

ChE stirred pots

UNIVERSITATIS MINNESOTENSIS
COLLEGIUM FABRORUM CHYMICORUM
SODALES PRINCETONIENSES,
NUNC ANNUM FORUM QUINQUAGESIMUM
FELICITER AGENTES,
GRATULATUR,
MAGNO CUM GAUDIO,
GRATUITO CUM CONSILIO,
VENIAMQUE W. S. GILBERTI POSCENS

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are grateful to Prof. John Seinfeld (California Institute of Technology) for bringing our attention to the following poem, written by Prof. Rutherford Aris of the University of Minnesota to congratulate Princeton University's Chemical Engineering Department on their fiftieth anniversary.

*When you're taking a whack,
in your orange & black,
at a problem defying solution
In kinetics or flow,
or the ways that bugs grow,
or just how to get rid of pollution.
When you're wracking your brain
& you cannot obtain
a result that fulfills your intentions
Remember that Chem.E.s
do nothing by semis,*
and always get rid of dimensions
Recollect that p'raps Schmidt's
is the number that fits
and that Pelet is Reynolds times Prandtl.
Just remember your D's,
it'll come out with ease
when it's wrapped up in Damköhler's mantel.
If you wish you could borrow
relief from your sorrow,
the Ohnesorge number we'll mention,
Into Reynolds you shoot
the good Weber's square root—
it accounts for the surface's tension.
For tubes in the boiler,
use t'number of Euler
and for drag use the factor of Fanning,
Which in matters of fiction
was used for the friction
'twixt Newman and Cardinal Manning.
But it's really quite rude
to rhyme Froude with St. Jude
or to mess up a grave patronymic,*

*To dress up in gingham
the number of Bingham,
or regard Boussinesq's as a gimmick,
While to think that Biot
has to do with the glow
that both heat and hard work often foster,
Or that Deborah's song
has the permanent pong
of an overly ripe double Gloucester.
To madden a Hatta
or exchange for the latter
the group that's been named Svant Arrhenius,
To mock at the balding
of Sherwood or Spalding;
these are all of 'em crimes hyperheinous.
If none of these fit,
just reflect for a bit,
devise one of your own—
it's a sine qua non—
for there's many a name
that has brought Princeton fame.
For size of reactor,
use great Wilhelm's factor;
for hard computation,
'tis Leon's equation;
and if that don't fit well
the number of Whitwell.
If you've pulled a slight boner,
be absolved by Dick Toner;
your problem's all garbled?
Why, Dean Elgin's not marbled;
While, if biking's your goal,
use the Johnson Control.
You've got Schowalter (Bill),
and there's Dudley Saville,
Andres, Russel and Hall,
Prud'homme, Ollis et al.**,
for from such you can scoop
a dimensionless group
and you'll out of your fix be
with some help from Ms. Bixby.
But away cerebration.
Now 'tis your celebration
and we all think it's nifty
that you flourish at 50.
So we wish you good cheer
for full many a year.*

RUTHERFORD ARIS

*Except Centenaries, of course.

**With due apologies to those not mentioned.