

On the evening of January 19th, the Oesper Collections for the History of Chemistry hosted the ACS high-school chemistry teachers group under the leadership of Linda Ford. The teachers gathered in the museum for a tour and to hear a talk by Dr. Jensen entitled "The History of the Chemcraft Chemistry Set: The Cincinnati Connection" and to view a special display of early Chemcraft chemistry sets. First introduced in 1916, Chemcraft chemistry sets were the brainchild of John and Harold Porter, the sons of Jermain Gildersleeve Porter, who was Professor of Astronomy at the University of Cincinnati and Director of the Cincinnati Observatory from 1884-1933. Both Porter boys were chemistry majors at the University of Cincinnati during the early decades of the 20th century and the oldest, John Jermain Porter, was briefly an assistant Professor of Chemistry and Metallurgy at UC in the period 1907-1912. Chemcraft Chemistry Sets, along with their major competitor, the Gilbert Chemistry Set, dominated the American market from 1916 through the early 1960s.



Lid of a No. 2 Chemcraft Chemistry Set, circa 1918. Part of the selection of chemistry sets found in the Oesper Collections.