Abstract

Mercury is the only metal on earth that is a liquid at room temperature and has been known for the last 35 centuries. Although extremely rare, it does not blend geochemically with other more abundant elements that makes its isolation easier than normal. The ways of purifying mercury through naturally existing compounds will be described. Mercury’s uses through the centuries, its toxicity to humans and current worldwide regulations will be presented with emphasis on historical documentation.

Biography

Dr. Paris Svoronos, a native of Greece, earned his doctorate at Georgetown University (1979) and worked at Queensborough Community College-CUNY for 40 years (1981-2021). He has been a firm believer of the community college concept in the US where, as he says, “nobody cares where you come from; instead everybody wants to see what you achieve”. He is the first ever chemist to be chosen as the Outstanding Community College Professor of the Year Award by the CASE/ Carnegie Endowment Foundation (2003), and the first ever community college faculty to be selected as the 2020 James Flack Norris Award by the ACS-Northeastern section since its 1951 inception. Dr. Svoronos received the ACS Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences (2018). His services to the ACS-NY section have been recognized by his election as its chair (2015) as well as the bestowing of its Volunteer Service Award (2016) and the Professor of the Year among Two-year Colleges honor (2019). He is a National ACS fellow, the chair of History of Chemistry (ACS-Long Island section) and co-chair of the Microwave topical group (ACS-NY section).