

III. The Division of Chemical Literature, 1949-1975

1. Goals and Mission, 1949-1975

At the 114th ACS National Meeting in Washington, DC, in September 1948, the Committee on National Meetings and Divisional Activities, under the chairmanship of Gustav Egloff, recommended the establishment of the Division of Chemical Literature. A motion to this effect was made and passed by the ACS Council.

Walter J. Murphy, Editor of *Chemical and Engineering News*, stated in an editorial on February 14, 1949 [Ref. 1]:

"Once again the flexibility of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY and its ability to provide for the expanding interests and needs of the chemists and chemical engineers, within the framework of the Society, is demonstrated by the formation of a Division of Chemical Literature. With the adoption of bylaws and their approval by the Council, the new division will become the nineteenth division of the ACS.

For approximately five years those conducting research and development work and concerned with the importance of chemical literature and utilization of this literature have operated as the Chemical Literature Group of the Division of Chemical Education. Large and enthusiastic audiences composed of a large segment of Society members have demonstrated a sustained and rapidly growing interest at every symposium sponsored by the group.

The objects of the new division are tentatively defined as follows:

To hold meetings for the reading and discussion of papers and reports for the purposes of studying and advancing the art and science of the collection, recording, processing, exchange, and dissemination of chemical information, and to provide the other associations and activities for the same purpose.

The above interpretation of the objects of the new division purposely has been made very broad, but the new division certainly will be concerned with problems connected with secondary as well as primary publication, with indexes as well as abstracts and papers, with punched cards and electronic devices, with technical library techniques, statistical analysis of numerical data, correlations, nomenclature, and most certainly with ideas for facilitating the use of chemical literature.

Every chemist and chemical engineer is experiencing difficulty in keeping abreast of the volume of original publications. Mechanical aids, for example, punched cards, will not eliminate the necessity of reading the principal scientific and abstract journals, but punched card systems can be utilized to make easily available vast areas of chemical and physical data already published. Every plan should be explored that promises to increase the efficiency of the chemist or chemical engineer by reducing the time spent in literature searches. If we do not develop such means, the expanding bulk of accumulated information will decrease in practical value."

and concluded:

"Probably no other division has such potential interest for all the members of the Society as does the Division of Chemical Literature. Therefore, we expect to see many become actively associated with the program of the division."

In 1950, the first elected chairman, E. J. Crane, stated:

"Interest in chemical literature is very high, having been stimulated by the recent work. There is also a new appreciation of the individual who works in science at a desk instead of in the laboratory. This worker is growing in stature among chemists, the creation of our strongly active Division is an indication of that."

The Divisional Bylaws stated succinctly:

Bylaw I Name and Object

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be "The Division of Chemical Literature of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY" hereinafter called the "Division" and the "SOCIETY", respectively.

Section 2. The objects of this Division shall be those of the SOCIETY as they apply to chemical literature, which is regarded as including the study, preparation, collection, recording, processing, conserving, reproduction, organization, exchange, dissemination, and assembly for use of chemical information.

Ben H. Weil in a 1957 article [Ref. 7] added to it:

"In other words, the Division is concerned with the

primary, secondary, and tertiary publication of information - with original papers, books, and reports; with abstracts, indexes, and machine documentation; and with techniques and ideas for facilitating the use of chemical literature. It conceives as its task both the provision of assistance to the laboratory chemist in his own work with the literature and the interchange of knowledge and techniques among professional literature chemists."

2. Organization and Membership, 1949-1975

For 1949, the ACS appointed Norman C. Hill as acting Chairman and Robert S. Casey as acting Secretary. Both were part of the founding team who led the Chemical Literature Group in the previous five years.

At the 115th ACS National Meeting in San Francisco in March 1949, the Divisional Executive Committee adopted a proposed set of Bylaws, and elected Mary Alexander and Julian F. Smith as Members-at-Large to serve through 1949. Membership was reported to be about 300.

By the time of its first anniversary at the 116th ACS National Meeting in Atlantic City in September 1949, the number of Division members and associates reached 725. Annual dues were \$1 for an ACS member and \$2 for a Division Associate (non-ACS member).

For 1950, the first elected Divisional Officers were:

E. J. Crane	chairman
James W. Perry	chairman-elect
Robert A. Casey	secretary
Byron A. Soule	treasurer
Mary Alexander	member-at-large
Julian F. Smith	member-at-large

The Executive Committee consisted of the above six elected members and three *ex officio* members, who were Editors of the ACS journals:

Walter J. Murphy	<i>Industrial and Engineering Chemistry</i>
W. Albert Noyes, Jr.	<i>Journal of the American Chemical Society</i>
Norris W. Rakestraw	<i>Journal of Chemical Education</i>

In subsequent years, E. J. Crane, Editor of *Chemical Abstracts*, also continued to serve as an *ex officio* member.

All the Officers and Councilors of the Division for

the years 1949-1993 are listed in **Appendix 2** (page 89) and **Appendix 3** (page 90), respectively.

In 1950, the following Committees were operational:

Bulletin Committee (Ben H. Weil, chairman)
 Program Committee (James W. Perry, chairman)
 Membership Committee (Leona E. Straka, chairman)
 Committee on Spanish and Portuguese Chemical Literature (Wallace R. Brode, chairman)

On September 5, 1950, the Executive Committee proposed a resolution, subsequently approved by the membership, to oppose the holding of Divided ACS National Meetings. It was pointed out that the majority of Division members had considerable interest in one or more industrial fields of chemistry and that the needs of the members would not be satisfied by a divided meeting. It was obvious that other Divisions would not participate fully in the divided meetings.

The 1951 roster of Committees included:

Nomination Committee (Mary Alexander, chairman)
 Committee on Improvements of Papers (Tibor E. R. Singer, chairman)

In the June 1951 issue of *Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*, Julian F. Smith presented a brief history of the Chemical Literature Group and of the first two years of the Division in a paper on "Chemical Literature" [Ref. 2].

In the Fall 1951 issue of *Chemical Literature*, the first Directory of Members and Associates was published (606 names) with a supplement (125 names) in the following issue.

In a paper on "The Story of the Division of Chemical Literature of the American Chemical Society" [Ref. 4], presented as part of the symposium on "Operation Knowledge" at the national meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Philadelphia on December 30, 1951, the Divisional Chairman James W. Perry gave one of the best descriptions of the varied role of the literature chemist:

"During recent years, many a research and development teams has included, as one of its members, a fully qualified chemist who works, not in the laboratory, but in the library. Such a chemist - sometimes referred to as a literature chemist - contributes to the accomplishment of a research program in a variety of ways. He prepares reports which serve as a basis for planning research programs. He aids in guiding research and development by scanning the literature. He assists in attaining



Meeting of chemists engaged in the development of chemical structure techniques at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1951. Front row: Eugene W. Scott, Harriet A. Geer, Alice Perry, Madeline M. Berry (Henderson), unidentified. Second row: Ernest H. Huntress, Karl F. Heumann, William J. Wiswesser, Friedrich Richter, Charles L. Bernier, Howard S. Nutting. Third row: Pieter Verkade, G. Malcolm Dyson, James W. Perry, Austin M. Patterson, unidentified, Paul Arthur, Jr., Erich Pietsch, Franz Leiss.

sound patent protection for inventions. He suggests possible uses for new products. He assists the sales department in preparing advertising material. He locates market data needed for intelligent planning of installation or expansion of production facilities.”

In 1952, Kathleen Bannister was appointed Assistant Secretary to maintain a unified membership list. Earlier, the McBee Company provided one thousand 5" x 8" Keysort Cards for the membership file.

In the same year, two additional Committees were formed:

Bylaws Revision Committee (Robert S. Casey, chairman)
Publications Committee (E. J. Crane, chairman)

and a third Committee under the chairmanship of Ben H. Weil studied grouping members by specific subject interests. The Executive Committee made many attempts to identify potential Division members and their specific interests. At the 119th ACS National Meeting in Boston in April 1951, a panel (Tibor E. R. Singer, moderator) attempted to define the boundaries between the “literature chemist” and the “chemical librarian”.

A 1951 survey identified the following fields starting with the highest activity and interest:

- searching of literature

- presentation of data
- abstracting and reviewing literature and patents
- classifying, indexing, and coding
- chemical terminology
- mechanical aids in documentation
- information and literature services
- foreign languages
- reproduction of data

Julian F. Smith, the 1952 Divisional Chairman, identified librarians, literature searchers, abstractors, indexers, translators, classifiers, punch card experts, and documentalists as potential members.

In his message, Robert S. Casey, the 1953 Divisional Chairman, commented with respect to future programs:

“I hope we may emphasize the fact that the techniques of chemical literature are used not only by full-time workers in this field, but are needed also by the *practicing chemist*, who may be working in the laboratory, field, classroom, or executive office. He must, at least occasionally, do a little searching; he must collect, organize, store, and retrieve his data; and, eventually, he must communicate his results and conclusions. We should have at least several hundred more members of the above category.”

The 1953 roster consisted of 854 members, 174 of whom were associates. That year also saw the revision of the Divisional Bylaws, subsequently approved by the

ACS Council, which simplified procedures, eliminated numerous complications, and clarified the distinction between members and associates.

In 1954, two new Committees emerged:

Finance Committee (Madeline M. Berry, chairman)
Public Relations Committee (Edward E. Thorp, chairman)

In April 1955, the Division mourned the passing of Gustav Egloff. An internationally renowned petroleum scientist, he was one of the founders of and active contributor to the Chemical Literature Group and the Division.

By a striking and unfortunate coincidence, his close collaborator of 16 years, Mary L. Alexander, passed away at the age of 38 just two months later in June 1955. She was also very active in the Division as a Member-at-Large of the Executive Committee in the period 1949-1954 and a contributor to the technical program.

Due to the demise of the ACS Committee on Scientific Aids to Literature, Allen Kent and Herman Skolnik prepared a report recommending formation of a new Divisional Committee. This was formally approved in April 1956 as

Committee on Aids to Chemical Documentation
(Allen Kent, chairman).

The Committee had its first open meeting at the 130th ACS National Meeting in Atlantic City in September 1956 to give individual ACS members a chance to discuss their documentation needs. At that meeting, Hanna Friedenstein presented to the Executive Committee the first draft of a "Procedures Manual for Officers of the Division of Chemical Literature".

Also formed in 1956 were:

Committee on Translation Pool (Eric I. Hoegberg, chairman)
Committee on Preprint Photocopies (Ben H. Weil, chairman)

In 1957, the membership passed the 1000-mark. John H. Fletcher, the Divisional Chairman, said in his message:

"I think you will agree that the Division of Chemical Literature has indeed "come of age". We have made tremendous progress and growth. The field of chemical literature has gained well-deserved recognition as an integral and important part of the chemical profession."

The 1958 roster of Committees included several interim Committees:

Bibliographies of Bibliographies (Fred J. Bassett, chairman)
Journal Study (Herman Skolnik, chairman), which evolved in the same year into the Publications Committee (Herman Skolnik, chairman)
Papers Review (Gerald Jahoda, chairman)
Revision of "Titles of Papers" (Robert A. Chisholm and Richard A. Hazen)

In that year, further revision of the Bylaws took place resulting in the elimination of appointments of Councilors and Alternate Councilors by the Executive Committee. Henceforth, Councilors and Alternate Councilors were elected like all other Divisional Officers. The revision also eliminated Members-at-Large from the Executive Committee. It also provided continuity as well as vitality to other Committees by limiting appointments to a specified term and by allowing for regular turnover of members with appropriate rotation.

On January 16, 1959, Ben H. Weil coordinated a Division-sponsored visit to Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) for editors of chemical-company abstracts bulletins. A tour was conducted of the CAS building on The Ohio State University campus. In September 1959, the ACS Board of Directors approved a new journal on chemical documentation. Patient negotiations and cooperation on the part of many people were guided by Herman Skolnik. The Division had long sought to find a medium for publication of worthwhile chemical documentation papers, particularly those presented at its own meetings.

In 1959 a new Committee was established:

Committee on Instruction in Chemical Literature
(Melvin G. Mellon, chairman).

It was to serve for a few years as a joint Committee of the Division and the Division of Chemical Education.

The 1961 Divisional Chairman, Herman Skolnik, described chemical documentation as a discipline of chemistry still in the throes of growing toward maturity. In a scientific discipline, he characterized this by three conditions:

- a continuing tradition of responsible authorities
- a technical literature
- an educational curriculum

He further elaborated that the Division had become a forum for a continuing tradition. The *Journal of Chemical Documentation* became a reality

in 1961, fulfilling the second condition. The third condition remained to be met.

In 1961, the Executive Committee began recognizing Divisional past-chairmen by presenting them with an ACS lapel button "PAST CHAIRMAN". This tradition was made retroactive to 1950 and continues to this day.

In 1962 two new Committees were authorized:

Committee on Awards and Recognition (Robert J. Kyle, chairman)

Committee on Section Liaison (Fred A. Tate, chairman)

A Bylaw change was initiated to include the Editor of the *Journal of Chemical Documentation* as an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee. While it was recognized that the journal was not a Divisional publication, the journal still would be the outlet for most papers presented before the Division.

The 1962 Divisional roster had 1,081 members.

Over the years, a number of Committees were established, some changed names, and others disappeared or became inactive. Therefore, it would be useful to have a snapshot of a total picture in one year, e.g., in 1963:

Committees and their chairmen:

Awards and Recognition Bulletin	Robert J. Kyle
Bylaws	Virginia Valeri
Chemical Documentation	Gerald Jahoda
Instruction in Chemical Literature	Helen F. Ginsberg
Members Activities and Interests	Waldemar T. Ziegler
Membership	Robert J. Kyle
Nominations	James G. Van Oot
Photocopy Service	Howard T. Bonnett
Procedures Manual	Eugene Garfield
Program	Ben H. Weil
Publications	Carleton C. Conrad
Section Liaison	Herman Skolnik
Titles of Papers	Fred A. Tate
Translations	George F. Lewenz
	Kurt Gingold

In 1963, several projects were explored, including:

- incorporation of Division (for which no action was ever taken)
- representation of Division in the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Section on Information and Communication
- cooperation with Chemical Abstracts Service

(CAS) on CAS better serving Divisional interests and needs

In 1964, the AAAS officially approved the Division's application to become affiliated with AAAS, Section T - Information and Communication. This entitled the Division to one representative on the AAAS Council. Ben H. Weil was appointed as Divisional representative. He wrote an article on the Division which was published in the March 13, 1964, issue of *Science* [Ref. 8]. This association lasted till 1968, when it was concluded to be no longer beneficial.

In 1966, the Division was selected by the ACS Washington Office to serve in a pilot project. Its objective was to determine what automated services the Society could furnish its Divisions, e.g., printouts for a divisional directory, mailing labels for divisional bulletins, addressed envelopes for ballots, etc.

The Spring 1967 issue of *Chemical Literature* included an obituary for one of the most active members of the Division since 1950. Tibor E. R. Singer, passed away in December 1966. He served long and well on the Program Committee, presented many papers, and organized several symposia.

At the 155th ACS National Meeting in San Francisco in April 1968, a suggestion was recorded that the Division's name be changed to "Division of Chemical Information" or "Division of Chemical Documentation".

In 1968 a Liaison Representative (Robert E. Maizell) to the American Society for Information Science (ASIS) was appointed. Also, a new Committee was established:

Long Range Planning Committee (Peter F. Sorter, chairman).

This Committee as such lasted only about a year and in 1970 was converted into a permanent Program Committee which was authorized by a 1969 Bylaw change. That, in turn, freed the Divisional Chairman and Chairman-Elect from the primary responsibility of program planning.

In 1971, a Long Range Planning Committee under the chairmanship of James E. Rush was reestablished to plan for the future on an orderly basis. The Divisional Councilor, Carlos M. Bowman, was appointed to the ACS Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC). Also, two new Committees were formed:

Committee on Audio-Visual Matters (renamed Continuing Education Committee in the same year) (Margaret H. Graham, chairman)

Committee on Public and Professional Relations (Bernard S. Schlessinger, chairman)

The Division conducted a salary survey of its members, a "first" for the Division.

A 1972 report by the Long Range Planning Committee, chaired then by Judy E. Davis, included recommendations such as:

- Divisional meetings should be directed at management level people as well as those doing original work
- local meetings should receive more attention
- conference-type and joint meetings with other societies should be encouraged
- consideration should be given to "what the Division does for its members"

The Division reestablished liaison with both the ASIS and the Special Libraries Association (SLA). Steps had been initiated to have "chemical information specialists" recognized as a job category in the ACS Employment Clearinghouse.

In the Fall of 1972 the Division mailed a questionnaire to the members trying to find out what activities had been considered as most useful and to solicit suggestions for the future. The results were tabulated and published in the Spring 1975 issue of *Chemical Literature*.

When in 1973 Peter Lykos initiated action to form a new ACS division, Division of Computers in Chemistry, James E. Rush contacted him and proposed that the new group join the already established Division of Chemical Literature to form a single division of broader scope, larger membership, and greater strength.

The new group, however, applied for independent recognition. The ACS Council in April 1974 approved the Division of Computers in Chemistry on a probationary basis. Full Divisional status was granted two years later.

The Division of Chemical Literature recognized that the new Division would include a broad coverage of computer activities such as simulation, modeling, computer-assisted instruction, and management; yet it noted potential overlap in, for instance, information storage and retrieval, especially online. Our Division decided to monitor the new Division's papers and foresaw future joint meetings and cooperative programming.

Discussion ensued about a new name for the Division. The three final candidate names were:

Division of Chemical Information
Division of Chemical Information Science
Division of Information Science in Chemistry

Finally, "Division of Chemical Information" was chosen as the new name. It was approved by the ACS Council on April 9, 1975, at the 169th ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia. At that time, the Division had 918 members and 134 affiliates for a total membership of 1052.

3. Symposia and Sessions at the ACS National Meetings, 1949-1975

The Beginning and the Early Years

The Division's first technical sessions were held at the 115th ACS National Meeting in San Francisco in March 1949. Three symposia were presented:

- The University Library as an Aid to Scientific Work (4 papers, Norman C. Hill, presiding)
- Literature Sources of Information on Western Chemical and Process Industries (3 papers, John Callahan, presiding)
- Trends in Indexing, Classifying, and Utilizing Chemical Literature (8 papers, James W. Perry, presiding)

The third symposium almost exclusively dealt with the experiments on the use of punched cards. One sorting machine was described that could sort cards with then amazing speed of 20,000 cards per hour.

The first meal sponsored by the Division was a luncheon attended by 43 people on March 29, 1949. At this event, G. Malcolm Dyson of Loughborough, England, the inventor of the Dyson chemical notation and later Director of Research at Chemical Abstracts Service, was the guest of honor. He congratulated the Society on the formation of the Division of Chemical Literature, stating he knew of no other chemical organization in the world which had recognized the broad importance of documentation by forming such a division.

From bibliographies of Divisional papers published in 1954 for the period 1943-1953, and in 1967 for the period 1943-1964, data can be derived on a total number of papers presented in those early days, as well as on who of the members were most active. The following summaries provide that information.

In the period 1943-1953 (including meetings of the Chemical Literature Group), 470 papers were delivered and the most prominent and prolific authors were: