

A brief history of SACI

Peter Loyson



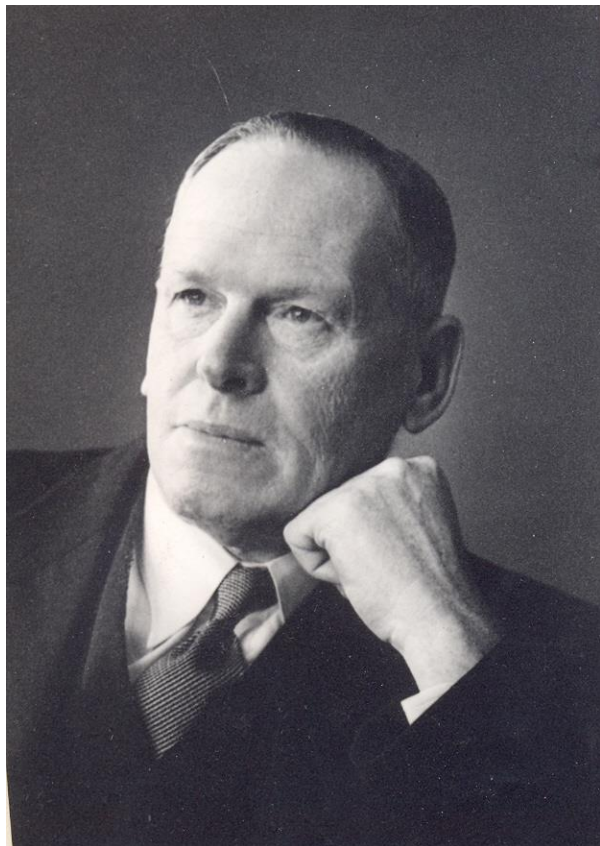
South African Chemical Institute

1912-2012

Situation before 1912

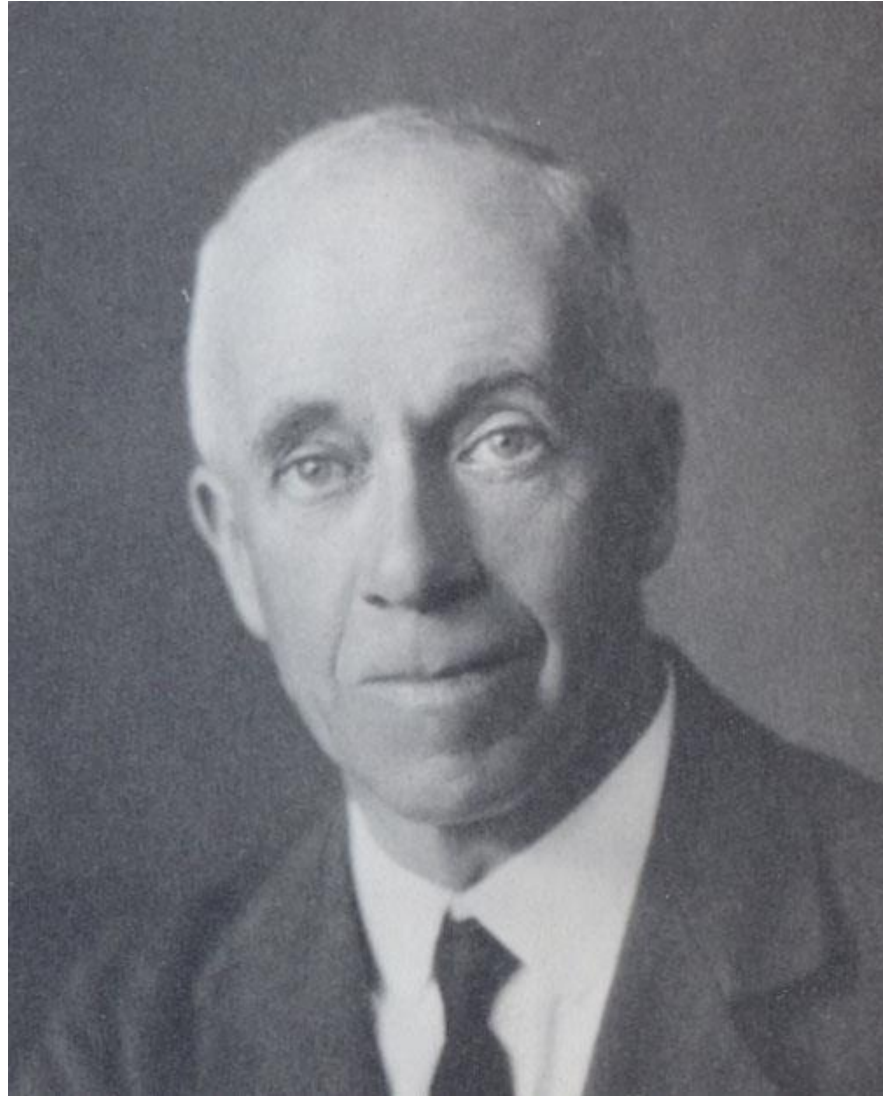
- 1886 discovery of gold
- Chemical, Metallurgical and Mining Society of SA, formed in 1895
- Cape Town Chemical Society since 1906
- SA Association for the Advancement of Science (S₂A₃) 1901
- Need for a body, truly representative of chemists, which would protect their interests in the Union of SA
- Driving force :
Mr James Gray

Formation of the SA Association of Analytical Chemists



- 26 January 1912
- Modeled on the Institute of Chemistry of Great Britain and Ireland
- 1917 Australian Chemical Institute
- 1919 Canadian
- 1923 American Chemical Institute

1st president Dr John McCrae 1912-13



Change of name

- In 1921 Association changed its name to The South African Chemical Institute
- The title Analytical Chemists restricted the scope and objectives of the Institute

Objects of the Institute

- Up to 1929
 - i) To encourage and extend the knowledge and study of **Analytical and Industrial Chemistry**
- After 1929
 - i) To encourage and extend the knowledge and study of **chemistry in all its branches**

Corporate / associate membership

- Up to 1963 needed a 3 year degree in chemistry or equivalent
- Changed in 1963 to restrict it to Honours Degrees in chemistry
- Chem Engineers left and started the SA Institute of Chem Engineers in 1964
- Large loss of members
- In 1971 Constitution was changed to allow chemical technicians to become members

Association with the AS&TS

- Associated Scientific and Technical Societies of SA formed in 1920
- Chemical Institute one of 10 founding societies
- Meetings were held at the Scientific and Technical Club in Fox Street
- Services provided by AS&TS extended to provide full secretarial services
- In 1937 AS&TS moved to Kelvin House

Local Sections

- 11 of the first 36 members of SACI were outside the Transvaal
- 3rd president, Dr Juritz lived in Cape Town
- Natal section in 1927
- Pretoria section in 1929 = Northern Transvaal in 1985, now NG
- EP section in 1934
- Joburg section in 1934, to change in 1942 in the Southern Transvaal section, now SG
- Western province section founded in 1942

Earliest activities in EP

- Started in 1934
- Early meetings at the King Edward Hotel
- Rhodes Univ 1904
- UPE, now NMMU, 1965
- Bird street chem dept meetings
- Schauder brothers
- John Perrit, John Vale
- C. Whiteley, M. Brown, T. Letcher, Leslie Glasser
- Doug Rivett, Hans Rohwer
- Chem staff at Rhodes and UPE, Andre Goosen
- Mike Gradwell, Bev Glass
- Chris Woolard, Richard Heard, Peter Loyson

Conventions

- 1st Convention in Joburg in June 1947
- Organized by Mr CF Lindemann
- Conventions offered by the various sections annually until 24th in Durban in 1975
- Always in July, except in February for the Cape
- Conventions now held 2 year rotation between WP, EP, KZN, SG, NG
- 34th National convention in Durban in July 1998 and the 7th International African Chemical Conference 1st time in SA
- Past Conventions in EP : UPE (NMMU), Rhodes

Meetings and publicity

- Early days monthly meetings, where papers were presented
- These papers published in the Journal from 1918
- 1st lecture in Afrikaans in 1931 by Dr van Wijk
- Institute members gave a series of lectures as part of 11 radio talks on chemical subjects in 1924, 1925.
- Local sections adopted their own lecture programmes

Dr Maria Breyer Brandwijk

- 1st woman member in 1925
- In 1926 was the 1st woman to deliver a paper to the Institute
- Worked on chemical constituents and pharmacological action of plants
- D Sc (Wits) Phil. Doct, Apotheker (Utrecht)
- biological and chem research for Chamber of Mines
- “The medicinal and poisonous plants of Southern and Eastern Africa “ 1932, 1962
- pneumoconiosis

Maria Brandwijk



Publications of the Institute

- Proceedings 1913-1947
- Journal of the Association 1918
- 21st anniversary → Commemorative publication Oct 1933
- AECl offers a prize of £ 5 for best contribution in Proceedings 1935
- 1947 The SA Industrial Chemist
- Chemical Processing
- ChemSA 1974
- 1977 the Journal becomes South African Journal of Chemistry

SACI Presidents from Eastern Province



DEA Rivett

1978-1979



A Goosen

1979-1980



TM Letcher

1994-1996

Changing times



Elsa Meintjies
2003-2005



James Darkwa
Current President

Education

- Certificate of Assayers
- 1924 student members admitted
- Membership exam introduced 1929
- 1978 Council withdrew its exam and admitted HND candidates
- Summer school in GC in 1955
- 1965 drafted the chemistry syllabus for high schools (1969)
- Practical work in school chemistry 1974
- Best chemistry teacher award 1977

Honours and awards

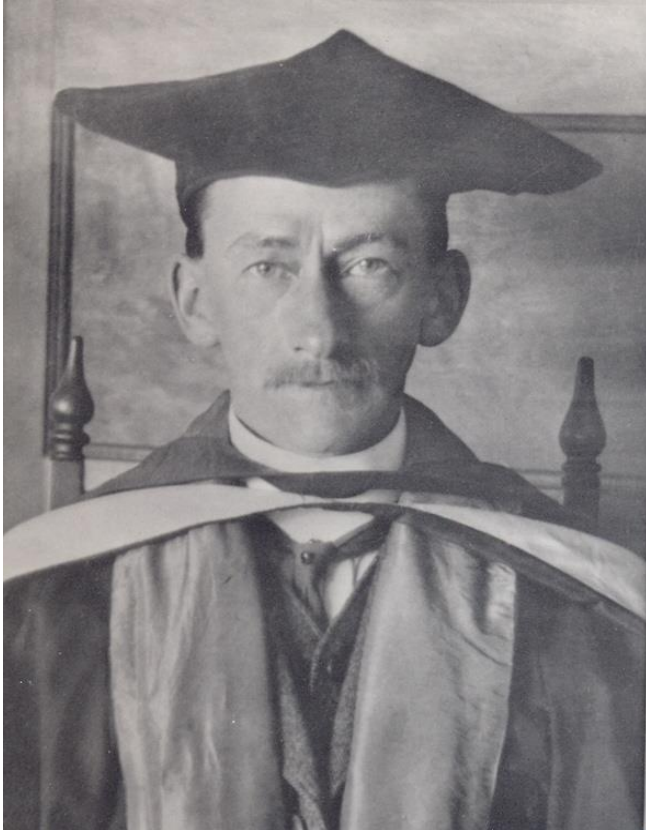
- Honorary members 1929 James Gray
- Gold Medal = premier award : 1st recipient was Prof F L Warren 1967
- Raikes medal : 2000 M Gradwell
- AECl award : 1971 JGH du Preez, 1975 A Goosen, 1996 P Kaye
- James Moir medal
- Chem Ed medal : 1993 M Laing, 2011 P Loyson

Principal Humphrey Rivaz Raikes



- Principal of Wits Univ for 26 years (1928-54)
- Vice Chancellor 1948-54
- Trained as a chemist
- President of SACI 1933
- President of AS&TS 1948
- Raikes medal annual award from 1960

James Moir



- President 1915-16, 24-25
- University of Aberdeen
- Extraction of Au from cyanide, dust in air, silicosis, color of organic cpds phthaleins
- Died in 1929, Memorial Fund created
- James Moir medals for top students 1982

Mischa Mrost Award



- Established in 1977
- President 1968-69
- Many years on Council
- Treasurer / Honorary Secretary
- Award went to the best paper in ChemSA each year
- 1981 J Zlotnick, 1989 T Letcher

Hendrik van Eck Medal



- Established in 1982
- President 1939-40
- Received the Gold Medal in 1969
- Important position in the business world
- Awarded for business or community work
- Dr A Rupert, Dr N Stutterheim

Warren and Carman



F L Warren
President 1960-61



PC Carman
President 1969-70

EP recipients of the Gold Medal

- 1990 JGH du Preez
- 1992 A Goosen
- 1998 W McGill
- 1999 TM Letcher
- 2000 ME Brown
- 2007 P Kaye

Conclusion

- Tribute to secretarial support
- Can be proud of an Association that has done so much for Chemistry in SA
- Look forward to the next 100 years