



## **John Thomas Stock (1911-2005)**

**who edited (*jointly with Mary Virginia Orna*)  
a great collection “Electrochemistry, Past and  
Present”, ACS Symp. Ser. 390, 1989**

Professor John T. Stock originated from England, where he obtained all his degrees from London University. His specializations were analytical chemistry and electrochemistry.

Starting from 1956, he was affiliated with University of Connecticut, and remained Professor Emeritus of this university after retirement in 1979, when he finally could concentrate on the history of instrumentation and other historical topics. He kept systematic connections with the London Science Museum and was enthusiastic with a search for surviving items, not to mention his search for descriptions of various instruments in the old journals and books. The former search is sometimes hopeless, as the instruments invented before XX century were mostly home-made, and a very limited number of them ever existed.

Professor Stock published important books related to analytical chemistry: “Small-Scale Inorganic Qualitative Analysis” (with P. Heath, 1<sup>st</sup> edition in 1954) and “Amperometric Titrations” (1975). In respect to history of science, he published two Science Museum survey brochures “*Development of the Chemical Balance*” (1969) and “The Development of Instruments to Measure Electric Current” (with D. Vaughan, 1986). His last book was “Ostwald’s American Students: Apparatus, Techniques and Careers” (2003).

In addition to his outstanding “Electrochemistry, Past and Present”, he also edited “The History and Preservation of Chemical Instrumentation” (1986). This book collects Proceedings of ACS Division of the History of Chemistry. It is also co-edited by Mary Virginia Orna, who is another enthusiastic chemistry historian, specialized in the history of elements and color of substances.

*Photo and the part of biographic information are extracted from the lifetime biographic text and obituary of ACS Division of History of Chemistry*