

News Release



**Wednesday 21 November 2001: For Immediate
Release**

Work of Nobel-prize winning scientists Archer Martin and Richard Synge to be celebrated by a Landmark Event at Bass Brewers, Leeds

The work of the Nobel-prize winning scientists Archer Martin and Richard Synge, for their roles in the development of gas chromatography, will be honoured by the Royal Society of Chemistry at Bass Brewers, Headingley, Leeds on Friday 23 November 2001 through the designation of a National Historical Chemical Landmark.

Archer Martin was born in Bedford and educated at Cambridge, after which time he worked at the National Laboratory in Cambridge. Here he met Richard Synge and soon afterwards both Synge and Martin moved to the Wool Industries Research Association (WIRA).

While at WIRA - the site of which is now occupied by Bass Brewers - the two scientists developed a new technique of separating the amino acids from wool proteins – partition chromatography – a technique which became the basis for future widespread chromatographic analysis in research and development in many branches of chemistry.

In 1952, Drs Martin and Syngé were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry for this research.

This landmark is part of an RSC initiative to commemorate, highlight and awaken public interest in historic developments in the chemical sciences. The Royal Society of Chemistry's Past-President, Professor Tony Ledwith will present a plaque to be displayed in the reception area of Bass Brewers who now occupy the former site of WIRA. In a lecture to an invited audience, Professors Keith Bartle and Peter Myers will explain the influence the work of Martin and Syngé has had and continues to have on scientific development.

"We are delighted to be involved in this fitting tribute to the work of Syngé and Martin," said Paul Hegarty of Bass Brewers Technical Centre. "Bass Brewers are world leaders in the use of liquid chromatography techniques, specifically in relation to controlling the bitterness of beers during the brewing process."

ENDS

Notes for Editors

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1) Photographs will be available from the Royal Society of Chemistry after the event.

2) The landmark plaque will be presented at 12.00 p.m. on Friday 23 November 2001 Bass Brewers Ltd, Headingley Office Park, Victoria Road, Leeds. A buffet reception will take place after the ceremony. **Members of the press are welcome**

to attend provided they notify Claire McLoughlin at the Royal Society of Chemistry in advance.

3) The plaque inscription reads:

“Close to this site, in the Torridon Laboratories of the Wool Industries Research Association between 1940 and 1943, Dr Archer John Porter Martin and Dr Richard Laurence Millington Syngé developed the technique of partition chromatography. Originally developed for the separation of amino acids from wool proteins, the technique became the basis for future widespread chromatographic analysis in research and development in many branches of chemistry. Drs Martin and Syngé were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1952 for this research.”

4) The National Historic Chemical Landmarks programme highlights sites around the UK where important chemical breakthroughs have been made. For more information, visit www.rsc.org/lap/publicaf/landmarks.htm

5) The Royal Society of Chemistry is the Learned Society for chemistry and the Professional Body for chemists in the UK. With 46,000 members world-wide. It can trace its history back to the Chemical Society founded in 1841. The Society is a major international publisher of chemical information, supports the teaching of chemistry at all levels, organises hundreds of chemical meetings a year and is a leader in communicating science to the public.

