EDITOR'S COMMENTS

As you can see from this newsletter, this is your news corner. Many spectroscopy events are happening in 1996 and some are highlighted in this issue of the newsletter. You are welcome to contribute articles and comments for those items or events that you wish to broadcast. The next due date for newsletter submissions is May 1st for the August issue. Regardless of the number of contributions we will always be printing the events and progress of the Society so that you can keep in touch with the board members and officers. Newsletter request can be mailed directly to the newsletter editor as noted in the officer section at the end. Be sure to look for the Coblentz Society Newsletter in every February and August issue of Applied Spectroscopy.

Kathy Kalasinsky

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The Presidency has changed once more. I am John Bertie, your new President, who owes a large debt of gratitude to immediate Past-President Larry Nafie for his help in getting used to the task of leading the Coblentz Society.

In fact, the Coblentz Society needs little leading because its committee structure, and the excellent people who chair its committees, keep it working. The list of board members and officers is attached to the end of the newsletter, and I want to tell you all how much we owe the people on that list. We have added two people to the list in the past six months, our two new board members, Fran Adar of Instruments SA and Terry Gustafson of The Ohio State University. Welcome to the Board, Fran and Terry, and thank you for donating your time to the Society.

The regular activities of the Society have continued since the last message from the President. Excellent symposia were held at PITTCON to honor Michael Philpott, the 1995 Williams-Wright Award winner, and Terry Miller, the 1995 Bomem-Michelson Award winner. The regular Wine and Cheese Reception followed the Williams-Wright Symposium and gave us all a chance to renew old friendships. And then in Columbus, Ohio, in June, David Rakestraw received the Coblentz Award and gave an exciting award lecture on the opening morning of the 50th International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy.
David has generously donated the monetary part of his award to his undergraduate institution, Ohio Northern University.

The winners of the 1996 Williams–Wright Award and Bomem–Michelson Awards have been determined. Robert G. Messerschmidt of Rio Grande Medical Technologies and CIC Photonics, Inc., both in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is the very worthy winner of the Williams–Wright Award. He will present his award lecture at the start of the Williams–Wright Award Symposium at PITTCON in Chicago, Illinois, in March 1996. The symposium will focus on the infrared microscope. Richard Palmer is organizing the symposium and has arranged a very strong cast of speakers—namely, John Reffner, Neil Lewis, Jack Koenig, and Carl Zimba—to honor Bob Messerschmidt.

The 1996 Bomem–Michelson Award has been deservedly won by Ira Levine of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland. Ira won a very stiff competition and will receive his award from Henry Buijs of Bomem at the start of the Bomem–Michelson Award Symposium at PITTCON in Chicago, Illinois, in March 1996. John Hellgeth has arranged the Award Symposium, and the speakers honoring Ira are Bruce Chase, John Rabolt, Peter Griffiths, and Bill Harris. The Symposium will be chaired by Bill Fateley.

Thank you Richard Palmer and John Hellgeth and the members of your Williams–Wright and Bomem–Michelson Selection Committees for all your work in selecting such outstanding winners and organizing the symposia.

One of the Coblenz Society’s most important activities is its program of student awards. This year 11 students earned these awards. They are Bradley Bricknell of the University of Natal, South Africa; Dennis Clark of Towsen State University; Marshall Crew of Oregon State University; Saadia Eltayeb of the University of South Carolina; Sonja Fendel of the University of Essen, Germany; Robyn Goldberg of the State University of New York, Farmingdale; Frank Huang of the University of California, Los Angeles; Elisabeth Larsen of Central Michigan University; Edward Orr of Kansas State University; Aditi Paul of NYS College of Ceramics, Alfred University; and Xinhua Qu of Syracuse University. Our sincere congratulations go to all these students.

For many years, one of the much appreciated features of the International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy in Columbus each June has been the Coblenz Beer Bash. This event has always offered a very relaxed way to spend a couple of hours on Tuesday evening in congenial surroundings, with that lack of formality that spectroscopists highly value. In June 1995, the Beer Bash assumed a new role. At Terry Miller’s request we moved it to Wednesday, to coincide with an evening plenary session and to precede the picnic which replaced the banquet. The plenary session was intended to feature an exchange of ideas. Naturally, the refreshments provided by the Coblenz Society increased people’s willingness to share their ideas, and the plenary session was greatly enhanced. People were put into a receptive frame of mind for the picnic, and the discussions strengthened as the evening proceeded. We are thinking of repeating the Wednesday time for the Beer Bash in 1996, again just before the picnic, and we welcome your responses to this change, whether they be approving or critical.

We have made a change to the newsletter that should benefit our members. Hitherto, those who are members of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy did not receive the newsletter through the mail, on the grounds that they saw it in Applied Spectroscopy, where it is also published. We plan to use the newsletter as the sole means to solicit nominations for our awards in the future, and we want to make sure that nobody misses the invitations to nominate because they do not read sufficiently far towards the back of Applied Spectroscopy. Accordingly, each edition of the newsletter will be sent to all members in the future. If you do not receive a copy, please let Kathy Kalasinsky know.

One final point, and a very important one. The terms that Richard Palmer and I are serving as board members expire at the Annual General Meeting at PITTCON in March. I stay on as President until 1997, but both of us must be replaced on the board. Your suggestions for potential board members are important to us. In fact, the board’s composition changes very rapidly, with two of the eight board members being replaced each year. Thus, your Society’s direction changes rather rapidly, and new ideas for change may well be the policy of the Society in a few years. If you wish to recommend someone for membership of the board, please do not hesitate to send me their resume and credentials so that they can be considered for a place on the annual ballot.

JOHN E. BERTIE
PRESIDENT

OHIO STATE SYMPOSIUM CELEBRATES 50TH MEETING

Columbus was the place to be the week of June 12–16, as the annual Ohio State University International Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy met for the 50th consecutive time.

The conference showed all the signs of vigorous health. A record 473 papers were presented, despite many last-minute cancellations from the former Soviet Union due to the unfortunate suspension of the International Science Foundation travel grant program. The attendance of about 600 was the biggest turnout in 15 years. Special sessions
were held on Fourier transform spectroscopy and photoionization spectroscopy, and Frank Delucia organized a symposium in honor of Walter Gordy. Whatever funding difficulties we face in these parlous times, one couldn’t attend this meeting without feeling that molecular spectroscopy is a fertile and thriving discipline.

The Coblentz Society had a conspicuous presence, starting at the opening session with John Bertie’s presentation of the Coblentz Award to David Rakestraw of Sandia/Livermore for his work in degenerate four-wave mixing spectroscopy. The Society also sponsored the traditional beer party, scheduled this year as a prelude to Wednesday evening’s picnic. Well refreshed, we were then entertained by a potpourri of spectroscopic reminiscences and amusements, hosted with his usual panache by Jon Hougen.

Wednesday was devoted to plenary sessions, with talks by Nobel laureates Dudley Herschbach, Yuan Lee, John Polyani, George Porter, Norman Ramsey, Charles Townes, and Kenneth Wilson, all of whom have worked in or been strongly influenced by molecular spectroscopy. Gerhard Herzberg was also scheduled but had to change his plans, to everyone’s regret. Neal Lane of NSF and Gerald Iafrate of the Army Office of Research represented funding agencies that have been major sponsors of the field.

Terry Miller and the organizers are to be congratulated on so successfully continuing the level of excellence established by Harald Nielsen and Narahari Rao. They even seem to have the weather under control of late. And the features of this symposium that really matter—the rewarding personal interactions, the late-night discussions, the first talks by slightly nervous graduate students, the doughnuts—look like they’re set to continue for another 50 years.

ROD MCDOWELL

COBLENTZ AWARD NEWS RELEASE

The Coblentz Society is pleased to announce that the winner of the Coblentz Award for 1996 is Dr. Xiaoliang Sunney Xie of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Richland, Washington. The award recognizes outstanding achievement by a young molecular spectroscopist under the age of 36. Dr. Xie earned the award for his use of near-infrared microscopy to study the spectroscopy and dynamical behavior of single molecules and for his developing use of infrared nonlinear optical methods on the femtosecond time scale to study structural problems and molecular interactions and dynamics in water and other liquid. The award presentation, followed by Dr. Xie’s Award Lecture, will be presented at The Ohio State Symposium on Molecular Spectroscopy in June 1996.

COBLENTZ SOCIETY INFRARED DATABASES

The Coblentz Society is well known for providing high-quality reference spectrum libraries. We are still working to expand the database and to extend its contents to include more polymers, surfactants, fibers, and commercially important mixtures. An increased effort to provide larger digital files for direct computer searching and other manipulation is underway.

We are also in the process of providing more flexibility for our existing database by putting it into a digital form for computerized use. In keeping with the Coblentz Society’s Board of Managers’ long-standing belief that de-convolved spectra, and spectra that are only qualitative, lack the full usefulness of well-resolved and quantitative spectra for many materials, we will continue to sell the hard copy spectra in book or loose-leaf format to supplement the digital files. [Fax (314)358-2589 for a complete price list and order form.]

At this time digital spectra are available for Perkin–Elmer and Analtec instruments. These are 1200 spectra selected from 5000 spectra in our NSRDS evaluated files. The Perkin–Elmer file is PE designation N187-0027. Perkin–Elmer also markets a searchable peak library that covers spectra in three of the Society’s books: The Desk Book, Plasticizers and Other Additives, and Halogenated Hydrocarbons. The PE designation for this file is SP LIB. The 1200 digital spectra are also available for Analtec instruments ordered directly from the Society at P.O. Box 9952, Kirkwood, MO 63122, or by the above fax number.

Additional digital spectra are in process for these instrument files and for PC use ASCII or JCAMD.DX file format. Growth of the digitized database depends in large part upon contributions from infrared users like you. Contact Kathy Kalasinsky or Clara Craver to volunteer to help the Society in its leadership role in IR reference data.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

The 2nd International Symposium on Advanced Infrared Spectroscopy, AIRS II, will be held June 17–19, 1996, on the campus of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. This conference is sponsored by Duke University, the Coblentz Society, and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. The symposium will focus primarily on dynamic techniques of Fourier transform spectroscopy as well as other emerging techniques of vibrational spectroscopy using infrared radiation. Some of the topics to be included are step-scan FT-IR; continuous-scan FT-IR synchronous asynchronous time-domain spectroscopy; 2D IR; 2D FT-IR; infrared laser diode time-domain spec-
troscopy; synchrotron and free electron laser infrared spectroscopy; multidimensional real-time IR spectral imaging; and development of these techniques and their application to material of all sorts. For more information about AIRS II, contact:

Professor Richard A. Palmer  
Department of Chemistry  
Duke University  
Box 90346  
Durham, NC 27708-0346

The XVth International Conference on Raman Spectroscopy, ICORS, will be held August 11–16, 1996, at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The preliminary technical program includes Raman spectroscopy, advanced materials, molecular structure and dynamics, biological applications, and emerging technologies. For more information contact:

Professor Sanford Asher  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

The XXIIIrd European Congress on Molecular Spectroscopy, EUCMOS, will be held August 25–30, 1996, in Balatonfured at the Lake Balaton, Hungary. The congress will cover all methods and applications of molecular spectroscopy, from theory to problem solving. Its purpose is to catalyze international cooperation and exchange of ideas. Plenary lectures will deal with new developments and topics of general interest. Poster sessions and workshops with contributed papers provide the opportunity to present and discuss new results. Some of the key topics include industrial, medical, biological, health, and environmental issues; vibrational and rotational spectroscopies; electron spectroscopy; NMR spectroscopy; mass spectroscopy; sensors, remote spectroscopy, and astrophysics; time resolution, transients, and relaxation; temperature, pressure, order, and phase effects; surfaces, interfaces, space resolution, nanostructures, microscopy mapping, and tomography; polymers, macromolecules, molecular electronics, and semi- and superconductors; theoretical approaches, structure interactions, and modeling; resonance and nonlinear phenomena; and new techniques. Further information can be obtained from:

Prof. Dr. Janos Mink  
University of Veszprem  
Department of Analytical Chemistry  
H-8201 Veszprem, P.O. Box 158  
Hungary

The Eleventh International Conference on Fourier Transform Spectroscopy, ICOFTS-11, will be held in Athens, Georgia, August 10–15, 1997. This conference is sponsored by the Coblentz Society. The scientific program will consist of invited plenary lectures combined with daily contributed poster sessions. As in past conferences with the ICOFTS series, the scientific program will reflect a strong interdisciplinary emphasis involving the development and applications of Fourier transform spectroscopy. Contributed papers are invited in all area of Fourier transform spectroscopy. Additional information can be obtained from:

Professor James A. de Haseth  
General Chairman, ICOFTS-11  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Georgia  
Athens, GA 30602-2556

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

The Coblentz Society requests nominations for the prestigious awards it supports:

1997 Coblentz Award. The Coblentz Award is presented annually to an outstanding young molecular spectroscopist under the age of 36. (The candidate must be under the age of 36 on January 1 of the year of the award.) Previous recipients of this award are: John Overend (1964); William Fateley/Robert Snyder (1965); Edwin Becker (1966); Peter Krueger (1967); Jon Hougen (1968); James Durig (1969); Guiseppe Zerbi (1970); Clive Perry (1971); George Leroi (1972); C. Bradley Moore (1973); C. K. N. Patel (1974); Bernard J. Bulkin (1975); Geoffrey Ozin/George Thomas, Jr. (1976); Peter Griffiths (1977); Lester Andrews (1978); Lionel Carreira (1979); Richard Van Duyne (1980); Laurence Nafie (1981); Christopher Patterson (1982); Dave Cameron (1983); Steve Leone (1984); John Rabolt/Graham Fleming (1985); Joel Harris (1986); Alan Campion (1987); Keith Nelson (1988); Geri Richmond (1989); Hai-Lung Dai (1990); Paul Bohn (1991); Tom Rizzo (1992); Peter Felker (1993); Paul Alivisatos (1994); David J. Rakestraw (1995); and Xiaoliang Sunney Xie (1996).

The award carries with it a $1000 prize plus a $500 travel allowance. Files of candidates will be kept active until the date of age eligibility is exceeded. Annual updates of files of candidates are encouraged.

Nominations, which should include a detailed description of the nominee’s accomplishments, a curriculum vitae, and as many supporting letters as possible, must be submitted on or before July 1, 1996, to the award chairman: Dr. A. Paul Alivisatos, Department of Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, U.S.A., Ph: (510) 643-7371, Fax (510) 642-9675, E-mail ALIVIS@GARNET.BERKELEY.EDU.

1997 Williams-Wright Award. This award is presented annually at the Pittsburgh Conference to industrial spectroscopist who has made significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy while working in industry. The work may include infrared and/or Raman spectroscopy and instrumental development as well as theory and applications of vibrational spectroscopy. (Government labs are not considered industry in this definition.) No restrictions are placed on the selection of the awardee because of age, sex, or nationality but the awardee must still be working at the time the award is presented. The nominating document should clearly state the significance of the contribution made by the nominee, i.e., the introduction of novel methods, techniques or theories; innovative work in the field of vibrational spectroscopy; significant vibrational spectroscopy arising from the volume of contributions in a specific area. The nomination should include a current vitae on the nominee and highlight any publications and talks. Seconding letters to the nomination are useful, but not necessary. Files on nominees will be kept active for three years, after which the candidate
must either be renominated with an updated file, or the file will be closed.


This award includes a $1000 cash prize plus a travel allowance to the Pittsburgh Conference. Nominations should be sent to the chairman of the William–Wright Award Selection Committee: Dr. Richard Palmer, Department of Chemistry, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706. Ph: (919)660-5159, Fax (919)660-1605. Deadline: January 31, 1996.

1997 Bomem–Michelson Award. This award is dedicated to the memory of Professor A. E. Michelson, developer of the Michelson interferometer. Bomem sponsors the award to honor scientists who have advanced the technique(s) of vibrational, molecular, Raman, or electronic spectroscopy. Contributions may be theoretical or experimental or both. The recipient must be actively working and may be associated with the academic, industrial, government, or private sector. The awardee must be 37 years or older. The award consists of a medal and an honorarium. Files on nominees will be kept active for three years, after which either the candidate must be renominated with an updated file or the file will be closed. The presentation will be made at the Pittsburgh Conference in March 1997.


In order to assure that the award is based on an independent evaluation of the candidate’s performance, the selection is made by a committee chosen by the Coblentz Society. A nominating letter and seconding letters should be sent to Dr. John Hellgath, Spectra-Tech, Inc., 2 Research Drive, Shelton, CT 06484. Ph: (203)926-8998. The candidate’s C.V. should be included as well as specific research efforts which make the candidate eligible for this award. Nominations will close January 31, 1996.

1996 Ellis R. Lippincott Award. The purpose of the Ellis R. Lippincott Award is to honor Dr. Lippincott’s memory by the recognition of significant contributions and notable achievements in the field of vibrational spectroscopy. The medal is sponsored jointly by the Coblentz Society, the Optical Society of America, and the Society for Applied Spectroscopy. It is awarded annually at an appropriate scientific meeting. The award consists of the medal and travel allowances to the meeting. The awardee will present an address related to contributions for which he/she is being honored. In addition there may be a symposium of talks by invited speakers.

Recipients of the medal must have made significant contributions to vibrational spectroscopy as judged by their influence on other scientists. Because innovation was a hallmark of the work of Ellis R. Lippincott, this quality in the contributions of the candidates will be carefully appraised. The contributions may be theoretical or experimental or both, and may have been made in the course of applied as well as basic research.

No restriction is placed on citizenship or national origin of candidates. A candidate need not be a member of any of the sponsoring societies. The award will not be made posthumously unless an awardee should die after the procedure of selection has been completed.


Nominations should include the name and affiliation of the nominee and sufficient background information to justify the nomination. A nominator is expected to believe strongly enough in the quality of the work of his or her candidate to provide evidence for that belief. No restriction is placed on who may nominate, and all nominations received by the committee prior to May 1 in any given year will be considered for the award to be presented in the fall of that year or spring of the following year. Files on nominees are kept active for three years, after which the candidate must be renominated with an updated file, or the file will be closed. Nominations should be submitted to: Chairman, Lippincott Award Selection Committee, % Optical Society of America, 2010 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Ph: (202)416-1403, Fax (202)416-6130.

SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership. Anyone wishing to join the Society may do so by sending $10 to Dr. James A. de Haseth, Coblentz
Society Membership Chairman, Department of Chemistry, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602.

Board Meeting. The Coblentz Society Board will hold its semi-annual meeting Monday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Pittsburgh Conference in Atlanta. Any article of business that you want the Board members to consider needs to be sent in writing to Dr. John Bertie, Coblentz Society President, Department of Chemistry, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB T6G 2G2, Canada, prior to the conference.

Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of the Coblentz membership will be held prior to the Williams-Wright Symposium Tuesday Morning, 8:30 a.m., at the Pittsburgh Conference. Be sure to attend, since the general business of the Society will be conducted.

Wine & Cheese. The Coblentz Society wine and cheese reception will be held on Tuesday, at 12:15 p.m., following the Williams-Wright Symposium at the Pittsburgh Conference in Atlanta.

**COBLENTZ SOCIETY OFFICERS**

President:
Dr. John E. Bertie
Department of Chemistry
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2G2
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(403)492-3560

Secretary:
Dr. David Schiering
Spectra-Tech, Inc.
2 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484
(203)926-8998

Treasurer:
Dr. Bruce Chase
C&RD 328/131A
Experimental Station
E. I. du Pont
Wilmington, DE 19898-0328
(302)695-4434

Immediate Past President:
Dr. Laurence A. Nafie
Department of Chemistry
1-014 Center for Science & Tech.
Syracuse University
Syracuse, NY 13244-4100
(315)443-4109

**COBLENTZ SOCIETY BOARD**

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<td>Dr. Donald Kuehl</td>
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<td>Dr. Robin Garrell</td>
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<td>Dr. Fran Adar</td>
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<td>Dr. Terry Gustafson</td>
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