THE COBLENZ SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

A Society for Applied Spectroscopy Affiliate
Editor: K. S. Kalasinsky
February 1987

John Lephardt and ??? (Hint: it's either Santa Claus, Bill Fateley, or Burl Ives.)

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Last April spectroscopy lost one of its greatest contributors, Dr. Tomas Hirschfeld. One area where his loss will be greatly felt is as Editor of this newsletter. As the new Editor, I will make sure that the standard that Tomas created is maintained, but it will be impossible for me, as it would for anyone, to fill his shoes. I, for one, used to anxiously await each issue of this newsletter and see what words of wisdom Tomas had to share with us. He, more than anyone, had his finger on the pulse of what was happening in the field of spectroscopy. Editor’s comments will continue to be a part of this newsletter, but contributions from all of our readers will help preserve the broad scope that Tomas was able to present. I am not new to this newsletter, as I had assisted Tomas in its production for the last year and half. One aspect that was uniquely Tomas’ was the candid photos he took of all of us at various conferences and then printed in the newsletter, along with his own humorous captions. Those of you who knew him personally will remember well that ever-present camera on his shoulder. We will try to continue that part of the newsletter as part of Tomas’ legacy; therefore, I will start totting a camera at my side. For those of you who know me, watch out: I’m liable to catch you in the act of being a spectroscopist.

Kathy Kalasinsky

Send your newsletter contributions (ideas, views, comments, or complaints) to Kathryn S. Kalasinsky, Coblenz Society Newsletter Editor, Mississippi State Chemical Laboratory, P.O. Box CR, Mississippi State, MS 39762. Articles received by April 10, 1987 can be published by August, 1987.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As the end of the year approaches there are several important aspects of the annual business of the Society you should be aware of. By December, you should have received both your dues notice and a ballot for the election of two new board members. If you haven’t, please get in touch with either Jim de Haseth or me. This year, we did receive some nominations for board membership, and in future years, I would hope we would see more nominations from the general membership. If none are supplied, the nominations come from current board members.

Our awards for 1986 are complete, and it was a very good year. Prof. Joel Harris was the Coblenz awardee. The presentation was made at the Ohio Molecular Spectroscopy meeting held last June. Joel’s award address was given in the Monday plenary session and was very well received. The 1986 Lippencott award (this year the Coblenz Society was responsible) was given to Prof. Wolfgang Kaiser of the Technical Institute at Munich, and the presentation was made at the Gordon Conference on Vibrational Spectroscopy. Prof. Tom Spiro was the first Bomem-Michelson award winner. We had an excellent award symposium at the FACSS meeting in St. Louis. Many thanks to the Bomem Company for sponsoring this award. Looking ahead, I’m happy to announce that the 1987 Coblenz awardee is Prof. Alan Campion and the 1987 Williams-Wright awardee is Dr. Lee Smith.

All of the above-mentioned awards are open for nominations for the next year. The relevant committee chairmen are listed below. If you have any suggestions of people for these nationally recognized awards, please take some action. The more nominees a committee has to choose from, the better. If you have questions about the requirements for any award, contact either the committee chairman or me. Please remember, if you are currently involved in a selection committee you may not nominate people in this year.
Finally, there is a relatively new area of involvement for the Coblentz Society. At the last board meeting, we decided to initiate some action in the area of potential function studies in spectroscopy. The concern has been expressed that the current work in force fields suffers somewhat from a lack of central control and verification. The transfer of functions between different groups is nontrivial. We have established some funds to be used to sponsor a workshop at the Columbus meeting and at a Gordon Conference to try to further define the problems in this area. This is a chance for the Society to provide a real service to the spectroscopic community and to participate in some exciting science. If you are interested in this area and would like to work on a committee or help organize these workshops, please let me know.

Awards Committee Chairmen
Coblentz Award
Dr. John Rabolt
IBM Research Center
5600 Cottle Road
San Jose, CA 95193
(408)256-7188

Williams-Wright
Dr. Chris Brown
Department of Chemistry
University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI 02881
(401)782-2369

Lippencott
Dr. Takeshi Oka
Department of Chemistry
University of Chicago
Chicago, IL 60637

Bomem-Michelson
Dr. William Harris
Chemistry Division
Room 340
National Science Foundation
Washington, DC 20205
(202)357-9826

RAMAN CONFERENCE
HELD IN OREGON
Approximately 550 practitioners of Raman spectroscopy attended the Tenth International Conference on Raman Spectroscopy held at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon, 31 August–5 September, 1986. About half the attendees were U.S. scientists. The foreign attendees included representatives of the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, South Africa, Brazil, Finland, Denmark, Poland, Germany, Austria, India, China, Yugoslavia, and Canada. Besides being international in character, this meeting displayed the interdisciplinary nature of Raman spectroscopy. Major emphasis was placed on solid-state physics (especially semiconductor characterization), biophysics, surfaces (especially metal surfaces), high-resolution studies of molecules, intermolecular interactions, and the study of thin films and confined resonances. Several recent advances in Raman scattering methods were also discussed, including time-resolved techniques, ultraviolet resonance Raman scattering, new nonlinear optical methods, and methods for the determination of Raman optical activity. Open plenary addresses were presented by Andreas Albrecht, Boris Stoicheff, and Nicolaas Bloembergen. Two parallel sets of talks were held throughout much of the week. Over 400 posters were presented in five sessions. A workshop on techniques in ultraviolet resonance Raman spectroscopy concentrated on the practical “details” of the apparatus used in this area. A very interesting equipment exhibit presented the latest products of 23 companies. This included seven operating lasers, five complete Raman spectrometers (including one based on an FT-IR), interesting new detector devices, the latest from several publishers, and a demonstration by The New Curiosity Shop.

The Tenth International Conference on Raman Spectroscopy was sponsored by the Coblentz Society as well as by several other federal and international agencies.

Proceedings of the Tenth International Conference
on Raman Spectroscopy (W. L. Peticolas and B. Hudson, editors) is available for $45. Write to Bruce Hudson, Chemical Physics Institute, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403 [826 pages hardbound, ISBN 0-87114-176-0].

PROGRESS REPORT ON JACAMP-DX SPECTRAL TRANSMISSION PROGRAM

The JACAMP-DX program is designed to enable a properly equipped FT-IR or computer-assisted dispersive spectrometer to transmit infrared spectra directly from its data bank to that of another similarly equipped instrument, regardless of make or model. The program was developed by Dr. Robert S. McDonald under the auspices of the Joint Committee on Atomic and Molecular Physical Data (JACAMP).

All of the major manufacturers have prepared the necessary software to enable their instruments to transmit and accept spectral data by means of JACAMP-DX. In addition, a number of the suppliers of infrared spectra, such as Sadtlter and Coblentz, are preparing their own data banks to enable them to send spectra by this program.

At this writing, November 1, 1986, most of the instrument companies are in the testing phase of their systems and are engaged in transmitting spectra internally, as well as to and from Bob McDonald. It is expected that this debugging period will be completed by the 1987 Pittsburgh Conference and that the necessary software packages will by then be available from all manufacturers.

The important feature of the JACAMP-DX program is that the spectra transmitted by it are inserted directly into the receiving spectrometer's data bank in a form that permits the same kind of spectral manipulation that is possible with locally generated spectra. This includes spectral subtraction, search, and quantitative programs.

Paul Wilks
Chairman
JACAMP Spectra Portability
Sub-Committee

COBLENTZ AWARD PRESENTED AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY SYMPOSIUM ON MOLECULAR SPECTROSCOPY

The 1986 Coblentz Award, given for outstanding contributions to molecular spectroscopy made by a scientist under the age of 36 years, was presented to Dr. Joel M. Harris at the opening plenary session of the Forty-first Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy, held at the Ohio State University 16–20 June, 1986. Dr. Harris, who is a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Utah, presented a lecture entitled "Photothermal Methods for Analytical Laser Spectroscopy." Other speakers at the well-attended plenary session, chaired by Coblentz Society member Larry Nafie, included Dr. Takeshi Oka from the University of Chicago and Dr. C. Weldon Mathews of the Ohio State University.

The Coblentz Award, which consists of a framed certificate, a large engraved prism, and a $100 cash prize, had not yet appeared immediately preceding the introduction of Dr. Harris, causing some anxious moments. Nevertheless, during the introduction, the award items miraculously appeared, carried by Professor Jim Durig from the back of the lecture hall, just in the nick of time.

Coblentz Society festivities were continued on the following day in what has become a traditional and much anticipated Tuesday afternoon beer party. Well over a hundred guests showed up for beer, soft drinks, chips, and conversation. Official Coblentz Society T-shirts were also on sale. They continue to be a popular item among spectroscopists with a sense of humor (and/or loyal supporters of the Coblentz Society!).

Leo Azarraga. I bet he couldn't talk without his hands.

APPLIED SPECTROSCOPY 345