I. **Dr. Coblentz... In Memoriam**

It is with deep regret that we must open this report with the sad news that Dr. W. W. Coblentz died on September 15, 1962, in Washington, at the age of 88 years.

During his 40 years as a member of the staff of the Bureau of Standards, Dr. Coblentz made notable contributions to many fields of radiation physics. It is, however, in his early work at Cornell University, in the years immediately following his award of the Ph.D. degree in 1903, that he laid the foundations of chemical infrared spectroscopy. The last two decades of the nineteenth century had seen great advances in infrared instrumentation. The young Coblentz, building on this experience, constructed a superb spectrometer and used it in a manner that none had done previously—to survey the spectra of numerous organic compounds. Thus, he came to recognize the existence of absorption frequencies characteristic of specific molecular structure and to lay the foundation of modern group vibration analysis. Julius, Abney and Festing, and other predecessors had hinted at this, but it was Coblentz who firmly established the existence of group vibration frequencies by his brilliant and systematic work. Later, Coblentz' activities led him away from chemical infrared spectroscopy, though he followed the subsequent developments with great interest. As he pithily commented in his autobiography, "Infrared spectroradiometry has become a tool in the control of production of articles of commerce...a long stride from the worn-out, useless subject that it appeared when I began my researches."

With the passing of Dr. Coblentz, our Society has lost its senior Honorary Member, and spectroscopy has lost one of its most distinguished proponents.

II. **Membership Dues for 1963**

Membership dues for 1963 are requested. A form is enclosed for your use. Please detach the membership card, fill in the remaining portion and return it with your check for $2.00. Please make your check payable to The Coblentz Society, Inc., and send it to Dr. H. B. Kessler, c/o The Perkin-Elmer Corp., Norwalk, Connecticut.
III. Election of New Members to the Board of Management

This year, Professor J. C. Decius and Professor E. Lippincott retire from the Board of Management on completion of their terms of office. A nominating committee consisting of Dr. R. C. Gore, Dr. W. J. Potts, and Dr. Clara D. Smith has presented the following five nominees for the two replacements.

Forrest S. Mortimer - Shell Development
Donald R. Johnson - E. I. du Pont
James E. Steward - Beckman Instruments
Kermit B. Whetsel - Tennessee Eastman
A. Lee Smith - Dow-Corning

Please mark the enclosed ballot promptly and return to the Secretary, Dr. H. B. Kessler, c/o The Perkin-Elmer Corporation, Norwalk, Conn. In accordance with the By-Laws, all ballots received before March 31 will be counted.

IV. Coblentz Society Discussion Meeting

Our customary Discussion Meeting will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 7, in the Pittsburgh Room of the Hotel Penn-Sheraton, Pittsburgh. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Society; save a place for it on your busy program.

V. The Annual Coblentz Symposium for 1963

The 1963 Annual Symposium will take place on Wednesday afternoon, March 6, in the Pittsburgh Room of the Hotel Penn-Sheraton. The program has been organized by Dr. W. J. Potts, with the title, "Symposium on Techniques Relating to Infrared Spectroscopy." Professor F. A. Miller will be presiding.

We would like to ask our members to give thought to appropriate topics for consideration at the 1964 Symposium and be ready to air their views about this at the Discussion Meeting.

VI. The Republication of the Coblentz Monograph

The reprinting of the original Coblentz monograph "Investigations of Infra-red Spectra, Parts 1-7" was completed during the year and has met with a brisk demand. A few copies are still available at a cost of $3.50. For your copy, a check payable to the Coblentz Society, Inc., should be sent to the Secretary. Further information about the publication of this reprint will be found in a following paragraph of this report.
VII. Minutes of the Coblentz Society Board of Management Meeting, March 7, 1962

Attendance: R. A. Friedel, President
H. B. Kessler, Secretary-Treasurer

Board Members: R. N. Jones
E. R. Lippincott
W. J. Potts
M. K. Wilson

Others present: V. A. Fassel, Board Member elect
Clara D. Smith, former Board Member
D. Kendall, former Board Member
A. Lee Smith, by invitation

The meeting was called to order by the President. The results of the election of two new Board Members was announced. Prof. V. A. Fassel and Dr. L. E. Kuntzel were elected to replace Dr. Clara D. Smith and Dr. W. J. Potts.

Dr. R. A. Friedel will retire as President, but remains as a Member of the Board. Dr. R. N. Jones was elected as the incoming President.

The Treasurer's report was presented and accepted. The balance in the treasury was $786.34.

(i) Publication of the Coblentz Monograph

Dr. Kendall reported on the status of the reprinting of the Coblentz monograph. Advanced pledges from the Society members were encouraging, but were insufficient to justify the Society making the financial commitment involved. One domestic instrument manufacturer had offered to underwrite the cost of publication. It was agreed that additional support of the same kind would be solicited, but if not forthcoming, the Society would proceed with the reprinting on the basis of the generous offer of support already received. This assistance would be recognized by carrying the name of the guarantor or guarantors as co-sponsors with the Coblentz Society on the title page.

(ii) Coblentz Society Spectra

Dr. Clara Smith reported on the status of the Spectra Collection Program. The second set of 1000 spectra has been printed, and work is proceeding on the third set. (The spectra may be obtained at a cost of $100 per 1000 spectra plus $15 for the indexes, from The Sadtler Research Laboratories, 1517 Vine Street, Philadelphia 2, Pennsylvania.)
The Board discussed the problem of high resolution spectra obtained with grating instruments. It was agreed that these should be accepted for inclusion in the collection, even where technically satisfactory lower resolution spectra of the same compounds were already in the set. The new spectra would carry the same code number as the prism spectra followed by "G". Future policy will be to accept grating spectra in preference to prism spectra where alternatives are available.

The higher resolution and extended wavenumber range of the newer spectrometers create problems in presentation, and the present format does not allow for the proper representation of the spectra. The Board authorized Clara Smith to proceed with a change in format that permits the abscissa to be oriented in the longer direction of the paper.

Attenuated total reflectance spectra will be accepted, but they will not be issued until adequate criteria have been formulated for judging their quality.

A recommendation by Dr. Potts that the spectra of isotopic derivatives be accepted only if they contain at least 90% of the species intended was approved.

(iii) Infrared Quantitative Analytical Methods

Dr. Lee Smith reported that 163 methods have so far been published, the earlier ones in Analytical Chemistry, and the more recent ones in Applied Spectroscopy. (Members wishing to submit data for this publication service should communicate directly with Dr. Lee Smith at the Spectroscopy Laboratory, Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, Michigan.)

(iv) Admissibility of Spectra in U. S. Patent Applications

Dr. E. R. Lippincott discussed the rebuttal paper that he is to present at the March 1963 meeting of the American Chemical Society in defense of the use of infrared spectra as evidence in patent applications. This report will be published later in the Journal of the Patent Office. The Board expressed its thanks and congratulations to Dr. Lippincott for this important contribution.

(v) The OiS (Optika i Spektroskopiya) Club

The Board approved a request from the Secretary of the Optical Society of America to become a co-sponsor of the OiS Club. At no cost to our Society, this entitles our Members to subscribe to Optika i Spektroskopiya at a special rate of $11.00 per annum, a saving of $4.00. (Subscription applications should be sent to Miss P. Wakeling, c/o The Optical Society of America, 1155 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.)
(vi) **Sponsorship of Other Symposia**

The Board reviewed policy with regard to the sponsorship of regional symposia and it was agreed that the continuation of this is not practical in view of the profusion of such meetings.

(vii) **Symposium for the Next Annual Meeting**

Dr. W. J. Potts was appointed Chairman of the Program Committee for the next Annual Meeting at Pittsburgh.

VIII. **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Coblentz Society, March 8, 1962**

The meeting was held in the Pittsburgh Room of the Hotel Penn-Sheraton, with seventy-five members attending. The President, Dr. R. A. Friedel, was in the chair.

Reports were made of the actions of the Board of Management and of the various committees as recorded in detail under Section VII. Dr. L. E. Kuntzel gave a lucid and detailed review of the status of the ASTM work on developments in data retrieval systems.

The Society extended its appreciation to Professor S. Krimm for his efforts in organizing the highly successful Coblentz Symposium and to the participating members and guest speakers.

In taking over the presidency at the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. R. N. Jones expressed the gratitude of the Society to the retiring President, Dr. Friedel, for the devoted and tactful way in which he had managed the affairs of the Society during his term of office, and to Dr. Clara Smith and Dr. Potts for their services as Members of the Board.

IX. **Charter Flight to Tokyo for the Molecular Spectroscopy Conference**

On May 17, 1962, a request was received from Dr. R. B. Brattain and Professor R. C. Elderfield for the Society to accept sponsorship of a charter flight to the Molecular Spectroscopy Conference at Tokyo in August 1962. The Board of Management unanimously accepted this after a telephone poll, and the members were notified by a circular letter. However, the response was not sufficient to justify proceeding with the project, and it was cancelled.

X. **Minutes of the Coblentz Society Board of Management Meeting, University of Maryland, Tuesday, June 19, 1962.**

**Attendance:**

R. N. Jones, President  
H. B. Kessler, Secretary-Treasurer  

**Board Members:**

E. R. Lippincott  
V. A. Fassel  

**Others present:**

W. J. Potts, Pittsburgh Symposium Program Chairman  
Clara D. Smith
The meeting was called to order by the President.

The President reported that there had been no change in the status of the sponsorship of the Coblentz monograph publication. Acting in accordance with the recommendations of the preceding Board Meeting, he had approved the arrangements for sponsorship by the Perkin-Elmer Corporation. A price of $3.50 per volume was agreed upon.

Dr. Potts reported on progress for the Pittsburgh Symposium Program and Dr. Clara Smith on the status of the Spectra Collection Program.

The numerical membership of the Society was discussed and it was felt that a greater effort could be made to enlarge this. An approach should be made particularly to the younger spectroscopists entering the profession, and this might be done by appealing more directly to those attending the various summer schools in infrared spectroscopy across the country.

The Coblentz Society