

Vita

Mary Virginia Orna

Mary Virginia Orna is Professor Emerita of Chemistry at the College of New Rochelle and President of ChemSource, Inc., a major effort in chemistry teacher preparation and enhancement funded by the National Science Foundation. She is also former Director of Educational Services at the Chemical Heritage Foundation and former Publications Coordinator of the *Journal of Chemical Education*. She received her Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Fordham University. She has lectured and published widely in the areas of color chemistry and archaeological chemistry. Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Chemical Education*, *Color Research and Application*, *Studies in Conservation*, *Analytical Chemistry*, *Microchemical Journal*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, American Chemical Society monographs, and various other journals. She has also authored numerous book chapters and encyclopedia articles, seven books and edited twelve others. She is active in several divisions of the American Chemical Society, having served as Chair, Program Chair and Treasurer of the Division of the History of Chemistry, and Chair of the Division of Chemical Education. She is currently serving as ACS Councilor and a member of the ACS Divisional Activities Committee. She served as Treasurer and Member of the Examinations Institute Board of Trustees of the Division of Chemical Education for twelve years. She was also Program Chair for the 14th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education which was held at Clemson University in August, 1996. She is also former Associate Member of the Society Committee on Education, and former member of the Local Section Activities Committee, the Committee on Meetings and Expositions, the Committee on Committees, the Committee on Nominations and Elections, and the Council Policy Committee. She is a 1984 recipient of the Chemical Manufacturing Association's Catalyst Award for excellence in college chemistry teaching, the 1989 CASE (Council for the Advancement and Support of Education) New York State Professor of the Year and National Gold Medalist Award, a recipient of the 1989 Merck Innovation Award, the 1996 Western Connecticut ACS Section's Visiting Scientist Award and the 1996 recipient of the James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Teaching of Chemistry. She also received the American Chemical Society's 1999 George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education, the 2008 Henry Hill Award, and the 2009 ACS Award for Volunteer Service. She has presented plenary lectures and named lectureships on at least a dozen different occasions. She was a Fulbright Fellow in Israel (1994-95) where she lectured at The Hebrew University, The Weizmann Institute of Science and Shenkar College of Engineering and Design. She also did research on ancient middle-eastern artifacts in collaboration with the Israel Antiquities Authority, the Israel Museum and the Edelstein Center for the Analysis of Middle Eastern Textiles and Related Artifacts. She spent Spring, 1995 in Italy where she studied Italian language and examined Italian medieval manuscripts. As a hobby, she enjoys constructing crossword puzzles and has been a frequent contributor to the Sunday *New York Times*, *SciQuest*, *Clinical Chemistry News*, *American Laboratory*, *Today's Chemist* and other publications. She is an ACS tour speaker and has been an invited lecturer to every part of the United States and many countries in Europe, the Middle East, and the South Pacific. Her two recent books, *The Lost Elements: The Periodic Table's Shadow Side* (Oxford University Press) and *Science History: A Traveler's Guide* (American Chemical Society and Oxford University Press) are popular offerings. Her 2013 book, *The Chemical History of Color* (Springer) was recently very favorably reviewed in the *Journal of Chemical Education* in conjunction with the ACS National Chemistry Week theme on color; it has also been named the most popular book in the Springer series on the History of Chemistry. Her latest book, *Carl Auer von Welsbach: Chemist, Inventor, Entrepreneur*, was published by Springer in September and her 19th book, ACS Symposium Series Volume *Chemistry's Role in Food Production and Sustainability: Past and Present*, was recently published online and will appear in print later this year.

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