

GENESIS OF THE VIRGINIA SECTION'S
GAVEL

In 1956, Randolph N. Gladding, who was Chairman of the Section at the time, approached Dr. Hiram R. Hanmer, Vice President, Department of Research and Development, The American Tobacco Company, about the possibility of having the Laboratory Shop personnel make a gavel for the Section. The idea appealed to Dr. Hanmer and he expressed a desire to have the gavel made elsewhere and to make it a personal gift to the Section.

Mr. Gladding then discussed this idea with Mr. Ralph R. Chesson, a chemist with The American Tobacco Company's Department of Research and Development, who was interested in woodworking. Mr. Chesson, in turn, contacted Mr. Samuel A. White, Manual Training Instructor at Binford Junior High School, Richmond, Virginia, and he agreed to make the gavel. Mr. White chose eleven woods native to Virginia for the starting materials; an appropriate silver band was subsequently engraved and attached.

Mr. Chesson then volunteered to make this attractive cherry case, which he donated to the Section. The case and the gavel were subsequently presented by Dr. Hanmer to Dr. G. J. Coli, Jr., who was Chairman, at the December 1956 meeting.

Since that date, this gavel has been passed by each retiring Chairman to his successor as a symbol of the office.

WOODS IN THE GAVEL. Looking down on top of the gavel and going clockwise from the twelve o'clock position, one finds cedar, hickory, oak, cherry, pine, poplar, cypress, walnut, maple and birch. The center dot is cocobolo and the handle is made of crepe myrtle.



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