

Symposium Summary



Department of Chemistry

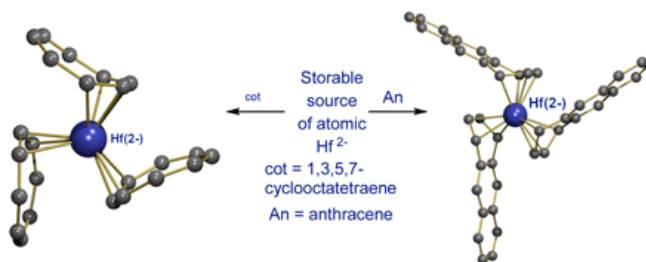
Inorganic Chemistry Symposium Celebrating the 70th Birthday of John Ellis

Saturday, May 18, 2013

Kate and Michael Bárány Conference Room, Smith Hall 117/119

Schedule

- 2:00 p.m. Welcome — Ilja Siepmann, University of Minnesota
- 2:05 p.m. Welcome — Paul Fischer, Macalester College
- 2:15 p.m. John Ellis, University of Minnesota
Recent Developments in Low-Valent Transition Metal Chemistry
- 3:15 p.m. Chris Roberts, University of Minnesota
Low-Valent Chemistry of Niobium and Copper
- 3:45-4:05 p.m. Cake break
- 4:05 p.m. Eugenius Urnezis, University of Portland
Binucleating Ligands based on Phosphine-appended Hydroquinones
- 4:40 p.m. Paul Fischer, Macalester College
The Pursuit of New Olefin Epoxidation Catalysts and a Few Chemical Detours
- 5:20 p.m. Misha Barybin, University of Kansas
Azulene-based Organometallics: New Platforms for Charge Delocalization and Transport at the Nanoscale
- 6:00 p.m. Closing Remarks, Paul Fischer



The room was packed. On the left in foreground is Paul Fischer, Professor of Chemistry, Macalester College, John's former student. He organized and moderated the symposium.



Ilja Siepmann, vice chair of the department, in background, welcomed people. John began his talk wearing a white dress shirt.



He next disrobed to his Heavy Metal “birthday suit”, to great applause.



Later he did one of his famous chemical demonstrations. He stopped before the demo for a “Safety Moment” when he put on a pair of safety glasses. The audience roared. He demonstrated the pyrophoric nature of tris(naphthalene)tantalate!



His talk ended with one of his favorite cartoons: "So many trees, so little time."

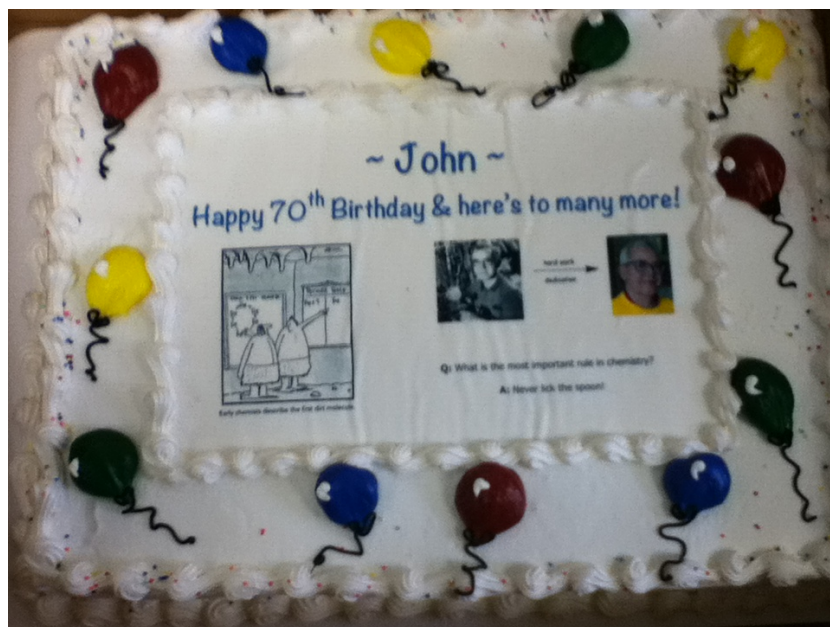


Mother Goose & Grimm / By Mike Peters



At the Cake Break, refreshments were provided by the UM Chemistry Department. The cake was chocolate with buttercream frosting and chocolate fudge filling. Yum!

The cartoon on the left shows early chemists studying the “Dert” molecule. The arrow on the right shows hard work and dedication transform a younger John to the present one. Below that: Q - What is the most important rule in chemistry?
A – Never lick the spoon!



After the symposium, the speakers and others contributed a dinner for the birthday boy. Front to back, left: Christopher Roberts, Eva Young, Lynda Ellis. Front to back, right: Eugenius Urnezis, Misha Barybin, John Ellis, Paul Fischer, Michael Bauer. Attendees Bill Brenessel and Robert Jilek are not in the picture.



And last, but not least, here is the photographer, Bill Brenessel,



and the UM Chemistry Department Assistant to the Chair, Chris Lundby.



John Emmett Ellis

Department of Chemistry, University of Minnesota

Group Members



Charles Parnell
Christopher Dewey
Kathryn Pfahl
Stephen Philson
Yu Sen Chen
Michael Palazzotto
Jiann Lin
Gary Hagen
Gary Warnock

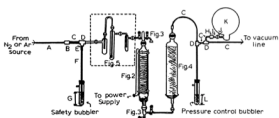
Julian Sprague
Kristi Fjare
Anthony DiMaio
Robert Faltynek
Gary Rochfort
Robert Stevens
Thomas Hay
Steven Hentsky
Eric Smolensky



Beatrice Kelsey Stein
Scott Frerichs
Kai-Ming Chi
David Blackburn
Mary Tinkham
Meehae Jang
Marie Pomije
Mikhail Barybin
Giovanna Tripepi
John Seaburg
Paul Fischer

Michael Bauer
Bill Brennessel
Jessica Allen
Eugenijus Urnezisius
Mikhail Minyaev
Victor Sussman
Ben Kucera
Robert Jilek
Stephanie Harstad
Chris Roberts

Inert Gas Purification System



Biography

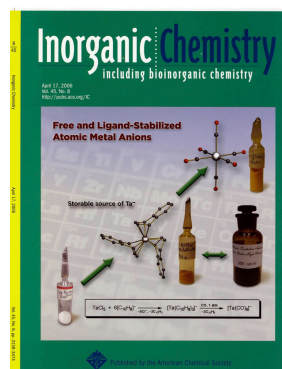


John Ellis was born in 1943 in San Pedro, CA. He received a BS degree from the University of Southern California, and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under the direction of Professor Alan Davison. He then joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota, where he has been professor of chemistry since 1984. He is a Fellow of the UK Royal Society of Chemistry.

Honors include a Humboldt Senior Scientist Award, spent in Professor Wolfgang Beck's group at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich, Germany, US National Science Foundation Special Creativity Award, and the ACS F. Albert Cotton Award in Synthetic Inorganic Chemistry for the synthesis and characterization of compounds containing metals in their lowest known oxidation states.



$[\text{Ta}(\text{C}_{10}\text{H}_8)_2]^- \rightarrow [\text{Ta}(\text{CO})_6]^-$



Final Thought



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA