

Chemical Intelligence

Newsletter of The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry
No. 6 November 2011

International collaboration has been a theme of the Society's activities throughout 2011, the International Year of Chemistry. Highlights include the first Anglo-American Rumford Scholarship, co-sponsored by SHAC and the Chemical Heritage Foundation; the launch of the 'Sites of Chemistry' series of international meetings; and a colloquium on 'Alchemy and Chemistry' organised by three SHAC-sponsored series – the Oxford Seminar in the History of Chemistry, Lille's Séminaire 'Histoire de la chimie aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles', and AD HOC (Cambridge and UCL).

Importantly, it has also been a good year for **new entrants to the field**. The Society awarded the highest number of New Scholar Awards to date, in addition to conference bursaries for junior scholars. In September, postgraduate students and early career researchers from around the world convened in Cambridge, UK, for the Second SHAC Graduate Workshop. The Society welcomes these new members, and looks forward to many more exciting events to come.

In this issue:

1. Calendar	5. Reports
2. Calls for papers	6. News and resources
3. Prizes, grants, fellowships	7. Membership
4. SHAC Graduate Network	8. Further Intelligence

1. Calendar

1.1 SHAC meetings

3 February 2012 **SHAC Council meeting**
Birkbeck, University of London

6-7 July 2012 **SHAC General Meeting (Summer):
'Sites of Chemistry in the Nineteenth Century'**
Institute for the History of Medicine and Science 'López Piñero', Valencia, Spain

This is the second conference of the project *Sites of Chemistry, 1600–2000*, which deals with the multitude of sites, spaces and places where chemistry has been practiced since the beginning of the seventeenth century. It is part of a series of four annual conferences each devoted to a particular century. A final conference will be held in early 2015 to explore themes and developments over the whole period and on a broader comparative scale. Selected papers from each conference will be published in special issues of *Ambix*, and two volumes of essays will be published at the end of the project. The project is supported financially by the Wellcome Trust for the History of Medicine and is sponsored by the Society for the History of Alchemy and

Chemistry. A report on the as well as on the first conference on 'Sites of Chemistry in the Eighteenth Century' (Oxford, 2011) is included in section 5.1 below. Full details on the general project are available at www.sitesofchemistry.org.

The focus of this second conference is on the variety of physical sites where chemistry was practiced in the nineteenth century. The main purpose is to analyze, first, who was practising chemistry in a particular site, where, how, to what ends, and the physical, social, cultural and economic organization of these sites; and second the wider social, economic, political and cultural contexts for the practice of chemistry through detailed examination of chemists' interactions, in and around these sites, with other actors.

Since the late 1980s, when Owen Hannaway published his "Laboratory Design and the Aims of Science" and Steven Shapin wrote his "House of Experiment," the historiography of science has produced a large variety of studies offering analytical categories and methodological strategies to integrate the physical, cultural and symbolic features of spatial settings in the analysis of the cognitive, social or practical activities taking place inside them. The *Sites of Chemistry* project aims to encourage the study of spatial settings as an active ingredient of chemical activities, which reflects and moulds what their users thought, said and did. At the same time we aim to explore the social processes and networks that linked particular chemical spaces and the actors within them to other sites and to their wider context.

The **call for papers** is included in section 2.1 below.

1.2 SHAC-supported events

October – Dec 2011 **AD HOC: History of Chemistry Reading Group**

AD HOC started life in London in 2004 as a monthly reading and discussion group, organised by Hasok Chang. Parallel series of meetings are held at UCL and Cambridge. While our main focus is on history, we also pay attention to philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. Over the past years our meetings have been attended by a variety of scholars, ranging from advanced undergraduates to teaching staff in both science studies and chemistry, and often attracting visitors from other parts of the UK and abroad. Travel bursaries are also available for student participants. For more information, including the programme and details of readings, please visit our website, www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc. To join the mailing list, please contact Stephanie Seavers, at stephanie.seavers.09@ucl.ac.uk.

AD HOC (Cambridge)

5pm–6.30pm (Mondays, fortnightly during term), Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH

2 December 'Is Water H₂O?'
Pfizer Lecture Theatre, Department of Chemistry, Cambridge

Lecture by Hasok Chang (HPS, Cambridge). Please note change of venue.

Spring 2012 Details of our spring series will be available soon at our website:
<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc/cambridge.html>

AD HOC (London):

6pm–7.30pm (Tuesdays, monthly), University College London

6 December Prof. Bill Brock will introduce chapters from his new book, *The Case of the Poisonous Socks*.

Spring 2012 More details will be available soon at our website:
<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc/london.html>

13 April 2012 **'From Alchemy to Chemistry'**
School of Chemistry, National University of Ireland, Galway

This symposium will feature papers by Peter Forshaw (University of Amsterdam) on alchemy, John Perkins (Oxford Brookes University) on eighteenth-century chemistry and Bill Brock (University of Leicester) on nineteenth-century chemistry, and will end with a panel discussion on the future of chemistry. The event is supported by the NUI Galway Millennium Fund, the NUI Galway School of Chemistry, Boston Scientific, and SHAC. For further details contact the organiser, Dr Peter Crowley, at peter.crowley@nuigalway.

February – May 2012 **Oxford Seminar in the History of Chemistry**
3pm–5pm. Various venues (see below)

The seminar is supported by the Maison Française d'Oxford, Oxford University History Faculty, the Centre for the History of Medicine, Oxford Brookes University and SHAC.

13 February 'Chemistry and the Environment'
Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington

Joint meeting with the Environmental History Seminar: for details see full programme in section 1.3 below.

2 May 'Chemistry in Oxford at the end of the 17th Century'
History Faculty, George Street, Oxford

- Anna Marie Roos (Oxford University), 'The Learned Dr Plot (1640–1696), Philosophical Wine, and the Oxford Philosophical Society'
- Marcos Martinon-Torres (UCL), 'Doctor Plot's Pots: an Archaeological Insight into the Ashmolean Officina Chymica'

12 May 'Academic Chemistry and Artisanal Practices, 1600-1800'
Maison Française d'Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, Oxford

This one-day colloquium will explore the reciprocal relationships between artisanal practices and chemistry: both the importance of artisanal practices for the construction of chemistry as a discipline and, conversely, the interactions between academic chemists, artisans and entrepreneurs in bringing about innovation and technological change. The discussions will centre on the work of Ursula Klein (Max Planck Institute, Berlin), who will present a paper, and will include contributions from Cesare Pastorino (Newton Project, University of Sussex), Liliane Hilaire-Perez (Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Paris), Marie Thebaud-Sorger (École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris) and John Christie (Oxford).

30 May 'Chemical Correspondences: Joseph Black and Michael Faraday'
History Faculty, George Street, Oxford

Robert Anderson (Clare Hall, Cambridge) and Frank James (Royal Institution, London), the editors of the letters of Black and Faraday respectively, will explore the chemical networks that can be reconstructed from their letters.

1.3 Other activities worldwide

2 December **Robert Boyle Seminar**
The Edward Worth Library, Dr Steevens' Hospital, Dublin 8, Ireland

As space is limited, booking is essential for this one-day seminar. Sponsored by The Robert Boyle Foundation. Presentations include:

- Prof. Michael Hunter (Birkbeck College, London), 'Robert Boyle's Early Intellectual Evolution: A Reappraisal'
- Ms Sue Hemmens (Marsh's Library, Dublin), 'Crow's Nest and beyond: chymistry in The Dublin Philosophical Society, 1683-1709'
- Dr Michelle DiMeo (Georgia Institute of Technology), 'Katherine Ranelagh's Influence on Robert Boyle's Ethical and Intellectual Thought'
- Dr Jordan Avramov (The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), 'Boyle as Reader'
- Dr Antonio Clericuzio (Università di Cassino), 'The Organical Motions of Body Fluids. Robert Boyle's investigations of human physiology'

The event will close with a reception and launch of the 'Alchemy and Chemistry at the Edward Worth Library' web exhibition.

Further details: <http://www.edwardworthlibrary.ie/News-and-Events>
Contact details: Dr Elizabethanne Boran, eaboran@tcd.ie

Until 2 December **Chemistry Exhibition 'distill life'**
8am–11pm daily, Galway Arts Millennium Building, National University of Ireland (Galway Campus), Ireland

Art is often the (unacknowledged) forerunner of scientific discovery and there was a time when artisans and alchemists worked together at the same bench. Think of perfumes, pigments, potter's glazes and the alchemical crazes for gold and the elixir of life... But today the artist and chemist rarely interact.

'distill life' is a collaborative project that brings together artists and chemists from Galway and Limerick who are looking at new ways to interpret one another's work. The exhibition opened on Saturday 26th November and will run until Friday 2nd December.

The event is part of the 2011 Galway Science & Technology Festival. More information is available at: <http://www.galwayscience.ie/chemistry-exhibition/>

Autumn 2011 **Chemical Heritage Foundation Brown-Bag Lectures**
12pm–1pm. CHF, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA

Brown Bag Lectures (BBLs) are a series of weekly, informal talks on the history of chemistry or related subjects, including the history and social studies of science, technology, and medicine. Based on original research

(sometimes still in progress), these talks are given by local scholars for an audience of CHF staff and fellows and interested members of the public.

The Brown Bag Lecture Series is a project of the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry and the Othmer Library of Chemical History. For further information, see: <http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/brown-bag-lectures/index.aspx>

6 December Helen Curry (Yale University), 'Breeding Resistance: Genetics Research and Efforts to Restore the American Chestnut Tree, 1950–2000'

13 December J. Emmanuel Raymundo (Tulane University/CHF), 'When was Leprosy? The Case of the Culion Leper Colony in the US-Occupied Philippines, 1902–1941'

7 December **Cambridge Bibliographical Society**
5:00 pm (tea from 4:30 pm before the lecture). Morison Room, Cambridge University Library, Cambridge

Jennifer Rampling (Cambridge), 'The phoenix in the library: using marginal illuminations to trace alchemical manuscripts in Tudor England'

January – **Oxford Environmental History Seminar**
June 2012 *Mondays, 4pm–6.30 pm. Venue to be confirmed, unless stated*

This series is jointly convened by Oxford University, Oxford Brookes University, Maison Française d'Oxford, and the RUCHE (Réseau Universitaire de Chercheurs en Histoire Environnementale). The aims of this seminar are to bring together British and French researchers working on the same topics or problematics, and to discuss recent research on environmental history. Therefore, the principle is to invite a French and a British colleague to each seminar, to present their own research and then discuss it.

The series will launch at 4pm on Monday 7 November with a seminar hosted by the Maison Française d'Oxford on 'Environmental History in France and Great Britain: Methodology, New Perspectives, Common Ground.' Please do not hesitate to contact the Maison Française d'Oxford (reception@mfo.ac.uk) for further information.

Convenor: Thomas Le Roux, CNRS-MFO.

23 January 'Resources' (16th–18th c.)
Maison Française d'Oxford, 2-10 Norham Road, Oxford

- Grégory Quenet (Université de Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines), 'Building the Palace of Versailles: Environmental Consequences'
- Paul Warde (University of East Anglia), 'Forests and Soil Regulation'

13 February 'Chemistry and Environment' (18th–early 19th c.)
Oxford Brookes University, Gipsy Lane, Headington

- Jean-Baptiste Fresoz (Imperial college, London), 'Chemistry and the Transformation of Environment, 1750–1850'
- John Perkins (Oxford Brookes University), 'Chemical Expertise and Industrial Pollution in Rouen, 1770–1810'

- 5 March 'Landscape' (19th–early 20th c.)
- Charles-François Mathis (University de Paris-Sorbonne), 'Landscape and Preservation in England in the 19th c.'
 - Jeremy Burchardt (University of Reading), 'Landscape, Preservationism and Local Interests, the Example of Berkshire, early 20th c.'
- 23 April 'Workplaces environment' (20th c.)
- Judith Rainhorn (Université de Lille-Valenciennes), 'Lead Poisoning and the Way of the International Acknowledgment'
 - Peter Bartrip (University of Oxford), 'Regulating Asbestos Hazards in Mid-Twentieth Century Britain'
- 21 May 'The Climate Question' (18th–19th c.)
- Fabien Locher (CNRS/EHESS, Paris), 'Climate and "Government" (France, 18th–19th c.)'
 - Vladimir Jankovic (University of Manchester), 'Climate as Agency'
- 11 June 'History of biodiversity' (20th c.)
- Christophe Bonneuil (EHESS, Paris), 'An Environmental History of Gene: Plant Breeding and Crop Biodiversity in France, 20th c.'
 - British paper to be confirmed

23 March 2012 **Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group:**
'Where there's muck there's brass!!: Reclamation of Chemical Sites'
Burlington House Piccadilly, London

This meeting will include papers looking at the reclamation of various chemical sites. For the Olympic year, the first paper will be on the Remediation of the Olympic Park. Others will focus on the Reclamation of the Atlas Dyeworks Sites of Simpson, Maule and Nicholson in East London; Sulfur Waste from the Alkali Industry in Lancashire, North East England and Glasgow; The Copper Industry of Swansea Valleys; Explosives Factories (Waltham Abbey) and Sites with Radioactivity.

For further information please contact the Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group Secretary, Bill Griffith, at w.griffith@ic.ac.uk.

25–29 March 2012 **American Chemical Society: Spring 2012 National Meeting and Exposition (Theme: 'Chemistry of Life')**
San Diego Convention Center, California, USA

The programme, including panels on the history of chemistry organised by the Historical Division of the ACS, will be available online in January 2012:

http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&_pageLabel=PP_MU_LTICOLUMN_T5_33&node_id=644&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&uui_d=b0534d0d-c156-4d3d-a35a-db81c6aabc2b

27–29 April 2012 **'Hazardous Chemicals: Agents of Risk and Change (1800–2000)'**
Kerschensteiner Kolleg, Deutsches Museum, Munich, Germany

The Research Institute of the Deutsches Museum, the Department of History at Maastricht University and the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society are planning a joint workshop on the history of hazardous chemicals.

Chemistry is undoubtedly a science with a great social and economic impact. During the past two centuries millions of new substances have been described, and thousands of them have become novel industrial products. In several cases the scale of production, together with by-products and wastes, has led to previously unknown effects on human health and on the environment. Growing awareness of the impacts of hazardous substances on the economy, society and the environment has stimulated new scientific insights, discussion of risk perception, and new legislation. Advances in analysis and detection of chemicals have played a large role in this respect. Since the 1960s, industrialized countries have adopted a framework for assessing and regulating toxic chemicals that remains in force today. By this means attempts have been made, with varying degrees of success, to control individual pollutants using scientific and technical tools, including risk assessment, toxicological testing, epidemiological investigations, pollution control devices, trace measurements, and waste treatment and disposal technologies.

The present workshop will focus on the interaction between (a) the growing presence of hazardous substances in the economy and the environment, and (b) the cultural, scientific, regulatory and legal responses by modern society to these hazards. In each paper a specific chemical, or group of related chemicals, will take centre stage: from the start of its industrial production, via the proliferation of its uses, and the discovery of its effects on workers, consumers and/or on the biosphere, to attempts to control its emission and use, including the development of alternative products. The workshop will focus in particular on the history of specific chemicals which have had a profound impact on the way in which ecological and health effects have been perceived. Using a 'biographical approach' it will trace the entire 'life history' (production, use, problems, risk assessment, management strategies, and disposal) of those hazardous substances, culminating at the point at which legislative controls or alternative technical pathways were finally established. The focus will be on the main period of chemical industrialisation (ca. 1800–2000). The conference language will be English.

More information at the conference website:
<http://www.deutsches-museum.de/forschung/veranstaltungen/tagungen-2012/>

21–24 June 2012 **8th STEP (Science and Technology in the European Periphery) Meeting**
Corfu (Greece)

The 8th STEP meeting is organized by the Philosophy and History of Science Department of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, which in addition to its thriving graduate program – the largest in Greece – is one of the few university departments in the world, offering a BA in HPS.

STEP is an international group of historians of science, medicine and technology founded in 1999 by scholars from all over Europe. STEP organizes

biannual meetings to explore the historical character of science, medicine and technology in regions and societies on the periphery of Europe and beyond.

STEP meetings have always sought to strike a balance between historiographical reflections which help us develop a broader comparative analysis, and case-studies examining different national and regional contexts. We will continue to favour both approaches at the 8th meeting. The meeting will address a range of themes related to STEP's interests and in particular to its established research groups:

- 1 Cross-National, Comparative and Transnational History of STM
- 2 Experts in the Periphery
- 3 Material Culture of Science: Museums and Collections in the Periphery
- 4 Popularization of Science and Technology: Centres and Peripheries
- 5 Science and the Press
- 6 Universities in the Periphery
- 7 Women in Science, Women in the 'Periphery'

Papers will be pre-circulated 40 days before the start of the meeting. The texts should be around 6,000 words in length (including notes). Talks at the meeting will be short (10 minutes) and present only an outline of the argument developed in the pre-circulated paper in order to devote most of the time for commentary and discussion.

Further details are available at the STEP website:

For more information, see: <http://147.156.155.104/?q=node/505>

2. Calls for papers

6-7 July
2012

SHAC General Meeting (Summer):

'Sites of Chemistry in the Nineteenth Century'

Institute for the History of Medicine and Science 'López Piñero', Valencia (Spain)

Proposals for individual papers as well as for complete sessions on a particular theme are very welcome. They should be sent to the organisers: Antonio Garcia Belmar, belmar@ua.es, and John Perkins, jperkins@brookes.ac.uk.

Deadline for proposals: **10 December 2011**.

- Proposals for individual papers should include a 300 words summary.
- Proposals for sessions should include a 300 words description of the main topic and information about the authors, titles and summaries of the contributions.

There will be five (non parallel) sessions over the two days of the conference, each including 3 or 4 papers. Each session will consist of a 10 minute presentation of each paper, followed by a 20–30 minute report on all the papers by a commentator, and a general discussion. Commentators will be asked to summarize key points of the papers and offer a few critical/constructive thoughts on them, as the focus for discussion.

Full versions of papers are due to be submitted for pre-circulation by 30 May 2012. Papers should be no more than 6,000 words. They will be available to registered participants in the conference via a restricted section of the project's website one month before the conference.

There will be no registration fee for the conference and the travel and accommodation costs of those giving papers will be paid by the project. Special priority will be given to doctoral students.

Scientific committee:

Marco Beretta (Florence),
José Ramón Bertomeu-Sánchez (Valencia),
Ana Carneiro (Portugal)
Antonio García-Belmar (Alicante),
Ernst Homburg (Maastricht),
Muriel Le Roux (Paris)
John Perkins (Oxford)
Geert Vanpaemel (Belgium)

Local organising committee:

José Ramón Bertomeu-Sánchez, Mar Cuenca, Antonio García-Belmar, Ximo Guillem, Ignacio Suay-Matallana.

11-14 July
2012

**Three Societies Meeting:
Seventh Joint Meeting of the BSHS, CSHPS, and HSS**
Philadelphia, PA

The Seventh joint meeting of the British Society for the History of Science, the Canadian Society for the History and Philosophy of Science, and the History of Science Society will take place in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA from 10-13 July 2012. Previous successful meetings were in Oxford, England (2008); Halifax, Nova Scotia (2004); St Louis, Missouri (2000); Edinburgh, Scotland (1996); Toronto, Canada (1992); and Manchester, England (1988).

Unlike some 3-Society Meetings in the past, the 2012 conference has no stated theme; papers on all topics in the history of science are welcome. As 2012 marks the centennial of *Isis*, papers related to the history of both *Isis* and/or the discipline would be timely.

The Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science (PACHS) is helping with the arrangements. Dorm room accommodations will be available at the University of Pennsylvania, and a small number of hotel rooms will be reserved for the conference (individuals will need to call the hotel directly or visit the HSS web site, hssonline.org, for reservations). The program will include parallel themed sessions, plenary lectures, education and outreach activities, and events at the American Philosophical Society, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and the University of Pennsylvania. A more extensive social program is being developed by the local organizers. The conference schedule will offer delegates the opportunity to explore the many attractions to be found in the "City of Brotherly Love," including Philadelphia's extensive links to the history of science.

The Program Committee welcomes proposals for sessions or individual papers from researchers at all stages of their careers. Participation is in no way limited to members of the three organizing societies, but there will be a registration discount for members. Intending participants should also note that the usual HSS rules concerning presenting at successive conferences do not apply to this meeting.

The deadline for submitting a session or abstract is **19 December 2011**.

Enquiries concerning this conference should be directed to info@hssonline.org, or HSS Executive Office, 440 Geddes Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556-4633, 1-574-631-1194.

22–28
June 2013

24th International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine: 'Knowledge at Work'

*Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine (CHSTM),
University of Manchester, UK*

The International Congress of History of Science, Technology and Medicine is the largest event in the field, and takes place every four years. Recent meetings have been held in Mexico City (2001), Beijing (2005) and Budapest (2009). In 2013, the Congress will take place in Manchester, the chief city of Northwest England, and the original 'shock city' of the Industrial Revolution. Congress facilities will be provided by The University of Manchester, with tours and displays on local scientific, technological and medical heritage co-ordinated by members of the University's Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine.

Call for submissions

The Congress will consider two forms of submission: Symposia and Individual Papers. A Symposium is an organised thematic panel consisting of several papers addressing a specific topic. The call for Individual Papers will be managed separately, and will open in May 2012. The call for Symposia is now open.

A submission form can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.meeting.co.uk/confercare/ichst2013/call/index.html>. Please email the completed form to mcc.reg@manchester.ac.uk.

General guidelines

The Congress requires that each Symposium is organised by *two or more individuals from different countries*. Organisers may be representatives of institutions, or act together as individuals. We encourage organisers to ensure that the composition of their panels reflects a range of different national backgrounds and perspectives.

The theme of the 24th Congress is 'Knowledge at Work.' All proposals must indicate how the Symposium fits into this theme, broadly considered.

Programme structure

The expected timetabling is as follows: each day of the Congress will be divided into two half-day slots, and each slot into two 90-minute sessions

(giving four sessions per day). A Symposium may occupy from one to eight half-day slots in the programme. Within this session structure, Symposium organisers are free to propose any arrangement of speakers. For instance, a session may contain eight 10-minute papers or three 30-minute papers, with or without commentators. There is no limit to the total number of papers in a Symposium proposal, provided they can be accommodated in the slots requested.

Language

Papers may be presented in any of the following languages: English, French, Spanish, German, Italian, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Arabic. Descriptions of Symposia may be submitted in any of these languages, but must be followed by a French or English translation.

Deadline for submission of symposia proposals: **30 April 2012**.

3. Prizes, grants, fellowships

3.1 SHAC grants and prizes

2012 Morris Award: Call for Nominations

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry solicits nominations for the 2012 John and Martha Morris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Modern Chemistry or the History of the Chemical Industry. This award honours the memory of John and Martha Morris, the late parents of Peter Morris, the editor of *Ambix*, who has contributed the endowment for this award.

The Morris Award is administered by a sub-committee on behalf of SHAC. The recipient chosen to receive the Morris Award will be expected to deliver a lecture at a meeting of SHAC, where the awardee will be presented with an appropriate framed photograph, picture or document and the sum of £300. The award is international in scope, and nominations are invited from anywhere in the world.

The first Morris Award was given to Professor Raymond Stokes (University of Glasgow) for his path-breaking work on the German chemical industry. A complete nomination consists of:

- A complete curriculum vitae for the nominee, including biographical data, educational background, awards, honours, list of publications, and other service to the profession.
- A letter of nomination summarising the nominee's achievements in the field of history of modern chemistry and/or the history of the chemical industry and citing unique contributions that merit this award.
- Two or more seconding letters.

Only complete nominations will be considered for the award and the nomination documents must be submitted in electronic form. All nomination materials should be submitted by e-mail to Peter Morris at peter.morris@nmsi.ac.uk and a separate email which indicates that the material has been submitted should be sent to the same address (a precaution in case of incomplete transmission of documents) for arrival no later than **1 May 2012**.

2011 Rumford Scholarship in the History of Alchemy or Chemistry

SHAC and the Chemical Heritage Foundation are pleased to announce that **Juan-Andres Leon**, a PhD student in the Department of the History of Science, Harvard University, is the first recipient of the Rumford Scholarship for his project "Chemist-industrialists and the Development of Private Scientific Philanthropy in Germany, 1870s-1933."

The Rumford Scholarship was set up at earlier this year by SHAC and the CHF to provide funding (£2300) to enable a doctoral student or recent postdoctoral scholar, normally resident in North America, to travel to Europe in order to undertake original research in the history of chemistry or alchemy in libraries/archives/museum collections.

Applications for the 2012 Scholarship will open in the New Year, and details will be posted on the CHF and SHAC websites.

2011 University of Oxford Undergraduate History of Chemistry Prize

SHAC is pleased to announce that the first winner of this prize is **Caroline Fargher** for her study "From Deficiency to Discovery: The Origins of Fat-soluble Vitamin Chemistry, 1900-1945." The prize, sponsored by SHAC, is awarded to a final-chemistry student at the University of Oxford for an outstanding dissertation in the history of chemistry. The prize was presented to Caroline at the Society's autumn meeting in Oxford on 24 November on 'Academics, Consultants, Industrialists and Government Chemists: the History of Chemists' Careers in England from 1880 to the 1970s.'

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Award Scheme

The Society offers two types of award: support for research into the history of chemistry or history of alchemy by New Scholars and support for Subject Development of either history of chemistry or history of alchemy.

The Society offers **New Scholars** Awards, open to postgraduate students (both masters and doctoral students) and those who have obtained a PhD within five years of 1 January of the year in which the application is made. Awards cover research expenses, including travel, accommodation, subsistence, the reproduction of documents, and library fees. In addition, postgraduate students may apply for the costs of travel to conferences and accommodation, but only in order to give a paper.

Subject Development awards are made to support activities including, but not limited to, seminars, workshops, colloquia, lecture series, conference sessions, conferences, exhibitions and outreach activities that support either the history of chemistry or history of alchemy as academic subjects.

The Award Scheme is competitive and is open to all members of the Society, both in the UK and abroad. Awards do not have to be held in the UK.

The successful applicants for the SHAC Award Scheme 2011 were:

New Scholars Awards

- Ms Malika Basu (Vidyasagar University): Support for research trip.
- Mr Samir Boumediene (Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon): Support for research trip, "Appropriating the Remedies of the Spanish New World 1570–1750"
- Ms Julia Bursten (University of Pittsburgh): Support for attendance at conference and research trip.
- Ms Victoria Cambranes (University of York): Support for conference attendance, "Reinterpreting the Aurora Consurgens: The Hieros Gamos Theme in Early Medieval Alchemy"
- Miss Georgiana Hedesan (University of Exeter): Support for research trip
- Mr Vangelis Koutalis (University of Athens): Support for research trip
- Ms Elena Serrano (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona): Support for research trip

Subject Development Awards

- Prof. Hasok Chang (University of Cambridge): Continued support of AD HOC reading group, Cambridge and London branches
- Dr Lauren Kassell (University of Cambridge): Support for Conference, 'Alchemy and Medicine from Antiquity to the Enlightenment'

Applications for the 2012 Award Scheme will open in the New Year.

Details will be posted on the SHAC website:

http://www.ambix.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=45.

3.2 Other prizes, grants and fellowships

2011 Franklin–Lavoisier Prize: Robin Clark

The Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) and the Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie (FMC) presented the 2011 Franklin–Lavoisier Prize to **Maurice Hamon**, General Relations Director and archivist of Saint Gobain. Coming from the École Nationale des Chartes, the prestigious French heritage conservation school, and previously Head Librarian at the French National Archives, M. Hamon managed to gather and keep up for more than 40 years an extremely rich documentation database, going back the foundation of Saint Gobain in 1666. These archives, kept in Blois, have been enriched, under his impulse, with numerous historical documents, including archives from other French and American companies in the chemistry sector.

Heritage, chemistry and industry are therefore recognised this year through Maurice Hamon's work in Saint Gobain. Coming from the 'Manufacture Royale des Glaces', which manufactured the mirrors of the 'galerie des Glaces' in the Versailles Palace, Saint Gobain always protected the conservation and enhancement of its heritage. The Saint Gobain archives are unique in the business world, in allowing modern researchers to find and study sides of chemistry sometimes unknown in the history of sciences and industries, in order to share them with the public. This year, the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the Maison de la Chimie Foundation pay a tribute to Maurice Hamon's important work of conservation.

The Franklin-Lavoisier Prize, created in 2007 and awarded every two years, is dedicated to reward a person or an organization that contributes to preserve and promote the heritage and history of chemistry sciences and industries, in France and

in the United States. Its aim is also to promote the connection of franco-american links and major events in the chemistry sector.

The 15000 € prize and a silver medal with the head of Laurent de Lavoisier and Benjamin Franklin will be awarded to Maurice Hamon by Thomas Tritton, President of the Chemical Heritage Foundation and Bernard Bigot, President of the Maison de la Chimie Foundation, on 25 January 2012 at the Maison de la Chimie in Paris, during a scientific colloquium on 'Chimie et Nature.'

2011 Bettina Haupt Prize

The Bettina Haupt Prize, which is awarded to a young German-speaking scholar every two years, was established in 1987 in memory of the young historian of chemistry, Bettina Haupt (née Sperlich) who died in 1985 shortly after completing her outstanding Marburg thesis on German chemistry textbooks from 1775 to 1850. It is awarded by the Historical Division of the Deutsche Chemische Gesellschaft.

The winner in 2011 is the Marburg pharmaceutical chemist, Florian Karl Öxler, for his illustrated study of German chemistry sets: *Vom tragbaren Labor zum Chemiebaukasten. Zur Geschichte des Chemieexperimentierkastens unter besonderer Berücksichtigung des deutschsprachigen Raums* (Stuttgart: Wissenschaftliche Verlagsgesellschaft, 2010). ISBN: 978-3-8047-2829-5. Price 33.00 Euros.

2011 Roy G. Neville Prize in Bibliography and Biography

The winner of the fourth Roy G. Neville Prize is Prof. Michael Hunter for his biography *Boyle: Between God and Science* (Yale University Press, 2009). The Neville Prize, established in 2006, is presented annually by the Chemical Heritage Foundation to recognize an outstanding monograph in the areas of the chemical and molecular sciences. It recognizes either a monograph that contributes to our bibliographical knowledge of the chemical and molecular sciences; or a major work of biography in the chemical and molecular sciences.

For further details of the Neville Prize, see:

<http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/awards/roy-g-neville-prize.aspx>

The Chemical Heritage Foundation Short and Long Term Fellowships 2012–2013

Generous pre- and postdoctoral fellowships are available for research on the history of chemistry, broadly construed. Fellowships are available for periods of 2 to 9 months and will be spent in residence at CHF in Philadelphia. Projects funded in the past range from the history of Arabic alchemy and agricultural improvement to nanotechnology, pharmaceutical industry, and trans fats. Research proposals detailing the importance of CHF's wide-ranging collections for the proposed project will be considered with particular care.

Guidelines and procedures

Applicants must submit the online application form and the following mandatory materials combined into one .pdf attachment by **15 February 2012**:

- A cover letter introducing yourself and your research project
- A copy of your CV (3 pages or less)

- A description of your project (less than 1,500 words)
- Contact information for two people submitting reference letters on your behalf

You may **not** apply for both a long-term and a short-term fellowship at the same time; the online form will allow you to note which type of fellowship you are applying for. If applying for a short-term fellowship, you must indicate how many months you wish to be in residence at CHF. If applying for a long-term fellowship, you must indicate whether you are applying for a postdoctoral or a dissertation fellowship; postdoctoral fellowships can only be awarded to scholars who have their Ph.D. in hand by the July before the academic year in which the fellowship will begin.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail upon submitting your application. CHF will contact your references by e-mail at that stage and ask them to submit a letter of reference by 28 February 2012.

Travel grants, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia

The Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at CHF offers grants to cover travel and accommodation expenses for researchers who wish to use its collections for short-term research (periods of up to one month) on the history of the chemical and molecular sciences. Travel grant recipients have access to the collections of the Othmer Library and are encouraged to use CHF's oral history materials and its collection of art, artefacts, archives, and images. Travel grants are \$750 per week and are intended to help defray the costs of travel and accommodation.

Travel grant applicants must reside more than 75 miles from Philadelphia to be eligible. No more than one travel grant per person per fiscal year (1 July to 30 June) can be awarded. Grants must be taken within one year of the award or the grantee must request an extension or reapply.

There is no deadline for travel grant applications. Applications can be submitted at any time and are assessed by an internal CHF review committee. A travel grant application must contain:

- A research proposal that also details how the applicant will make use of CHF's collections (one page)
- A curriculum vitae (up to three pages)
- One reference letter (applicants are responsible for references submitting letters directly to CHF via the e-mail address below)

Travel grant applications must be submitted electronically, as Word or PDF files, to: travelgrants@chemheritage.org.

4. SHAC Graduate Network

The SHAC Graduate Network aims to stimulate research into the history of alchemy and chemistry worldwide, by providing research training, grants and networking opportunities for postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers working in these fields. As part of this scheme, postgraduates and early career researchers are eligible to apply for grants towards the cost of research (the **New Scholars** Award, section 3.1 above). The Society also organises an annual workshop for students and junior scholars, focusing on methods, sources and approaches in the history of alchemy and chemistry (see below for details of the 2011 event).

If you have any questions about the Graduate Network, and the opportunities available for students and early career researchers interested in the history of alchemy and chemistry, please contact SHAC's student representative, Stephanie Seavers, at stephanie.seavers.09@ucl.ac.uk.

4.1 Graduate Network events

21 September 2011

2nd SHAC Postgraduate Workshop on the History of Alchemy and Chemistry: 'The Material Culture of Chemistry'

Every year, the SHAC Graduate Network organises an international workshop to provide training on research skills and methodology for graduate students and early career researchers. This September, sixteen postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers, representing institutions in the UK, Austria, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, the USA, and the Ukraine, converged on the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge. The theme for this year's workshop was 'The material culture of chemistry', and to underline the material theme, the programme offered research methods training through practical, 'hands-on' sessions, as well as research papers.



The workshop opened with a panel on research problems issues in the history of alchemy and early chemistry, chaired by Professor Lawrence Principe (Johns Hopkins University). Stephanie Seavers, a PhD candidate at University College London, began with a paper on 'Reading materials: medieval alchemy and the symbolism of gold in art.' Stephanie considered the symbolism of gold as described in alchemical texts in relation to real, golden artefacts, such as the gilded effigies in Westminster Abbey, asking whether gold's association with heavenly perfection adds another dimension to its material applications. Next, Graziana Ciola, who had just completed her *laurea specialistica* at the Università di Pavia, introduced 'John of Rupescissa's "cheap" alchemy.' Graziana reflected on John's use of inexpensive ingredients (such as quintessence of wine), as a way of making his medicinal alchemy available to 'poor evangelical men' (*pauperes evangelici viri*), including friars like himself – raising questions about the possible development of a 'Franciscan alchemy.'

After a break for coffee, participants headed for King's College Library, home of the Keynes collection of Sir Isaac Newton's alchemical manuscripts, for the first of our practical sessions. On our arrival the Librarian, Peter Jones, explained how Keynes came to acquire these fascinating manuscripts. As it happened, the workshop coincided with the online launch of the digitised versions of these manuscripts through the 'Chymistry of Isaac Newton' project at Indiana University. Professor William Newman, director of the project, gave a talk to introduce some of the most interesting items from the collection, including Newton's famous *Index Chymicus*, which were circulated among participants. Our examination of these documents revealed how their material aspects – from elusive, chemical stains to Newton's distinctive way of folding his paper sheets – provides an essential complement to the production of digital editions.

Returning to HPS, participants had the opportunity to chat over lunch, before leaving for the Department of Chemistry, for the second interactive session: 'Getting your hands dirty: learning from historical experiments.' Professor Hasok Chang (Cambridge) led the group in replicating some eighteenth- and nineteenth-century chemical experiments which are still puzzling chemists today. Suitably outfitted in lab coats and safety goggles, participants started by growing silver 'trees' by inserting copper wires into silver nitrate solution. In addition to using glass tubes, we found that the plastic envelopes that held our conference badges made particularly convenient receptacles for growing two-dimensional trees. While our trees grew, we divided up into teams to investigate the most effective way of building a Voltaic cell, using a selection of components: zinc and copper plates, kitchen towels, and a choice of electrolytes (salt solution or hydrochloric acid). The cells were then tested, and a prize awarded to the team with the highest electric current!

We returned to HPS for refreshments, followed by the second panel of the day. Ximo Guillem-Llobat, a postdoctoral researcher at CSIC-UVEG, Valencia, gave a talk on 'Defining, regulating and using saccharin at the birth of the industrial food era (1888–1914)'. Ximo spoke about the invention and diffusion of new 'artificial' substances in processed foodstuffs, looking at how substances like saccharin were reported in international journals, and the impact of such substances on a range of issues, including the natural/artificial boundary in food regulation. Our final talk returned us to the theme of gold: Peter Oakley, a PhD candidate at UCL, spoke on 'Tested by Fire: the social impact of technological changes in assaying.' Peter compared a traditional method of determining the gold content of gold alloys, *fire assay*, with a new analytical process, *x-ray fluorescence* (XRF): two technologies with very different material cultures, and different implications for the professional identity of assayers. The academic part of the day closed with an extended discussion, in which topics ranged from the training opportunities available for young historians of chemistry, to the alchemy/chemistry 'divide', and the perceived trendiness of chemistry as a topic within the broader history of science and medicine.

Following these intellectual exertions, junior and senior participants headed for the Bath House pub, where the practical applications of fermentation and distillation technologies were explored through rigorous empirical testing. The day closed with a meal at an Italian restaurant, enthusiastic discussion, and – at least for some of us – preparation for the next event in a packed week: an international conference starting in Cambridge the following day, on 'Alchemy and Medicine from Antiquity to the Enlightenment.'

Jennifer Rampling

3rd SHAC Postgraduate Workshop on the History of Alchemy and Chemistry: 'Representing Chemistry'

The proposed theme for the 2012 SHAC Graduate Workshop is 'Representing Chemistry.' The workshop will explore associations between chemistry, art and visualisation from varied perspectives. Topics might include:

- Chemistry as art (e.g. manuscript illumination, imagery, or chemistry as a subject for art)
- Chemistry as performance
- The role of chemistry in the production of art (e.g. the creation of artistic materials such as paints and metals)
- The chemical preservation of art (e.g. archaeological or conservation methods)
- The use of chemistry in the study of art (e.g. methods of archaeological science)
- Associations between science and art in the history of Chemistry
- Associations between art and nature in the history of Chemistry
- Chemical models

The workshop will provisionally take place in September 2012 at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge. Further details will be published in the next issue of *Chemical Intelligence*.

If you have any queries, please contact the lead organiser, Stephanie Seavers stephanie.seavers.09@ucl.ac.uk.

4.2 Graduate Network awards

Conference grants: SHAC Postgraduate Workshop

The Society awarded nine travel bursaries to support the attendance of graduate students and early career scholars at the SHAC Postgraduate Workshop on 8 January 2010. Awards were made to Graziana Ciola (Pavia), Ximo Guillem-Llobat (CSIC-UVEG, Valencia/University of Leeds), Joel Klein (Indiana University/Max Planck Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Berlin), Mykhailo Koltsov (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy), Lucas Mueller (Imperial College, London), Hilde Norrgrén (Oslo), Peter Oakley (UCL), Stephanie Seavers (UCL), and Rossen Stoyanov (Radboud University, Nijmegen).

4.3 Other graduate events

3 Societies Conference Postgraduate Student Bursary Announcement

The BSHS invites applications from its postgraduate student members for travel bursaries of up to £750 to attend the 2012 Three Societies Conference in Philadelphia, 10-13 July. Applications will be considered from postgraduate students who are members of the BSHS and are resident outside of North America at the time of the conference. Bursaries are not limited to UK-based students. Priority will be given to those who are presenting a paper or are otherwise involved in the conference.

Applications should be made on the forms available on the BSHS website (<http://www.bsbs.org.uk/whp/grants>) and must include:

- Details of the applicant and a copy of the abstract of the proposed paper
- Indication of any other involvement in the meeting, e.g. organising a session, chairing a session
- Indication of other funding available to the applicant
- Reasons for attending the meeting
- A reference from your supervisor

Applications should be submitted in electronic format to the BSHS Executive Secretary, office@bshs.org.uk

The deadline is **19 December 2011** (the same as the call for papers). Any queries regarding the application process should be addressed to office@bshs.org.uk.

5. Reports

5.1 SHAC events

3-5 July 2011

SHAC Summer Meeting: 'Sites of Eighteenth-Century Chemistry'

The first of the annual conferences in the Sites of Chemistry, 1600-2000 project was held at the Maison Française, Oxford, 3-5 July 2011. The conference was opened by Professor Pietro Corsi at a reception on Sunday evening at the Museum of the History of Science, Broad Street, held in the basement where the chemistry collections are displayed and which was, appropriately, the site of the first purpose-built chemistry laboratory in Oxford (1683). Over the next two days the 62 delegates to the conference had an intensive diet of 22 papers, interspersed, on Monday evening, with the conference dinner that was held on a boat trip down the Thames, with distant fireworks (unplanned) as the sun set on the return journey to Oxford.

The first of the conferences five sessions, chaired by Antonio Belmar (Alicante), was on chemical sites in metropolitan contexts and opened with a paper by John Christie (Oxford and Leeds) on the often highly politicised spaces where chemistry was practised in London. Lissa Roberts and Jeroen Bos (Twente) explored the contrasts and connections between the chemical sites in Amsterdam and Batavia within the their wider colonial and economic contexts. Simon Werrett (Seattle) analysed the distinctive and diverse working practices, material cultures and visions of chemistry in three chemical laboratories in St. Petersburg as they competed for imperial patronage while pursuing the secret of making green pyrotechnical fire. The session ended with a survey by John Perkins (Oxford) of the large number and diversity of chemical sites, especially laboratories, in Paris between 1750 and 1790, making a case for the exceptional extent and depth of chemical practice and public interest in Paris.

The French theme was continued in the second session devoted to 'Laboratories: spaces and practices' and chaired by Stephen Johnston (Oxford), with papers by Christine Lehman (Paris) and Marco Beretta (Florence). Christine explored the different types of chemistry practiced by Macquer in the various laboratories he owned or frequented and Marco demonstrated the range of spaces and places, indoors and out, inside Paris and outside, where Lavoisier practised. Geert Vanpaemel (Leuven) had opened the session with a paper (written with Brigitte van Tiggelen) on the transformations in the practical organization of the chemistry laboratory at Louvain University as chemistry was caught up in the Enlightened reform of the university. Mary Ellen Bowden of the Chemical Heritage Foundation (Philadelphia) and Jane Insley of the Science Museum (London) closed the session with papers on the

reconstruction of Priestley's laboratory in Northumberland, Pennsylvania and the 'cookbook chemistry' performed by James Watt in his workshop at Heathfield, Birmingham. The reconstructed workshop has just been re-opened in the Science Museum.

Ana Carneiro (Lisbon) chaired the final session of the afternoon on 'chemical sites, cultural spaces and contexts'. Unfortunately Mathew Eddy (Durham) was unable to present his paper on the visual and aural culture of the University of Edinburgh's sites of chemical instruction, but the theme of the wider educational context of chemical practices was picked up by Rachel Dunn (Durham) in her paper on chemistry in Dissenting Academies and Literary and Philosophical Societies. Elena Serrano (Barcelona) then reconstructed the networks through which a society of aristocratic women in Madrid in 1795 pursued their chemical interests and the range of places where they practised them. Corinna Guerra (Bari) brought the session and the day to an explosive end with a discussion of the role played by Vesuvius as place for the practice of chemistry, a kind of open-air natural chemical laboratory, and a site for chemical discoveries.

A refreshed and rejuvenated audience reconvened for the second part of the marathon on Tuesday for two sessions devoted to chemical sites and economic contexts. The context explored in the morning session, chaired by Muriel Le Roux (Oxford and Paris), was the State and innovation and the session began with two papers on the relations between chemistry and mining. Hjalmar Fors (Uppsala) explored how chemists at the Swedish Board of Mines transformed chemistry into a utilitarian tool for the improvement of mining. Peter Konecny (Vienna) discussed the creation of the new laboratory building in 1786 at the Schemnitz Mining Academy (Vienna) in the context of mining education, the deployment of chemical expertise and the problematic position of chemists within a cameralist administration. Ursula Klein (Berlin) continued the explorations of the relations between chemistry and technology with a paper on the chemical experiments performed in the pigment laboratory of the Royal Prussian Porcelain Manufactory between 1781 and 1791. Patrice Bret closed the session with a paper on the chemistry sites of the French gunpowder administration and the role of Lavoisier and other chemists in reorganising administrative and technical practice at these sites.

The context explored in the final session, chaired by Jose Ramon Bertomeu (Valencia), was defined by the interplay between private entrepreneurs, innovation and the State. By chance all four papers concerned France. Samir Boumediene (Lyon) considered the apothecary's shop as a site for chemical practice while being at the same time a site for commercial activities and for state-sponsored regulation. Emma Spary's (Cambridge) paper explored the artisanal food laboratories that flourished in Paris between 1750 and 1800 as settings for the working out of new relations between food production, government, scientific expertise, industrialisation and gender. Thomas Le Roux (Paris) investigated the transformation of the industrial chemical workshop between 1750 and 1800 its consequences for pollution, industrial risk and state regulation. The final paper, by Marie Thébaud-Sorger (Paris), looked at the chemical sites involved in the balloon craze of the 1780s and their place in the public construction and staging of a culture of heat and gases in provincial French towns as part of the elaboration of a culture of innovation.

The conference ended with a roundtable discussion led by the chairs of the five sessions. Not surprisingly, the loudest plea was for fewer papers and much more time for discussion, and the project organisers agreed that this would be the case in the future conferences. In spite of this plea there was also agreement that the large number of papers had demonstrated the wide range of 18th-century chemical sites, of

the forms of chemistry practiced in them and of the contexts in which they were set and operated. It was agreed too that the concept of a chemical site was one which opened up useful avenues for exploring both the micro history of chemistry and macro comparative analyses. The final discussion also identified themes to be explored in future conferences: the detailed investigation of the material nature of sites and their contexts; inter-relations between the materiality of sites and the transformations of chemical practices; the opportunities that the concept of sites offers for integrating the history of chemistry with urban history and economic history; the inter-relations of sites, networks and the circulation of practices and ideas. For the organisers of the conference and the project the most interesting part of the discussion was that for some of the participants the idea of sites offered the possibility of a 'spatial turn' in the history of chemistry.

The conference was funded by the Wellcome Trust, SHAC, the Maison Française and Maney Publishing.

The next conference, on the sites of chemistry in the nineteenth century, will be held in Valencia 6–7 July 2012 (see the Call for Papers above). The conference on the twentieth century will be held in July 2013. The sites of alchemy will be explored in Vienna in January 2014, and sites of seventeenth-century chemistry in Oxford in 2104. Further details on the project, which is sponsored by SHAC and funded by the Wellcome Trust, are available at www.sitesofchemistry.org.

John Perkins

5.2 Reports on SHAC Subject Development Awards 2010–11

AD HOC: History of Chemistry Reading Group 2010–11 Academic Year

AD HOC ('Association for the Discussion of the History of Chemistry') started life in London in 2004 as a monthly reading group, as a forum for all those interested in the history of chemistry – from university teaching staff to postgraduates and advanced undergraduates. In autumn 2010, the group expanded its operations to hold parallel series of meetings at both University College London and the University of Cambridge, while encouraging cross-traffic. For the first time, we also decided to select our readings on the basis of specific themes: one theme per term in Cambridge, and one for every four meetings in London. In choosing themes, the group looked for topics that were relevant not only to the history of chemistry, but also to chemistry's philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions. We were also fortunate in attracting some outstanding visiting speakers to present particular readings, which ranged from their own work-in-progress, to important primary sources in the history of alchemy and chemistry. Thanks to SHAC's continuing sponsorship, we were able to offer travel bursaries to student participants, and to take our speakers out for 'post-HOC' dinner and continued discussion.

AD HOC Cambridge

For our first series in Cambridge, we took the theme of 'Alchemy vs. chemistry'. At the first meeting, Jenny Rampling set out some of the historiographical issues. Hasok Chang led the second session, on 'Alchemy from the perspective of later chemistry', introducing readings on alchemy by the distinguished nineteenth-century chemists, Justus von Liebig and Thomas Thomson. Next, Rob Ralley (Cambridge) evaluated the place of alchemy in modern historical accounts: 'Alchemy's place in the history of science and medicine.' Our first term ended with a field trip to nearby King's College

Library, for a hands-on session examining some of Isaac Newton's alchemical manuscripts. This packed session began with an introduction to the Keynes collection and Newton's alchemy by Peter Jones (King's) and John Young (HPS, Cambridge). Afterwards, participants had the opportunity to examine the manuscripts in more detail, culminating in a vigorous discussion about the format of the notebooks and the interpretation of alchemical texts.

In the spring, we turned to the 'Building Blocks of Chemistry' to consider how past chemists conceived of the fundamental parts of matter. Cristina Chimisso (Open University) led our first meeting, on 'Structures', in which she introduced Gaston Bachelard's *Le matérialisme rationnel* (1953), using an English translation prepared 'in house' at HPS by Nick Jardine and Jenny Bangham. A multi-disciplinary approach to Dalton's atomic theory, introduced by Peter Wothers (Department of Chemistry, Cambridge), provided the substance of our second meeting, on 'Atoms.' In the third, we turned our attention to 'Molecules': specifically, to H_2O , with a chapter from Hasok Chang's forthcoming book, *Is Water H_2O ? Evidence, Realism and Pluralism*. Jo Hedesan (University of Exeter) then opened our fourth meeting, on the Paracelsian and Helmontian 'Principles', with seventeenth-century readings from Jan Baptist van Helmont and Robert Boyle. The term closed with a look at 'Affinities', led by visiting scholar Mi Gyung Kim (North Carolina State University), who introduced chapters from her book, *Affinity, that Elusive Dream* (2003).

In the summer term, our theme was 'Chemistry and Education.' Dr Keith Taber (Faculty of Education, Cambridge) introduced his own work on 'Chemistry in the curriculum' by asking how schoolchildren are taught about atomic structure. The second session, 'Learning chemistry from books', was jointly introduced by Hasok Chang and Jenny Rampling, who discussed alchemical commonplacings and nineteenth-century textbooks. Finally, Simon Schaffer (Cambridge) provided a fitting finale to our first year in Cambridge, by introducing John Francis Vignani, the Italian chemist who became the first professor of *chemistry* in the University of Cambridge.

AD HOC London

The theme for our London meetings in autumn 2011 was 'Sites of Eighteenth-Century Chemistry.' We started by considering apothecaries' shops as sites of chemical theory and practice, focusing on the discoveries of chemist and sometime pharmacist's apprentice, Carl Wilhelm Scheele. The next meeting, on 'Sites of Chemical Activity in Enlightenment Scotland', was introduced by Robert Anderson (Clare Hall, Cambridge), who presented work-in-progress from his own edition of the correspondence of the renowned Scottish Enlightenment chemist, Joseph Black (1728–1799). John Christie (Oxford and Leeds) led the next meeting, on 'Metropolitan Chemistry', focusing on Joseph Priestley's activities in London. The final meeting of term looked at coffee houses as sites of chemical activity, exemplified by the Coffee House Philosophical Society (1780–1787). The session ended with the AD HOC Christmas Party.

In spring 2011, Catherine Jackson (UCL) organised a series on 'The Development of Organic Chemistry during the Nineteenth Century.' The first meeting introduced the development of organic chemistry during the nineteenth century, setting out some of the key historical questions in this area. Subsequent sessions looked at the disciplinary development of organic synthesis as told in contemporary chemists' histories (particularly Carl Schorlemmer's *The Rise and Development of Organic Chemistry*), chemists' glassware (in which our visiting speaker, Prof. Colin Russell, introduced his own work on Edward Frankland), and laboratories as tools of

knowledge production (with primary source readings by Ludwig Gattermann and Emil Fischer).

Our summer theme was 'Chemistry and the Public.' Melanie Keene (Homerton College, Cambridge) opened with a session on 'Victorian popular chemistry', featuring items from Charles Dickens' newspaper column, *Household Words*. In the next session, Mi Gyung Kim returned to introduce a chapter from her forthcoming book, on the eighteenth-century obsession with hot air ballooning. Finally Kat Austen (New Scientist) introduced 'Chemistry and the new science media', considering some recent examples of how chemical discoveries are presented by science journalists. The academic year closed with AD HOC's seventh birthday party: an event celebrated not only with birthday cake, but also a talk by a distinguished visiting speaker, Prof. Eric Scerri (UCLA), titled 'A Tale of Seven Elements.'

For the 2011–12 academic year, Chiara Ambrosio (UCL) has also become involved in organising the London-side meetings. The group continues to offer bursaries to subsidise the cost of travel to meetings for current students and early postdocs. To join the group's mailing list, or for further information regarding bursaries and future meetings, please contact the membership coordinator, Stephanie Seavers, at stephanie.seavers.09@ucl.ac.uk.

Hasok Chang
Jennifer Rampling
Stephanie Seavers

5.3 Reports on SHAC New Scholars Awards 2011–12

'Colonialism and Indigenous Pharmaceuticals: Case Studies of Three Pharmaceuticals in Kolkata'

Malika Basu(Ghosh) (Vivekananda Mission Mahavidyalaya, West Bengal)

Like several other ancient civilizations of the world, India had its own glorious tradition in the field of science, specifically in the field of alchemy. The history of Indian alchemy can be traced to the Pre-Vedic period, which received its momentum to a large extent from Tantric cult. Initially, alchemy in India was concerned with the preparation of an elixir of life for imparting immortality. This enriched traditional medical system lost its scientific spirit, with the advent of the Europeans in India. People were easily attracted by the new system of medicine which offered quick recovery. In such a socio-political context, Bengali intelligentsia took up business and industry with new objectives. Among several other industries, the pharmaceutical industry was one such example. These socio-historical and socio-political backdrops inspired the present researcher to take up this project as a PhD dissertation. Three indigenous pharmaceutical companies in Kolkata (erstwhile Calcutta) have been chosen as the subject of study.

Keeping in mind the historical backdrop and present socio-economic situation of these three companies, the present researcher has selected: Buttokrishna Paul & Co. at Sovabazar, Kolkata (1855); Bengal Chemical & Pharmaceutical Works Limited at Eastern Metropolitan Bye Pass (1891); and East India Pharmaceutical Works Limited at Behala, Kolkata (1936). The present researcher has restricted the time period of the study to 1855–1947. The three indigenous companies were established in three different time periods, and the present researcher will focus on their histories up to the end of the colonial period, i.e. 1947. The present dissertation aims to understand the scientific discourse of these three indigenous pharmaceutical companies within

the debates of hegemonization or counter hegemonization between colonial science versus national science under the then socio-political milieu.

In connection with the present PhD dissertation, the present researcher worked at different libraries in India. Insofar as development of Western pharmaceutical industries is concerned, the availability of resources is very limited. In this respect, SHAC provided a golden opportunity under its 'New Scholar Research Award Scheme'. With this Scholarship, I have fulfilled my desire to work at different, prestigious libraries in London including University College of London (UCL), the Wellcome Library, British Library, etc. In these libraries, research materials have been collected to chart the historical genesis of pharmaceutical industries in different civilizations; the early eighteenth- and nineteenth-century development of Pharmaceutical industries, etc. This research material has helped the present researcher to gain in-depth and thorough knowledge about the research subject. This kind of research will create a new horizon of research in the History of Science. SHAC's assistance has enabled the present researcher to fulfil her desire, and will also help to incorporate a cross-cultural dimension in her future Post Doctoral research.

Period of research work conducted in London, UK: 11 July–3 August 2011.

Conference travel grant, International Medieval Congress, Leeds

Victoria Cambranes (University of York)

Although many modern scholars have worked to bridge the gap between science and theology (with alchemy a quintessential common ground for this endeavour), I believe that there is still much work to be done in combining methodologies from both Religious Studies and the History and Philosophy of Science to achieve this goal. I have chosen to approach this project through a study of a medieval alchemical tract entitled the *Aurora Consurgens*, or the *Rising Dawn*. This short text is a pedagogical work focused on the metaphysical requirements for achieving the ultimate objective of the alchemical endeavour, that of union with the divine and the creation of the Philosophers' Stone. While the *Aurora* can be interpreted on multiple levels to mean both spiritual deification and a physical harnessing of universal occult powers, I argue that these objectives are interrelated and in fact non-exclusionary. Since modern studies on this text have been limited by Jungian scholarship, and in many respects driven off course by it, I have proceeded in my analysis with three goals in mind: to date the text, to explain its philosophical background, and to demonstrate its religious significance – thereby elucidating its author's original intent. These goals are inherently interconnected because of the interdisciplinary nature of alchemical treatises. However, I have used modern methodologies from Religious Studies and HPS to render them comprehensible to a modern audience. This required a contextualization of alchemical themes and ideas through an analysis of a late-thirteenth and early fourteenth century scientific consciousness as well as the theological and philosophical milieu of this period. This has placed the text within its rightful period of production in the late thirteenth century, explaining the cryptic and multivalent themes within through the lens of mystical union as interpreted in the *Song of Songs*.

I presented this paper at the Eighteenth International Medieval Congress at Leeds this July, 2011, to further my research in the relationship between science and theology in the High Middle Ages. This project was an extension of my undergraduate interest in the history of alchemy, and my subsequent work in the history of science at Columbia this past year. The IMC at Leeds allowed me to network with other scholars in the field and gave me greater perspective for the scope of my interests and how to proceed further with my research. I hope to continue studying natural

philosophical and theological principles in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries during my graduate work at the University of York this Fall, where I will be concentrating on optics as a subject of both religious and scientific interest. I would like to thank the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry for its generous support of this project in the form of a travel grant and its ongoing support through a vast network of scholars and contacts in the subject.

6. News and resources

6.1 SHAC news

Changes to SHAC Council

A number of changes to the membership of Council were announced at the Society's Annual General Meeting held in Oxford on 24 November 2011. **Dr Georgette Taylor** is stepping down as the Society's Honorary Secretary. Dr Taylor took on the post in 2007. During her time in the office, the Society's activities have expanded, both in the UK and overseas, while membership has grown by almost 50 per cent. A major undertaking during this period was the organisation last year of the meeting to celebrate the 75th anniversary of founding of the Society, the proceedings of which are included in this month's issue of *Ambix*.

The new Secretary is **Dr Anna Marie Roos**, who is Research Fellow on the 'Cultures of Knowledge' project in the History Faculty, University of Oxford. Her research interests are in the history of chemistry in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries and its relations with natural history. She is currently editing the correspondence of the physician Martin Lister FRS (1639-1712). She can be contacted at anna.roos@history.ox.ac.uk.

Dr GerryLynn Roberts was presented with a gift at the AGM to mark her retirement from Council after nearly forty years of service, as a member of Council, Secretary to the Society and Editor of *Ambix*. Her place on the Council has been taken by Dr Roos.

Dr Taylor's place has been taken by **Professor Hasok Chang** of the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.

Members of Council would like to express their tremendous gratitude to Dr Taylor and Dr Roberts for their service to the Society, and to warmly welcome Dr Roos and Professor Chang onto Council.

Ambix: forthcoming issues

In November, *Ambix* commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the Society for the History of Alchemy with a special issue on 'The History of the History of Chemistry.' This includes four studies on the historiography of alchemy and chemistry as it has developed since the founding of SHAC in 1935:

- William Brock (University of Leicester), 'Exploring early modern chymistry: the first twenty-five years of the Society for the Study of Alchemy & Early Modern Chemistry 1935-1960'
- Marcos Martín-Torres (University College London), 'Some recent developments in the historiography of alchemy'
- Marco Beretta (University of Bologna), 'The changing role of the historiography of chemistry in continental Europe, since 1800'

- Peter Morris (Science Museum, London), 'The fall and rise of the history of recent chemistry'

In March 2012, we look forward to publishing the essays which were jointly awarded the 2011 Partington Prize.

A special issue in July 2012 will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962).

Back issues of *Ambix* available in hard copy

Back issues of *Ambix* since 2004 (Vol. 51) are available from the Treasurer at £5.50 per issue, as are copies of the Cumulated Index. Copies of the collection of papers from *Ambix*, edited by Allen Debus, *Alchemy and Early Modern Chemistry* (2004) are available at £7.50.

Contact: shacperkins@googlemail.com or John Perkins, 19 Nethercote Road, Tackley, OX5 3AW, United Kingdom.

Back issues of *Ambix* available online

Back issues of *Ambix* from Volume 1 (1937) have been digitised and are available to members of the Society to read or download from the IngentaConnect website. Access to them is via the 'Member's Services' page on the Society's website at www.ambix.org. This page may be accessed from the home page via a username and password which have been e-mailed to members. If you have any problems or wish to enquire about membership please contact the Hon. Treasurer, John Perkins, shacperkins@googlemail.com.

6.2 Other news

A Remarkable Find: Chemical Discoveries at Edinburgh University's Old College

Chemical apparatus does not survive at all well. It is all the more surprising, and exciting, that an important cache of early material has been discovered by archaeologists digging beneath the quadrangle of Edinburgh University's Old College.

Chemistry ware is typically made from glass and ceramic, cheap materials which break easily. It cannot easily be repaired; it is thus readily discarded and little remains today. Most chemical apparatus is very difficult to date and is rarely signed by makers (who were likely to be anonymous artisans). Such historical objects as do survive in museums are very often without certain provenance or association. So the discovery of material from a specific site where known chemists worked, and which can be dated by knowing the history of its surrounding buildings, is particularly valuable. The newly-discovered Edinburgh material, which has still to be processed, conserved and studied, has great potential as a resource. The interim report which was compiled in August 2011 can only be regarded as a start.

The find was discovered because in 2010 the University started to lay a new surface to the lower area of the quadrangle, to the design of restoration architects Simpson & Brown. Working in association with them, to ensure that any significant buried material would be properly dealt with, was the firm of Addyman Archaeology, whose work was directed by Ross Cameron and Kenneth Macfadyen.

The quadrangle is contained within the structure of the Old College. Prior to the late eighteenth century, Edinburgh University comprised a mish-mash of late mediaeval buildings. The University Principal, William Robertson, considered that these were inappropriate for such an Enlightened institution, and Robert Adam (1728–1792) was called in to produce a design for an ambitious new structure. Some of the old buildings were demolished, and new neo-Classical building was started, but did not get very far. Funds were tight because of likelihood of war following the French Revolution of 1789, and Adam died in 1792, so the scheme ground to a halt. It would only be taken up again in the early 1820s, adopting a revised design by William Playfair (1759–1823). It is largely Playfair's building that we see today.



Chemistry started to be taught at Edinburgh in 1713, but it was only with the establishment of the Medical Faculty in 1726 that the subject took off, being the responsibility of John Innes and Andrew Plummer. They established a laboratory and teaching room at the edge of the University physic garden, a convenient site because their course dealt with little more than *materia medica* and practical drug preparation. They supplied local apothecaries with pharmaceutical products, the scale of their operation being significant – an order book which survives indicates clearly the large quantities of apparatus and ingredients which were being obtained from London suppliers. Innes died in 1733 but Plummer soldiered on till 1755. One of his pupils was William Cullen (1710–1790), who became deeply critical of the narrow form of instruction. Cullen took over in 1756 and taught for a decade. One of his pupils, Joseph Black (1728–1799), then replaced Cullen when Cullen was translated to a chair of medicine.

It is not entirely clear where chemistry teaching initially took place, but as it became increasingly popular, strain on accommodation occurred and in 1781 Black was provided with a new chemistry block built in Printing House Square, just to the north of the 1642 Library. What is certainly clear is that Black taught by means of celebrated lecture demonstrations, and that he possessed a large collection of apparatus and mineral samples. As he grew older, the strain of lecturing five or six days a week for six months of the year became too much for him, and in the mid-1790s the course was taken over by the man appointed his conjoint professor, Thomas Charles Hope (1766–1844). By a private arrangement, Hope purchased Black's teaching equipment and he continued to teach surrounded by what was effectively a building site until around 1820. At this time, the chemistry block was demolished and, as is now clear, some of the apparatus was buried in the rubble of

the adjacent Library. What was important for teaching was naturally removed and was used in the splendid new accommodation at the south-west corner of the Playfair building from 1823 onwards. When Lyon Playfair (1818–1898) became chemistry professor in 1858, he donated the out-of-date apparatus to the newly-founded Industrial Museum of Scotland, and it survives to this day as the 'Playfair Collection'. It includes an air pump of ca. 1720 and the so-called 'Black's Balance', with which Joseph Black may have weighed the chemicals used in his remarkable sequence of experiments which led to the identification of fixed air (carbon dioxide) in 1754–1756.

It seems likely that that the new finds, discovered in the digs of 2010 and 2011, are of apparatus and chemical samples unwanted in 1820, or perhaps of apparatus which had simply been forgotten about. The former explanation seems to be the more likely at present. Most of the glass has the usual green tinge, and consists of rods, tubing (some possibly for thermometers), broken vessels and stoppers, and there are at least two darkly coloured bottles of the kind made for wine. A current guess is that the glass may well have been made in the Edinburgh and Leith Glassworks, two miles to the north. The ceramics are largely of a rough, brown body, but there are some finer cream-coloured fragments which may be from Josiah Wedgwood's Etruria factory (he is known to have supplied apparatus to chemistry friends, gratis). There are the remains of at least one very substantial mortar. There is also a variety of crucible fragments, some containing residues. There are a few metal pieces, including a spoon and some small iron pots. Tellingly, there are also some 47 pieces of founders' type, probably originating in the printing shop, which fell in-between floorboards. Regarding chemicals, there are a number of brightly coloured powders which have yet to be analysed.

Between 1751 and 1800, the Scottish universities (largely Edinburgh) were responsible for educating 85% of British doctors. All would have been required to study chemistry. The apparatus which has come to light is potentially of great significance in understanding what was going on in the most active chemistry school of its age. I would like to thank Tom Addyman in particular for letting me examine the finds, and offer the gratitude of the history of chemistry community to the Principal of Edinburgh University, Sir Tim O'Shea, and his senior colleagues for agreeing to an extension of the excavation beyond its first phase.

Robert G W Anderson

21–24 June 2011

'Renewing the Heritage of Chemistry in the 21st Century', Paris

A Symposium of the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry was held in Paris from 21 to 24 June 2011. It was based at the École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie Industrielles and at the Maison de la Chimie. The subject was 'Renewing the Heritage of Chemistry in the 21st Century: Conversations on the Preservation, Presentation and Utilization of Sources, Sites and Artefacts.' Jeffrey Johnson and Danielle Fauque were responsible for the programme and organization. Thirty four lectures and presentations were delivered, the plenary lectures being given by Valerie Marchal, Philippe Garderet, Gerard Ferey, Ronald Brashear, Robert G W Anderson and Carsten Reinhardt. A reception was held in the illustrious Institut de France.

Robert G W Anderson

14–16 September 2011

International Conference on the History of Chemistry (8th ICHC), Rostock

The Working Party (WP) on History of Chemistry of the European Association for Chemical and Molecular Sciences (EuCheMS) held its biannual International Conference on the History of Chemistry (8th ICHC) in Rostock, Germany, from 14 to 16 September 2011. Reflecting the spirit of its location in a former member of the Hanseatic League on the Baltic coast, the theme of the conference was 'Pathways of Knowledge.' Participants reflected on how chemistry has travelled north to Scandinavia and south into central Europe, east to Russia and west to the Atlantic nations and the Americas – and, of course, the reverse movements, and the transfer of chemical knowledge further afield. Keynote lectures were given by Christoph Meinel, Michael Gordin and Robert Bud. There was also an evening excursion to Warnemünde, a seaside resort on the Baltic, and a day trip to the old Baltic towns of Greifswald, where we saw a student prison, and Stralsund, where we had lunch at Scheele's birthplace. Carsten Reinhardt was in overall charge, Peter Morris chaired the programme committee and Gisela Boeck made the local arrangements.

Peter Morris

3–6 November 2011

**'Brave New World: The Culture of Chymistry in Early Modern England and America',
Cleveland, OH**

At the 2011 annual meeting of the History of Science Society, scholars from the 'Old' and 'New' Worlds participated in a panel on early modern English and American chemistry, organised by Donna Bilak (Bard Graduate Center, New York). The panel explored the theory and application of chymistry on both sides of the Atlantic, encompassing the ideals and realities of its practice: John Dee's scientific and magical ideas concerning the uses of American nature in terms of Elizabethan empire-building; the evolution of a colonial health care system in New England as seen through John Winthrop Jr.'s iatrochemical medical practice; the trans-Atlantic career of the seventeenth-century minister and alchemist, John Allin, as a product of Anglo-American Puritan culture; and the impact of medieval alchemical authorities in shaping early modern chymical philosophy and practice. Four papers were given, by Tricia Peone (University of New Hampshire), Walter W. Woodward (University of Connecticut), Donna Bilak, and Jennifer Rampling (University of Cambridge). As Dr Woodward was sadly prevented by heavy snow from attending in person, his paper was read by the panel chair, Professor William Newman.

Jennifer Rampling

6.3 Museums and archives

**The Lloyd Library and Museum (Cincinnati):
'The Magic and Myth of Alchemy'**

The Lloyd Library and Museum proudly announces a new online exhibit: 'The Magic and Myth of Alchemy' (<http://www.lloydlibrary.org/exhibits/alchemy/index.html>) was created in honour of the International Year of Chemistry, an event celebrated by chemists and chemistry associations throughout 2011. While the Lloyd does not hold the most ancient treatises from Asia or the Middle East, it does hold a wealth of materials from the early modern and later periods, along with translations and later editions of some of the earlier volumes. A quick search in the Lloyd's online catalogue yields approximately 140 titles pertaining to that topic in some fashion, dating from

1544 to 2010. The collection includes the works of Paracelsus, Maier, Glauber, Hermes Trismegistus, and that alchemist made even more famous through a mention in the Harry Potter™ series, Nicholas Flamel.

The alchemical works have been used for a variety of reasons, from the inspiration for creating artwork to study by university students pursuing the topic academically. But, you might ask yourself, why would a primarily medicinal botany library have such a sizeable collection of alchemical volumes? First, the collection is not only eclectic, but also consists of many topics related to natural science and its history, including chemistry. Another reason for the alchemical resources relates directly back to the library's founders and their many interests. John Uri Lloyd, in particular, did a great deal of chemical research, taught chemistry, and invented his own cold still. His interest in chemistry and alchemy even extended to his fiction. The first novel John Uri Lloyd wrote, *Etidorhpa*, included references to alchemical themes; and, upon examining many of these resources, one can find notes written by him in the margins of several indicating his use of these books while writing that novel.

To learn more about the Lloyd Library and Museum, please visit www.lloydlibrary.org.

Maggie Heran, MLS, Executive Director
Lloyd Library and Museum
Historical Research Center for the Natural Health Movement
917 Plum Street
Cincinnati, OH 45202
mheran@lloydlibrary.org

**Alchemy and Chemistry at the Worth Library:
An exhibition of Chymical works at the Edward Worth Library, Dr. Steevens' Hospital, Dublin**

To mark the 350th anniversary of the publication of Robert Boyle's *The Sceptical Chymist* (London, 1661), the online exhibition for the year 2011–12 is on the theme of 'Alchemy and Chemistry in the Edward Worth Library'. When Edward Worth (1678–1733) was collecting his books the relationship between these two areas was porous and hence the contemporary term 'chymistry' is also used throughout a website which explores Worth's books on 'alchemy', chymistry at the universities, chymistry beyond the universities, chymical experiments, works by Robert Boyle and the nature of the chymical physician. This web exhibition, curated by the Librarian of the Edward Worth Library, Dr Elizabethanne Boran, celebrates Edward Worth's fascinating collection of works on chymistry, some of which will be on display in the Worth Library. It is the third in a series of websites exploring the holdings of the Library.

The exhibition is online at the Library website:
<http://ww201109120.webme.webworks.ie/Home>.

6.4 Publications

Chemical Heritage magazine

Most people don't read the history of anything, and if they do it's most likely biography, not history of science. Chemical Heritage magazine publishes three times a year and its job is to make the history of chemistry (and alchemy) intriguing to those who know little or nothing about it. We are not an academic publication so nuance and argument is often lost in the telling of stories. But it's better that they be

imperfect than never told at all. And we're always looking for experts who can spin a good story!

Have a look here: <http://www.chemheritage.org/discover/magazine/index.aspx>.

Michal Meyer
Chemical Heritage magazine

Springer Briefs in Molecular Science: History of Chemistry

This new series will present concise summaries of historical topics covering all aspects of chemistry, alchemy, and chemical technology. The aim of the series is to provide volumes of between 50 and 150 pages that will be of broad interest to the chemical community, while still retaining a high level of historical scholarship such that they will be of interest to both chemists and science. Topics are expected to include: overviews or reviews of important historical topics of broad interest; biographies; new historical research of interest to the historical community. Books will be published as part of Springer's eBook collection, but will also be available for individual print and electronic purchase. The first book in the series (to be published in 2012) is Gary Patterson, *A Prehistory of Polymer Science*. The series editor is Professor Seth Rasmussen, North Dakota State University, seth.rasmussen@ndsu.edu and further details can be had from the publishing editor, Elizabeth Hawkins at elizabeth.hawkins@springer.com.

Michael Faraday, *Chemical History of a Candle* (ed. Frank A. J. L. James) (Oxford University Press, 2011)

Frank James has just published the sesquicentenary edition of Michael Faraday's 'Chemical History of a Candle.' Faraday's 'Candle' must rank as the most popular science book ever published. It has never been out of print since in English since first publication in 1861 and has now been translated into at least a dozen languages, most recently in Japanese and Portuguese. In this edition James provides an extended introduction to the lectures and publishes, for the first time, Faraday's manuscript notes for them.

Web page: http://www.rigb.org/assets/uploads/docs/fjames_publications.pdf

William H. Brock, *The Case of the Poisonous Socks: Tales from Chemistry* (Royal Society of Chemistry, 2011)

The book contains new and revised essays and reviews written over the past forty years after Professor Brock left chemistry to practice as an historian of science. The collection of 42 stories is divided into six sections, each with its own introduction. Highlights include the risks of aniline-dyed socks in the 1860s, accounts of taste, smell and flavour; the quirky beliefs of an American philanthropist who financed important research at the Royal Institution; the development of chemical and physical laboratories since the 1830s; insurance chemistry; chemistry in the aquarium; the failed chemical career of the artist George Du Maurier (grandfather of novelist Daphne Du Maurier); and the Leicester and Cambridge career of C. P. Snow before he became a novelist. The overall aim of these illustrated essays is to beget a better public understanding of the role that chemistry plays in society. The book's broad coverage makes it of interest to chemists, teachers, historians and laypeople with an interest in science. Written with a light touch and presented in a series of unconnected vignettes, the book is easy to dip into at leisure. It is published by the Royal Society of Chemistry, priced at £19.99.

Colin A. Russell and John Hudson, *Early Railway Chemistry and Its Legacy*
(Royal Society of Chemistry, 2011)

The book described the vital relationship between chemistry and the railway industry and is the first detailed study of this important interaction. It covers the crucial role that chemistry (by no means entirely analytical) played in the development of the British railway industry from its beginnings in the early nineteenth century up to the grouping of the railways of 1923 into GWR, SR, LNER, and LMSR. For the historian, it is a classic case where history of science and history of technology converge. The study is based on many rare documents and illustrations and vast amounts of hitherto previously unpublished materials. It is of unusually wide appeal, being of interest to practising chemists, historians of chemistry, science and technology, and not least railway enthusiast and railway historians. Colin Russell is Emeritus Professor of History of Science at the Open University; and John Hudson was for many years Hon. Secretary of SHAC.

ISBN: 978-1-84973-326-7. Price £29.99.

7. Membership

New members

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry warmly welcomes the following new members:

Dr Mashhad Al-Allaf	The Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi
Malika Basu	Vidyasagar University, West Bengal
Dr Simona Beccone	University of Pisa
Samir Boumediene	Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon
Dr Louisa Burnham	Middlebury College
Julia Bursten	University of Pittsburgh
Carolyn Cobbold	University of Cambridge
M. Duggan	London
Dr Gabriele Ferrario	Cambridge University Library
Karma Finney	Baltimore
Katia Fowler	University of Virginia
Sietske Fransen	Warburg Institute
Natalie Harries	University of Cambridge
Dr Didier Kahn	Paris
William Kiesel	Seattle
Joel Klein	Indiana University
Vangelis Koutalis	University of Ioannina
Dr Richard Lansdall-Welfare	Nottingham
Anna Leendertz-Ford	University of Bristol
Prof. Roy MacLeod	University of Sydney
Prof. Bill Newman	Indiana University
Peter Oakley	UCL
Agnieszka Rec	Yale University
Dr Thomas Le Roux	Maison Française d'Oxford/EHESS, Paris
Maria Semikolenykh	St Petersburg State University
Elena Serrano	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Ignacio Suay-Matallana	University of Valencia
Kathryn Vomero Santos	New York University
Prof. M.E. Warlick	University of Denver

Joining SHAC

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry has a longstanding tradition in the field, organising colloquia, publications and promoting the interdisciplinary study of the history of alchemy and chemistry from its early beginnings to the present. The Society offers support to its members, including an award scheme, regular meetings and events, graduate network, and the triennial Partington prize for original academic writing on any aspect of the history of alchemy and chemistry. It offers a forum for advertising forthcoming events, both within the United Kingdom and internationally, and its website provides a portal to resources relating to the history of alchemy and chemistry.

Members receive the Society's journal *Ambix*, the leading scholarly journal in the field of history of alchemy and chemistry. *Ambix* is published by Maney Publishing and appears three times a year. Members will also receive the Society's newsletter, *Chemical Intelligence*, twice yearly.

Application forms and membership information may be found on the Society's website, <http://www.ambix.org/>, under 'Membership'.

For all membership questions, please contact the Hon. Treasurer:

John Perkins
19 Nethercote Road
Tackley
Oxfordshire OX5 3AW
United Kingdom
E-mail: shacperkins@google-mail.com

Further Intelligence

For queries regarding the content of *Chemical Intelligence*, or to suggest material for inclusion in future issues, please contact the Editor:

Jennifer Rampling
Department of History and Philosophy of Science
Free School Lane
Cambridge CB2 3RH
United Kingdom
E-mail: jmr82@cam.ac.uk