ian Thomson said
corrosive liquid burns on contact
*but is not explosive and does not
give off dangerous fumes unless
mixed with large amounts of water.***

Source: KC Star 8/11/96

**Note: More technical knowledge
would help. The above italics are
ours.**

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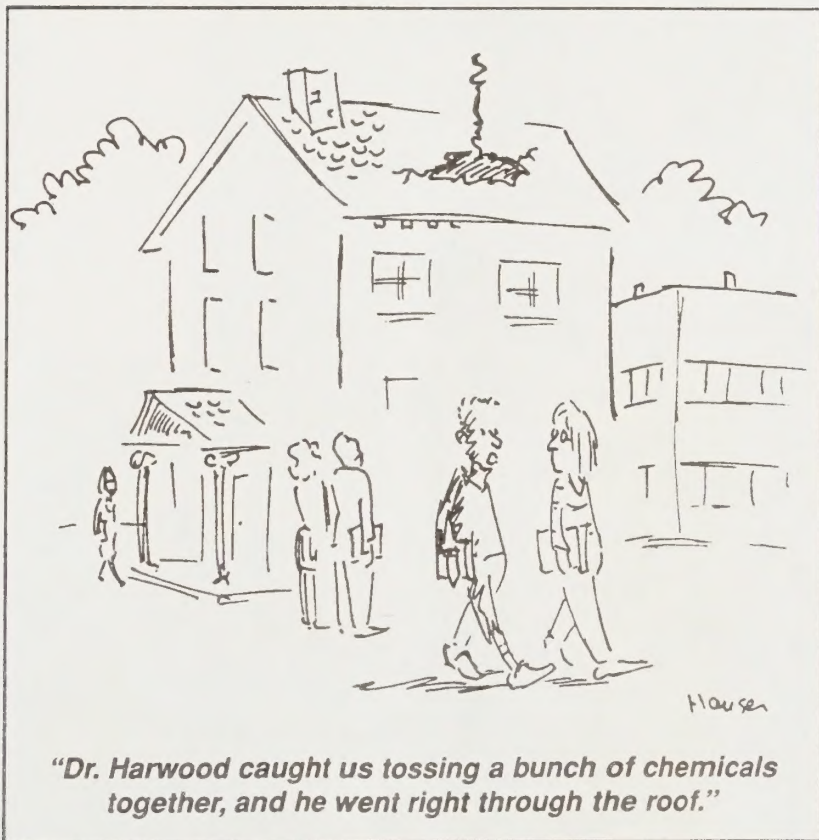
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Number 6

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c/o Dr. Linda Cleveland
11812 Beacon
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ACS CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Local, Regional and National

Please call Ed Levy at 381-2435 for publication of future ACS Calendar of Events.

September 5, 1996: September Dinner Meeting
See pages 2 - 3 for details.

September 15 - 20, 1996: (Chicago, IL) IUPAC Symposium
On "Natural Products"

September 29 - October 4, 1996: FACSS Meeting

October 19, 1996: Science City in Union Station

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