

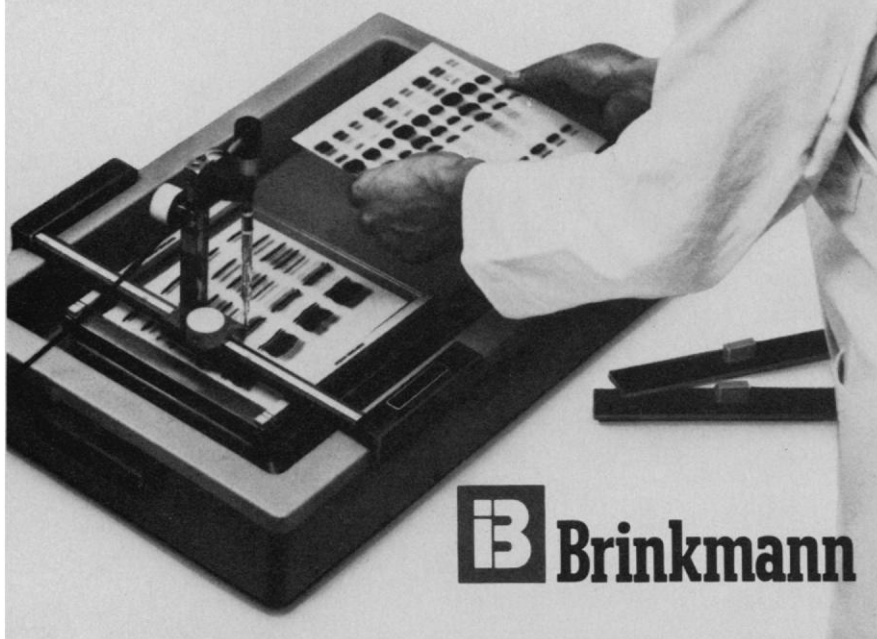
Our TLE Double Chamber works with so many electrophoretic techniques, you could call it the 'Multi-Chamber.'

We call this Brinkmann TLE Chamber a "Double Chamber" because it accepts two 20 x 20 cm plates, but it will also handle a single 20 x 40 cm plate or any combination of plates up to 40 cm wide.

Because of its versatility, you could also call it the "Multi-Chamber." In addition to preparative, thin layer and polyacrylamide isoelectric focusing (IEF), the chamber can be used for the following electrophoretic techniques: TLE (on pre-coated TLC plates) including 2-dimensional techniques such as protein and peptide mapping and preparative electrophoresis including starch block and agar gel, just to name a few.

Because of its ability to handle greater sample capacities, the Brinkmann Double Chamber permits extremely distinct preparative separations for up to 10 grams of material. In addition, multiple separations may be run simultaneously using various carrier materials and/or buffer systems.

For an informative brochure on the Brinkmann Double Chamber, chemicals and accessories write: Brinkmann Instruments, Inc., Cantiague Road, Westbury, N.Y. 11590. In Canada: 50 Galaxy Blvd. Rexdale, Ont., M9W 4Y5.



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LETTERS

The Smithsonian: Fact and Hearsay

The highly subjective and personal characterizations that appear in an article by Constance Holden about the Smithsonian Institution (*News and Comment*, 20 May, p. 857) raise philosophical questions that merit discussion.

If the purpose of *Science* is to report on the substantive aspects of science and science policy in the United States, what is the relevance of the transfer of information that is essentially hearsay? Of what importance, in terms of examining the competence of the Smithsonian's programs in the arts, science, and history, are reportorial observations concerning the ages, height, or ethnic origins of S. Dillon Ripley's associates? Or, in terms of Ripley's competence and abilities as an ornithologist-ecologist and as Secretary of the Institution, does it matter whether he prefers champagne or Coke?

I should also like to point out several factual errors in the article. Reference is made to the "purchase" by the Smithsonian of the Cooper Union museum's collection. The fact is that the Smithsonian acquired these collections by transfer without payment, just as it acquired the mansion to house them, as a gift. The article states that the Smithsonian's first Secretary, Joseph Henry, "had been seeking the creation of a federal research university." Historians say that Henry was interested in establishing a research institute funded by James Smithson's bequest.

Finally, the article refers to some observers' suggestions that the Smithsonian Research Foundation was a case of the "Smithsonian willfully arranging matters so it could do just what the 1966 law was designed to prevent it from doing." On the contrary, the Research Foundation was established as a mechanism for funding research previously supported by the National Science Foundation, which was precluded from giving grants to individual Smithsonian scientists and to those of other federal agencies by the Independent Appropriations Act of 1966. Since then, the Smithsonian has requested and received such research funds from Congress.

The Smithsonian appreciates the continuing support of the scientific community in its efforts to increase and diffuse knowledge since its establishment in 1846.

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