

**Records of
the University
of
Birmingham
Chemical
Society**

**Reference:
UB/SOC1**

Records of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society

UB/SOC1 Records of the University of Birmingham 1884-1989
Chemical Society

Records of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society, formerly Mason College Chemical Society, largely comprising: minutes, 1884-1974; account books, 1910-1981; papers read at Society meetings, 1901-1921; copies of the Society's journal, 'Retort', 1950-1989 and programme cards, 1934-1988. The collection also includes a register of Life Members, 1958-1968; copies of the 'Orbital' magazine, [1980]-1989; personal Society notes compiled by John Standley, Honorary Secretary 1964-1965, and Dr Roy Sherwin Lehrle (1930-2007), producer of the Society's Christmas entertainment in the early 1950s, together with occasional items of correspondence and miscellaneous additional administrative, financial and printed materials. A number of the series are incomplete; in particular records of the earliest and latest Committee minutes are missing from the archive.

The archive provides a record of the day to day working and evolution of one of the earliest and most successful departmental societies in the University. The records reflect the changing expectations, interests and working relationships of staff and student members from the close of the 19th century to the last decade of the 20th century, and offer a contemporary commentary on in-house issues affecting the Chemistry Department as well as broader issues of topical scientific interest. They also provide an overview of departmental research interests during a period in which the Chemistry Department achieved a reputation for excellence and innovation under the leadership of a distinguished line of eminent chemists, including the first four Mason Professors of Chemistry who between them served as Presidents of the Society for 64 years.

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Although the archive does not generally contain biographical accounts of members of the Society, or details of their work outside of Society activities, there are occasional references to honours, appointments and departures, and the early minutes in particular highlight the extra-curricular role played by participating staff and students for whom the Society was an integral part of the experience of Chemistry at Birmingham.

The Council of Mason Science College, Birmingham, (predecessor to the University of Birmingham) passed a resolution sanctioning the formation of Mason College Chemical Society, Jan 1884. The inaugural meeting of the Society was held in the Chemical Theatre, Mason College, 13 Feb 1884, chaired by Sir William Augustus Tilden (1842-1926) first Professor of Chemistry, Mason College later University of Birmingham, 1880-1894, and founder and President of the Society, 1880-1894. The name was changed to 'The University of Birmingham Chemical Society' at the annual meeting, 29 Oct 1900, following the granting of the University Charter in May. In the records the Society is also informally referred to under the acronym 'BUCS' from the late 1950s, and 'B. U. CHEMSOC' from the 1960s.

Initially the aim of the Society was to promote 'intercourse among Chemical Students, and the reading and discussion of papers upon chemical subjects'. It was managed by a Committee operating in line with the Society's constitution. The Society was affiliated to the University of Birmingham Guild of Undergraduates so, although independent, its constitution was subject to approval of the Guild. The majority of Committee positions were held by students elected annually by the members at a general meeting of the Society. The President and Vice-President were chosen by the Committee from amongst the Chemistry staff (the

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Committee could also nominate an external Vice-President for election by the members). The Honorary Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and Visits Secretary were early and pivotal officer roles. In particular, the Honorary Secretary had responsibility for convening all meetings, managing the general correspondence and Society notices, compiling the Society's annual report and having 'charge of all property of the Society [bar the library]', including its archives. The Society's aim was broadened to the promotion of 'knowledge and interests amongst students of Chemistry' and the Society's activities expanded. The number of Committee roles increased further with officers and sub-committees elected to support the key functions of the Society including: Assistant Librarians; an Editorial Committee; Social, Sports and Minutes Secretaries; Staff, Course and Research Representatives, together with a number of short term sub-committees tasked with specific events. The Committee formally reported back to the members at general meetings of the Society, and through the 'Annual Report and Balance Sheet'. Membership of the Society was open to past and present students and anyone interested in chemistry or the work of the Society, although external members were not eligible to vote or stand for Committee. Life Membership was introduced in January 1958 further enabling the Society to maintain links with former graduates.

In addition to the annual general meeting, the Society's earliest activities included the provision of a well stocked library, an annual excursion to one or more local industries and fortnightly meetings in the Winter and Spring terms for the reading and discussion of scientific papers (the majority read by post-graduate students, but the programme also included lectures by staff and invited guests). By the end of 1908-1909, the membership had risen to 215. This programme quickly established

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what were to be persistent features of the Society - building the public profile of the Chemistry Department, maintaining and establishing links with local industry and former students, and encouraging current students to take a broad perspective of the opportunities afforded by their time at Birmingham, to look beyond their course work at developing skills and contacts that would serve them in the longer term. The range of activities increased over time including a regular programme of sporting and social activities and growing programme of visits. Activities were suspended during World War I but the 1920s saw the beginning of a new era for the revitalised Society as it began to play an active role in joint ventures with other members of the Science Faculty, including production of the short-lived journal, 'PSI', 1922-1924. Membership rose again from 50 in 1919 to 182 by 1921.

Through the 1920s and 1930s the Society further extended its links outside the University, inviting external speakers to its meetings, and holding regular joint meetings with other local and national organisations. The 1950s saw new developments including the launch of the Society's first official journal, 'Retort'. The Society's own rugby football team was established in 1959 to play in weekly matches against local teams. Social events were well attended, especially the annual Christmas dinner and entertainment. Joint initiatives with external organisations continued, with visits to and from other chemical societies and the Society's participation in a joint programme card with affiliated organisations. After an extensive refurbishment and building programme beginning in the mid 1940s, staff and student numbers increased dramatically. After only four changes of President since 1884, this pivotal Society role began to be rotated among the staff, on an annual basis. At the same time, the records

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indicate increasing concern over a drop in active participation in the Society, particularly amongst undergraduates. The Society continued its established core activities but also developed new initiatives in a concerted effort to better reach the current study body, including a second Society periodical, 'Orbital', launched in the late 1970s. However, the Society appears to have been dissolved in the 1990s, superceded by separate undergraduate and post-graduate student societies: the Birmingham Post-Graduate Chemistry Society launched in the mid-1980s, and ChemSoc organised by and for Chemistry undergraduates originating in the early 1990s.

Arranged into eight series, largely corresponding with key functions and activities of the Society: administrative records; financial records; official journal and magazine; papers read before the Society; other printed material produced by the Society; publications and printed material received from other organisations; personal papers; ephemera.

8 boxes, containing 28 volumes and 148 items

Open

Access to parts of the collection is restricted. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, records which include personal data are closed for the lifetime of the individual where known, or 100 years. This is indicated at file level.

Title supplied from contents of the series.

Many of the volumes include loosely inserted items and in some instances pages or bindings have become loose. This is indicated at file level. Material deposited before Nov 1998 was formerly held at GB 0150 Uni Coll 8/iii/9 and GB 0150 Uni Coll 17/vi/1.

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Permission to make any published use of any material from the collection must be sought in advance in writing from the Director of Special Collections (email: special-collections@bham.ac.uk). Identification of copyright holders of unpublished material is often difficult. Special Collections will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material.

English

University of Birmingham Chemical Society

The records were originally the responsibility of the Society's Honorary Secretary and the minutes record their being kept in a locked cupboard from the 1920s. However, it is difficult to determine the extent to which this practice was maintained over time with successive changes of Secretary, and, during the first half of the 20th century, Chemistry Department accommodation. The minutes and account books appear to have been sorted and numbered on at least one occasion to facilitate identification of the contents. Labels written in fibre-tip pen in one hand have been pasted onto the front covers and, in the case of the minute books, information has also been added in ink on the inside cover or title page in another. The ink annotations seem to be in the hand of John Standley. Some of the annotations do not match the current contents. Evidence from the earliest minute books indicates that it was the practice to paste in correspondence and papers relating to matters arising, but at least some of the loose items in the minute books appear to have been inserted after, rather than during the active life of the volumes. For example, correspondence received in 1918 has been loosely inserted into the minutes for meetings of the Society, 1901-1911,

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presumably because at the time of sorting the minute books for 1912-1921 were, as they are now, missing.

The bulk of the collection was transferred by the University of Birmingham Chemistry Department, Nov 1998. An incomplete series of unbound copies of the the Society's journal, 'Retort', and a bound volume 'Minutes of the Meetings of the Mason College Chemical Society', 1884-1901, were transferred at an earlier date; details of the earlier transfers are unknown.

Papers arranged and described by I. Frlan, Feb-March 2008. Sources: Records of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society; Carter, S. R. and M. Stacey, 'The School of Chemistry in the University of Birmingham', reprint from 'Journal of The Royal Institute of Chemistry', August, 1954; University of Birmingham School of Chemistry website (www.chem.bham.ac.uk) viewed 20 Feb 2008; 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography website (www.oxforddnb.com) viewed 27 Feb 2008'; 'Mason College Magazine', vol II, 1884.

The Special Collections Department holds the archives of the University of Birmingham and its predecessor colleges. These archives include material relating to the activities of the Chemical Society, the School of Chemistry and the Science Faculty (GB 0150 Uni Coll and GB 0150 Uni Archives).

UB/SOC1/A

Administrative records

1884-1975

Papers relating to the organisation and management of the Society's activities, arranged in five series, including: minutes, 1884-1974; annual reports, [1898]-1923; copies of the constitution 1973-1975; a few items of Honorary Secretary's correspondence, [c 1890]-1933 and a register of Life Members, 1958-1968. The minute books also include copies of additional annual

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reports, constitutional items and correspondence relating to matters arising, loosely inserted and pasted in.

Artificial series

16 volumes, 15 items

Open

UB/SOC1/A/1 Minutes 1884-1974

Signed manuscript minute books in two chronological sequences: committee minutes, 1907-1974, and minutes of general meetings of the Society open to ordinary, external and Life Members, 1884-1962. Due to cessation of the Society's meetings during World War I, no minutes were created after November 1914 until 31 October 1919.

15 volumes

Open

UB/SOC1/A/1/1 Committee meetings 1907-1974

The Committee met five to six times a year. Responsibilities included planning and overseeing the Society's various activities, deciding the programme of events and reporting back to the members. The minutes primarily cover discussion of activities, policy and procedure, with brief notes on the nomination of officers and agreeing of committee reports. The minutes become more structured and comprehensive over time; from Oct 1939 they include an agenda, and, from the mid-1940s, occasional lists of officers and Committee and increasingly detailed officers' reports.

8 volumes

Open

The minutes for 17 March 1967 are out of sequence: they are recorded in the minutes book for 1963-1967 ahead of the minutes for 25 November 1966-13 March

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	1967 which are in the subsequent volume.	
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/1	Committee minutes	1907-1923
	Containing the minutes for 10 October 1907-15 May 1923. Also including the 'Chemical Society Report of Assessors 1909-1910', a loosely inserted manuscript on letter-headed paper, concerning the awarding of annual Society prizes. The minutes in this volume record the Society's growing involvement in joint initiatives with other Pure Science courses, with the launch of the Pure Science Dance and enthusiastic participation in Pure Science Sports events.	
	1 volume	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/2	Committee minutes	1923-1943
	Containing the minutes for 26 June 1923-23 November 1943.	
	1 volume	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/3	Committee minutes	1944-1952
	Containing the minutes for 5 May 1944-5 December 1952. Also including a typescript revised edition of the constitution [October 1948], with the original rules of the Society attached as an appendix, pasted in.	
	1 volume	
	Open	
	The binding is loose and this volume needs careful handling.	
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/4	Committee minutes	1953-1957
	Containing the minutes for 10 February 1953-22 January 1957. Also including a	

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	<p>typescript balance sheet for the June 1953 issue of 'Retort' and carbon copy estimated balance sheet for the subsequent issue, loosely inserted.</p> <p>1 volume</p> <p>Open</p>	
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/5	<p>Committee minutes</p> <p>Containing the minutes for 14 March 1957-27 November 1962, including stapled in typescript minutes, 25 January 1962.</p> <p>1 volume</p> <p>Open</p>	1957-1962
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/6	<p>Committee minutes</p> <p>Containing the minutes for 7 February 1963-17 March 1967. Also including three loose typescript inserts: proposals and an agenda for a meeting concerning Life Membership and associated amendments to the constitution [October 1964], and a typescript notice of a meeting to be held March 1964.</p> <p>1 volume</p> <p>Open</p> <p>The front cover label, inscribed 'Chem. Soc. Committee Minutes 1963-1966', does not match the date range of the contents. Several pages are missing from this volume.</p>	1963-1967
UB/SOC1/A/1/1/7	<p>Committee minutes</p> <p>Containing the minutes for 25 November 1966-3 December 1970. With loosely inserted manuscript notes of a survey, 'The Interest and Apathy of Final Year Male Students Shown Towards the Society', and typescript revised constitution, dated April 1968, stapled in to the end of the volume.</p>	1966-1970

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1 volume

Open

The cover has become detached from this volume.

UB/SOC1/A/1/1/8 Committee minutes 1971-1974

Containing the minutes for 23 February 1971-10 October 1974. Also including typescript agenda and officers' reports for the annual general meeting, 12 March [1974], stapled in.

1 volume

Open

UB/SOC1/A/1/2 Annual general meetings and other meetings of the Society 1884-1962

These minutes record the official meetings of the members through the year, in chronological order. The titles of meetings and exact programme of events changed over time but generally there were one or more annual meetings set aside for the formal business of officer and Committee elections, the agreeing of the Society's annual reports and accounts, and the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Addresses, together with a further ten meetings a year convened for hearing one or more papers and on-going business such as election of new members to the Society. Up until the 1920s the latter frequently also included demonstrations of experiments and exhibitions of specimens. By the 1940s the minutes distinguish between 'Scientific' and 'Non-Scientific' meetings, reflecting the increasing breadth of lecture topics. The minutes largely comprise brief notes on the business of the meetings and, from the late 1930s, increasingly comprehensive records of the papers read before the Society. The minutes of meetings held 1939-1943 include a synopsis of several papers illustrating the work of the Chemistry Department during

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the War that are not available elsewhere in the collection, including: 'Departmental Research in Relation to the Present War' by Dr [Maurice] Stacey (1907-1994); 'University Research during the War Period 1914-1918' and 'Dehydrated Foods and Vitamins' with reference to the packaging of foodstuffs for transporting during the war' by Sir W[alter] N[orman] Haworth (1883-1950) and 'War Gases and their Identification' by Dr W[ilfred] J[ohn] Hickinbottom (b 1896). From 1934 the minutes are recorded in indexed volumes and include a contents list, 1934-1946, or index, 1947-1962. This series is incomplete: the minutes from mid-February 1911-1913/1914, and from 1918/1919-February 1922 are missing.

7 volumes

Open

UB/SOC1/A/1/2/1

'Minutes of the Meeting of the Mason College Chemical Society'

1884-1901

This volume incorporates the first two minute books of meetings of the Society, containing the minutes 13 February 1884-25 October 1893 and 16 November 1893-21 October 1901, bound together. They include a note of [Sir William] Tilden's departure and his being succeeded by Prof[essor Percy Faraday] Frankland (1858-1946), second Mason Professor of Chemistry and President of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society, 1894-1919. Also included, pasted in, are two letters to Professor Tilden that were read out at the first meeting: a signed manuscript letter from [Councillor] R[obert] F[rancis] Martineau [Member of the Council of Mason College, later University of Birmingham, 1884-1907] and a letter written on behalf of the [Mason College] Bailiff, [Dr Thomas Pretious Heslop (1823-1885)] both of whom, being unable to attend, had written to express their high expectations of the new Society. Dr Heslop writes that it 'might be the means of bringing together

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the past and present students in the Chemical Department, and promoting the study of Chemistry'. This minute book also includes, loosely inserted, the first printed 'Rules' of the Society, agreed 27 February 1884. Three further signed manuscript letters have been pasted in, including: a letter, dated 9 January 1884, to Dr Tilden from Geo[rge] H. Morley [Secretary and Registrar of Mason College, later University of Birmingham, 1881-1913], formally advising of the Council resolution to sanction the formation of the Chemical Society; and letters to the Honorary Secretary, from Professor J[ohn] H[enry] Poynting (1852-1914) [Professor of Physics], Mason College, dated 12 May 1884, and [Professor] F. J. Allen, dated 17 October 1891, Mason College, accepting honorary membership of the Society. The second minute book records the formal adoption of the new name of the 'University of Birmingham Chemical Society' and includes, loosely inserted, ten news cuttings reporting meetings of the Society and annual excursions to local industries, 2 November 1896-19 March 1899. An unsigned manuscript set of minutes of the Mason College Chemical Society Committee meeting, 12 October 1896, is inserted with the minutes of the annual meeting, 2 November 1896.

These minutes highlight the central role played by Professor Tilden in the meetings of the Society, recording briefly his comments on speakers' papers, presidential addresses, demonstrations of experiments, exhibition of specimens, and participation in the programme of lectures. Mr E[rnest] F[rancis] Ehrhardt (d 1929), [Honorary Secretary, 1885-1886] was one of the most regular student contributors.

1 volume

Open

The front page has come loose of the

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binding and the volume needs careful handling. The minutes, 6 Dec 1894, refer to an insert on the revised 'Rules' of the Society which is missing from the volume.

UB/SOC1/A/1/2/2 Minutes of meetings of the Society 1901-1911

Containing the minutes for 4 November 1901-13 February 1911. This volume also includes, pasted in, a printed annual 'Report and Balance Sheet' for 1906/1907- 1909/1910, and two loosely inserted manuscript letters to the Honorary Secretary. The first, dated 19 January 1909, is from Arthur Dane, Students Common Room, University of Birmingham, formally submitting a proposal to be raised at the next general meeting. The second, dated 26 Nov 1918, is from the Honorary Secretary of The Temporary Eng[ineering] Society inviting members of the Chemical Society to attend a lecture by Professor F. C. Lea on 'Heat treatment of Metals'; this letter has additional manuscript notes most likely written by the Secretary during the meeting at which the item was raised before the Society. Also including loose manuscript notes of a lecture, unsigned, nd [c 1905].

1 volume

Open

UB/SOC1/A/1/2/3 Minutes of meetings of the Society 1922-1934

Containing the minutes for 6 February 1922-19 February 1934 including records of joint meetings with the Society of Chemical Industry, Midland Section and The Chemical Society, 1841-1980, London (a predecessor of the Royal Society of Chemistry), and the start of [Sir Norman] Haworth's (1883-1950) Presidency of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society, 1925-1948. Also including a pasted in news cutting, 17 October 1922, reporting on a meeting of the Society held on the previous day, and a loosely inserted

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manuscript note concerning the cancellation of a lecture to have been given by Dr L[eslie] H[erbert] Lampitt (1887-1957), [food chemist and Birmingham University graduate], 18 January [1932]. The inside front cover is stamped, 'University of Birmingham Chemical Society'.

1 volume

Open

One page of the volume is missing between the minutes for 11 March and 18 May 1932.

Source: 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography website (www.oxforddnb.com) viewed 29 Feb 2008.'

UB/SOC1/A/1/2/4 Minutes of meetings of the Society 1934-1946

Containing the minutes for 5 March 1934-18 November 1946. Also including loose manuscript lecture notes on 'The Measurement of Dielectric Constants' [paper read by C. B. Amphlett, 28 April 1944] and a typescript copy letter from the Society addressed to Lady Morgan, widow of Sir Gilbert [Thomas] Morgan (1870-1940), [Professor of Chemistry and President of the Society, 1919-1925].

1 volume

Open

Source: University of Birmingham Chemical Society minutes, current volume; Oxford Dictionary of National Biography website (www.oxforddnb.com) viewed 29 Feb 2008.

UB/SOC1/A/1/2/5 Minutes of meetings of the Society 1947-1953

Containing the minutes for 27 January 1947-14 May 1953, including a record of [Sir] Norman Haworth's retirement gift of 150 books to the Society's library, 14 October 1948, and his memorial lecture

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- by Professor [Stanley] Peat, 19 May 1950.
- 1 volume
- Open
- UB/SOC1/A/1/2/6 Minutes of meetings of the Society 1953-1957
- Containing the minutes for 20 October 1953-7 May 1957.
- 1 volume
- Open
- UB/SOC1/A/1/2/7 Minutes of meetings of the Society 1957-1962
- Containing the minutes for 10 May 1957-8 March 1962, including notes of Professor [J. C.] Tatlow's Presidential Address on the early history of the Chemistry Department, November 1959. Also including loosely inserted: manuscript notes of nominations for the annual general meeting, [May 1961]; a typescript notice of an extraordinary general meeting concerning amendments to the constitution, 8 March 1962 and a sheet of pencil notes, most likely taken during the presentation of a paper, subscribed 'Chem. Rev. 1950-1955', unsigned.
- 1 volume
- Open
- UB/SOC1/A/2 Annual reports [1898]-1923
- The annual report was compiled by officers of the Society for presentation and approval at the annual general meeting alongside the audited balance sheet for the year. It provides a review of the year's activities, and largely comprises reports written by the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Librarian. The Secretary's report includes membership figures, the number of meetings of the Society held over the year and a list of the year's presentations. Unsigned, printed copies of the annual report were

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produced for circulation to the members, in the form of an end of year 'Report and Balance Sheet'; the printed sets include a list of officers and Committee. This small sequence has been arranged in two parts: manuscript and typescript annual reports, [1898]-[1923] and what appear to be Secretary's copies of the printed 'Report and Balance Sheet', 1913-1914. The 'Report and Balance Sheet' for 1906/1907-1909/1910 are pasted into the minute books of the meetings of the Society. This series is incomplete.

Artificial series

9 items

Open

UB/SOC1/A/2/1 Manuscript and typescript annual reports [1898]-
[1923]
Primarily comprising signed, manuscript Secretary and Librarian reports, together with an unsigned typescript 'Report and Balance Sheet, 1920-1921'. The report for 1897-1898 is unsigned and possibly incomplete.

Artificial series

6 items

Open

UB/SOC1/A/2/2 Printed 'Report and Balance Sheet' 1913-1914
This small sequence includes an annotated and amended copy of the 'Report and Balance Sheet 1912-1913' used as a sample for printing that of the following year, and two copies of the 'Report and Balance Sheet 1913-1914', one annotated in pencil with calculations and figures most likely relating to printing costs.

3 items

Open

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UB/SOC1/A/3	<p>Typescript document, 'The Constitution of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society'</p> <p>The constitution formally details the name and objectives of the Society, eligibility for membership, and matters of procedure. Amendments were subject to vote at a general meeting of the Society. This small sequence comprises copies dated March 1973 and March 1975; the earlier edition is incomplete.</p> <p>2 items</p> <p>Open</p>	1973-1975
UB/SOC1/A/4	<p>Manuscript register, 'Life Members'</p> <p>This volume was used to assist with the distribution of 'Retort'. It records the name, address and date of admission of Life Members, together with the months in which they were sent a copy of the journal. Although started in 1958, some of the entries recording the posting of 'Retort' have been backdated to 1957. A number of entries have been updated. It includes a name index although this is incomplete. Loosely inserted with the register are two letters from a member concerning their member's subscription, 28 February 1966, and non-receipt of copies of 'Retort', 3 February; also a postcard sent to the editor of 'Retort', 17 Sep 1968, advising of a change of address.</p> <p>01/01/2068</p> <p>1 volume</p> <p>Closed</p>	1958-1968
UB/SOC1/A/5	<p>Honorary Secretary's correspondence</p> <p>Letters to the Secretary concerning arrangements for Society meetings, [c 1890]-1933. Also including a printed</p>	[c 1890]- 1933

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circular, dated 28 May 1894, from Robert H[owson] Pickard (1874-1949), Hon[orary] Sec[retary], [1894-1895], Mason College, regarding a collection for Professor William Tilden's retirement. The records have been arranged in chronological order.

Artificial series

4 items

Open

UB/SOC1/B Financial records 1910-1981

Financial records of the Society, including income and expenditure accounts, balance sheets, financial statements and miscellaneous items of correspondence. The volumes have been arranged in four sub-series: general accounts, 1910-1981; library, social, photograph and petty cash accounts, 1928-1938; rugby football club accounts, 1964-1971 and a few items of Honorary Treasurer's correspondence, 1929-1935. The general accounts, compiled by the Honorary Treasurer, include consolidated records of the different Society accounts and signed, audited year end balance sheets. There are no financial records for the 1916/1917-1917/1918 academic sessions when the Society ceased activities due to World War I. This series provides detail of the day to day operations underlying the Society's activities.

7 volumes, 4 items

Open

UB/SOC1/B/1 General accounts 1910-1981

Signed manuscript notebooks and account books, largely comprising balance sheets and accounts, arranged chronologically by academic session and thereunder by account. This series is incomplete. The accounts for 1944/1945-1960/1961 and 1966/1967-1969/1970 are

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	missing.	
	5 volumes	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/B/1/1	General accounts	1910-1932
	<p>This volume includes two loosely inserted manuscript items: a signed end of year balance sheet, 1918-1919, and list of the number of tickets [for tea] sold at Society socials, Feb 1929-Mar 1935. The latter seems to have been misfiled but the original arrangement has been retained as the size and folds of the document do not indicate that it was ever incorporated into the volume more appropriate to its date range.</p>	
	1 volume	
	Open	
	<p>The front cover label, inscribed 'ACS 1910-31', does not match the date range of the contents.</p>	
UB/SOC1/B/1/2	General accounts	1932-1944
	<p>This volume, inscribed with the name and address of H[arry] D[ugald] K[eith] Drew, includes a loosely inserted, carbon copy manuscript balance sheet 'General Accounts-1935-1936', dated 15 May, which is a slightly amended version of the original balance sheet incorporated into the volume.</p>	
	1 volume	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/B/1/3	General accounts	1961-1963
	<p>This volume includes a summary list of total year end assets for 1958/1959-1961/1962, dated 8 May 1962.</p>	
	1 volume	

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	Open	
	Approximately three pages are missing from the end of the volume.	
UB/SOC1/B/1/4	General accounts	1963-1966
	This volume includes a loosely inserted typescript copy letter, dated 12 November 1965, confirming a room booking.	
	1 volume	
	Open	
	The front cover label, inscribed 'ACS 63-64', does not match the date range of the contents.	
UB/SOC1/B/1/5	General accounts	1970-1981
	This volume served as a cashbook and accounts book, including financial statements, and signed typescript auditors' reports, pasted in. Also including signed typescript and manuscript copies of year end summaries of accounts, pasted in and loosely inserted.	
	1 volume	
	Open	
	Some pages are coming free from the binding and the volume needs careful handling.	
UB/SOC1/B/2	Library, social, photograph and petty cash accounts	1928-1938
	Containing records of individual accounts for 1928-1938, including bank book entries. This volume largely comprises records of tea tickets sales at social events and meetings of the Society. It also includes lists of members ordering Chemistry Department photographs. The front inside cover is inscribed with the name of the Honorary Treasurer, 'D[avid] Idris Jones, Chem[istry] R[esearch] 5' [elected 11 June 1928].	

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1 volume

Open

The front cover label, inscribed 'ACS 1923-37', does not match the date range of the contents. Approximately five pages are missing from this volume.

UB/SOC1/B/3

Rugby football club accounts

1964-1971

Manuscript notebook containing the season's accounts for October 1964-March 1971, with balance sheets and cashbook entries, signed by the Rugby Club Secretary and Treasurer. Loose inserts with this volume include a signed typescript statement of accounts, 1969-1970; a manuscript balance sheet for a Twickenham visit, 27 February 1971; a letter to the treasurer, 14 September 1970, concerning an order for rugby shirts, and an index card list recording the names of those paying club subscriptions, 1970-1971. The volume records the closure of the account and transfer of monies to the 'General Chem[ical] Soc[iety] Account' in 1974.

1 volume

Open

UB/SOC1/B/4

Honorary Treasurer's correspondence

1929-1935

Letters to the Treasurer concerning arrangements for Society socials, including an unsigned letter in the third person from the Vice Chancellor, dated 23 January 1929, formally approving an application for the social that was to be held 6 February 1929. Arranged in chronological order.

Artificial series

4 items

Open

Records of the University of Birmingham Chemical Society

UB/SOC1/C	Official journal and magazine	1950-1989
	<p>Periodicals produced by the Society through its Editorial Committee, arranged in two chronological sequences: 'Retort', 1950-1989 and 'Orbital', [1980]-1989. Predominantly comprising three bound volumes of 'Retort', 1950-1978. The 1980s issues are much more informal in style and appear in a magazine rather than journal format.</p> <p>Issues of 'Retort' up to 1978 were assembled in a chronological sequence and bound in three volumes, each prefaced with a contents page, in 1984, prior to deposit in the Archives. At the time, at least two issues were believed to be missing from the sequence. A copy of 'Retort', vol 43, no 1, Autumn 1967, previously deposited in the Archives, and missing from the bound volumes, has been added to the series; all other copies from this unbound set have been weeded as duplicates. Two issues produced when the journal was revived in the 1980s, and received at the time of deposit, have been added to the series.</p> <p>3 volumes, 7 items</p> <p>Open</p>	
UB/SOC1/C/1	'Retort'	1950-1989
	<p>Journal issued under two titles: 'The Retort' (nos 1-5) and 'Retort' thereafter. It was intended 'to encourage a more active interest in Chemical Society activities by a larger proportion of the Society' by reporting on Society activities and encouraging contributions from members.</p> <p>Until the summer of 1974, the Society issued between one and three journals per academic year, with a consistent sequence of three issues per year 1954/1955-1966/1967. There was then a two year gap in publication, 1974/1975-1975/1976, attributed to inability to attract sufficient advertising revenue and lack of</p>	

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material. A further two issues were produced but, after July 1978, publication ceased for ten years. It was revived in Autumn 1988 in response to a request by Dr Roy S[herwin] Lehrle [Society Vice-President, 1988-1989, and designer of the journal's first commercial cover].

With three exceptions, 1953-1954; 1958-1959 and 1959-1960, issues were numbered in a continuous sequence until the end of the 1964/1965 academic year (1 to 39); thereafter issues were given a volume number for the academic year and an individual issue number, although this was not printed consistently on the copies. The revival issues of the 1980s were not numbered.

There have been three distinct changes in format reflecting changes in the way 'Retort' has been produced and the intended audience. Issued initially as typescript copies, in 1953 it began to be printed commercially with a glossy cover, distinctive cover design and change in name. Commercial adverts were incorporated to fund increased costs and efforts were made to attract external readers. It was sold for a small fee although, from 1958, Life Members were given complimentary copies for their first five years of membership in an attempt to bolster advertising revenue by extending external circulation and to use the journal as a means of maintaining links between past and current students. When it was revived in the 1980s, aimed at current staff and students, the journal reverted to in-house production of mixed typescript and manuscript copy, issued as 'Birmingham University Chemistry Magazine' rather than the 'Journal of Birmingham University Chemical Society'.

'Retort' changed in style and emphasis over the years, but generally included factual articles and personal commentary, with correspondence from members, articles on the Chemical Society, the

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University's Chemistry Department and broader topics of chemical and more general interest, with articles submitted by Society members and external contributors. There are regular, detailed reports on the Society's activities, particularly social and sporting events and the annual Symposium. Early 1950s issues incorporate lists of newly elected officers and Committee, a feature that was revived briefly in the early 1960s and again in the early 1970s. Other features include news of current and former staff and students, with occasional lists of appointments and other articles of a biographical nature such as profiles of prominent individuals in the field of chemistry. Scientific articles feature throughout the series. From the late 1950s there are notices and reviews of external events, recent publications, and the activities of the Society's affiliated bodies.

This publication provides an informal contemporary perspective on the activities and concerns of the Society and broader topical issues during a time of fluctuating fortunes for the Society and considerable expansion for the Chemistry Department.

A contents page was incorporated from 1953.

3 volumes, 3 items

Open

Source: Preface to the bound volumes of 'Retort', by Professor James C. Robb; 'The Retort', Winter, no 1, 1950.

UB/SOC1/C/1/1

'Retort I. The Journal of Birmingham University Chemical Society'

1950-1958

This volume includes:

1950 'The Retort', Winter, no I

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- 1950 'The Retort', Summer, no 2
- 1950 'The Retort', Winter, no 3
- 1951 'The Retort', Autumn, no 4
- 1952 'The Retort', Spring, no 5
- 1953 'Retort', May, vol 6
- 1953 'Retort', December, vol 7
- 1954 'Retort', May, vol 7
- 1954 'Retort', October, vol 8
- 1955 'Retort', January, vol 9
- 1955 'Retort', May, vol 10
- 1955 'Retort', October, vol 11
- 1956 'Retort', February, vol 12
- 1956 'Retort', May, vol 13
- 1956 'Retort', November, vol 14
- 1957 'Retort', March, vol 15
- 1957 'Retort', June, vol 16
- 1957 'Retort', November, vol 17
- 1958 'Retort', March, vol 18
- 1958 'Retort', May, vol 19
- 1958 'Retort', November, vol 20

Issue no 1, Winter 1950, was produced in the winter of the 1949-1950 academic year (within the journals the launch date is variously attributed to 1949 or 1950).

1 volume, containing 21 items

Open

Vol 7 is incorrectly dated in the list of contents.

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UB/SOC1/C/1/2 'Retort II. The Journal of Birmingham University Chemical Society' 1959-1965

This volume includes:

1959 'Retort', March, vol 21

1959 'Retort', May, vol 21

1959 'Retort', November, vol 22

1960 'Retort', February, vol 23

1960 'Retort', June, vol 23

1960 'Retort', November, vol 25

1961 'Retort', March, vol 26

1961 'Retort', June, vol 27

1961 'Retort', October, vol 28

1962 'Retort', Spring, vol 29

1962 'Retort', Summer, vol 30

1962 'Retort', Autumn, vol 31

1963 'Retort', Spring, vol 32

1963 'Retort', Summer, vol 33

1963 'Retort', Autumn, vol 34

1964 'Retort', Spring, vol 35

1964 'Retort', Summer, vol 36

1964 'Retort', Autumn, vol 37

1965 'Retort', Spring, vol 38

1965 'Retort', Summer, vol 39

1965 'Retort', Autumn, vol 40

Although there is no vol 24, this seems most likely to be due to a numbering error as there does not appear to be a gap in

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the sequence of publication.

1 volume, containing 21 items

Open

Vol 40 has been missed off the contents list.

UB/SOC1/C/1/3

'Retort III. The Journal of Birmingham University Chemical Society'

1966-1978

This volume includes:

1966 'Retort', Spring, vol 40

1966 'Retort', Summer, vol 40

1966 'Retort', Winter, vol 41

1967 'Retort', Spring, vol 42

1967 'Retort', June, vol 42, no 3

1968 'Retort', Spring, vol 43, no 2

1968 'Retort', Winter, vol 44, no 1

1969 'Retort', Autumn, vol 45, no 1

1970 'Retort', December, vol 46, no 1

1971 'Retort', November, vol 47, no 1

1972 'Retort', March, vol 47, no 2

1972 'Retort', Summer, vol 47, no 3

1972 'Retort', December, vol 48, no 1

1973 'Retort', Easter, vol 48, no 2

1973 'Retort', Autumn, vol 49, no 1

1974 'Retort', Summer, vol 49, no 2

1977 'Retort', March, vol 50, no 1

1978 'Retort', July

1 volume, containing 18 items

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	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/1/4	'Retort', Autumn, vol 43, no 1 1 item	1967
	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/1/5	'Retort', Autumn This issue includes an editorial on the 'first issue of the new 'Retort'', explaining its revival. 1 item	1988
	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/1/6	'Retort', Autumn This issue includes an article by [Dr] Roy S[herwin] Lehrle on the design of the cover for the commercially produced issues of 'Retort', May 1953-November 1958. 1 item	1989
	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/2	'Orbital' Magazine produced for the staff and students of the Chemistry Department. Mixed typescript and manuscript copy written in an informal style, largely comprising student contributions, including personal experiences of life as a student, reflections on the Chemistry Department, staff-student relations, quizzes, jokes and satirical features. This series is incomplete. 4 items	[1980]- 1989
	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/2/1	'Orbital' Reference is made to this being the first edition for over two years. This issue	[1980]

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	includes a contents page.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/2/2	'Orbital'	[c 1984]
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/C/2/3	Orbital 'Beschrift der Birminghamer Chemische Gesellschaft. Pre-exam tension issue'	[c 1984]
	1 item	
	Open	
	EnglishGerman	
UB/SOC1/C/2/4	'Orbital', October	1989
	This issue introduces a 'Post-Graduate Page' featuring news of the Chemistry Post-Graduate Committee (CPGC).	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D	Papers read before the Society	1901-1921
	Papers read at the Society's general meetings and retained for reference. They appear to be largely the speakers' own copies and include manuscript, typescript, printed and carbon copies with manuscript annotations and amendments. The papers were arranged broadly in chronological order in numbered packets prefaced with a contemporary contents list. The original order has been retained and, where necessary reconstructed, in line with the order of the contemporary content lists. Items not included in the lists have been filed in chronological order. This is an incomplete sequence, including:	

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- Packet IV 'Papers 1901-1903';
Packet V 'Papers 1904-1908';
Packet VI 'Papers 1909-1911';
Packet VII 'Papers 1911-1913';
Packet VIII 'Papers for sessions 1919-1920; 1920-21; 1921-22'

Mostly written by post-graduates, the papers illustrate the early work of a number of students who went on to distinguished careers in Chemistry.

5 folders, containing 40 items

Open

There are some discrepancies between the contemporary contents lists and current contents.

Sources: Carter, S. R. and M. Stacey, 'The School of Chemistry in the University of Birmingham', reprint from 'Journal of The Royal Institute of Chemistry', August, 1954; 'Oxford Dictionary of National Biography website (www.oxforddnb.com) viewed 27 Feb 2008'. Dates and names of speakers have been confirmed and extended through the Society records and the University's Register of Graduates, 1900-1935.

UB/SOC1/D/1	Papers 1901-1903	1901-1903
	1 folder, containing 10 items	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/1	'Mass Action'	1901
	Read by P. P. Phillips, 11 February.	
	1 item	
	Open	

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UB/SOC1/D/1/2	'The Metals of the Rare Earths'	1901
	Read by S. Andrews.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/4	'The Liquefaction of Gases'	1902
	Read by N[orman] [Leslie] Gebhard, 27 January.	
	The front page is annotated in pencil 'N. L. Gebhard 1902' and '(?) By F. G. Martin' in another hand.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/5	'Nickel and Cobalt'	1902
	The minutes suggest this paper was read by W. B. Parker, Inter A[ssociate] I[nstitute] C[hemistry], 25 February, although the paper is dated 24 February. The front cover of the paper is annotated in ink: 'When finished with kindly hand this copy to the Secretary of the Society'.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/6	'Hydroxylamine, Hydrazine & Hydrazoic Acid'	1902
	Read by D[ouglas] F[rank] Twiss, 10 November.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/7	'John Dalton - His Life Work'	1903
	Read by J[ohn] N[ewton] Friend, 2 February.	
	1 item	

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	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/8	'The Phenomena of Catalysis and their Importance in Pure and Applied Science'	1903
	Read by [Dr] Alexander Findlay, [7] December.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/9	'Optical Activity and Asymmetry'	1902
	Read by T[homas] H[enry] Pope, 10 February.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/1/10	'Spectrum Analysis'	1903
	Read by [James Hector] Barnes, 24 November.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/2	Papers 1904-1908	1904-1908
	1 folder, containing 6 items	
	Open	
	Four papers in the contemporary contents listing are missing from the file: 'Immunity' read by [Dr] Miller, [28] November 1904; 'Organic Metallic Compounds' read by [Fredrick James] Thorneycroft, March 1905; 'Alchemy' read by [Evelyn Marion] Hickmans, March 1906; 'Chemistry of Life' read by [Robert Viner] Stanford, [29] January 1906.	
UB/SOC1/D/2/1	'Buchner's Zymase'	1904
	Read by C[hawner] Ryland, 29 February.	
	1 item	

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	Open	
	At least one page is missing.	
UB/SOC1/D/2/2	'Inorganic Isomerism'	1905
	Read by A[rthur] H[ubert] Cox, 16 January.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/2/3	'The Mechanism of the Combustion of Hydrocarbons'	1907
	Read by D[ouglas] F[rank] Twiss, 4 March.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/2/4	'The Rare Gases of the Atmosphere'	1908
	Read by Herbert Hawley, 7 December.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/2/5	'Explosives'	1907
	Read by W[ilfred] H[arry] Harby, 25 November.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/2/6	'Atoms'	1905
	Read by R[obert] V[iner] Stanford, 13 February. This paper has been imprinted with the Society's stamp.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/3	Papers 1909-1911	1909-1911
	Some of the papers in this file have been	

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inserted in paper covers, possibly to protect them during reference.

1 folder, containing 8 items

Open

Two papers in the contemporary contents listing are missing from the file: 'The Hydrosulphites, Sulphoxylate ...' read by [Dr Thomas Slater] Price, 1911 and 'Inorganic Substitution Products of Ammonia', read by [Douglas Frank] Twiss, 1911.

UB/SOC1/D/3/1 'Some Chemical aspects of Light' 1909

Signed copy of a paper read by Arthur E[rnest] Everest, 8 Feb.

1 item

Open

UB/SOC1/D/3/2 The Rare Metals and Earths in Lighting 1910

Off-print article from 'The Birmingham Engineering and Mining Journal', pp 197-204, read by Arthur E[rnest] Everest, 14 Feb.

1 item

Open

UB/SOC1/D/3/3 'The Manufacture and the Application of the Common Gases' 1910

Read by H[erbert] Hawley, 14 Feb.

1 item

Open

UB/SOC1/D/3/4 'Soap' 1910

Read by W[ilfred] H[arry] Harby, 7 March.

1 item

Open

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UB/SOC1/D/3/5	'Modern Explosives'	1910
	Read by [S.] Smith, [7] Nov.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/3/6	'Sir Humphrey Davy'	1911
	Read by A[da Maria] Finney, 23 Jan.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/3/7	'Indiarubber'	1911
	Off-print article from 'The Birmingham Engineering and Mining Journal', pp 439-448, read by S[ydney] R[aymond] Carter, 16 Jan.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/3/8	'The Theory of Explosives'	1911
	Printed proof copy of a paper read by B[ucchok] Shen, 6 Feb.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4	Papers 1911-1913	1911-1914
	1 folder, containing 9 items	
	Open	
	The contents list does not accurately reflect the items in this file. The file includes two additional papers [BUCS/4/4/5 and BUCS/4/4/9] and three of the papers listed are missing: 'Flame' read by [Joseph Edward] Coates, Feb 1911; 'Extraction of Ganogen [?] Compounds from Gas' read by Stone, Oct 1911; 'Artificial Gems' read by [Sidney Albert] Brazier, Nov 1911.	

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UB/SOC1/D/4/1	'Alkali Waste'	1911
	Read by Sidney A[lbert] Brazier, 6 Mar.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/2	'The Evolution of the Elements'	1911
	Read by W[illiam Edward] Garner, [nd].	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/3	'The Photochemical Aspect of Photography'	1912
	Read by Geo[rge] King, 19 Jan.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/4	'Glass'	1912
	Read by John Wilfrid Parkes, 11 Mar.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/5	'Tannin and its Applications'	1912
	Read by John Wilfrid Parkes, [4 Dec].	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/6	'The Dyestuffs and Cotton Printing'	1913
	Read by H. A. Scarborough, 13 Jan.	
	1 item	
	Open	

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UB/SOC1/D/4/7	'Cements'	1913
	Read by R. Dunn, Feb.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/8	'On the Valency of Carbon and Oxygen'	1913
	Read by Harry H. Webb, Feb.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/4/9	'Spatial Chemistry of Some Inorganic Compounds'	1914
	[Dr Thomas Slater Price], 2 Feb.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5	Papers 1919-20 and 1920-21	1920-1921
	1 folder, containing 7 items	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5/1	'Viscosity of Chemical Substances'	1920
	Read by Dr D[ouglas] F[rank] Twiss, 9 Feb.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5/2	'Theories on the Rusting of Iron'	1920
	Read by H[orace] S[amuel] Rooke, 1 Nov.	
	1 item	
	Open	

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UB/SOC1/D/5/3	'Some Organic Sulphur Compounds'	1920
	Read by W[illiam] A[rthur] P[ercival] Challenor, [15 Nov].	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5/4	'Fermentation'	[1920]
	Read by W[ilfred] J[ohn] Hickinbottom, [29 Nov].	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5/5	'The Works Research Laboratory'	1921
	Read by H[enry] L[eonard] Heathcote, Chief Research Chemist, Rudge Whitworth, [University of Birmingham graduate], 21 Feb.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5/6	'Heterocyclic Diazonium Compounds'	[1921]
	Read by H[enry] Burgess, [7 Feb].	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D/5/7	'The Structure of the Atom and its Bearing on Valency'	[1921]
	Read by H[arry] Gordon Reeves, 7 Mar.	
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/D1/3	'Nitrogen Peroxide'	1901
	Read by R[obert Crosbie] Farmer, 4 November.	
	Attached with this item is a published paper covering the issues that were	

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presented in the last part of the address:
Frankland, Percy Faraday and Robert
Crosbie Farmer. 'Liquid Nitrogen Peroxide
as a Solvent', Transactions of the
Chemical Society, vol 79, 1901.

1 item

Open

UB/SOC1/E Other printed material produced by the 1934-1988
Society

This series largely comprises Chemical
Society programme cards, 1934-1988,
arranged chronologically.

Artificial series

39 items

Open

UB/SOC1/E/1 Printed cards, 'Chemical Society 1934-1988
Programme'

Cards issued to members that served
both as a programme of the year's events
and member's card; some of the cards
have been signed. They include lists of
officers and, until the end of the 1930s,
full lists of the Committee. The Society did
not produce a card for the 1954-1955
academic session as its programme was
incorporated into the programme
published by the Federation of Midland
Technical Societies, September 1954.
This series is incomplete.

33 items

Open

Source: University of Birmingham
Chemical Society Committee minutes,
1954.

UB/SOC1/E/2 Postcards giving notice of Society [early 20th
meetings century]

Blank meeting cards, one addressed to
Miss E. M. Hickmans, the other to E.

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	Sanders. Meeting cards were sent out by the Honorary Secretary to advise of the date, time and topic of the next meeting.	
	2 items	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/E/3	Material printed for social events	1984-1987
	Including a menu and a ticket for the Society's Centennial Dinner 13 Feb, with a loosely inserted reply slip signed J. M. Webber, and a ticket for the Annual Ball, 1987.	
	3 items	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/E/4	Compliment slip	[c 1970]
	1 item	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/F	Publications and printed material produced by other groups and organisations	[c 1898]-1961
	This series largely comprises programmes received by the Honorary Secretary from organisations to which the Society was affiliated, 1939-1961, and from other chemical societies, 1947-1958.	
	Artificial series	
	40 items	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/F/1	Printed leaflet, 'Suggestions for the Formation of a Scientific Society at Mason University College'.	[1898]
	Two copies with manuscript annotations. Concerning proposals to amalgamate the existing scientific societies of Mason University College (formerly Mason Science College, 1880-1892 and Mason College, 1892-1897), including the Mason	

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College Chemical Society. The proposals were drawn up by Professors T. W. Bridge and J. H. Poynting and circulated 'among the members of the various Committees for discussion'.

2 items

Open

Source: 'Mason College Magazine', vol XVI, no 5, May 1898, pp 118-119.

UB/SOC1/F/2 Programmes produced by affiliated organisations 1939-1961

Comprising programme cards produced by the Midlands Scientific and Technical Societies Programme Committee, and the Society of Chemical Industry (Local Section) Midland Chemists' Committee. Birmingham University Chemical Society events were incorporated into the chronological sequence of the programmes which were intended to be distributed by the constituent members. The records have been arranged chronologically in two bundles: 'Scientific and Technical Meetings in Birmingham', 1956/1957-1960/1961 and 'Midland Chemists' Committee Programme', 1939-1940 and 1950/1951-1952/1953.

Artificial series

8 items

Open

UB/SOC1/F/3 Programmes of other chemical societies 1947-1958

Complimentary copies of programmes received from other Chemical Societies, collated by the Honorary Secretary. Markings and annotations on some of the programmes suggest that they may have been displayed on the Society Notice Board. The programmes have been arranged alphabetically by name of institution, and thereafter chronologically.

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	30 items	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/G	Personal papers of members of the Society	1950s-[c 1965]
	Papers written or compiled by members for their own use while carrying out the functions of the Society. They were not intended to serve as official records.	
	Artificial series	
	2 volumes	
	Open	
UB/SOC1/G/1	Bound papers, 'Birmingham University Chemical Society - Entertainment presented at Christmas Parties in the early 1950's'	[early 1950s]
	Papers compiled by [Dr] Roy S[herwin] Lehrle during the time in which he produced the entertainment for the Society's Christmas party. This file largely comprises a volume of photocopied scripts, songs and correspondence. It includes three opera scripts: 'An Enemy of the People', 1952; 'Dumbell', 1953 and 'Copolymer', 1954 (the latter illustrated with photographs of the performance) and a letter, 4 December 1954, from [Dr] S[ydney] R[aymond] Carter (1899-1966) [Honorary Life President of the Society] thanking Mr Lehrle, BSc, Chemistry Department, for sending him a record of the performance of 'The Dumbell' on behalf of the Chemistry Department Opera Group. The letter has been annotated with the dates of Carter's retirement and death. Also loosely inserted in the volume are a compilation of typescript lyrics, including material written originally for the 1938 Chemistry social, and a carbon copy manuscript programme for the Chemical Society social, 2 Dec 1921.	
	[Lehrle studied chemistry at Birmingham	

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at graduate and postgraduate level during the 1950s, during which time he was a member of the Chemistry Department's opera group and produced the Society 'pantomimes'. He was an accomplished musician, amateur composer and conductor and went on to become Honorary Conductor of the Birmingham Concert Orchestra.]

1 volume

Open

Source: 'University of Birmingham Alumni Newsletter, News from the University of Birmingham', May 2004; CBSO amateurmusicnews website (www.forum.cbso.co.uk) viewed 25 February 2008.

UB/SOC1/G/2

Manuscript notebook, 'J. Standley. Personal Chemical Society Notes'

1963-[c
1965]

Standley seems to have used the volume to keep a comprehensive record of the activities in which he was involved in his capacity as Honorary Secretary. It includes brief notes, largely in diary form, of forthcoming events, records of meetings attended, donations received, personal contact details of donors and correspondents, and points for action. The first entry, comprising notes on a 'Hugo Muller lecture' given by Professor D. H. R. Barton, 10 May 1963, appears to be in the hand of the previous Honorary Secretary whose name is inscribed on the inside front cover, B[rian] H. Rees [1963-1964]. Also including, loosely inserted, a completed questionnaire regarding the Society's scarf and tie, received by Standley; manuscript notes for a meeting, nd [early 1960s], and a manuscript programme of events written in his hand. The volume gives an insight into day to day role of the Honorary Secretary in the mid 1960s and thus the working of the Society.

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01/01/2065

1 volume

Closed

The front cover label, inscribed 'Diary 1964-5', does not match the date range of the contents. The notes include numerous abbreviations.

UB/SOC1/H

Ephemera

[1911]-
[mid 20th
century]

This small series comprises manuscript and carbon copy manuscript notices produced by the Honorary Secretary, together with a printed banner in red ink, 'B.U. CHEMSOC', nd [mid 20th century]. It includes a notice concerning orders for Chemistry Department and Research photographs with the signatures of those wishing to purchase copies, some scored through, [c 1930]. Pin marks in the banner and photograph notice suggest that they were displayed on the Society Notice Board.

Artificial series

3 items

Open