In Memoriam
Charles L. Faust

“Charles Lawson Faust—electrochemical engineer, innovator, inventor, technical prophet, solid family man, outdoorsman, interpreter of science and technology—a man we are very proud to honor tonight.” So said Cloyd A. Snively, on the occasion of the presentation of the Acheson Medal to Charles Faust on September 18, 1962 in Boston, Massachusetts. From all accounts, that description of Charles Faust held true until his death on July 18, 2001, at the age of 94.

Charles Faust gave an exceptionally high degree of service to the Society, which he joined in 1938. He served as an Associate Editor of the Society’s first monograph, Modern Electroplating (published in 1941). In 1942, he became chairman of the Electrodeposition Division and went on to serve on several committees: Board of Directors (1943-45); member of the Publication Committee (1944); Chairman of the Acheson Award Committee (1946); and member of the Ways and Means Committee (1946-59, and chairman in 1951). In 1949, he was elected Vice-President of the Society, and became President in 1950. He was also chairman of the Columbus Section (1957-58), served on the Nominating Committee (1945, 1957, and chairman in 1959), on the Perkin Medal Committee (1946 and 1949), and on the Honors and Awards Committee (1947, 1956, and chairman in 1958 and 1961).

From 1960 to 1970, he was chairman of the ECS Publication Committee. Upon his retirement from that committee, Norman Hackerman, Editor of the Journal, said about Faust, “For the past decade, he has given unstintingly of his time and displayed an outstanding concept of editorial requirements, initiative, leadership, and drive. As an electrochemist, his desire to let others know about this academically neglected area of science and technology has led to unique approaches in disseminating information.” The September issue of the Journal that year (Vol. 117) was dedicated to Faust as a lasting token of appreciation.

In 1962, when Faust was presented with the Society’s Edward G. Acheson Medal and Prize, he delivered a memorable address entitled, “Adventure in Electrochemistry” (J. Electrochem. Soc., 109, 295C). In 1971, the Society made Charles L. Faust an Honorary Member.

Faust attended Washington University, receiving his BS (1930) in chemical engineering and his MS (1931) in chemistry. He received his PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1934. In that same year, he joined Battelle Memorial Institute as a research technologist and became head of the Engineering Division in 1945. He retired from Battelle in 1971.

In the field of research, Faust built an imposing record of accomplishment. His broad research interests encompassed electrolysis, electroplating, electropolishing, and battery technology. He was a leader in the development of commercial processes for electrodeposition of alloys and electropolishing. Through the years, he and his colleagues utilized new and often unconventional methods for electroplating metals previously impossible to plate. He was the author of over 130 published papers and chapters in six books, as well as 140 patents. In 1993, he was inducted into the Ohio Science, Technology, and Industry Hall of Fame for his discovery of electropolishing and its continued use in industry.

At his Acheson Award address, Dr. Faust said, “After having been in electrochemical research and development for over 30 years, I am even more enthusiastic than when I started. I am convinced that a person with an imaginative and inquiring mind can give it a terrific workout in one or more areas of activity covered by the Society’s Divisions.” Charles Faust gave his own mind “a terrific workout” and left an enduring legacy not only in the field of electrodeposition and allied fields, but in The Electrochemical Society as well.

Ed. Note: This memorial notice was prepared by Mary Yess, Managing Editor of Interface, with the kind help of Mrs. Teri-Louise Gramlich, daughter of Charles Faust.

In Memoriam

EDRIDGE K. CAMP (1915-1999), member since 1947, Corrosion.


HUGH H. Hnwowitz (1928-2001), member since 1966, Physical Electrochemistry.

SIMON M. KARECKI (1972-2001), member since 1996, Dielectric Science and Technology.

GENE HELEN KUCERA (1935-2001), member since 1983, Battery.

JOSEPH S. SMATKO (d. 2001), member since 1950, Battery.

MICHAEL W. WAGNER (1965-2001), member since 1994, Battery.