

The early synthetic organic dyestuffs: patents and international competition

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Abstract

The last two years several dyestuff classes concerning the project 'the early synthetic organic dyestuffs', the hydroxy-phthaleïns and the tri-aryl methanes, were discussed. For this anniversary meeting two topics, related to this project, have been chosen which influenced the synthetic dyestuffs in the second half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century: patents and international competition.

The first part of the lecture deals with the patent history in those countries which produced synthetic organic dyestuffs, such as Germany, France, England, Switzerland and the United States of America. After a general history about the enactment of patent laws in these countries, dyestuff examples will be given in relation to patent laws. The patent history of the following early synthetic organic dyestuffs are mentioned:

- mauve,
- fuchsine,
- synthetic alizarin and
- eosin.

The second part of the lecture focuses on the international competition in the period 1857-1914 between those countries. The next items will be discussed:

- The formation of dyestuff firms in Germany, Britain, France, Switzerland and the United States of America.
- The situation in France between 1860-1870.
- The development in Germany after 1860.
- Network between the industry and science.

The research was presented at:

20-23 september 2006. Suceava, Roemenië, 25th Anniversary Meeting Dyes in History and Archaeology, *The early synthetic organic dyestuffs: patents and international competition*, (Matthijs de Keijzer en Regina Hofmann- de Keijzer).

14 februari 2008, Londen, Engeland, The Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group, Creating a New rainbow: Dyes after Perkin, lezing: *The early synthetic organic dyes: patents and international competition on a global scale* (Matthijs de Keijzer).