In past issues of *Boltonia* there have been numerous references to Henry Carrington Bolton’s activities at the 1874 Northumberland meeting at Priestley House (*Boltonia, issues 1,2,3*). There has also been much discussion about Bolton’s book collection (*Boltonia, issues 8,9*). Surprisingly, there have been no references to Bolton’s Priestley Memorial Scrapbook of the 1874 meeting; a one of a kind item. On the other hand, Jim Bohning, our late friend and *Boltonia* editor had made mention of this scrapbook on several occasions. I was interested in the scrapbook since I was working on a paper on postal history and the Priestley House.

On a recent visit to Washington, I had several free hours before my train departed, so I made my way to the Rare Books/Special Collections Reading Room (Jefferson LJ239) and in no time I had item QD22.P8B6, the Priestley Memorial Scrapbook, in front of me. Created by Bolton in 1875, the book was not what I had expected. The book was the size of a typical book, not the large scrapbooks that we are familiar with today. Furthermore, after 136 years, the book was in excellent condition; the newspaper clippings clear with little discoloration, due to the higher rag content of the paper.

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I carefully went through each page of the book and found it to be a fascinating read. The book, containing numerous news clippings, letters, copies of the presented speeches, autographs and photographs was put together with meticulous care and described every aspect of this historic meeting. The book was a gift to the Library of Congress by Mrs. H. C. Bolton in 1912. The inside cover contained Bolton’s bookplate (1)(2).

The letters included one from Rachel Bodley, of the Women’s Medical College of Pennsylvania (now the Medical College of Pennsylvania), who had first suggested Northumberland as the meeting place, and further suggested that the meeting take place in the church built by Priestley where his apparatus might be exhibited. A letter to Bolton from Joseph Priestley, MD, chair of the local committee and Priestley’s great grandson indicated that “it (Northumberland) is eminently the place to hold the celebration.” A letter from Ira Remsen to Charles Chandler, meeting chairman, suggested speakers and titles of addresses. Letters of regret included one from John W. Draper, who within two years would be the first president of the American Chemical Society. Not all were in favor of Northumberland as a meeting site. A letter from James C. Booth of the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia (ACS President in 1883) stated that “…the successful association of numbers can only be obtained by meeting in one of the larger cities.”
Today we know the difficulty of getting press coverage of a meeting in chemistry, especially in the larger cities. Not so in 1874; before and after the meeting there was extensive press coverage. The New York Tribune referred to the upcoming meeting as “Chemistry’s Centennial.” Notices of the upcoming meeting appeared in journals now long gone, such as the American Gaslight Journal, the Engineering and Mining Journal, the Proceedings of the New York Lyceum of Natural History, the Journal of Applied Chemistry, Humphrey’s Druggist, and The American Chemist, which contained the original circular for the meeting. An interesting article appeared in the July 25, 1874, issue of the Public Press of Northumberland, that “the centenary meeting of chemists in honor of the discovery of oxygen by Scheele in Sweden and Dr. Priestley in England, to take place...” The next day there was a blistering response from Joseph Priestley, M.D. saying that the announcement was “false and unauthorized, not to commemorate the memory of Scheele but Priestley, the first known discoverer of oxygen.”

Bolton called for the meeting to take place on July 31 – August 1, 1974, in Northumberland. The scrapbook included directions to Northumberland by train via the Central Railroad of New Jersey, the Easton and Reading, the Pennsylvania or the Delaware Lackawanna and Western railroads (all now long gone) depending on one’s point of departure. The meeting itself received extensive coverage as well; the New York Tribune contained stories on August 1, 3 and 4 and continued with extensive coverage in September 1874. The Druggists Circular and Chemical Gazette listed every attendee at the “Centennial of Chemistry.”
Bolton obtained autographs of many scientists who attended the meeting and carefully cut and pasted them into his scrapbook. The scrapbook included the “Proceedings at the Centennial of Chemistry, August 1, 1874, Northumberland Pennsylvania”, reprinted from the August, September, and December 1874 issues of the American Chemist. A highlight of the scrapbook was an original set of photographs taken at the meeting by Professor Louis H. Landy of the Columbia College School of Mines. The 12 photographs are described in the American Chemist (3) and are the earliest photographic reminiscences of any meeting of American Chemists (4).

The scrapbook ends with notice of Dr. Joseph Priestley’s (M.D.) death on March 16, 1883. The notice indicated that he was the great grandson of Joseph Priestley, was born on September 22, 1819. His father was Joseph R. Priestley, who died in 1863.

It is fortunate that Bolton took the time and effort to document this historic meeting and that it has been preserved for posterity.

John B. Sharkey

In June of 2011, I had the privilege of sitting down with my dear friend Foil Miller for an oral history. This was a follow-up to an oral history with Arnold Thackray, of the Chemical Heritage Foundation, in 2001. As part of my visit with Foil, then 95 years old, I was treated to a boat tour of Chicago, with Foil and his son Bruce, who lives nearby.

Foil A. Miller was born in Aurora, Illinois, on January 18, 1916, but was raised in Pepin, Wisconsin, the only brother of five sisters. It was a village of about 500 people, with only seven students in his high school graduating class. After undergraduate work at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, and a year of graduate work at the University of Nebraska, Foil transferred to Johns Hopkins University and obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry as Prof. Richard Lord’s first graduate student.

Following an NRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Minnesota with Prof. Bryce Crawford, he taught for four years at the University of Illinois. In 1948 he moved to Pittsburgh and joined the staff of the Mellon Institute as Head of its Spectroscopy Division. He later became a Senior Fellow in Independent Research. In 1967 he joined the University of Pittsburgh as University Professor of Chemistry and Head of the Spectroscopy Laboratory. He retired as an Emeritus Professor of Chemistry in 1981. Almost since its inception, Foil was active with the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy (Pittcon), especially its philatelic cachet program that continues to this day.
He has about 100 publications in his fields of research, primarily infrared and Raman spectroscopy. He has been a co-editor of *Spectrochimica Acta*, and Secretary of the IUPAC Commission on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy. He held a Guggenheim Fellowship for study in Zurich and was a Visiting Professor in Brazil and Japan. He received the 1964 Pittsburgh Spectroscopy Award, the 1965 Pittsburgh Award of the American Chemical Society, and the 1973 Hasler Award of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy.

I met Foil for the first time in the 1970s when I heard him speak on “Great Mistakes in Science”, which he has given over 140 times. We met again through our mutual interest in collecting stamps dealing with chemistry and physics. In this area, Foil has published more than 140 humorous and informative articles.

In 1988 he co-authored, with Prof. Edgar Heilbronner of Switzerland, the “thematic bible” on the subject, *A Philatelic Ramble Through Chemistry*, in which nearly the entire history of chemistry is revealed through postage stamps. He was editor of the quarterly journal *Philatelia Chimica et Physica* from 1997-2004.

In 2009 he was designated Distinguished Topical Philatelist by the American Topical Association, joining a select group of individuals who have promoted and furthered the topical and thematic aspect of stamp collecting.
Foil turned 98 in January 2104 and is still going strong, in spite of failing eyesight. In addition to philately, his hobbies have included birding, canoeing, hiking, photography, and travel.

♦ He still gives slide shows to his fellow residents at his retirement community in Glenview, Illinois.

♦ He loves facts and figures and once told me that he has spent at least one night in each of the 50 states (Rhode Island was the last state to complete his list) and in 50 foreign countries.

♦ He has voluminous files of odd and interesting stories of famous scientists, which he uses in his articles.

Foil has been retired for 33 years and has never stopped being productive; an inspiration to many, including this author, who is in his third year of retirement.

John Sharkey

References
Pitcon Philatelic Cachet, insert; Foil A. Miller, Spectroscopist, Educator, and Philatelist, 2000
Banned Books Week is an annual event celebrating the freedom to read. Held during the last week of September, it highlights the value of free and open access to information. Banned Books Week brings together the entire book community — librarians, booksellers, publishers, journalists, teachers, and readers of all types — in shared support of the freedom to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. Banned Book Week was launched in 1982 in response to a sudden surge in the number of challenges to books in schools, bookstores and libraries. More than 11,300 books have been challenged since 1982 according to the American Library Association. There were 307 challenges reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom in 2013, and many more go unreported.” — Banned Book Week.org

The first official list of banned books was the Index Librorum Prohibitorum of the Catholic Church. Though it is commonly held believed that the Index first appeared in conjunction with the Renaissance, the Church has always had the authority to censor publications; in medieval times, books were scarce enough that censorship was a decidedly hands-on affair, involving little more than the rounding-up and burning of as many copies of the offending book as could be found. The advent of the printing press provided the necessity, or the opportunity, for systematizing the process; the first list of books prohibited by the Church appeared not in Rome, but in the Netherlands in 1529. Pope Paul IV published the first official list and after the Council of Trent his was revised by Pope Leo XIII. This version of the list persisted officially until Vatican II in 1966.

An impressive list of authors in the Neville Collection have appeared upon the Index. They include Diderot, Freind, Glanville, Locke, Swedenborg, and many others. One of the most-banned scientific books of its day was John Locke’s Essay on Human Understanding, of which the Neville Collection owns the fourth edition (London: Awnsham, Churchil and Manship, 1700).
Locke’s Essay was the first work of philosophy to propose that human consciousness does not begin with innate characteristics of perception but with an innate capacity to perceive, meaning that our perception of reality itself is not absolute but is rather constructed by experience.

This was highly threatening to the Catholic Church, which was invested in the existence of absolute truths and dogma, not experience, as guardian thereof, and consequently the book was quick to appear on the Index Librorum Prohibitorum and stayed there until the Index itself was abolished. The book was just as threatening to the European aristocracy, given that it proposed the nonexistence of any innate qualities separating classes of people by birth: Locke (1632-1704) stated that education and access to it were infinitely more important than heredity in concentrating talent in the upper classes, and proposed that the advantages of education were the birthright of every eligible human being.

There were few Continental countries in which Locke’s work was not banned at some time. In 1701 it was also banned from Oxford University, where Locke himself taught and had studied, and only gradually came to be accepted to a degree that allowed it to appear in the Oxford library again. Locke himself came under suspicion of treason and had to flee to the Netherlands for most of the remaining years of his life. Few other works have had as great an impact on the cognitive sciences. Today Locke is considered the father of empirical philosophy, and one of the fathers of egalitarian social philosophy.

[From Centuries of censorship: books and their survival in the Neville Collection exhibit curated by Tanya Avakian for Banned Book Week in 2006]
As in the past, the Neville Prize Committee had a number of excellent candidate works to consider for the prize and enough quality to make a decision a difficult one. In the end we selected a work of great scholarship and centrality to the history and philosophy of the chemical sciences that makes it a fine recipient of the prize, *Michael Polanyi and His Generation: Origins of the Social Construction of Science* by Dr. Mary Jo Nye and published in 2011 by the University of Chicago Press.

Mary Jo Nye completed her undergraduate studies in chemistry at Vanderbilt University (1962–1964) and the University of Wisconsin, Madison (1964–1965). She received her Ph.D. in History of Science at the University of Wisconsin in 1970 with a thesis on “Jean Perrin and Molecular Reality.” In 1970 she became a faculty member at the University of Oklahoma, where she was named George Lynn Cross Research Professor in the History of Science in 1991. In 1994, Nye was appointed Thomas Hart and Mary Jones Horning Professor of the Humanities and Professor of History at Oregon State University in Corvallis, where she was also chair of the graduate program in the history of science. She retired as Professor Emeritus in 2008 but still remains very active.

Mary Jo Nye’s research interests include: the history of chemistry and physics since the eighteenth century in Western Europe, Great Britain and the United States; the social and cultural history of science, including laboratory science, university education, and the political activities of scientists; and the philosophy of science, especially relations between theory and evidence. Her recent research includes studies of the British physicist and Nobel laureate P.M.S. Blackett and the Hungarian-born physical chemist Michael Polanyi.

She has received numerous fellowships and visiting professor appointments and has written and edited several books including, *Science in the Provinces: Scientific Communities and Provincial Leadership in France, 1860-1930* (1986); *From Chemical Philosophy to Theoretical Chemistry: Dynamics of Matter and Dynamics of Disciplines, 1800–1950* (1993); *Before Big Science: The Pursuit of Modern Chemistry and Physics, 1800–1940* (1999); *Blackett: Physics, War, and Politics in the Twentieth Century* (2004); and the book on Michael Polanyi that we honored with the Neville Prize.
Mary Jo Nye has received a number of prizes and awards including the 2006 Sarton Memorial Award and the 2000 Distinguished Lecture Award from the History of Science Society, the Herbert J. Reynolds Lectureship in the History and Philosophy of Science, Baylor University, 2003, and the 1999 recipient of the Dexter Award from the American Chemical Society’s Division of the History of Chemistry for an outstanding career of contributions to the history of chemistry.

_Michael Polanyi and His Generation_ stood out among the many worthy nominees for the 2013 Neville Prize as a work deserving of special notice. If Polanyi is known to any of us (apart from philosophers of science), it is likely through citations of his works in footnotes which led us to him. Mary Jo Nye shows us why we should care about the individual and his life and how he came to abandon the laboratory to tell the world about science, that it is personal, passionate, and prejudiced and that this was crucial to its capacity to find truth. To summarize the value of this book, I can’t improve on the praise of its reviewers. Dieter Hoffmann of the Max-Planck-Institut in Berlin said, “This long-awaited volume is a masterpiece of historical research, cultural and political exposition, and analytical insight.” Martin X. Moleski, coauthor of _Michael Polanyi: Scientist and Philosopher_, said that “Mary Jo Nye is the mistress of all she surveys: history, culture, economics, science, sociology, and philosophy. She has an eye for the telling detail that reveals how Polanyi’s mind developed in and through the turmoil of the twentieth century. I have read this book twice and look forward to reading it again to savor her understanding of what made Polanyi excel both in science and in his philosophy of science. Polanyi planted seeds that are still bearing fruit; Nye helps gather in the harvest. She frames Polanyi’s achievements in such a way as to make them more accessible and more fruitful for our generation and for those to come.”

Ronald Brashear
CHF Holds its First “Acquisitions Night”

As our collections acquisitions funds have grown over recent years we are now able to acquire enough items on an annual basis to create a special event called Acquisitions Night which we held for the first time on December 11, 2013.

At the event, CHF Othmer Library and Museum staff displayed our 2013 calendar year acquisitions made possible by the various collections endowments on tables throughout our library and reading room. CHF supporters were invited to hear three brief lectures on select items on display by Ronald Brashear, the Arnold Thackray Director of the Othmer Library, James Voelkel, the Curator of Rare Books, and Lawrence Principe, an historian of alchemy from Johns Hopkins University. Audience members then viewed the display and learned about our new acquisitions in greater detail. Guests were also invited to “adopt” the recent acquisitions by donating the purchase price which would replenish the collections acquisition funds and allow us to make even more purchases in the next year. Ten items out of the fifty displayed were adopted and $20,295 went back into acquiring more collection items.

We had great success that evening in engaging thirty-one people intimately with our collections and getting them to adopt several books and artifacts. Our Board members who attended were great role models and stepped up to adopt some notable items. CHF staff and fellows even adopted books; that was unexpected but extremely welcome!
“2nd annual Acquisitions Night”

 Perhaps the best result of the Acquisitions Night was not the increased acquisition opportunities, but the ability to engage our supporters and fans with the fascinating collections we have and their important role in humanities research. One of the attendees, a retired scientist, wrote afterwards to say, “What I appreciate about the CHF is that it is not only a scientific archive, museum, and vehicle for education and new scholarship, but that it also incorporates respect and inter-connections with the various fields of the humanities. It is a pleasure to in some small way be a part of the CHF mission.” You can get a full list of the items that were on display on our website.

Second annual Acquisitions Night

Wednesday December 3, 2014

Please mark your calendars!

The event at CHF will feature a sneak preview of our new exhibition, “Books of Secrets: Writing and Reading Alchemy” featuring our wonderful early alchemical manuscripts and paintings, scheduled to open to the public later that week. There will also be a buffet dinner as well as the up-close viewing of our most recent acquisitions. Invitations will be going out later along with a website that will list all of the items to be displayed.

We certainly hope you can join us!

Ronald Brashear
Russell H. Dunham was the first President of Hercules Powder Company serving from its creation as a spin off of Du Pont in 1912 until 1939 when he became Chairman of the Board. He served as Chairman until 1944 and retired from the company in 1956. The year 1952 marked Dunham’s fiftieth year in the chemical industry—he had first been hired by Du Pont in 1902—and Hercules wanted to do something special to honor its former President and Chairman of the Board so they authorized the creation of this marvelous one-of-a-kind Tribute Book. It was signed by every member of the Hercules Research Department, and the book itself was created as a partial commemoration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the founding of the Hercules Experimental Station, a project that was dear to Dunham’s heart.

At the laying of the cornerstone for the station on July 30, 1930, he spoke these words: “I lay this cornerstone with the thought that in the pleasant surroundings of these woods and streams Hercules men and women in the years to come may find a common rallying place where useful things can be done for the benefit of our company and he world at large.”

Andrew Mangravite, Senior Archivist
Librariana: “Anything and everything else with any possible connection to books, librarians, libraries, or librarianship.”

A guide to collecting Librariana by Norman D. Stevens.

Curio Cabinets from Library History
The Card Catalog

The library card catalog was the discovery tool in determining the contents of a library’s collection. The earliest conception of a card catalog is attributed to the French Revolution in November 1789. The revolutionary government confiscated the libraries belonging to religious houses in order to establish a system of public libraries for the citizens. The inventory was accomplished by transcribing the bibliographic information on the blank back of playing cards.

Early modern card catalogs

Henry Sharp wrote about card catalogs in 1935 and said, “In its more modern form, it began to make its appearance in British and American Libraries round about 1876, in which year the well-known firm of Library Bureau was established, with Melville Dewey at its head.” (Sharp 1935, 26)
Taylor notes that “Card catalogs were popularized in the United States by Library of Congress (LC) cards, first made available for sale in 1901, and by H. W. Wilson cards, which began production in 1938 in response to the needs of small libraries. (Taylor 2004, 27) Most libraries customized their purchased card with their own call numbers and subject headings. In 1997 the Library of Congress, after 95 years of printing catalog cards for use by the library community discontinued its MARC (machine readable catalog) catalog services.

The Card disappears

In the late 1960s two developments changed the future of cataloging. The Library of Congress created the MARC format, enabling the machine readability of bibliographic records. The Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) was developed in Dublin, Ohio, and started providing cataloging information via cable and terminal to all its members libraries. (Taylor 2004, 65) These two developments paved the way for the creation of Online Public Access Catalogs (OPACs). Because of the considerable amount of cost savings, most libraries converted to online catalogs and froze and discarded their card catalogs.

“*Midon*” is a combination of our benefactors first names, Mildred Topp Othmer and Donald F. Othmer. A signature the Othmers used on their holiday ceramic cards. ([See Christmas countdown with the Othmer Plates](#))

As of August 31 the Library has cataloged 76,531 titles; and processed 129,103 separate volumes.

- 63,135 modern book titles
- 6,913 electronic titles
- 5,169 rare book titles
- 759 microform titles
- 340 oral history titles
- 215 archival collections

References:
Marbling: "The art of marbling is of obscure origin. It was practiced in Japan c. AD 800, and marbled end-papers were used by the Persians from the 15th century."

Withering, a physician, discovered a natural barium carbonate (Witherite) and is known for his discovery of the use of digitalis for the treatment of heart issues. Due to his own ill health, he wintered in Portugal for several years and while there the Portugal court requested that he analyze the mineral waters of Caldas da Rainha.

Printer’s device: "A trade-mark or design introduced by a printer on the title-page or at the end of the test to distinguish his productions. Their use dates from the 15th century at which time the printer was usually the publisher of his books and early devices passed from one printer to another often with only slight modification."

This printer’s device is the Sessa Printing House trade-mark. Giovanni Battista the Elder founded the Sessa house. Brothers Giovanni Battista and Melchior Sessa published in Venice from 1563 to the end of the century.
Looking to showcase the hidden treasures in its collections, the Othmer Library launched its Tumblr blog, Othmeralia, in January 2014. Amidst the vast and ever-evolving social media landscape, Tumblr is a microblogging platform of over 202 million blogs that enables users to share content via posts which may contain photos, links, videos, audio, and/or text. When content is shared, it is exposed to a dynamic and engaged community of users who contribute more than 78 million posts per day [Tumblr Press Info].

Over the last eight months, Othmeralia has contributed nearly 300 posts to the Tumblr community. A collaborative effort amongst the Othmer Library staff, the blog has presented a wide variety of content from the library’s archives, journals, modern monographs, and rare books. The most popular posts have included animated images (called GIFs) of rare book content such as: A Rose Resuscitated from Curiosities of Nature and Art in Husbandry and Gardening (1707) by Abbé de Vallemont;

and an insect illustration from The History of Four Footed Beasts and Serpents (1658) by Edward Topsell. These two specific posts also have the distinction of having been featured on Tumblr Radar – a highly coveted, but difficult to attain position on Tumblr in which a post is selected and displayed on the online dashboard (home screen) of every Tumblr user.

Othmeralia has met with a positive response since its debut, gaining 1,000+ users as followers. Of these followers, 98 are libraries, archives, research centers, and historical societies. Additional statistics show that these users hail from six continents with the greatest numbers coming from the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, and France.

As the library continues its work on Tumblr, check here for updates and more in-depth looks at some of the materials that are being shared on Othmeralia. — Victoria Orzechowski
Bolton Society membership continues to grow

Bolton Society welcomes new member Bradley S. Tice.

The society’s membership as of May 2014 is 96.

Contributions from the Bolton Society membership are welcome.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Upcoming Conferences or Meetings
- Publications
- Conference or Meeting Reports (these should not normally exceed 1,000 words)
- News Items or Announcements
- Grants, Fellowships or Awards
- Reviews of Websites, projects or blogs of interest (up to 500 words)

Cheers!

Elsa Atson

Questions regarding content submission, contact the editor.

The Editor retains the right to select those contributions that are most relevant to the interests of the Society’s members.