I. Report from the President

Major efforts of the Society during the past year have been directed toward the Coblentz Spectra publication program. Other activities have been postponed or operated at less than optimal rates. It appears that we have succeeded in our primary goal of finding a satisfactory solution to the publication financing dilemma. As shown by the Treasurer's report, the Society has accepted and paid all accumulated bills for past services and now has a small positive balance. Projections for the coming year indicate that the reserve funds invested in development of the publication program should be repaid by continued sales.

To facilitate the functioning of the publication program, safeguard against inadvertent overexpenditure of Society funds in the production of new sets, and allow the Board of Managers to devote its time to other functions of the Society, the operating control of the publication program has been transferred to the standing Coblentz Spectra Editorial Committee, of which the chairman of the Finance Committee is a member, with authorization to continue the program out of a percentage of the income received from the program. The residual income will revert to the Society to replenish reserve funds and for expansion of other Society activities.

Membership in the Society has been lagging in recent years, for recognizable reasons ranging from economic problems of spectroscopists to a lack of enthusiastic recruitment of new members. This year seems to be an appropriate one to rebuild Society membership. This effort will be most effective if it is a grass roots campaign, in which each member contacts professional colleagues. The membership committee will soon initiate an effort on a broader scale.

Education activities of the Society have been effective and have expanded somewhat. Much more could be done in this area. The Education Committee will be seeking assistance from the membership in developing new programs, including talks and clinics at the local level.
The substantial growth in Raman spectroscopy in recent years has created a need for supportive programs similar to those developed for infrared techniques. The Raman Committee will be working with other groups to coordinate efforts in this field and to assure the orderly introduction of educational aids, spectral standards and evaluated reference spectra. The Committee on Evaluation of Reference Spectra, which has been studying standards for infrared spectra, has prepared a major report that will be submitted to appropriate international scientific bodies, as well as to the Coblentz membership. Spectral attention is being given to the expanding field of Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy by Society committees.

Discussions with past and present members of the Board of Managers have emphasized the problems associated with the transient character of the Board, requiring heavy reliance on appointed members of the Board for much of the continuing work of the Society. It has been suggested that an extension of the term of office to four or five years, still electing two per year and, thus, increasing the size of the Board to eight or ten persons, would provide better continuity as well as a broader representation. An ad hoc committee (Dr. Nixon, chairman) is studying the suggestion and will welcome comments from the membership. The Board also elected a vice president (Dr. Durig), and is considering the question of whether there should be a position of president-elect (probably combined with the position of vice president).

In summary, solution of nagging financial problems and the current effort at recruitment of additional membership should pave the way for a more effective role of the Coblentz Society in furthering the causes of infrared spectroscopy and related fields.

II. Infrared Data Coding  

Most infrared spectroscopists are well acquainted with the Name-Formula Index to Infrared Spectra and the Wyandotte spectrum retrieval system, published by ASTM, which covers about 100,000 infrared spectra. The coding and indexing has been the responsibility of ASTM Subcommittee E-13. It was recently revealed that because the program was no longer self-supporting, a business decision has been made that it will be discontinued after one more major production (the 15th supplement). At this point in time, prospects for a continuing program of coding literature spectra seem uncertain, at best. The technical responsibility for the program is assigned to ASTM Subcommittee E-13, Kermit Whetsel, Chairman; the business responsibility is that of ASTM.
III. Other Notes from Cleveland

A. Officers and Committees

Robert P. Bauman was reelected President of the Society. J. R. Durig fills the new office of Vice President; R. W. Hannah continues as Secretary and H. J. Sloane as Treasurer. Other appointments include Clara D. Craver, Coblentz Spectra Editor; A. L. Smith, Newsletter Editor. Committee chairmen are:

Finance, J. R. Durig  
Membership and Publicity, R. O. Kagel  
Education, J. G. Grasselli  
Spectrum Evaluation, R. N. Jones  
Raman, E. D. Becker  
Joint Committee Liaison, A. L. Smith  
FACSS Liaison, J. G. Grasselli  
1974 Cleveland Symp., R. O. Kagel  
1974 Columbus Symp., R. J. Jakobsen  
FTS Users Liaison, R. O. Kagel  
By-Laws, E. R. Nixon  
Special Projects, E. R. Nixon

B. Suggestions

Several valuable suggestions were offered by members during the membership meeting, and during the Board of Management meeting. In brief, they are as follows:

General Services

1. Become a data sources center for information on sources of infrared spectra. In addition to the well-known general collections of spectra, there are many private and semi-private collections covering special groups of compounds, copies of which may be obtained for the asking or for a nominal fee. The Coblentz Society might gather data on all spectra collections as a service to groups and individuals seeking spectra for their particular field of interest.

2. Actively seek contact with government agencies in areas where infrared spectroscopy can be broadly applied. Examples are the environmental field (EPA), public health (NIOSH and OSHA) and abused drugs (forensic organizations). The Coblentz Society can help establish the credibility of infrared for these applications and thus benefit all infrared spectroscopists who are often called upon to defend their method as well as their results.

3. Continue and expand educational programs. Particularly needed at the moment are sessions on quantitative analysis and perhaps some criteria for differentiating between high, medium and low priced instruments in terms of their general capability and limitations.

4. Act as a clearing house for information on Fourier Transform spectroscopy.

5. Get more of the membership involved in Society activities.
Special Projects

1. Prepare a collection of vapor phase spectra on OSHA list at roughly OSHA concentration, meeting Coblentz specifications.

2. Prepare a collection of abused drug spectra.

3. Update and simplify the present published procedures for extractive sampling of water impurities.

4. Prepare a set of specifications for evaluation of Raman spectra.

5. Publish a collection of quantitative infrared methods.

6. Spend some time and money to publicize these and other Coblentz activities in order to build a broader membership base.

C. Treasurer's Report

Balance on Hand March 6, 1972 $ 221.97

RECEIPTS:

Dues $ 1,346.00
Sales of Spectra -
   Sadtler Res. Labs. 23,052.00
   NBS-contract Programs 8,319.31
   Microfilm Sales 6,145.10
   IR Clinic 660.00
   Pittsburgh Conf. Support 1,000.00
   $40,522.41

PAYMENTS:

Operating Expenses: mailing postage, stationery, misc. 1,176.38
   Spectra Preparation Program 29,518.34
   Class II Spectra Program 8,249.71
   $38,944.43

Balance on Hand February 16, 1973 $1,799.95

Respectfully submitted,
Howard J. Sloane, Treasurer
IV. I Want to Help!

The Society has many opportunities for those who would like to become more active in promoting the use of infrared spectroscopy. Consider this as a personal invitation to make your interests known! Please check the appropriate boxes and return this page to Dr. Nixon.

I want to help with -

1. Compilation of infrared procedures for quantitative analysis  
   X
2. Educational programs of the Society:*
   Teaching Introductory Techniques Clinic  
   Teaching Advanced Techniques Clinic  
   Teaching Course Interpretation of Spectra  
   Teaching Course on Raman Spectra  
3. Organizing special symposia at ____________________________  
   X
4. Evaluation of spectra submitted for publication  
5. Organize file referencing special purpose spectra  
6. Coblentz Society membership committee  
7. Writing specifications for Raman spectra  
8. Work on the Coblentz Newsletter  
   X
9. Organize or participate in a speaker's bureau*  
10. Other: Collection of vapor spectra of molecules on OSHA list  
   X

*Please state geographical limitation to your participation.

Name __Robin S. McDowell________
Address __Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory________
City __Los Alamos, N. M. 87544________

Return to: Dr. E. R. Nixon
Department of Chemistry
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA 19104