

Plastics Heritage European Association Newsletter

Plastics Heritage European Association

2018

1st issue



Plastic objects from the oldest plastics company in Portugal, Baquelite Liz, established in 1945

Editorial

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, the Plastics Heritage European Association (PHEA) has been recently established. The PHEA aims to have an active and progressive role in the international plastics heritage community.

Being a part of this community is a responsibility of great honour. Being the PHEA Newsletter editor is an even greater opportunity. This newsletter is a result of the PHEA founding and the following need to report its ongoing position to its members and overall scientific community.

This inaugural issue of the PHEA newsletter is the first of a series dedicated to the research of plastics, promoting current activities, publications and projects relevant to this field of study.

My goal as the editor is to be an efficient messenger between the community's activities and those who might take interest in such contents. Overall, I hope to always act in the community's best interest, bearing in mind the diversity of our studies and the different perspectives from which plastics can be seen.

The PHEA Newsletter is always welcome to suggestions, comments, recommendations and proposals. Any material you may find of importance to our readers and fellow members, do not hesitate in sending our way.

I kindly ask our readers to share this newsletter with other communities, as we believe the research in the field of plastics deserves to be acknowledged even beyond our borders. I would like to thank Sofia Rodrigues, a Volunteer Collaborator for taking part in the development of this newsletter.

Thank you for your attention.

Maria Elvira Callapez

In this issue

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We would like your contribution

If you have any suggestion or recommendation, do not hesitate to contact us.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

It is a great pleasure to see this newsletter materialise after many years of plastics research and related activities that we have seen across Europe and beyond. There has been a strong demand for PHEA and this is why it has been formed with support from European colleagues and organisations. We very much hope that PHEA will continue to grow and take root in plastics organisations and collections across Europe.

We see the newsletter as a key form of dissemination and acting as a forum for those interested in plastics. Our intention is that the newsletter will encourage cooperation, connections and collaborations amongst those with a strong interest in heritage plastics. As chair and vice chair of PHEA we would very much encourage you to participate and communicate your views so that we have a vibrant and active community.

Guenter Lattermann

Jake Kaner

PLASTICS HERITAGE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

AN INTRODUCTION

PHEA is a network of European organisations, which are involved in plastics heritage of all aspects and times.

Purposes

- ✓ *To engage in activities relating to and to engage with research on 'historic polymeric materials' ('Hipoms').*
 - ✓ *To communicate, exchange and mutually popularise the manifold, special knowledge and abilities of the PHEA members.*
 - ✓ *To initiate applications and come to agreements for the exchange of students, researchers and for research cooperations.*
 - ✓ *To apply for funding of European research programmes on Plastics Heritage.*
 - ✓ *To organise the International Forum 'Plastics Heritage' on a biennial basis.*
 - ✓ *To encourage publishing of results in e.g. the PHEA attributed International Journal of Plastics History **e-plastory** as well as other relevant journals.*
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Members

- ✓ *Members can be legal or non-profit private European organisations and institutions like universities, departments, collections, museums and societies, which after invitation or request agree and are capable to fulfil said PHEA purposes.*
 - ✓ *New membership requests in a written form could be accepted by the majority either of the participants during a Members' Meeting or in urgent cases intermediately with the majority of the written votes cast by members.*
 - ✓ *Leaving needs to be announced in a written form to the Secretary. An exclusion has to be decided with the majority either of the participants during a Members' Meeting or in urgent cases intermediately with the majority of the written votes cast by members.*
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PLASTICS HERITAGE EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION

AN INTRODUCTION

PHEA is a network of European organisations, which are involved in plastics heritage of all aspects and times.

PHEA's Members' Meeting

- ✓ *Regular Member's Meetings will take place every two years in connection with the International Forum 'Plastics Heritage'. Other meetings (seminars, workshops, etc.) may take place in the intervening years.*
 - ✓ *The Members' Meeting has to be announced at the latest 8 weeks before the Forum and is organised by the PHEA Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.*
 - ✓ *Agenda items in written form can be submitted to the chairperson until 2 weeks before the date of a Members' Meeting.*
 - ✓ *Decisions need the majority of the participants during a Members' Meeting or in urgent cases intermediately with the majority of the written votes cast by members.*
 - ✓ *The minutes of the meeting will be distributed to the members in written form.*
-

PHEA's Coordinators

- ✓ *The Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson and the Secretary are elected for the period between two Members' Meeting with the majority either of the participants during a Members' Meeting or in urgent cases intermediately with the majority of written votes by members.*
 - ✓ *Modifications of the PHEA 'Articles and Regulations' need the majority either of the participants during a Members' Meeting or in urgent cases intermediately with the majority of the written votes cast by members.*
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CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ON PLASTICS

II International Seminar 2018 – Plastics are Future

24 & 25 April 2018

Valencia, Spain

[See more](#)

EUPOC 2018

20-24 May 2018

Como, Lago di Como, Italy

[See more](#)

45th annual meeting ICOHTEC

17-21 July 2018

Saint-Etienne, France

[See more](#)

Plastics Heritage: History, Limits and Possibilities

29-31 May 2019

Lisbon, Portugal

Coming soon

NEWS

PHEA – Plastics Heritage European Association

The PHEA was established in January 2018, in Brussels.

[See more](#)

Mostra "Ex Novo" al Plart di Napoli: il primo Museo Europeo della Plastica compie 10 anni

Plart, the first European museum dedicated to Plastics, celebrates its 10-year anniversary by hosting "Ex Novo", an exhibition held in Naples.

[See more](#)

Chemical Heritage Foundation is now Science History Institute

The Chemical Heritage Foundation has changed its name to the Science History Institute, after the 2015 merger with the Life Sciences Foundation.

[See more](#)

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITIONS ON PLASTICS

Spotlight on... 2

October 2017 – March 2018

MoDiP, Bournemouth, UK

[See more](#)

Polyphonic: music through plastics

March 2018 – September 2018

MoDiP, Bournemouth, UK

[See more](#)

See Through

September 2018 – March 2019

MoDiP, Bournemouth, UK

[See more](#)

Bas Princen. Image and Architecture

24.02.2018 – 05.08.2018

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

[See more](#)

NEWS

Plásticos na agricultura: a oportunidade perdida?

An opinion piece on mulch, the growing deposition of agricultural plastics in landfills and the soil contamination status quo in Portugal.

[See more](#)

Final installment of the Plastics Revolution published

The final installment of the four-part book “The Plastics Revolution: How the Netherlands Became a Global Player in Plastics” was published online.

[See more](#)

PVC posts solid sales growth in 2017, while results for other resins are mixed

North American PVC sales expanded in 2017, despite other resins registering mixed results.

[See more](#)

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITIONS ON PLASTICS

Hans J. Wegner: Designing Danish Collection

02.03.2018 – 03.06.2018

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

[See more](#)

Black Box. A Cabinet of Robotic Curiosities

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

[See more](#)

Plastic

August 2018

Rome, Italy

[See more](#)

Ex Novo

25.01.2018 – 17.03.2018

Fondazione Plart, Naples, Italy

[See more](#)

CAPINDIA 2018 - Chemicals & Plastics Exhibition

22-24 March 2018

Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai, India

[See more](#)

Schaudepot: The Vitra Design Museum Collection

Vitra Design Museum, Weil am Rhein, Germany

[See more](#)

Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials

13.02. 2018 – 17.06.2018

Palmer Museum of Art, Penn State University, PA, USA

[See more](#)

UzChemPlastExpo – Chemical Industry, Production of Plastics and Rubber

25.01.2018 – 17.03.2018

Tashkent city, Republic of Uzbekistan

[See more](#)

NPE2018 – The Plastics Show

7-11 May 2018

Orlando, Florida, USA

[See more](#)

EXHIBITIONS

EXHIBITIONS ON PLASTICS

X International Trade Fair Plast Expo UA- 2018

3-5 April 2018

Kyiv, Ukraine

[See more](#)

Peter Ghyczy. 50 years of Functionalism.

07.02.2018 – 11.03.2018

ADAM, Brussels, Belgium

[See more](#)

UTECH Europe

29-31 May 2018

Maastricht, Netherlands

[See more](#)

BOOKS

BOOKS ON PLASTICS

The Plastics Revolution: How the Netherlands Became a Global Player in Plastics

The book provides a historical overview of the invention and further development of plastics during the past hundred years and the important role Dutch science and industry have played in the process. It shows how plastics, an entirely new category of materials, have had a profound impact on human life. The book is written by a team of three authors led by Professor Harry Lintsen of the Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands. The other two authors are Dr. Marijn Hollestelle (Foundation for the History of Technology) and Dr. Rick Hölsgens (Technischen Universität Dortmund). The Plastics Revolution is an initiative of DPI and is published under the auspices of the Foundation for the History of Technology (SHT) in the Netherlands.

Source: <https://ymlp.com/zrcGky>

OTHER INITIATIVES

INITIATIVES ON PLASTICS

WORKSHOP "Introduzione alla Pulitura delle Pitture Moderne"

5-7 July 2018

Naples, Italy

[See more](#)

THE TRIUMPH OF BAKELITE - CONTRIBUTIONS FOR A HISTORY OF PLASTICS IN PORTUGAL

The Triumph of Bakelite - Contributions for a History of Plastics in Portugal is an interdisciplinary project (financed for three years by the Portuguese Agency for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia). It's running since June 2016 and is hosted by Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia - Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa (CIUHCT-FCUL).

This project is coordinated by Maria Elvira Callapez, (PI), undertaken by a well-classified skilled team composed of researchers with expertise in many different areas, such as: history of science and technology, social history, anthropology, industrial archaeology, museology and chemistry and society. In addition, it involves several public and private national and international partners, such as museums, industries, local communities, consultants, among others.

With this work we aim to investigate aspects of the History of Plastics in Portugal, by basing itself on technical-scientific, industrial, social-historical studies, as well as studies pertaining to the history of science and technology and material culture.

For the project's output we plan to carry out:

- *An exhibition on the History of Plastic materials: its fabrication, use and impact on the Portuguese society. The design and conservation issues, will be evident as well. This exhibit will take place at the Museu de Leiria (Leiria Museum), in 2019. Leiria, in mid-center Portugal, is connected to the origins of the plastics manufacturing industry, in a strict synergy with the molding industry, located in Marinha Grande, a nearby city;*
- *A collection of plastic objects that might generate a rich catalog on plastics, for publishing;*
- *An International Congress, on the "Plastics Heritage" that will take place in Lisbon and Leiria in May 2019.*

For this congress your contributions are very much welcome. The call for papers will be delivered very soon. Any inquiries may be sent to mariaelviraacallapez@gmail.com

[See more](#)

PRIZES

PRIZES ON PLASTICS

EuCheMS Historical Landmarks

Chemistry is an integral part of the Cultural Heritage of Europe. However, while there are many touristic signs marking the very place where important intellectual developments or events happened, only a few chemical sites are identified and publicized. Most of the existing programmes are run by national chemical societies, and therefore often overlook the European, and even the international dimension, of the chemical sciences.

For these reasons, EuCheMS decided to set up a Historical Landmarks Programme. It will reinforce the sense of belonging of European chemists and remind them that as far as the history of chemistry goes, people and ideas alike have circulated, been shared and shaped through meetings and communication. It would also bring to the general public some sense of how chemistry is part of the general cultural heritage and history of every European citizen, especially as the plaques are accompanied with communication materials providing information on the discoveries and breakthroughs celebrated, and the impact they had.

EuCheMS takes into account that some countries already have national landmarks programme, while others have an interest but have nothing in place. In view of this, two levels of EuCheMS Landmarks are foreseen i.e. for major and for local initiatives. To be efficient, such a programme requires the full involvement of the local community.

The guidelines for this award can be found [here](#).

The deadline for submissions is 30 April 2018.

Source: <http://www.euchems.eu/awards/euchems-historical-landmarks/>

ARTICLES

Boosting Plastics' Image? Communicative Challenges of Innovative Bioplastics

Julia-Maria Blesin, Miriam Jaspersen, Wiebke Möhring

[See more](#)

The Museum of the Comb and Plastics Industry in Oyonnax

Virginie Kollmann-Caillet

[See more](#)

An Interdisciplinary Project on the History of Plastics in Portugal

Maria Elvira Callapez

[See more](#)

Performance and Stability of Historic Casein Formaldehyde

Jake Kaner, Florin Ioras, Jega Ratnasingam

[See more](#)

CALL FOR PAPERS

CALL FOR PAPERS ON PLASTICS

European Molecular Biology Laboratory – Second Workshop on Scientific Archives (Washington D.C., 2018)

Second Workshop (Washington D.C., 2018)

Date: 13 & 14 August 2018

Venue: Carnegie Institution for Science,
Washington, D.C.

Organized by: Committee on the
Contemporary Archives of Science and
Technology (C-CAST) of the International
Council on Archives/Section on University and
Research Institution Archives (ICA/SUV)

Proposals are now being accepted for the
Second Workshop on Scientific Archives,
organized by C-CAST of the ICA/SUV. The aim of
the workshop is to explore topics in the area of
the contemporary archives of science and
technology.

Possible themes for papers include (but are not
limited to):

- Collaboration between scientists and archivists
to best capture contemporary material
- Appraisal of science and technology archives
- Curating and making accessible science and technology archives to support
both humanities research and scientific reuse
- Describing specialist collections from a non-scientific perspective
- Archives and scientific data management and usage
- Public outreach and communication: who are scientific archives for?

The First Workshop on Scientific Archives was hosted by the European Molecular
Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg (DE), 1-2 November 2016. (Scroll down
for more information on this workshop.)

The organizing committee welcomes proposals from archivists, historians,
scientists, engineers, data specialists and curators.

Papers are to be 20 minutes. Please submit a 400-word abstract using the
following form: <https://goo.gl/forms/4sCKjhlJQsWnU3rm1> by Thursday 29 March
2018.

ARTICLES

Let's pretend – conservation of an early imitation tortoiseshell

Thijs Janssen

[See more](#)

The Malleable Glass of the Ancients

Günter Lattermann

[See more](#)

Publicising Plastic and Plasticising Public in Ralf Schüler and Ursulina Schüler-Witte's 'Indapt System' (1970-72)

Alexander Davidson

[See more](#)

Papers will be selected by the organizing committee by Friday 20 April 2018, at which point selected speakers will be notified. The full program will be published in early-May 2018.

A limited number of travel bursaries will be available for students, new professionals and international presenters. These will be distributed by the organizing committee.

C-CAST looks forward to receiving your abstracts and seeing you in August in D.C.!

On behalf of the C-CAST:

Bethany Anderson, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)

Anne-Flore Laloë, European Molecular Biology Laboratory (Germany)

Melanie Mueller, American Institute of Physics (USA)

Jonathan Pledge, British Library (UK)

Ron Brashear, Science History Institute (USA)

Source: <https://www.embl.de/aboutus/archive/working-with-scientific-archives/workshop/>

APPENDIX

What does 'historic polymeric materials' (Hipoms) include?

Historic polymeric materials (Hipoms) includes polymer materials in shape of formed materials, fibres, lacquers, binders, adhesives including (but not limited to):

- Natural: e.g. amber, bitumen, copal, shellac, proteins (albumen, blood proteins, casein, horn, etc.), natural resins, natural lacquers, natural fibres.

- Semi-synthetics: e.g. rubber, hardened rubber, casein-formaldehyde (CSF), cellulose nitrate (CN) and cellulose acetate (CA).

- Synthetics: e.g.

- early thermosets: phenol formaldehyde, urea formaldehyde;

- early thermoplastics: polyvinyl chloride (PVC),

polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA), polystyrene (PS), polyethylene (PE),

polyamide (PA), polyacrylonitrile (PAN), polyurethane (PU), polycarbonate

(PC), polyester (PES), etc.
