

**University of Massachusetts Amherst**

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**From the Selected Works of Otto Vogl**

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## E. President of the Pacific Polymer Federation

Otto Vogl, *University of Massachusetts - Amherst*

## II. President of the Pacific Polymer Federation

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After the constitution was signed, the structure of the Pacific Polymer Federation was established. Founding Members of PPF: The Society of Polymer Science, Japan, The Division of Polymer Chemistry, American Chemical Society; The Polymer Division, The Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

The first official Council meeting, also called the "zero" PPF Council Meeting was held after the signing ceremony on Monday, October 19, 1989. The members of the "Founding Committee", O. Vogl (PD), J.C. Salamone (PD), T. Saegusa, A. Abe (SPSJ), J.H. O'Donnell, and D.J.T. Hill (RAIC) became the Members of the Council.

The Council elected Otto Vogl as the first President of PPF, Takeo Saegusa, Vice President, James H. O'Donnell, Deputy Vice President and Joseph C. Salamone Secretary/Treasurer. The President was charged to set up the PPF and appoint his "Cabinet", a number of committees from member organizations of PPF. He was also asked to begin organizing the First Pacific Polymer Conference (PPC-1) to be held in 1989.

The President immediately appointed his "cabinet" and the three following Committees were established:

Membership: J.H. O'Donnell, Chairman, T. Saegusa, Ramlee Karim

First Pacific Polymer Conference: O. Vogl, Chairman, T. Saegusa, Vice-Chairman, J.H. O'Donnell, Vice-Chairman.

PPC-1 Organizing Committee: J.C. Salamone, Chairman

Information (Newsletter): G.S. Kirshenbaum, Chairman, K. Hatada, G.A. George, J.C. Vogl, T. Takahiko

Publication: B.C. Anderson, Y. Imanishi, Co-Chairmen, A. Abe, D.J.T. Hill, B.C.

Anderson, J.C. Vogl, S.C. Israel, A. Logothetis, J.C. Vogl, T. Takahiko.

Finance: O. Vogl, Chairman, J. Nottke, Y. Furuyama.

At the "zero" meeting of the Council in Tokyo one of the most important objectives was to form a PPF truly representing the Pacific region. O'Donnell was appointed chairman of the Membership Committee. O'Donnell and Vogl approached potential polymer organizations in Pacific Rim countries and invited them to join PPF. An application form was designed.

During the Council Meeting other important decisions were made; an Information Committee, a Finance Committee, and a Publication Committee were established. The Information Committee was charged to prepare a Newsletter in early 1989, the Publication Committee (Anderson) to be responsible for the Pacific Polymer Preprints, and the publication of the Maui Meeting. The President continued his fundraising campaign to support the operation of the PPF and to have funds available for the preparation of the PPC-1 which was scheduled for Maui, Hawaii, December 1989.

Fundraising was conducted only in the U.S; the funds were controlled by PPF Inc. which meant the U.S. part of PPF.

The Secretary/Treasurer was made responsible for the incorporation of the PPF and the establishment of an independent tax-free status of the PPF. As the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, he set in motion all the necessary activities in connection with PPC-1 in Maui. Selection of the Hotel in Maui for the PPC-1 was agreed on, as were the contract with the Hotel, the fee structure, time schedule and preparation of a first circular. Most of these responsibilities were delegated to Jane C. Vogl, the Coordinator and Manager of the Maui Conference.

The first official Meeting of the PPF Council was held in Kyoto on Saturday, July 31, 1988. It was attended by the 6 Councilors of the PPF, O. Vogl, T. Saegusa, J.H. O'Donnell, J.C. Salamone, D.J.T. Hill and A. Abe. Also present were T. Takahiko and Jane C. Vogl representing the Business Offices of the SPSJ and PD.

At the Council meeting in Kyoto, 5 applications were on hand that could be handled by the Council. The Macromolecular Science and Engineering Division, Chemical Institute of Canada, The Society of Polymer Science, Korea, The Polymer and Industrial Section and The Malaysian Institute of Chemistry were admitted as new members and each organization was asked to appoint one Councilor at the time of their admission date as of January 1, 1989. Very soon several additional polymer oriented organizations of the Pacific Basin applied for membership in the PPF.

By 1989 the Council consisted of Akihiro Abe, SPSJ, David J.T. Hill. Australia, Ramlee Karim, Malaysia, Chung Yup Kim, Korea, Martin Navratil, Canada, James H. O'Donnell, Australia, Renyuan Qian, China, Takeo Saegusa, SPSJ, Joseph C. Salamone, PD, with Otto Vogl as the Chairman of the Council.

The Council Meeting was held in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia on February 25, 1989. The Polymer Division, Chinese Chemical Society became new members of PPF. The date was selected to follow the Annual Meeting of the Polymer Division of the Royal Australian Institute of Chemistry at Griffith University in Brisbane. Present were O. Vogl, T. Saegusa, J.H. O'Donnell, J.C. Salamone, A. Abe, D.J.T. Hill and representing the new Members of the PPF, Ramlee Karim from Malaysia, N. Edmonds from New Zealand and Chang (for Professor Ahn) from Korea. The most important decision of the Council Meeting was the admittance of China (based on an application by Qian Renyuan, the head of the Polymer Division of the Chinese Chemical Society) and The Polymer Group, New Zealand Institute of Chemistry into the PPF. The Polymer Society of Singapore and the Division of High Polymers, The American Physical Society also showed interest in joining the PPF.

Much of the meeting was concerned with the organization of the Maui meeting, the arrangement of the Invited Speakers, nearly 150 contributed Papers and 100 Posters, and the Session Chairmen. It was considered essential, that the time schedule for the preparation of the meeting be rigorously followed. The Meeting was to be held at the

Royal Lahaina Resort in Maui and was expected to attract at least 400 participants. O. Vogl announced that Mrs. Glenn Elyot (Barbara Hudson) was engaged to handle the registration in the U.S. for the Maui Meeting.

In addition it was agreed that some wording in the Constitution might have to be clarified and O'Donnell was charged to look into the matter. It was also found desirable to establish a separate committee with the responsibility to disseminate information of polymer activities, new developments in polymer education etc. within the Pacific region.

Although the next formal Meeting of the Council of the PPF was to be held at the Maui meeting, the President was authorized to call meetings that consisted only of part of the Council members, when convenient, especially if it could be done in connection with an International meeting and in a country that had recently joined the PPF. June 1989 in Seoul, Korea and July 1990-at the IUPAC Macromolecular Symposium in Montreal, Canada were considered possible opportunities to hold Council Meetings.

Throughout the years 1988 and 1989, several "Micro"-Council Meetings were held whenever a major scientific meeting attracted the presence of some of the PPF Council Members. Such informal meetings were organized by the President of PPF. The formal and official Meetings of the PPF Council were held during the Pacific Federation Conferences (PPC). In the next few pages I will present parts of the Minutes of some typical PPF Council Meetings.

The most important activity of the PPF for the year 1988 was the preparation for the First Pacific Polymer Conference (PPC-1) planned in Maui, Hawaii. Maui, Hawaii was selected as the site of the PPC-1 by the Council of PPF because of its geographical situation, its natural beauty and peaceful atmosphere. The Council believed these favorable conditions would promote the interaction of scientists, both industrial and academic, and would present the opportunity for them to meet with each other harmoniously, establish scientific cooperation and lasting friendships.

PPC-1 was the first Conference organized by the "Pacific Polymer Federation." The Conference Program consisted of 5 Key Note Speakers, 35 Invited Lecturers and 250 Contributed Papers, presented in oral and poster form. It was expected that about 500 scientists would participate in the Conference.

#### Report of the Proceedings of PPC-1

The First Pacific Polymer Conference PPC-1 was held on the Royal Lahaina Resort in Maui, Hawaii from December 12 to 15, 1989. The Conference Committee consisted of O. Vogl, Chairman; T. Saegusa and J.H. O'Donnell, Vice Chairmen; it was organized by the Organizing Committee, J.C. Salamone, Chair-man, with A. Abe, D.J.T. Hill, B.C. Anderson, S.C. Israel, J.C. Vogl and T. Takahiko as Committee Members. Jane C. Vogl was the Conference Manager and Barbara Hodsdon-Ullyot was the Conference Coordinator. Glenn Ullyot was coordinating and oversaw interactions. PPC-1 was attended by over 400 participants and 100 accompanying guests; 19 countries were

represented. They came from over 100 Universities and colleges and from over 100 different companies.

PPC-1 was held at the Royal Lahaina Resort in Maui, Hawaii. It consisted of 5 key note addresses: two by the Nobel laureates of Chemistry in 1981: Kenichi Fukui, Institute of Fundamental Chemistry, Kyoto, Japan, and Roald Hofman, USA.

Keynote Addresses: Alexander MacLachlan, Senior Vice President, Technology, of the E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co., Wilmington, DE U.S.A.; Burton Christensen, Senior Vice President, Merck, Sharpe and Dohme & Co., Rahway, NJ U.S.A.; and Yoshikazu Ito, Chairman of the Board of the Toray Co., Tokyo, Japan. The after dinner address was given by Norman Hackerman, the former President of Rice University, and Director of Research of the Welch Foundation in Houston, Texas. There were 35 invited and 120 Contributed Papers; 125 papers were presented in poster form.

The Conference covered the following topics: Polymer Synthesis, Polymer, Characterization, High Performance Polymers, Functional Polymers. Electro- and Optically Active Polymers; Polymer Liquid Crystals, Theory of Polymer Structures: Bio-Related Polymers.

One of the highlights of the PPC-1 was the panel discussion on "Polymer Science and the Arts" (actually art restoration), with O. Vogl as the organizer and H. Hoecker, Director of Polymer Technology in Aachen, Germany as the Moderator. The discussions included Ceramics, Old Masters, Oriental Screens and Frescoes of the Silk Road in China, European Cathedrals and the preservation of ancient ships. The panel discussion was very successful and was covered by the Maui Newspapers in great detail. The Organizing Committee concluded that a panel discussion on "Polymer Science and the Arts" should be included in all subsequent Pacific Polymer Conferences.

The social events of PPC-1 consisted of a Welcoming Party, a Banquet and a Farewell Party. The location of the meeting on Maui, in the Kaanapali Beach Resort Complex, allowed excellent interaction between the participants on a scientific and social basis and was considered a great success. The Pacific Polymer Preprints became the first of a series. A book based on the keynote addresses and invited lectures as well as the transcripts of the panel discussion was prepared "camera-ready" by the co-editors B.C. Anderson, assisted by Andrew Logathetis and Y. Imanishi; was published by Springer Verlag.

The PPC-1 received excellent press coverage; two articles were written in Chemical and Engineering News, the official Journal of the American Chemical Society; reports were also written in the Newsletter of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry Inc., the home organization of the PPC-1; in the Newsletter of the Australian Polymer Division, in the Newsletter of the Canadian Macromolecular Science and Engineering Division, and Kobunshi, the official Journal of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan. In Polymer News, there was also an extensive article about the PPC-1.

Shortly after the PPC-1 was concluded, planning began for the Second Pacific Polymer Conference (PPC-2) which was to be held from November 26 to 29, 1991 in Otsu, Shiga, Japan. In several Mini-Council Meetings, i.e., in Vienna and in Montreal, plans were outlined for PPC-2. The Gold Coast of Australia was considered for the third Pacific Polymer Conference (PPC-3) in 1993.

A Council meeting was held during the IUPAC Macromolecular Symposium Montreal turned out to be an important meeting. It provided the transfer of the presidency from the U.S. administration to the Japanese with Takeo Saegusa as the up-coming President of PPF.

PPC-2 was scheduled to be held from November 26 to 29, 1991. The Conference fee was approved as \$300. Important Committees for PPC-2 were approved: Organizing, Scientific Advisory and Local Organizing Committee. The Topics and the Schedule for the meeting were also approved. The principle of the Plenary and Invited Lectures was approved. It was also agreed that the Preprints would be a continuation of the Preprints of PPC-1, but the decision of whether or not to publish the "Proceedings" of PPC-2 in book form was not reached.

Considerable time was spent discussing the first report of the Awards Committee with J.H. O'Donnell, Chairman; and M. Navratil. The PPF Award was established but it did not come in effect until PPC-3. Some time was needed for obtaining a consensus from the member organizations, because different practices involved in establishing and administering awards.

Time was also spent in discussing the publication of the book: "Progress in Pacific Polymer Science # 1". It appeared that everything was on schedule, with the normal "terminal" problems associated with the publication of a camera-ready book.

The Members of the Council were also informed in some detail as to the general situation in China by the Councilor, R.Y. Qian. It appeared that at that time a smaller meeting, perhaps in the form of a Workshop sponsored or co-sponsored by the PPF would be the most feasible interaction with our Chinese colleagues. Some comments came from M. Raetzsch, Dresden, who described the situation of polymer science in Eastern Europe. A.C. Albertsson of Sweden, representing the European community and the newly founded European Polymer Federation commented on the status of polymer science in Europe.

In addition, the PPF offered to co-sponsor the Tutorial on "Advances of Chemical Synthesis," with the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry, Inc. at the Miami ACS Meeting in September 1989.

The next official Council Meeting was scheduled for Nagoya, Japan, on October 20, 1990, following the Annual Symposium of the SPSJ. Since many of our Councilors were in Melbourne, Australia for the Annual Meeting of the Polymer Division of the RACI, another Council meeting was tentatively planned for February 9, 1991, in Melbourne.

Comment of the President in the First Newsletter:

"The establishment of the PPF had started with discussions of Saegusa, O'Donnell and Vogl at a meeting in Hawaii in December 1984; at that time the concept of a regional scientific organization was conceived. It was decided to explore with the parent organizations (which be-came the Founding Members) to determine if it were possible to devise a Constitution which could incorporate all the interests of the polymer oriented organizations of the Pacific Basin. Much of the individual writing was done prior to and during the U.S. - Japan Seminar in October 1985, and at the Annual Meeting of the Society of Polymer Science, Japan in May 1986, at which time all parties were present. In New York, in September 1987 and at the Annual Meeting of the Polymer Division of the Australian Institute of Chemistry in February 1987 the details of the Constitution and the subsequent understandings were worked out and final agreement to establish the Pacific Polymer Federation was reached. All these negotiations were done before the benefits of Fax machines were available and much thought went into the preparation of the document. At the same time, the organizations and individuals involved in the negotiations had time to realize how important the development of the PPF was for Polymer Science and for the interests of polymer oriented organizations and individuals of the Pacific region."

Two Council Meetings were held during the last year, the official Council Meeting in Maui, at PPC-1 in December 1989 and a well attended additional Council Meeting in Montreal in July 1990. In addition, several Mini-Council Meetings were held in Strasbourg, Oxford and twice in Vienna to check on all the activities of the PPF, especially the details of the preparations for the two Pacific Polymer Conferences.

In his statement in the first Newsletter, the President stated: "It was very gratifying to see a regional organization involving the Polymer Scientists of the Pacific region come into being. Polymer Science is presently one of the fast growing scientific and technological disciplines and Pacific Basin is the fastest growing region scientifically technologically and economically in the world today. It is only logical, that the organizations of the region found a mechanism of cooperation and also found a mechanism facilitating the interaction of individual scientists. In the one year span of interaction between the organizations and Council members, representing the organizations, a great deal has been accomplished which promises that the final concept, the dream of a smoothly functioning regional cooperation in polymer science can be established."

In his final message as President, Otto Vogl summarized the accomplishments during his presidency:

"The PPF has already become a healthy organization and I am convinced that it will grow during my term as President and during the term of my successors to an essential part of science and technology in the Pacific region.

For over 3 years I have had the honor of presiding over the activities of the Pacific Polymer Federation, an organization that coordinates and integrates the common interests of polymer oriented organizations of the Pacific Basin. The PPF has grown from the

original 3 Founding Member Organizations to 10 Member organizations. The last four organizations which became members of the PPF were the Polymer Division of the Chinese Chemical Society, the Polymer Group of the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry, the Singapore Plastics and Rubber Institute and the American Physical Society. Much of this rapid build-up of our membership was due to the activities of our Membership Committee, initially chaired by James H. O'Donnell and now by Chung Yup Kim. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with all the Officers, Council Members, Committee Members, as well as with the leadership of the Member Organizations of the PPF and many other colleagues of the Pacific Basin interested in polymer science. I am indebted to all of them for their cooperation, their many useful suggestions and helpful advice. One person has not been recognized in the past and I would like to recognize him now; Earl Tyner Esq., the attorney who checked the Constitution of the PPF while it was drafted and gave his legal consent-all free of charge.

The Council is now assisted by a number of Committees to handle the various needs of the PPF. The Conference Committee consisted of K. Wynne, Chairman; J.C. Salamone. The main function of the Information Committee, chaired by G.S. Kirshenbaum, is to keep abreast of the activities of the member organizations of the PPF and to collect information about other polymer related activities in the Pacific and other parts of the world. The Committee produced the First Pacific Polymer Newsletter in the Fall of 1989 and this Second Pacific Polymer Newsletter. The Publication Committee under Burton C. Anderson and Y. Imanishi, with the assistance of A. Logathetis produced the First Pacific Polymer Preprints. The first book sponsored by the PPF based PPC-1: "Progress in Pacific Polymer Science" was published by Springer Verlag.

A By-Laws Committee was created with Ramlee Karim as the Chairman and D.J.T. Hill, a Conference Committee under Kenneth Wynne and an Awards Committee with James H. O'Donnell as the Chairman were established.

By the end of 1989 the Committees of the PPF were reassigned.

Membership: C.Y. Kim, Chairman; T. Saegusa, Ramlee B. Karim.

Information: G.S. Kirshenbaum, Chairman; K. Hatada, G.A. George, J.C. Vogl, T. Takahiko.

Publication: B.C. Anderson, Y. Imanishi, Co-Chairmen; A. Logotheitis, J.C. Vogl

Finance: J. Nottke, Chairman; O. Vogl, Y. Furuyama

By-Laws: Ramlee B. Karim, Chairman; D.J.T. Hill

Awards: J.H. O'Donnell, Chairman; M. Navratil

Conferences: K. Wynne, Chairman; J.C. Salamone

Second Pacific Polymer Conference: T. Saegusa, Chairman, J.H. O'Donnell, Vice Chairmen, J.C. Salamone.

At the end of O. Vogl's Presidency two more organizations joined the PPF as new Members: Singapore Plastics and Rubber Institute and the Polymer Division of the American Physical Society



In the Fall of 1990, Otto Vogl as President of PPF visited a number of the constituencies, the organizations in Japan, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong and found that the membership in PPF of these organizations had already experienced a pronounced impact on their organizations. His final stop was at the Annual Symposium of SPSJ, in Nagoya, Japan October 20, 1990 where he handed over the presidency to Takeo Saegusa who became officially President on January 1, 1991.