

Dear Professor Mahaffy,

Thank you for your letter of March 22. It contains a useful information Both about the structure of CCE and its future ideas and activities. In my First letter to you I would like to give you some picture about the present state-of-art of the Bulgarian science/chemistry education. Our initiatives are focused mainly in three directions:

KHIMIYA E-MAIL LIST AT YAHOO was launched some time ago:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/khimiya>

i) It a tool for of an effective information and communication between the readers, authors and friends of Khimiya/Chemistry. Bulgarian Journal of Chemical Education ISSN 0861-9255. Khimiya is a peer-reviewed scholarly journal which articles are indexed and abstracted in Chemical Abstracts and Scopus. The journal can be found in British Library and some of its articles are presented in Google Scholar. The full text articles of Khimiya are under the topics: Education: Theory and Practice; New Approaches; Curriculum Matters; Interdisciplinary; Teaching Efficiency; Teaching Chemical Experiment; Problems; Bulgarian Educational Tradition; Foreign Educational Tradition; Advanced Chemistry for Teachers; From the Research Laboratories; People in Chemistry; History and Philosophy of Chemistry; Chemistry and Society; Reviews; New Information Media; Archives. The List publishes a up-to-date information of interest of its readers: announcements for current events, calls for application and papers in future conferences, etc.

<http://khimiya.org>

ii) The List marks the activities of two basic structures of the Research Laboratory on Chemistry Education and History and Philosophy of Chemistry, (Head: Prof. Dr. B.V. Toshev) of the Department of Physical Chemistry (Head: Prof. Dr. B.V. Toshev), University of Sofia (BULGARIA): JOURNAL CLUB (CHEMISTRY EDUCATION) and NEW EDUCATION LIBRARY (NEL) JOURNAL CLUB is an International Scientific Seminar in the field of Chemistry/Science education organized by the Research Laboratory on the Chemistry Education and History and Philosophy of Chemistry. The goal of the Seminar is to develop the ability both of students and teachers for oral and written scientific communication. The Journal Club is an overtly interdisciplinary forum, comprising not only papers on science/chemistry education, but also papers that themselves exemplify the highest standards of interdisciplinary research. Therefore, the History and Philosophy of Science is amongst the favorite topics for discussion. A debate on the problems of the university policy and management will be much appreciated as well.

JOIN CHEMISTRY EDUCATION JOURNAL CLUB TODAY!

Journal Club is a kind of community of friends and professionals that are interested in sharing their real experiences in the area of chemistry/science education. In our Journal Club you will have the opportunity to present your work, get constructive criticism, and discuss new and original concepts and ideas of how science education could make a meaningful contribution to society. If you are familiar with the problems and practices of education, when you visit Bulgaria, do not miss the possibility to meet the Bulgarian educators in their Chemistry Education Journal Club.

<http://www.webspawner.com/users/journalclub>

The NEW EDUCATION LIBRARY (NEL) has recently been established at the Research laboratory on the Chemistry Education and History and Philosophy of Chemistry. The idea to collect books and journals that are hard to avail in Bulgaria came after a generous donation of books received in Sofia from Springer (Kluwer).

CALL FOR DONATIONS:

The policy of isolationism was a state policy for countries like Bulgaria. It supposes a vulgar modeling of the freethinking in a narrow zone with solid boundaries of various dogmas. To overcome the bad consequences caused is a very difficult task, because the model format of thinking and writing cannot easily be changed. THE NEW EDUCATION LIBRARY seems to be a proper tool for such a change. WE DO EXPECT TO BE FORTUNATE IN RECEIVING A GREAT NUMBER OF DONATIONS, SIGNIFICANTLY ADDING TO THE SIZE AND SCOPE OF OUR COLLECTION. The support of our colleagues and friends from all over the world will be of inestimable value.

PUBLISHERS AND AUTHORS ARE INVITED TO SEND BOOKS FOR REVIEW We are interested in reviewing books in the field of chemistry, physics, education or books historically orientated and focused on philosophical aspects of science. The reviews of such books could be published in Khimiya/Chemistry. Bulgarian Journal of Chemical Education ISBN 0861-9255,

Contact: Professor B.V. Toshev, Department of Physical Chemistry, University of Sofia, 1 James Bourchier Blvd., 1164 Sofia, BULGARIA (e-mail: toshev@chem.uni-sofia.bg).

By a competent review, published in our journal, your book will find friends in Bulgaria. After preparing the review you can receive your book back if you want it. If you donate the book, then it will be presented in our New Education Library.

<http://www.webspawner.com/users/edulibrary>

iii) KHIMIYA E-MAIL LIST AT YAHOO belongs also to the newly constituted BULGARIAN SOCIETY FOR THE CHEMISTRY EDUCATION AND HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF CHEMISTRY (CE&HPC). The main objective of this Society is to foster interest both in chemistry education and history and philosophy of chemistry with their social and cultural dimensions. We want to provide a forum for discussion and to promote scholarly research in these fields. The Society will pursue these objectives by publications in Khimiya/Chemistry.

Bulgarian Journal of Chemical Education ISSN 0861-9255, by the support of other forms of scholarly publication, by the organization of scientific and public meetings, by fostering the career developments of its members and by cooperation with other learned and scientific research units and societies.

The CE&HPC welcomes members from all backgrounds, in Bulgaria and internationally. For citizens outside Bulgaria the membership is FREE. In addition we have promoted the first in Bulgaria Master of Education/Chemistry program (University of Sofia). It aims in training a new generation of Bulgarian teachers in Chemistry, <http://www.webspawner.com/users/medchem>

To conclude: the journal Khimiya, the international seminar Journal Club, the New Education Library (NEL) and the Bulgarian Society for the Chemistry Education and History and Philosophy of Chemistry (CE&HPC) seem to be The instruments in our effort to improve the Bulgarian science/chemistry education.

Finally let me express my best wishes to you and to the members of CCE - wishes for a health and good success!

Sincerely yours,
Borislav Toshev

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