So here we have Boltonia #12 for your reading pleasure. I begin this issue’s ‘intro’ by introducing everyone to the Chemical Heritage Foundation’s (CHF) new website.

First, the URL to CHF’s website remains the same at [www.chemheritage.org](http://www.chemheritage.org) and here is the new homepage.

To find the pages about the Othmer Library select RESEARCH.
On the RESEARCH page select OTHMER LIBRARY

... introducing everyone to the Chemical Heritage Foundation’s (CHF) new website.

On the OTHMER LIBRARY page select BOLTON SOCIETY
On the BOLTON SOCIETY page select ONLINE BROCHURE

You now have online access to the Bolton Society's Brochure

The directory is password protected (members only) and the password is issued to each member from the society’s secretary.

On these pages you will find everything connected with the Bolton Society including its bylaws, minutes, symposia, Boltonia newsletter archive, membership application and the Society’s membership directory. The membership directory is password protected for members only and the password is provided to each member by the society’s secretary.

For easier access to the Bolton Society Brochure here is the direct URL:  http://guides.othmerlibrary.chemheritage.org/Bolton

Next Boltonia issue — a refresher on Midon, the Othmer Library’s online catalog.
Chief Bibliophile’s Marginalia

Marginalia: “Notes, commentary, and similar material written or printed in the margin of a book or manuscript. Also (in extended use): notes, comments, etc., which are incidental or additional to the main topic.”

OED Online. Oxford University Press

For those wondering how one achieves the grand title of Chief Bibliophile, all one has to do is miss a meeting of the Bolton Society and you will be elected in absentia. In all seriousness, I am delighted and honored to follow in the footsteps of such distinguished historians of chemistry as Herb Pratt, Ned Heindel, and Gary Patterson.

If I have had any significant involvement in the history of chemistry at all, it is due to one individual, my dear departed friend and the former editor of Boltonia, James Bohning. I met Jim in 1984, when he, Otto Elmer and I formed a committee of the ACS Division of the History of Chemistry (HIST), to issue philatelic cachets honoring early presidents of the ACS. It gave me great pleasure to do this as I am a philatelist, collecting stamps and postal history related to chemistry. The cachet series ran from April 1984, honoring John Draper, to August 1995, honoring Ira Remsen. Jim had the idea to have a paper presented at a HIST session for each president being honored. I had the honor of presenting three of these papers, for John W. Mallet, George F. Barker, and William McMurtrie. Thus began my fledgling career in the history of chemistry.
In 1990 I became archivist and historian for the ACS New York Section and the following year organized a symposium celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Section. At the symposium, Jim presented an excellent paper on the Chemists’ Club, which was founded in New York. I recently chaired a symposium at MARM 2016 celebrating the section’s 125th anniversary. In addition to myself, Bolton Society members Ronald Brashear and Ronald Smeltzer presented papers at this symposium.

In 2000, I was asked by the ACS to represent them on the newly formed Heritage Council of CHF along with another departed friend, Jack Stocker, a position that I still hold. Around that time, Herb Pratt, Jim Bohning and others formed the Bolton Society. When I heard that philatelists were welcome, I immediately became a charter member. I especially enjoy our Collector’s Showcase, where members discuss books and related material from their collections. In 2009, Jim Bohning asked me to take over his position as archivist for the Division of the History of Chemistry and I agreed to do so.

I am honored to be a part of the Bolton Society and to continue its fine tradition in support of the history of chemistry and related sciences. Over the years, the Society has given strong support to CHF and especially to the Othmer Library of Chemical History through its numerous symposia, assistance with book donations, participation in Acquisition Night, and the publication of its newsletter Boltonia. However, a society such as ours depends on volunteers. Please consider supporting the Bolton Society by coming to our meetings, by supporting the efforts of the Othmer Library for additional acquisitions, by participating in our symposia and Acquisitions Night at CHF, or by submitting an item of interest for Boltonia.

“Please consider supporting the Bolton Society by coming to our meetings, by supporting the efforts of the Othmer Library for additional acquisitions, by participating in our symposia and Acquisitions Night at CHF, or by submitting an item of interest for Boltonia.”

John B. Sharkey
Chief Bibliophile
August 13, 2016
The *Golden Book of Chemistry Experiments* by Robert Brent. Published in 1960, and revised in 1963, this book inspired many children to love chemistry. Then in the late 1960’s this golden book of inspiration suddenly began to be removed from library shelves and was no longer being sold. According to WorldCat Discovery, there are 118 print copies still around; however, now you can find digital copies on the internet. If you can locate a print copy of this ‘gem’, it can cost you as much or more than $250.00.

Much speculation has been written, on the internet, about the GBCE being banned by the U.S. Government. *Banned by the government?* Was this an official mandated action or just urban legend?
The removal of this children’s book might have been the result of a combination of several enacted laws: 1960 Federal Hazardous Substances Labeling Act, 1966 Child Protection Act, and the 1969 Product Safety Act, granting authority to ban toys which were hazardous or which contained hazardous substances. The GBCE does contain chemistry experiments that might have been considered dangerous.

So what is the definition of a banned book? The American Library Association defines a challenged work as,

“... an attempt to remove or restrict materials, based upon the objections of a person or group. A banning is the removal of those materials. Challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others. As such, they are a threat to freedom of speech and choice.”

The Othmer Library has a copy of this ‘banned book’ in its collection. So are the projects too dangerous for the intended audience to conduct at home?
Here’s an experiment for making chlorine with Clorox and Sani Flush:

So we leave it up to you – banned or safety enacted?

Did you notice that in the picture at the onset of this article our copy of this Golden Book has been “adopted”? Thanks to Chief-Bibliophile John Sharkey for attending the third annual Acquisition Night (2015) at CHF and adopting this ‘infamous’ Golden Book.

[Read more about Acquisition Night in this newsletter]
For anyone interested in the origin of chemical words, including the elements, this short (86 pages) book is a must read. For example, where did the “barb” come from in Barbturic Acid (Adolf von Baeyer’s girlfriend was named Barbara). As reported by E. J. Crane, long-time editor of Chemical Abstracts, “Many contribute to the advancement of chemistry, but few manage to do so much to help in the cooperative work of all chemists as did Austin M. Patterson by leading in the development of chemical nomenclature.”

John B. Sharkey
Chief Bibliophile
The Othmer Library
Librarians and Archivists
share their choice item from the library collections

Archive Collections 2013:049

The combined library and archival collections in the Othmer Library provide a rich variety of dye books and dye sample cards. This large (12”x16”) ledger-style book comes from the General Dyestuffs Corporation (G.D.F.) Collection and is their Providence Sales Book. It contains examples of their varieties of fast sale dyes, arranged by color.

This page depicts their line of Fast Orange Salt RD Dyes.

The G.D.F. Providence Sales Book was the gift of Roberta M. Tremain* who was employed by the Research Department of G.D.F. from 1950 to 1962, a period during which there were few women textile chemists.

*Roberta M. Tremain served as Chair of the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, Piedmont Section 1993
A recent acquisition of a 17th-century alchemical manuscript in German & Latin, containing three alchemical treatises. The first work is from a manuscript originally in the possession of the Regensburg physician Johann Georg Agricola (1558-1633) and is purported to be by a Daniel von Funck on the value of alchemy to medicine. The second work is an unpublished collection of treatises supposedly extracted from the letters of the theosophist Paul Felgenhauer (1593-1677?). It is on generation of all types of things and the application of generative theories to generalized laboratory processes. The third work is by Paulus Steiner and dated Jan. 25, 1667. It discusses the generation and transmutation of metals, the synthesis of the Philosopher’s Stone, and how to use it on metals and as a universal medicine for human health.
On December 2, 2015, we held our third annual Acquisitions Night at CHF. For this evening event, we were open to the public (at $50/head—it is a fund-raising event, after all) for dinner and a display in our reading room where we showed them all of the collection items we purchased in the previous calendar year and a number of items that were recently conserved or in need of conservation.

The evening began with a brief welcome from Ronald Brashear, a short presentation by Jim Voelkel, and Stephanie Lampkin gave a tour of conserved museum items on display in the Science at Play exhibition. Everyone then went up to the reading room for a buffet dinner and an up-close look at our collections. Notable items on display included:

⇒ A Sammelband of four Probierbüchlein (1577).
⇒ An Alchymia manuscript (17th cent.).
⇒ Benedetto Ceruti, Musaeum Francisci Calceolarii iunioris veronensis (Verona, 1622).
⇒ Johan Gottschalk Wallerius, Mineralogie, Oder Mineralreich (Berlin: Nicolai, 1750).
⇒ Copper Smelting in Japan, 1824-1876. A finely illustrated Japanese scroll on paper with manuscript notes depicting the nanban-buki method of separating copper from silver (copper smelting).
“3rd Annual Acquisitions Night”

As usual, people were encouraged to “adopt” books, manuscripts, photographs, films, artifacts, and artworks. By adopting an item, a person reimburses us for the purchase price of the item, and they become the official donor of record of the item (except for items needing conservation). The funds go to replenish Library & Museum acquisition funds. We had great success in engaging 42 people (including staff and fellows) intimately with our collections and getting them to adopt many items. There was quite the frenzy of adopting activity from guests, staff, and fellows. Our initial count indicates that we raised $7,859 for our acquisitions fund. Even though attendance was down from last year’s 53 people, we raised more money!

Fourth annual Acquisitions Night

Wednesday November 30, 2016

Please mark your calendars!

We are already planning for the next Acquisitions Night on Wednesday evening November 30, 2016. As before, it will be a great evening with a reception, presentations from staff, a tasty buffet dinner, and a marvelous display of around one hundred items from our collection. We are really hoping to increase attendance in 2016 in order to keep this event going on an annual basis. We hope you can mark your calendars and be part of this great once-a-year activity at CHF; and please tell your friends and family and encourage them to come and help show that there are many people out there interested in our collections!

We certainly hope you can join us!

Ronald Brashear
I recently completed processing a very large collection, The Papers of Walter O. Snelling. Snelling was the Director of Research for the Trojan Powder Company from 1917 until his retirement in 1954, and although his specialties were explosives and military ordinance, his position as Director of Research required that he keep abreast of all sorts of developments in the field of industrial engineering. A by-product of this interest was his amassing of a huge horde of chemistry-related ephemera: advertisements, informational brochures, corporate reports—many of which turn out to quite beautiful as examples of period commercial art. They have from time to time graced the Othmer Library’s Tumblr blog Othmeralia.

I have always been a fan of commercial art. Like its near-relative propaganda art, it has to hit the mark on the very first try, holding the eye and stoking the interest of potential customers. But beyond the purely aesthetic quality of these pieces, they offer insights into a culture now quite foreign to us—the cultures of Bygone Days.
When you look at that Sealdsweet advertisement of the mother and daughter at work in their kitchen, you see what would have been an idealized vision even the 1920s, albeit not without a touch of whimsy. (What exactly is that top-hatted anthropomorphic and ambulatory orange-and-grapefruit person doing in their kitchen?)

Aside from the insights these pieces provide to the culture and the mores of their time, the more serious-minded ones can offer excellent overviews of technological developments and frequently the technological marvels they celebrate are not to be found even in museum cases. They are truly blasts from the past, although not the type of blasts that Walter Snelling dealt with.

Andrew Mangravite, Senior Archivist
Banned Books 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 311 challenges reported to the Office of Intellectual Freedom in 2014, 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 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 list was revised by Pope Leo XIII. This version of the list persisted officially until Vatican II in 1965.

An impressive list of authors in the Neville Collection have appeared upon the Index. They include Diderot, Freind, Glanville, Locke, Swedenborg, and many others.
Denis Diderot (1713-1784), editor-in-chief of the famous *Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers*, had every reason to appreciate his own poignant maxim: “There is no moral precept that does not have something inconvenient about it.”

As the Enlightenment moved on inexorably, banned authors were less likely to be devout Catholics who were seen, for one reason or another, as heretical and likelier to be professing to a world-view that we can begin to recognize as reflecting the modern scientific philosophy. In France, the conflict was particularly heady, since the spirit of the Enlightenment in its purest form coexisted with the nominal or devout Catholicism of most of the population.

The *Encyclopédie* won the hostility of the French ruling class and especially of the Church. Many of the ideas that would culminate in the Revolution were already coming to the fore in the *Encyclopédie*, whose composition was based on the belief in a democracy of reason and knowledge. A rumor began that the *Encyclopédie* was the work of revolutionaries and that the work’s publication was the beginning of their undermining of French society. It was duly placed on the Index in 1759.
Diderot continued to compile it, though most of his associates (including one woman, Anne Robert) abandoned ship at this point. His labors were heroic and tragic. He was forced to write, edit, and proofread most of the articles himself besides taking on virtually all ancillary tasks of book manufacture. Though he was finally able to publish the complete work at great cost to his physical and mental health, the bookseller chose to bowdlerize the proof sheets on his own authority to avoid government reprisal. We will never know what the Encyclopédie would have been with its offending passages included.

[From Centuries of censorship: books and their survival in the Neville Collection exhibit curated by Tanya Avakian for Banned Book Week in 2006]
The Donald F. and Mildred Topp Othmer Library of Chemical History never had a traditional card catalog. Cataloging the print collection via OCLC began in 1997. Midon, the Othmer Library’s online public access catalog went live March 1999.

“Midon” is a combination of our benefactor’s first names, Mildred Topp Othmer and Donald F. Othmer.

As of June 30, 2016 the Library has cataloged and processed 140,000 separate volumes.

- 69,545 modern book titles
- 7,705 electronic titles
- 6,786 rare book titles
- 738 microform titles
- 387 oral history titles
- 215 archival collections
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.”


This example of fore-edge* marbling is from *The wonder of the load-stone or, the load-stone newley reduc’t into a divine and morall use*, London (1640) by Samuel Ward (1577-1643) from the Neville Collection in the Othmer Library.

“This work covers many practical uses of magnets and their physical and chemical properties. Each chapter explores a new experiment on the magnet; the author even urges the reader to procure a good loadstone to use while reading the book. The printer was most likely Elizabeth Purslowe (d. 1656), one of a handful of women printers operating in London during the English Civil War and Commonwealth periods.” — B&L Rootenberg

Rare Books and MSS. A selection of books exhibited at the International Antiquarian Book Fair New York, April 3-6, 2014.

In its efforts to enhance the discoverability and accessibility of its collections, the Othmer Library continues to populate its Tumblr blog, Othmeralia, on a regular basis with content from its archives, journals, modern monographs, and rare books. Working collaboratively, library staff have contributed over 1,800 posts to the Tumblr community since Othmeralia’s debut in 2014. This has resulted in the blog gaining 13,850+ followers. Of these followers, 253 are libraries, archives, research centers, museums, and historical societies – most notably the Bodleian Libraries, the Getty, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the Newberry Library. These followers reside around the world with the highest percentages coming from the United States, United Kingdom, Russia, Canada, Germany, and France.

The most popular posts have featured bookplates found in monographs, stamps from the Witco Stamp Collection, 1910-1983 (Image Archives), and illustrations from rare books, particularly the botanicals in John Gerard’s The herball, or, Generall historie of plantes (1633) and John Parkinson’s Theatrum botanicum (1640). In addition, vintage advertisements found in the journals and image archives have proven to be of immense interest to followers.

Since its launch, Othmeralia has received acknowledgements from several prominent institutions, including the Smithsonian, Library Journal, the Washington Post, the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA), Tumblr itself, and Slate Vault, a well-known history website. For more fun and intriguing finds from the library collections, check out Othmeralia today! — Victoria Orzechowski, Librarian
Bolton Society membership continues to grow

The society’s membership as of October 2016 is 85.

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.