



HEMICAL INTELLIGENCE

The Newsletter of the Society for the History of Alchemy & Chemistry

No.16, August 2016

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Editorial

Welcome to the Summer issue of *Chemical Intelligence*, which will hopefully find many readers enjoying the holiday and conference seasons. As we were about to go to press we received the delightful news that Robert Anderson, Chair of SHAC, has been appointed interim President of the Chemical Heritage Foundation. We send our congratulations to Robert on this notable achievement, about which more can be read on page 22. This is the second of two significant successes we report on for Robert, the first being the awarding of the prestigious Paul Bunge Prize (see page 18). Well done Robert!

After a slight hiatus, brought about by the transfer to Taylor & Francis, I am pleased to be able to assure members that publication of the Society's journal, *Ambix*, is getting back on schedule, with the first issue of volume 63 published and the next in progress. Full details, including news of a special edition, can be found on pages 5 & 6. Also due out in 2016 is the next issue of *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry*, the series that publishes critical editions of texts in translation, together with a scholarly introduction and commentary. Turn to page 6 to find out which text is due out next.

Two events taking place at St Anne's College, Oxford, added much to my own enjoyment of early summer. The first, a workshop entitled; 'Alchemy, Universal Medicine and Prolongation of Life', brought together some excellent speakers, whose papers are summarised on page 28. The second was the *Scientiae* conference,

which included a plentiful array of alchemy panels under the global theme, 'Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World'. In addition, the final keynote speaker was Tara Nummedal (Brown), whose paper, 'Alchemical

Bodies: Transmutations of Self and Substance', was justly well received. Jo Hedesan, who was lead convenor for *Scientiae*, is to be congratulated on the great success of the conference and on her organisation of the alchemy workshop (outline report on page 36).

As always, there are events to look forward to once summer is over. Mike Zuber, is organising what promises to be another excellent postgraduate workshop, taking place this time in Utrecht, on 26 October. The theme, 'Colouring and Making in Alchemy & Chemistry', has attracted some fascinating papers and the keynote speakers will be Ernst Homberg (Maastricht) and Tara Nummedal (Brown) (see pages 3 & 8). Also this autumn, the Royal Institution will host the SHAC Meeting and AGM (see page 4), at which many interesting papers will be presented on a variety of themes. Do come along.

I hope you enjoy this issue,

Judith Mawer



SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY
OF
ALCHEMY AND CHEMISTRY



Visit our website at <http://www.ambix.org>

ACCESSING AMBIX ONLINE

Important Reminder to Members

SHAC members have access to all back issues of *Ambix* dating back to 1937 via our website www.ambix.org

How to Access *Ambix* via the SHAC Website

To access these issues you need to log in as a member on the SHAC website www.ambix.org using your username and password. These were sent to existing members when the back issues were first digitised in March 2013. If you have joined SHAC more recently, the username and password was issued when you joined the Society.

If you don't know your username and password please contact the Membership Secretary, Anna Simmons, via membership@ambix.org

Priority Access: Register for Alerts

Issues are published online prior to the physical copy being sent out to members. If you would like to receive notification of when a new issue is available online, please register for Table of Contents Alerts via the Taylor and Francis Website. Click on [Register for Table of Contents Alerts](#) or visit <http://www.tandfonline.com/action/doUpdateAlertSettings>

The screenshot shows the SHAC website homepage. At the top is the logo "SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ALCHEMY AND CHEMISTRY" with a stylized sun and alchemical symbols to the right. Below the logo is a navigation bar with links: Home/News, About, Publications, Prizes, Grants, Membership, Meetings, Contact Us, and a Log in button. The main content area has a "Welcome" section with a post from 06/03/2014 by mzuber. The text welcomes visitors to the SHAC website, mentions the society's founding in 1935, and lists activities like meetings, prizes, grants, and the journal *Ambix*. It also mentions the newsletter *Chemical Intelligence* and the Graduate Network. At the bottom of the main content area are three buttons: "Join SHAC" (with an image of alchemical vessels), "Renew Your Membership" (with an image of a flask), and "Log in for Members" (with an image of a Bunsen burner). On the right side of the page is a "SHACorg Tweets" section showing three tweets about academic scholarship, an alchemy workshop, and an Oxford seminar. Below the tweets is a "News" section with four bullet points: SHAC Autumn Meeting (Nov 12), New Website Content Editor (10/05/2016), Partington Prize (10/05/2016), and Oxford Seminar in the History of Alchemy.

UPCOMING SHAC EVENTS

7th SHAC Postgraduate Workshop: 'Colouring and Making in Alchemy and Chemistry'

Utrecht University: Sweelinckzaal, Drift 21, 3512BR Utrecht, The Netherlands



Keynote Lecturers:

Tara Nummedal (Brown University)
Ernst Homberg (Maastricht University)

Hosted by the ARTECHNE research group, the annual postgraduate workshop of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) will take place at Utrecht University in 2016. Fostering exchange among historians of alchemy and chemistry, the workshop offers postgraduate students and early-career researchers the opportunity to share ideas, explore methodological issues and network in a stimulating atmosphere.

The theme for 2016, 'Colouring and Making in Alchemy and Chemistry', seeks to highlight colouring and making as twin aspects throughout the history of alchemy and chemistry. During our workshop, we will explore how these activities relate to one another in a variety of ways throughout the ages. More fundamentally, the very ways in which making and colouring are construed and differentiated are subject to great changes: when alchemists claimed to have made gold successfully, for instance, their critics (and later generations) held that they had not *made* but merely *coloured* a substance. Colouring as a defining mark of making and the making of colours, as well as the techniques used to colour and/or make, are all equally subsumed under the workshop topic broadly construed.

Among other things, the programme will include the following papers:

- Vincenzo Carlotta (Humboldt/Berlin), 'Chromatic References in the Making of the Transmuting Agent as Presented in the Dialogue of the Philosophers and Cleopatra'
- Thijs Hagendijk (Utrecht), 'Alchemy, Art and Antwerp: Colour-Making in a Sixteenth-Century Manuscript'
- Kathryn Kremnitzer & Siddhartha V. Shah (Columbia), 'Making Emerald: Imitation as Working Method'
- Amélie Müller (Oxford), 'Creating Toxic Colours: Explosions, Poisoning and Occupational Hazards in the French and British Colour Industry, 1800–1914'
- Victor Seauve (MNHN/Paris), 'Edmond Becquerel's First Colour Photographs: Monitoring the Evolution of Colours'

A more detailed programme, along with a call for registrations, will be circulated in due course. For more information, please contact the SHAC student representative, Mike A. Zuber (Amsterdam)

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Open Meeting

The Royal Institution of Great Britain, London

21 Albemarle Street, London, W1S 4BS



The autumn SHAC meeting for 2016 will take place on Saturday 12 November at the Royal Institution, London. The Society's AGM will also be held at the meeting. The meeting will not address any particular theme but will consist of a succession of papers appropriate to the Society's interests on topics dating from the early modern period to the twentieth century. The deadline for the call for papers has now passed and once the programme has been finalised it will be distributed to

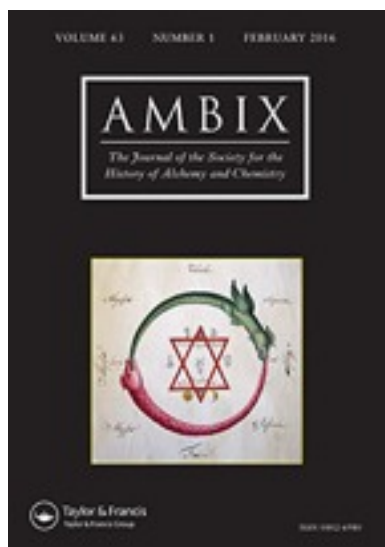
members. The registration fee for the meeting (to include refreshments and a sandwich lunch) is £15 for SHAC members, otherwise £20.

Further details will be available on the SHAC website www.ambix.org

SPECIAL NOTICE

As this newsletter was going to press, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry was very saddened to hear of the death of one of its members, Professor Masanori Kaji of the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan. On behalf of the Society, I would like to offer our sincere condolences to his family and friends. He will be much missed. A full tribute will appear in the next issue of *Chemical Intelligence*.

AMBIX: Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy & Chemistry



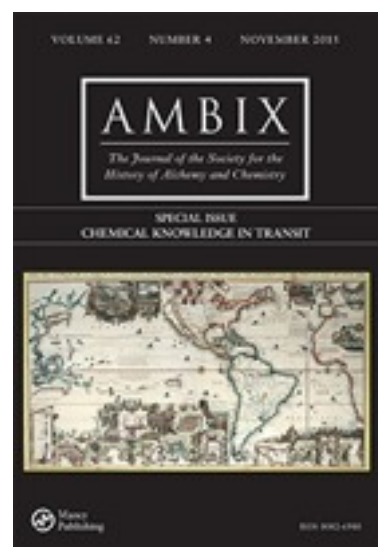
Hopefully UK members will all by now have received the first issue of volume 63 of *Ambix*. We expect it will arrive with overseas members during the next month depending on where they live. The issue was published online on 4 July 2016, where it can be found at at: www.tandfonline.com/toc/yamb20/current

The issue includes three fascinating, chronologically spread articles:

1. Claus Priesner, 'Legends about Legends: Abraham Eleazar's Adaptation of Nicholas Flamel'
2. G. Jeffery Leigh & Alan J. Rocke, 'Women and Chemistry in Regency England: New Light on the Marcet Circle'
3. Ian D. Rae, 'Theory versus Practice in the Twentieth-Century Search for the Ideal Anaesthetic Gas',

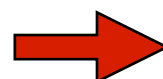
as well as an essay review by Jonathan Simon on 'The Shaping of Modern Pharmacy', book reviews and an announcement regarding the 2017 Partington Prize.

We hope that readers enjoyed the final and special issue of volume 62 of the journal, on the theme of 'Chemical Knowledge in Transit'. This issue, guest edited by Ana Maria Alfonso-Goldfarb, Hasok Chang, Marcia H. M. Ferraz, and Silvia Waisse, emerged from "Crossing Oceans," a conference held in São Paulo, Brazil, in August 2014, and examined transits of chemical knowledge in the context of, among other things, theoretical aspects, practices, materials, instruments, and apparatus. We should like to thank the guest editors and all contributors for producing this fascinating special issue, which we anticipate will be a lasting tribute to the work of conference organisers and participants.



Issue number 4 of the journal was distributed together with a note of apology from Taylor & Francis, the publisher of *Ambix*, explaining why there had been delays in publishing and despatching the journal. SHAC too is sorry for these delays and their impact on the issuing of the subsequent volume, and thank you for bearing with us during this unforeseen hiatus.

Now that the first issue of Volume 63 has been published, we aim to work towards restoring the normal pattern of release for the journal as soon as possible, and have some exciting issues in prospect. *Ambix* 63.2 is currently in production and is a special issue focusing on the reconstruction of historical experiments. The issue, titled "From the Library to the Laboratory and Back Again," is guest edited by Hjalmar Fors, Lawrence M. Principe, and H. Otto Sibum.



In addition to an introduction by the editors, the issue contains four research papers:

Special issue introduction: Hjalmar Fors, Lawrence M. Principe, and H. Otto Sibum, 'From the Library to the Laboratory and Back Again: Experiment as a Tool for the History of Science'.

1. Sébastien Moureau and Nicolas Thomas, 'Understanding Texts with the Help of Experimentation: The Example of Cupellation in Arabic Scientific Literature.'
2. Lawrence M. Principe, 'Chymical Exotica in the Seventeenth Century, or, How to Make the Bologna Stone.'
3. Haileigh Robertson, 'Reworking Seventeenth-Century Saltpetre.'
4. Hjalmar Fors and Nils-Otto Ahnfelt, 'Making Early Modern Medicine: Reproducing Swedish Bitters.'

We hope that readers will enjoy both these issues of *Ambix* and indeed the remainder of volume 63, which will continue to contain the excellent scholarship for which the journal is recognised.

Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry

The Editors of *Sources*, Lawrence Principe and Jennifer Rampling, are delighted to announce that the next issue (provisionally scheduled for publication later in 2016) will be a critical edition of two important Greek treatises: the alchemical dialogues of Cleopatra. Prepared by Vincenzo Carlotta, the edition will include an English translation, introduction, and commentary on the text.

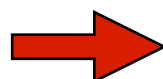
Editions of Coptic alchemical writings, Zosimus Arabus, and the *Book of Alums and Salts* of pseudo-Razī, are also in the pipeline.

Books Received for *Ambix* Review

NOTE: Appearance in this list does not guarantee review in a subsequent issue. Anyone wishing to act as a reviewer of any of the books should contact *Ambix* reviews editor: José-Ramón Bertomeu-Sánchez (bertomeu@uv.es).

Chemistry Education and Contributions from History and Philosophy of Science. By MANSOOR NIAZ. Pp. 250, illus., index. Springer: Dordrecht. 2016.

The Chemistry Department at Imperial College London A History, 1845–2000. By HANNAH GAY; WILLIAM GRIFFITH., Pp.450, Imperial College Press Imperial College Press: London. 2016.



A History of Forensic Science: British Beginnings in the Twentieth Century. By ALISON ADAM. Pp. 236, illus., index. Routledge: London. 2015.

Amedeo Avogadro. Relazioni Accademiche. By MARCO CIARDI; MARIACHIARA DI MATTEO, Pp. 154, Accademia delle Scienze di Torino, 2016.

Uroscopy in Early Modern Europe. By MICHAEL STOLBERG. Pp. x + 196, illus., index. Ashgate: Farnham, Surrey. 2015.

La Messe Alchimique attribuée à Melchior de Sibiu. Edited by DIDIER KAHN, index. Classiques Garnier: Paris. 2015.

The Cradle of Chemistry. The First Century of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh. Edited by ROBERT G.W. ANDERSON. Pp. 224, illus., index. John Donald: Edinburgh. 2015.

Humboldts Preussen: Wissenschaft und Technik im Aufbruch. By URSULA KLEIN. Wissenschaftliche Buchgesellschaft: Darmstadt. 2015.

Radium and the Secret of Life. By LUIS A. CAMPOS. Pp. 352, illus., index. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago. 2015.

The Experimental Self. Humphry Davy and the Making of a Man of Science. By JAN GOLINSKI. University of Chicago Press: Chicago. 2016.

Magic in Western Culture. From Antiquity to the Enlightenment. By BRIAN P. COPENHAVER. Pp. 600. University Press: Cambridge. 2015.

Cold War Science and the Transatlantic Circulation of Knowledge. By JEROEN VAN DONGEN. Brill. 2015.

Le fixe et le volatil. Chimie et alchimie de Paracelse à Lavoisier. By DIDIER KAHN. Pp. 240, illus., index. CNRS Editions: Paris. 2016.

The History of Chemistry. A Very Short Introduction. By WILLIAM H. BROCK. Pp. 152, illus., index. Oxford University Press: Oxford. 2016.

Toxic Histories. Poison and Pollution in Modern India. By DAVID ARNOLD. Pp. 241, illus., index. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. 2016.

GRADUATE NETWORK

7th SHAC Postgraduate Workshop:

Colouring and Making in Alchemy and Chemistry

Utrecht University, The Netherlands



Each autumn, the Graduate Network of SHAC organises a workshop for postgraduate students and post doctoral/early career researchers, providing participants with an opportunity to network with peers and scholars or to present a paper to a friendly supportive audience. **Further details regarding this years' workshop are available on page 3 above.**

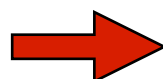
Mike Zuber, the SHAC student representative, who is organising the workshop, has managed to attract two excellent scholars to deliver the keynote lectures: Tara Nummedal (Brown University) and Ernst Homberg (Maastricht University). They will present papers on the history of alchemy and history of chemistry respectively. Indeed, subject to the quality of abstracts submitted, the workshop programme aims to organise panels that reflect the interests both of historians of alchemy and of chemistry, and this year is no exception, as can be seen from the information on page 3.

The programme for the workshop and information on how to register will be published in due course and details will also appear on the Society's website, www.ambix.org. The workshop itself is free of charge and SHAC does make available a small sum of money to support bursaries towards the cost of travel. However, priority is given to presenters when allocating bursaries, and all applicants are encouraged to seek financial support, in the first instance, from their universities or other fundholders.

Please consider participating in this enjoyable and stimulating workshop and circulating the details to others to whom it may be of interest.

Aims & Objectives of the 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). 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.



SHAC Student Representative

The current SHAC Student representative is **Mike Zuber**, a PhD candidate at the University of Amsterdam, who may be contacted via email (studentrep@ambix.org).

Contributions to *Chemical Intelligence*

Graduate members are encouraged to contribute items of interest to this newsletter, including a personal student profile (see format below); reports of conferences, workshops, events etc. attended; articles on places or resources of interest e.g. libraries, archives, museums, laboratories etc., news items about the history of alchemy and chemistry etc. Photographic images are also very welcome. Contributions should be sent to: Judith Mawer, *Chemical Intelligence* Editor, chemintel@ambix.org

Graduate members will find more information about SHAC, its events, prizes and awards, along with details relating to past, present and forthcoming news and activities in the history of alchemy and chemistry, by visiting the Society's webpage: <http://www.ambix.org>

GRADUATE PROFILE

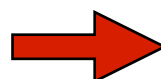
Cat Rushmore

Oxford Brookes University

Self-introduction



I am an AHRC-funded Collaborative Doctoral Award PhD student, which means that I have had the support of a dedicated advisor at the Science Museum in addition to my supervisors at Brookes. Previously, I hopped disciplines and collected degrees but draw on all of them for this project: I studied biology, worked in an environmental testing laboratory, studied history of science, technology and medicine, then moved into museum work. For my research on 'Chemicals and their Users in the British Home, 1930 to the 1980s', I studied photographic processing, gardening, stain removal, household cleaning with special reference to the toilet, home economics, the home safety



movement, domestic fire-fighting, solvent abuse, dermatitis, explosions and other accidents.

Poisonings of all varieties have been strong themes throughout the work, as I tried to explain the apparent disappearance of 'loose' chemicals and their replacement with slickly packaged preparations, by which people continued to be poisoned. Non-medicinal chemicals that were deliberately and willingly brought into the twentieth-century home have been consistently ignored by historians. I have had the pleasure of working with fascinating source materials, so the lack of scholarship is clearly not related to a dearth of resources. Chemicals and their domestic users provide opportunities to think about risk, modernisation, the family and the media as well as retail, regulation, innovation and the chemical industries. Domestic chemical users have tended to be overlooked as insignificant in comparison to the greater scale of economic influence and pollution by industrial users. I argue that they are important, because studying chemical use in the home enriches the social and cultural history of chemicals and domestic practices.

What is the greatest challenge you are facing as a postgraduate student?

The greatest challenge I face is my own disbelief that nobody else has written about the mundane domestic uses and users of chemicals (excluding soap: lots of people have written about soaps and detergent). I have made things somewhat harder for myself by being a distance learner, so I appreciate the opportunity to use my vocal chords in the enlivening environment of conferences and meetings. I am in the hermit-like writing-up phase of the project now, but I look forward to getting out and about again soon.

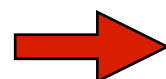
Lyke de Vries

Radboud University Nijmegen/Oxford University

Self-introduction

Having studied philosophy at Radboud University, Nijmegen (the Netherlands), I am now pursuing a PhD at the Centre for the History of Philosophy and Science (CHPS), funded by the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

My project concentrates on Paracelsian theology between 1610–20, especially as propagated by the *Theophrastia Sancta*, a religious group inspired by both Paracelsian views and the Rosicrucian manifestos. Alongside medical and natural-philosophical works, Theophrastus von Hohenheim, better known as Paracelsus (1493/4–1541), had also written books on theology, anthropology and ethics. In fact, his entire oeuvre



is laced with theological insights. My aim is to situate his theological output both in the context of the constellation of his work and that of the (radical) Reformation, and to trace these ideas to early seventeenth-century Germany.

What I find particularly fascinating about this research project, is the fact that it relates to so many aspects of the early-modern period: The Reformation, the development of the sciences, medicine, alchemy, the Radical Reformation, etc. To correctly depict the context and several aspects of Paracelsian theology is both difficult and enthralling.

What is the greatest challenge you are facing as a postgraduate student?

Generally, I think PhD students meet many challenges while working on their dissertation. What I find most challenging about writing my thesis is the fact that one has never read enough, there is always more to learn. This implies that a chapter is never really finished, and that there might be things you have overlooked. I also find it difficult to set boundaries: Where do I stop? There is always more I could – or should – have included but for various reasons did not.

The graduate profile is always a popular and important feature of *Chemical Intelligence* introducing, as it does, new (or at least relatively new) colleagues and their research interests. If you would like, or at least be willing, to share your own profile with readers, please submit your details to the SHAC student representative, Mike Zuber, studentrep@ambix.org, who I am sure would be delighted to hear from you. Please follow the format used above, restricting your profile to one A4 page and including a photograph of yourself.

OTHER MEETINGS

The 5th Biennial Allen Debus Lectures

Auditório do Edifício Caio Prado, First Floor, Rua Caio Prado 102, São Paulo



The Allen G. Debus Lectures are held every two years in Sao Paulo, organized by the Centre Simão Mathias for Studies in History of Science (CESIMA), Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo, Brazil. The lectures are open to the public.

- 14.00: Professor Jennifer Rampling (Princeton University), ‘English Alchemy Before Newton: An Experimental History.’
- 16.00: Professor Piyo Rattansi (University College London), “‘Newton and the Pipes of Pan’ Revisited.’

The Debus lecturers will also give a series of public seminars during August and September 2016, held in the Auditório do Edifício Caio Prado, Rua Caio Prado 102, São Paulo:

- Tuesday 9 August (12.20): Jennifer Rampling, ‘What is an Alchemical Image?’
- Wednesday 17 August (14.00): Jennifer Rampling, ‘Secrets and Experiments in English Alchemy’
- Tuesday 30 August (12.30): Piyo Rattansi, ‘Recent Newtonian Scholarship, an Overview’
- Wednesday 14 September (14.00): Piyo Rattansi, ‘Helmontian *Formulae* in the Early Royal Society’

The following research seminars will also be held at CESIMA, Rua Caio Prado, 102, sala 48. If you wish to attend one of these, please write to cesima@pucsp.br to confirm your attendance:

- Wednesday 10 August (11.00): Jennifer Rampling, ‘Healing by Analogy: Alchemy and Medicine in Medieval and Early Modern Europe’
- Tuesday 23 August (14.00): Jennifer Rampling, ‘The “Prison Diaries” of Edward Kelley, English Alchemist’
- Tuesday 6 September (14.00): Piyo Rattansi, ‘The *Fortunae* of Paracelsianism and Helmontianism in the Late Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries’

Full details of the programme are available at: <http://www4.pucsp.br/pos/cesima/>

Joint Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology: 'Science & Technology by Other Means: Exploring Collectives, Spaces and Futures'

Barcelona, Spain



Emerging science and technology practices show how public and private actors are being re-assembled along routes that do not follow once established divides. The joint 2016 4S/EASST conference in Barcelona will be an opportunity to share reflections, ideas, findings and projects on a variety of aspects characterizing these alternative ways to do science and technology: (a) such as the fact that, for instance, all of these transformations usually take place in blurred everyday spaces and not in

those enclosed established spaces for science and technology development, such as laboratories or industrial R&D departments; (b) or, in a similar way, the fact that research and innovation processes are increasingly organised in networked, horizontal assemblages where the traditional hierarchies in science are put into question and where science and technology are being co-produced by different actors in different, sometimes antagonistic, ways; (c) and, finally, the fact that traditional boundaries between the public and the private are no longer confined to state and for-profit actors, care practices taking a preminent presence in most of these everyday situations.

To find out more, visit: <http://www.sts2016bcn.org/>



Italian Society for the History of Science (SISS) Conference

Fondazione Marconi, Sasso Marconi, Bologna



Sessions will be organised under three main headings:

1. Scientific Institutions
2. Science and Technological Innovation
3. Individual Papers

There will be a number of keynote speakers and the conference languages will be Italian, English and French. For more information, see: <http://www.storiadellascienza.net/eventi-notizie-ricordi/>

14th Conference for the History of Science and Technology

Universitat Jaume I de Castelló, UJI, Castelló de la Plena, Spain



The Catalan Society for the History of Science and Technology (SCHCT) announces its 14th conference, due to take place, for the first time, at the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló, Valencia. The conference will communicate the research and activities carried out by the members of the SCHCT and welcomes participation from all historians of science, technology and related disciplines. Themes include:

1. Science and technology
2. Cultural materials, scientific instruments and museum collections
3. Scholarship and teaching in the History of Science
4. Medicine and Health
5. Scientific communication
6. Scientific language: terminology, medico-scientific, editing and translation



The conference will include plenary sessions, round tables and cultural tours of the city. Further details at: <http://www.uv.es/uvweb/instituto-universitario-historia-medicina-ciencia-lopez-pinero/es/instituto-historia-medicina-ciencia-lopez-pinero/ihmc-participa-activament-organitzacio-xiv-trobada-historia-ciencia-tecnica-castello-plana-27-28-29-octubre-2016-universitat-jaume-castello-uji--1285893059754/Novetat.html?id=1285954540843>

Artificial Catastrophes: Seminar and Cinema Series

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



The seminar series, due to take place during November 2016, comprises:

- 2 November**, 'The American Nuclear Cover-up in Spain', John Howard (King's College London)
- 16 November**, 'An Oral History of the Torrey Canyon Disaster', Timothy Cooper (University of Exeter)
- 30 November**, 'Not All Live In Bhopal: The Una(Count)able Catastrophe', Bridget Hanna (Harvard University)

The seminars will take place each Wednesday at 16.00 in the main conference room and will be broadcast at www.uv.es/ihmc. Each will be complemented by a movie, shown in the main conference room, IHMC, on Thursdays, at 18.00. All movies will be introduced by members of the university cinema group and a member of the IHMC and each session will end with a general discussion. The films to be shown are:

- 3 November**, *Bhopal: A Prayer for Rain* (Ravi Kumar, 2014)
- 10 November**, *Containment* (Peter Galison, Robb Moss, 2015)
- 17 November**, *Darwin's Nightmare*, Hubert Sauper, 2004)

This series is organised by Ximo Guillem (Ximo.Guillem@uv.es) and José Ramón Bertomeu (bertomeu@uv.es). For further details, see: www.uv.es/ihmc

OTHER MEETINGS: CALLS FOR PAPERS

XIII Conference of the Spanish Society for the History of Science and Technology: ‘Science and Technology in the University’

Alcalá de Henares, Faculty of Medicine (UAH)



In 2017 it will be the fifth centenary of the death of the founder of the Cisneriana University, Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros, and this is to be celebrated jointly with the 40th anniversary of the creation of the present University of Alcalá. The Board of SEHCYT and the Organising Committee of the XIII Conference both felt that this joint anniversary year offered a good opportunity to meet together in order to reflect on the historical development of university science and technology. The overarching theme for the conference is ‘Science and Technology in the University’ and papers are invited under that broad heading. Although the theme may be interpreted

freely, papers that are accepted will be organised thematically within the conference programme.

The **deadline** for the submission of stand-alone paper proposals/abstracts is: **28 February 2017**

Further details at: http://ciuhct.org/Media/Default/Online/Docs/XIII_Congreso_1_circular.pdf

25th International Congress of History of Science and Technology (ICHST): ‘Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global and the Local’

Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Praia Vermelha Campus



Questions of place are gaining increasing importance in the work of historians of science, technology and medicine, to such an extent that some scholars suggest this corresponds to a veritable ‘spatial turn’. It is unavoidable that researchers take sides on issues such as how knowledge and practices are situated, the problems pertaining to their movements across spaces and cultures (and not only along time) and, above all, the proper choice of scales of analysis – all the way between the global and the local, which is the core of the 25th ICHST’s theme.

At the same time, this theme relates to the very nature of the Congress as the largest international gathering of historians of science, technology and medicine, inviting all of us to think about what we may say to and learn from each other, considering our own multifarious places and standpoints. The themes for the symposia/panels have already been selected and details of the vast and fascinating range of subjects to be explored, including those of particular interest to historians of alchemy and chemistry, may be found by visiting the website at: <http://ichst2017.sbhsc.org.br/>

Details of the call for individual, stand-alone papers are also available on the conference website. The conference organisers construe the theme (‘Science, Technology and Medicine between the Global and the Local’) broadly, and encourage studies of the History of Science, Technology and Medicine at the global, national and local levels, across all periods, and from a variety of methodological and historiographical approaches.

The **deadline** for the submission of proposals for individual papers is **30 November 2016**.

11th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (11CHC) *Trondheim, Norway*



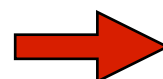
In summer 2017, the fortieth anniversary of the creation of the Working Party (WP) on the History of Chemistry (EuCheMS) will be celebrated. The 11th International Conference on the History of Chemistry (11th ICHC) will take place from 29th August to 2nd September, 2017 in Trondheim, a city founded in 997 which served as Norway's capital during the Viking Age. The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), which has been the country's centre for technology education since 1910, will host the conference.

The conference is sponsored by NTNU, the Research Council of Norway, the Norwegian Chemical Society and the Chemical Heritage Foundation.

The program committee especially encourages the submission of panel/session proposals, but also welcomes the submission of stand-alone papers. Session organisers and contributors are free to send their proposals on any topic on the history of chemistry, broadly construed as the cluster of molecular sciences, industry, technology and engineering. A non-exhaustive list of possible sessions could include historical papers on the development of all aspects of the material and life sciences, such as:

- Chemistry, professors, textbooks and classrooms
- Teaching and didactics of history of chemistry
- Chemistry and law: controversies, expertise, counter-expertise, fraud and activism
- Toxics regulation, risk assessment and public health
- Environmental chemistry, energy and regulation
- Chemistry, industry, and economy
- Spaces and sites of chemistry
- Instruments, collections and material culture
- Biographies and prosopographies, and databases
- Chemistry, war and exile
- Representation of chemistry, and visual cultures
- Alchemy, Chemistry and Early Modern Science and Medicine
- Gender and chemistry

Deadline for submitting both panel and individual paper proposals is **31 January 2017**



The steering organising committee consists of Christoph Meinel, Universität Regensburg, and Ignacio Suay-Matallana, Centro Interuniversitário de História das Ciências e da Tecnologia, Lisbon (chairs of the advisory committee), Annette Lykknes (chair of the local organising committee) and Brigitte Van Tiggelen (Mémosciences, Chemical Heritage Foundation, and chair of the WP).

For more information about session or paper submission, deadlines and practical arrangements see: <http://www.ntnu.edu/11ichc> Contact information for practical questions: 11ICHc@videre.ntnu.no

8th *Tensions of Europe* Conference: ‘Borders and Technology’ National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece



The 8th *Tensions of Europe* Conference will have as its main theme the history of borders and technology. We invite papers studying:

- the history of the relationship between national borders and transnational infrastructures
- hidden technological linking and delinking that reinforced or challenged border delineations and demarcations
- the relationship between borders and technologically induced environmental crises and disasters
- the virtualisation of borders and the territories that they contain through the use of electronic and related technologies
- geopolitics and technology
- the redefinition of borders due to the use of technology (and vice versa), all the way from the production to the circulation and use of goods and commodities.

One central aim is to cross-fertilise between disciplines and we therefore invite contributions from a wide variety of historical disciplines as well as from fields like Migration and Border Studies, Migration History, Mobility History, etc, especially in connection to borders and migrations from, to and within Europe.

More details about the call for papers can be found on the conference website: <http://8toe2017.phs.uoa.gr/>

The **deadline** for the submission of proposals is **15 February 2017**

A second call for papers with information about keynote speakers will be distributed by the end of 2016.

SHAC PRIZES AND AWARDS

The Partington Prize 2017

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry established the Partington Prize in memory of Professor James Riddick Partington, the Society's first Chairman. It is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry. The prize consists of five hundred pounds (£500) if awarded to a single essay of sufficient merit. Alternatively, it may be divided, or not awarded at all.

The competition is open to anyone with a scholarly interest in the history of alchemy or chemistry who, by the closing date of 31 December 2016, has not reached 35 years of age, or if older is a student in the history of science or has been awarded a masters degree or PhD in the history of science within the previous three years. No restriction is placed on the nationality or country of residence of competitors. Only one entry is permitted from any competitor.

The prize-winning essay will be published exclusively in the Society's journal, *Ambix*. It must not have been submitted to any other journal at any time before 30 April 2017.

Essays must be submitted in English. Essays must be fully documented using the conventions used in the current issue of *Ambix*. Essays must not exceed 10,000 words in length, including references and footnotes.

All entries should be sent to The Hon. Secretary at prizes@ambix.org in the form of two separate e-mail attachments in Microsoft Office Word (preferably 2013 or later). The first attachment should be headed 'Partington Prize Entry 2017' and should give the author's name, institution, postal address, e-mail address, date of birth (and, if relevant, the date of the award of the masters degree or PhD), the title of the essay, and the word count. The second attachment should be the essay, which should not identify the author either by name or implicitly.

Entries must arrive before **midnight GMT on 31 December 2016**. The decision of the Society will be final on all matters. The result of the competition will be announced by 30 April 2017.

SHAC Subject Development Award

Scientiae 2016: Disciplines of Knowing in the Early Modern World

Scientiae 2016, which took place at St Anne's College, University of Oxford from 5-7 July this year was sponsored by SHAC with a Subject Development Award, which enabled the organisers to provide 4 bursaries to the following presenters: Tillmann Taape (Cambridge), Judith Mawer (Goldsmiths, London), Mike Zuber (Amsterdam) and Alexandra Marraccini (Chicago).

For more about *Scientiae*, see page 36 below.

Paul Bunge Prize, 2016: History of Scientific Instruments

We are delighted to report that this year's Paul Bunge Prize, which honours outstanding publications in German, English or French in all fields of the history of scientific instruments, has been awarded to Dr Robert Anderson, who is, of course, the Chair of the Society for the History of



Alchemy and Chemistry. The prize, which is administered by the German Chemical Society and the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry, is awarded by the Hans R. Jenemann Foundation. It is named in honour of Paul Bunge, who was the most important maker of analytical, assay and high-performance precision balances in the second half of the 19th century.

Dr Anderson received his award from Professor Joachim Sauer, chairman of the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry. Professor Sauer is a quantum chemist who holds a chair at the Humboldt University in Berlin. The

presentation took place on 5 May 2016, at the start of the 115th General Assembly of the German Bunsen Society for Physical Chemistry, in Rostock, where the conference theme this year was 'Basic Mechanisms in Energy Conversion'.

Dr. Anderson, who for many years was President of the Scientific Instrument Commission of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, has published many works on the history of instrumentation. He edited 'Cradle of Chemistry' in 2015, a work which describes how lecture demonstrations were used in early teaching at Edinburgh University. During his earlier museum career he also curated science exhibitions and more recently helped to set up the Chemical Heritage Foundation museum in Philadelphia which opened in 2008.



Dr Anderson, who is an Emeritus Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, is to be congratulated on this significant achievement.

OTHER NEWS, EVENTS AND GRANTS



International Workshop of the History of Chemistry: Transformation of Chemistry from the 1920s to the 1960s

The International Workshop on the History of Chemistry, which was held on March 2-4, 2015 at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan, took as its theme the ‘Transformation of Chemistry from the 1920s to the 1960s’.

A copy of the proceedings of the workshop, to which SHAC was delighted to offer financial support, has been presented to the Society by the Japanese Society for the History of Chemistry. Electronic copies may be accessed from: <http://kagakushi.org/iwhc2015/proceedings>. In addition to the proceedings, an excellent selection of transcripts of individual papers is published, to which I draw the attention of those with a particular interest in the history of chemistry in the twentieth century.

New Website Content Editor for SHAC

We are pleased to announce that **Lyke de Vries**, a PhD student at Radboud University Nijmegen, has agreed to take on the role of Content Editor for the SHAC website. This role was previously undertaken by Mike Zuber, University of Amsterdam, who has stepped aside to focus on his role as SHAC Student Representative. Members of the SHAC Council have expressed their appreciation to Mike for his work in maintaining the content of the website, and I know readers will also wish to thank him for managing to combine this and his busy role as SHAC Student Representative so effectively.

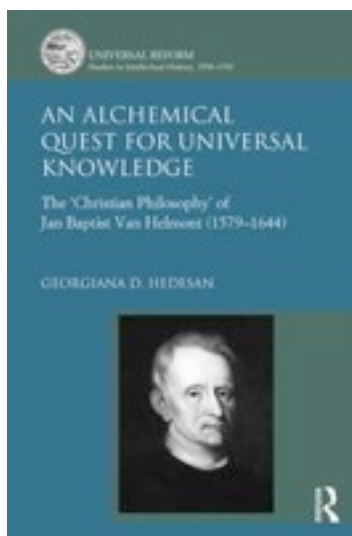
Readers who have not met Lyke can read more about her on pages 10-11 of this newsletter, where she is featured in our graduate profile section. Lyke’s PhD project is entitled ‘Paracelsus and Paracelsianism at the Centre of Conflict and Controversy’ and builds on her MA thesis, which was devoted to the history of Paracelsianism, focusing specifically on the Catholic reception of Paracelsus’ work. Last year, she presented a well-received paper drawing on this research at SHAC’s Postgraduate Workshop. Lyke is already in charge of the website of the Centre for the History of Philosophy and Science at Radboud University, so SHAC is delighted that she has agreed to share her expertise by assuming this additional role. Joel Klein will continue in his role as webmaster for the Society and we thank him too for his valuable oversight of technical issues.

If you have any notices to be posted on the website please send them to Lyke at contenteditor@ambix.org

SHAC Members in Print

We are delighted to announce the publication this year of Georgiana (Jo) D. Hedesan's first monograph, *An Alchemical Quest for Universal Knowledge: The 'Christian Philosophy' of Jan Baptist Van Helmont (1579-1644)*. Published by Routledge, the book offers a new scholarly examination of the Flemish physician, alchemist and philosopher, who has hitherto been recognised chiefly for his contributions to the development of chemistry and medicine.

Describing the work, the publisher states:

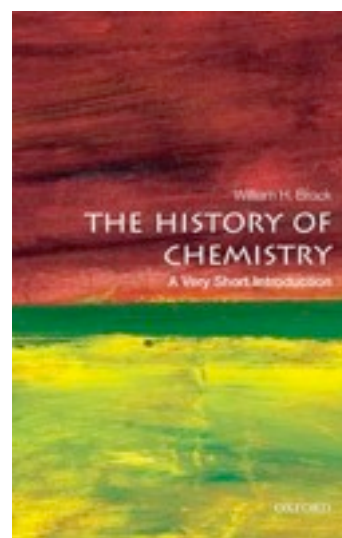


Divided into two parts, the study opens with a background to Van Helmont's concept of an alchemical Christian philosophy, demonstrating that his outlook was deeply grounded in the tradition of medical alchemy as reformed by Theophrastus von Hohenheim, called Paracelsus (1493-1541). It then reconstitutes Van Helmont's biography, while giving a historical dimension to his intellectual output. The second part reconstructs Van Helmont's Christian philosophy, investigating his views on God, nature and man, as well as his applied philosophy. Hedesan also provides an account of the development of Van Helmont's thought throughout his life. The conclusion sums up Van Helmont's intellectual achievement and highlights avenues of future research.

To learn more about this valuable addition to Helmontian studies, visit: <https://www.routledge.com/An-Alchemical-Quest-for-Universal-Knowledge-The-Christian-Philosophy/Hedesan/p/book/9781472469168>

Also out in print this year is William (Bill) H. Brock's, *The History of Chemistry: A Very Short Introduction*, part of the popular series published by Oxford University Press. Introducing the title, OUP states:

In this Very Short Introduction, William H Brock traces the unique appeal of this fundamental science throughout history. Covering alchemy, early-modern chemistry, pneumatic chemistry and Lavoisier's re-interpretation of chemical change, the rise of organic and physical chemistry, and the transforming power of synthesis, Brock explores the extraordinary and often puzzling transformations of natural and artificial materials, as well as the men and women who experimented, speculated, and explained matter and change.



Learn more at: <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/the-history-of-chemistry-a-very-short-introduction-9780198716488?cc=gb&lang=en&#>. Congratulations to Jo and Bill on their achievements.

If you have a book newly published, and of interest to readers, do let the editor of CI know.

Michael Faraday's Laboratory Notebooks gain UNESCO Recognition



Michael Faraday's (1791-1867) original laboratory notebooks, RI MS F/2/A-J, held in a unique collection by the Royal Institution, have become one of the latest additions to the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register. This

programme, which was established by UNESCO in 1992, is predicated on a belief that the world's documentary heritage belongs to all and therefore should be preserved and made accessible to all, without restriction. The addition of the Faraday notebooks to the Memory of the World Register represents international recognition of the significance of the Royal Institution's collection. This will hopefully excite interest in the original work of one of the most significant scientific figures in British history.

Frank James, Professor of the History of Science at the Royal Institution, a member of the SHAC Council, and editor of Faraday's correspondence, explains more about the important physical and chemical discoveries of this great scientist, and expands further on the rationale of the UNESCO programme on the Royal Institution website: <http://rigb.org/about/news/summer-2016/faraday-notebooks-added-to-unesco-register>

Image courtesy of the Royal Institution

Dr Robert G.W. Anderson appointed interim President of CHF

The Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF) has just announced the appointment of Dr Robert G.W. Anderson as interim president of the organisation, replacing Prof. Dr Carsten Reinhardt, who has been President and CEO since 2013, and who is returning to his native Germany to take up a post as professor in the history of science at the University of Bielefeld.

Dr Anderson, who is featured on page 19 of this newsletter, receiving the Paul Bunge Prize, was previously the director of the British Museum, London, where he presided over the creation of the £110 million Great Court; the keeper of chemistry at the Science Museum, London; and the director of the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh. He has wide-ranging interests in the history of chemistry, including the history of scientific instrumentation, the work of Joseph Black and Joseph Priestley, the history of museums, and the involvement of the working class in material culture.



Robert is, of course, known to many readers as the Chair of Council at SHAC and is to be congratulated on this prestigious appointment. He is relocating temporarily to Philadelphia and we wish him well as he begins his tenure.

200 years of using Humphry Davy's Miners' Safety Lamp

This year marks the bicentenary of the deployment of the Miners' gauze safety lamp invented in December 1815 following two months of concentrated work by Humphry Davy assisted by Michael

Faraday in the basement laboratory of the Royal Institution. Davy's lamp was first tested in Hebburn colliery, County Durham, on 9 January 1816 and in the years following it was manufactured in its tens of thousands and widely used throughout the world. The use of the lamp both saved the lives of countless coalminers, but also permitted increased coal production vital to continuing industrialisation.



In the absence of entries in the Royal Institution's laboratory notebook, one of the few sources which sheds light on Davy's path to the successful invention is a manuscript volume held in the archives of the Royal Institution (RI MS HD/11) that contains Davy's drafting and redrafting of his first paper on the miners' safety lamp. Davy's path to this invention in those weeks was a very intense process involving changing his mind rapidly several times about the best form that a safety lamp should take. The unpredictable way in which Davy's thought and work progressed during this

period is reflected in this volume. Davy's original paper was copied by Faraday and sent to the Royal Society of London where it was read on 9 November 1815. However, following its reading, Davy developed further ideas and these were reflected in a second copy, also made by Faraday, to which Davy added significantly and moved whole passages around as cross referencing the two versions illustrate. Davy also made many alterations and additions to this text, including removing a less than favourable comment on contemporary chemists. He originally thought that this would be the final text, as evinced by the production of an illustrative plate, which would have cost some money. However, he then found that all he had to do was to enclose flame in metal gauze which absorbed the heat (thus preventing explosion) and allowed light to pass through the holes. This discovery of the properties of gauze necessitated withdrawing the plate (thus making the example in the manuscript the only surviving copy). Faraday then made the final version of the paper for the Royal Society of London for publication the following year.

To mark this key anniversary in coal mining history the Royal Institution is partnering with ArchAlive to publish a unique edition of this manuscript volume. The book, which will be available by subscription only, will be produced to the highest standards by Blissetts, bookbinder to HM The Queen. It will be printed on acid free paper, bound and protected in its own bespoke slip-case. Each subscriber will be listed in the book and will receive access to the searchable e-book of the text and Frank James's Presidential Address to Newcomen Society detailing the history of the lamp.



This book and this manuscript is a unique record of the combined creative work of Humphry Davy, the leading English chemist of the day, and Michael Faraday who would eventually succeed Davy in that role.

Further details can be found at www.archalive.co.uk/

Obituary: Dr Irena Maria McCabe, FRSC (1931-2015)

It is with regret that we announce the death of SHAC member Dr Irena McCabe, the former Head of Library and Information Services at the Royal Institution, on 23 December 2015. Irena Jurkiewicz (she never lost her Polish accent) was born in Kracow. She suffered terribly during the German occupation of Poland: she was rounded up at gunpoint after the Warsaw uprising and



Photograph courtesy of the Royal Institution

subsequently found herself in the middle of a tank battle between German and Russian troops. She spent two years hidden in a cellar and never saw her parents again. Both parents were doctors: her father disappeared in Siberia, and her mother died in a concentration camp. No child could possibly have survived undamaged. In later life she had the doorknocker of her house removed and replaced by bell chimes lest the fear of the SS at the door would give her nightmares. To have overcome the trauma of those childhood experiences to the extent that she subsequently lived a useful and productive professional life was an astonishing achievement.

When the war ended an aunt sent her to Paris and then to England, where Irena completed her schooling in Wiltshire, before studying a combination of sciences at Chelsea Polytechnic and at the Pasteur Institute in Paris (where she co-published a paper on the histology of phosphorylases in skin in 1961). She then trained to be a Librarian at UCL

where she later studied History and Philosophy of Science in evening classes and wrote an MSc dissertation on the synthetic organic chemistry of Berthelot in 1970. During this early period she married Michael McCabe (a clinical biochemist) and brought up a family of three children while spending periods with her husband in Canberra, Hong Kong, and St Andrews. Following a variety of library posts in academic and industrial institutions she was appointed Assistant Librarian at the RI in 1972. She adored working at the RI during the Directorship of George Porter. There she excelled in preparing relevant and imaginative exhibitions for the regular series of Friday Evening Discourses and in guiding visiting scholars from all over the world through the archives of Davy, Faraday, Tyndall and others. On retiring in 1997 she took up academic research on John Tyndall, whose work she greatly admired, and completed a doctoral thesis on his meteorological research under the supervision of Prof. Hasok Chang at UCL in 2012. She published a number of papers on aspects of the RI's history, mostly on John Tyndall, on whom she presented a paper to SHAC at its Cambridge meeting as recently as June 2015.

[We would like to thank both Professor Michael McCabe and Gavin McCabe for providing much of the information in this notice.]

REPORTS

SHAC New Scholar Awards

Ignacio Suay-Matallana

Interuniversity Center for the History of Science and Technology (CIUHCT-UNL, Lisbon)

Last semester, I enjoyed a New Scholars Award-2015 offered by SHAC to promote my postdoctoral project on customs laboratories in the Iberian peninsula. Those sites of chemistry were created from the mid-19th century to analyse imported merchandise, determining their value and taxes. Customs laboratories offered chemical advice - with a specific expertise - and carried out analyses of substances such as petroleum, alcohols and wines, and steel. Progressively, customs laboratories expanded the range of substances analysed, and became more specialised. They were related to fraud investigations, excise enforcement or toxics control, and played an important role for national revenue, and international trade.

The SHAC award enabled me to make some research trips to Madrid, Valencia, and Porto. The visits to the National Library of Madrid were very valuable to locate news and reports published at the *Revista Aduanera y Tributaria* during the 1920s and the 1930s, while the visits to Valencia allowed me to explore some documents related to Francisco Bosch Ariño, who was involved in a scientific controversy on wine analysis, as director of the Valencian customs laboratory during the 1930s. The six-day research trip to Porto was especially productive. Apart from making some visits to the library of the faculty of sciences, I had the opportunity to explore the collection located at the customs house of Porto. This institutional space, now working as museum, was essential to control the trade of Port wine, one of the most important economic exports of Portugal. On the other hand, the visit to the Municipal library allowed me to study the collection of António Ferreira da Silva, a well-known Portuguese chemist, who directed the Municipal Laboratory of Porto from the 1880s to 1910s, and was in charge of many chemical analyses related to food, agriculture and fiscal issues.

Some preliminary results of this research have been presented at the Old and New Worlds International Conference (Lisbon, 2016), with a paper titled 'Making visible toxicants in wine quality assessments in the early 20th century. The case of arsenic.' Then, I was also the organizer, jointly with Prof. X. Guillem-Llobat, of a session titled 'Wine Quality in the 19th and 20th centuries.' More recently, I have participated at the European Social Science History Conference (Valencia, 2016) with a paper titled 'Taxes, chemistry and health: the Spanish customs laboratory and the regulation of imported substances'. The participation in both meetings gave me the opportunity to reflect about the regulatory standards for wine toxics and drugs developed by the Spanish customs laboratories from late 19th century to the 1930s. In the following months, I shall continue my research, analysing the materials obtained at Madrid, Valencia, Porto and Lisbon, and presenting different papers at the International Committee for the History of Technology (July, 2016), the Interuniversity Center for the History of Science at Lisbon (June, 2016), and the XIV Meeting of the Catalan Society for the History of Science (October, 2016). I am grateful to SHAC for this contribution to my postdoctoral research on the history of Iberian customs laboratories.

Mike Zuber
University of Amsterdam

Digitizing and Exploring the Mary Anne Atwood Papers

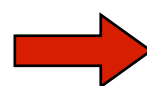
Perhaps more than anyone else, Mary Anne Atwood (née South, 1817–1910) was instrumental in recovering alchemy from the dustbin of history into which Enlightenment polemics had dumped it. In her *Suggestive Inquiry into the Hermetic Mystery* (published anonymously in 1850 and re-issued many times since 1918), she promised to reveal the secrets of alchemy. As metallic transmutation was deemed absurd in her day, she did so by employing an interpretive strategy that made sense of alchemical literature as coded descriptions of spiritual, meditative and theurgic processes first practised by wise sages in the ancient Orient.

Her American contemporary, Ethan Allen Hitchcock (1798–1870), independently arrived at similar conclusions after having chanced upon dirt-cheap books on alchemy dating from the early-modern period. Together, Atwood and Hitchcock paved the way for the Swiss psychiatrist C. G. Jung and his own psychological work on alchemy, which was the dominant interpretation of alchemy for decades and firmly remains part of the perception of alchemy in popular and web culture. Only relatively recently did the 'New Historiography of Alchemy' debunk and supersede what Lawrence M. Principe and William R. Newman have called the spiritual interpretation of alchemy.

In my PhD project at the University of Amsterdam, I am tracing the early-modern antecedents to Atwood's interpretation from the 1590s and Jacob Boehme (1575–1624) onwards. In order to make my case, access to Atwood's papers—preserved mostly in the John Hay Library of Brown University and at Dr Williams's Library in London—is crucial. The New Scholars Award greatly helped my research by facilitating the digitization of the Mary Anne Atwood Papers at Brown University. From overseas, I have therefore been able to study select portions of obvious relevance, and the entire cache of her papers will gradually be made available online at https://repository.library.brown.edu/studio/collections/id_685/.

The material I have studied ranges from barely legible jottings via neat drafts of letters to fair copies in other hands. Stripped of the verbose, prolix and yet concealing style of her famous *Inquiry*, the private notes and texts on alchemy outline her views on the subject much more concisely. They thus provide an invaluable contribution to our understanding of Atwood's take on alchemy. More specifically for the context of my thesis, several drafts of letters to Anne Judith Penny (1825–93) survive. In her correspondence with the author of *An Introduction to the Study of Jacob Boehme's Writings* (published posthumously in 1901), Atwood shows herself deeply familiar with the German theosopher's work.

By facilitating the digitization of the Mary Anne Atwood Papers at Brown University, the SHAC New Scholars Award has been a veritable boon for my PhD project, which would not have been conceivable in the same way without it. In the long run, I hope that many other researchers will also profit from this investment through the open-access availability of Atwood's papers.



Other Reports

11 February 2016

SHAC Spring Meeting 2016: High Pressure in the Interwar Period

The SHAC Spring Meeting took place on the afternoon and early evening of 11 February, at the new Dana Research Centre and Library, which is part of the Science Museum in London. The event attracted a good audience, who enjoyed a selection of high quality papers addressing diverse topics within the overarching theme. First to present was Peter Reed (Independent Researcher), whose paper addressed ‘The Hesitant Emergence of Chemical Engineering and the Chemical Engineer in Britain, 1909–1930’. Thijs Michels (Eindhoven University of Technology) was next to present, with a paper examining ‘Antonius Michels, His High Pressure Research and the Origins of Polyethylene’. Robert Bud, (Science Museum), addressed the theme through his paper, ‘Oiling the Wheels of Coal: High Pressure and the Benefits of Science’.

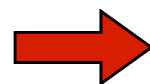
After refreshments, Alan Dronsfield (University of Derby) examined ‘The Ammonia Problem and its Solution’. Following Professor Dronsfield, Peter Morris spoke about ‘A Different Kind of High Pressure Chemistry: The Birth of Reppe Chemistry’. The final paper of the Meeting was delivered by Ernst Homberg (University of Maastricht), who took as his subject, ‘From Bergius to Dubbs: Unexpected Links between Coal and Oil’.

This was not the end of the event, however, as the meeting was followed by the presentation of the Morris Award to Tony Travis, in recognition of his contributions regarding the history of the chemical industry and the history of modern chemistry. Dr Travis was then invited to present the Morris Award lecture, for which he took as his theme, ‘Nitrogen Capture: The Emergence of a Global Industry, 1920-1935’. Guests then enjoyed the Morris Award Reception, which brought to a close the formal proceedings of a stimulating and enjoyable afternoon.

Thanks go to Peter Morris for his generous sponsorship of this award.

Oxford Seminar in the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

The 2016 **Oxford Seminar in the History of Alchemy and Chemistry** took place once again at the Maison Française d’Oxford, on 25 May, 1 June and 7 July. The seminar, which received financial support from SHAC, was organised by John Christie (Oxford), John Perkins (Oxford Brookes) and Jo Hedesan (Oxford). The seminar, which is free of charge, is open to anyone with an interest in the history of alchemy, chemistry and medicine or the sciences. As in previous years, each seminar consisted of two papers, followed by a Question and Answer session, with the opportunity to continue the discussion over a drink and/or dinner with the speakers.

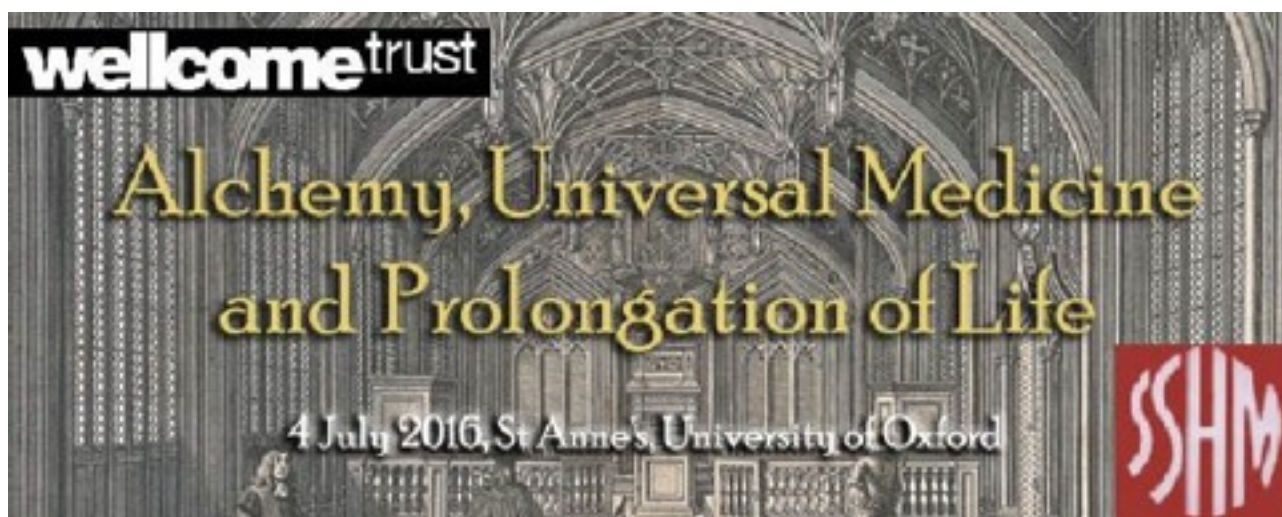


This year's seminar series started with a panel entitled '**Approaches to the History of Chemistry**', chaired by John Christie (Oxford). John Perkins (Oxford Brookes) presented 'Situating Chemistry: an On-line Database for the History of Chemistry and Alchemy', while Mat Paskins (Leeds) paper considered 'Dyeing Out: Unsettling Scientific Stories of Colour Chemistry in Twentieth-Century Britain'. John Perkins was back to chair the next seminar on '**Nineteenth-Century Chemistry and the Arts**' in which Thea Goldring (Oxford) explored 'Chevreul, Brongniart and the Chemistry behind the Nineteenth-Century Stained Glass Debates'. The second paper, 'Miscible Media: The Integration of Natural History and the Arts in the work of Alexandre Brongniart', was delivered by Julia Carr-Trebelhorn (Oxford). For the final seminar, it was back in time for a panel on '**Early Modern Alchemy**', chaired by Georgiana Hedesan (Oxford). Hilde Norrgren (Oslo) examined 'The offices of numbers: Quantification of alchemy in John Dee's *Monas Hieroglyphica* (1564)', while Sietske Fransen (Cambridge) brought the seminar series to a close with her paper entitled, 'The Vocabulary of J.B. van Helmont's Recipes'.

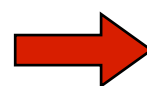
SHAC would like to thank the Maison Française d'Oxford for their kind support and formal collaboration with the Society.

4 July 2016

Alchemy, Universal Medicine and Prolongation of Life
St Anne's College, University of Oxford



For historians of alchemy, this workshop, taking place at St Anne's College, was both a stand-alone event of considerable substance and a stimulating prelude for those attending *Scientiae*, due to commence the following day. The workshop, organised by Jo Hedesan, brought together an exciting mix of eminent scholars, early career researchers, and PhD candidates, to share papers on a specific aspect of alchemical theory and practice: universal medicine and the prolongation of life. In a packed programme, each panel addressed a coherent theme through two papers, followed by Q&A.



Tillmann Taape (University of Cambridge) and Joel Klein (Columbia University) explored **‘The Promise of Medical Alchemy in the German Lands’**, in a panel chaired by Tara Nummedal (Brown University). In his paper, ‘The Concept of Distillation in Alchemical Medicine and its Reception in Vernacular Print in the Early Modern German Lands’, Tillmann’s paper focused on the intrinsic importance of distillation as an artisanal skill, vital to the quest for a universal alchemical remedy. Distillation, as a technical process through which, amongst other uses, spirits of medicines might be isolated, became the subject of printed manuals which started to appear in German lands in the early sixteenth century. Rooted in the ‘speculative pharmacology’ of medieval alchemists such as Roger Bacon, (pseudo-)Arnald of Villanova and John of Rupescissa, distillation was seen as a process whereby sublunar matter might be refined into a substance of near-celestial subtlety. It might allow the four elements to be separated and their qualities reconstituted to have a specific rather than a general balancing effect on the humours. Using the seminal works of the Alsatian surgeon-apothecary Hieronymus Brunschwig, Tillmann’s paper showed how distillation was the concern of the artisanal craftsman, the apothecary and the physician. It was not surprising, therefore that distillation manuals were written in the vernacular, yet served also to teach those engaged in alchemical pursuits aimed at isolating ‘quintessences’.



In the second paper of this panel, Joel Klein examined ‘Potable Gold: Sources of Skepticism and Belief’, tracing the magical or religious healing power attributed to gold back to ancient medicine, yet also finding some evidence of its use in the rational therapeutics of such as Pliny, who described golden medicines used to treat haemorrhoids and fistulas. The idea that gold might be an ingredient of a

universal medicine, or an elixir to prolong human life, can be found in the works of medieval alchemists, such as Roger Bacon, but it found popular expression among the followers of Paracelsus, whose conception of *aurum potable* provoked both philosophical and medical controversy, and a surge of imitators, eager to produce their own recipes.

The use of acid solvents, such as Aqua Regia, to isolate and reduce gold might appear contraindicated when employed for medicinal purposes, but Joel cited the work of Francis Anthony as an example of an alchemist creating potable gold without resorting to corrosive substances. Insipid solvents could be used to create a gold suspension and the Polish alchemist, Michael Sendivogius experimented with congealed, or fixed, air, which he sought to demonstrate could penetrate any substance. The body of Joel’s paper focused on the debates that arose in the German territories, during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, around the efficacy and legitimacy of



potable gold, examining in particular the work of Daniel Sennert (1572-1637), the subject of a monograph he is working on currently.

After the coffee break, Lauren Kassell (University of Cambridge) chaired the next panel; '**Analogy and Metaphor in Alchemical Medicine**'. First to present was Jennifer Rampling (Princeton University), who chose to look at 'Healing by Analogy in Late Medieval Alchemy'. If, by analogy, an alchemist is to metals what a doctor is to humans, it follows that the remedy must be medicinal. This concept of an analogical relationship between alchemy and medicine was proposed in the pseudo-Lullian alchemical treatises of the fourteenth century, Jenny citing as an example the use of digestive medications to treat swellings. The language of medicine and healing was more comprehensible to non-specialist audiences than the alchemical idiom and could therefore be employed to convey information regarding the substances and operations involved in transmutation of metals. It was important to understand, however, when the elixir being described should not be used as a medicine for humans and was intended as a cure for metals. The key distinction to comprehend was that between analogy and recipe.

While medical language was used as an analogy for alchemical processes, when writers turned from the healing of metals to that of bodies, the analogical correspondence was often set aside in favour of other forms of appropriation. This was evidenced in the paper by reference to the language used by George Ripley and by Samuel Norton. The use of medical analogy



did, nonetheless, serve alchemical writers well as they sought to attract patronage. Being able to explain strange new doctrines through the familiar language and imagery of parallel processes, provided alchemists adopting Paracelsian principles with the opportunity to persuade patrons of the efficacy of their chemical physic, when compared to that of the conventional Galenists.

In her paper, 'The Opposite of a Secret: Knowledge, Practice and the Prolongation of Life', Natalie Kaoukji (University of Cambridge) explored the proliferation, in the seventeenth century, of works that professed a relationship between the increase in knowledge and the prolongation of life. The paper looked in particular at the work of James Hart, the puritan author of *Diet of the Diseased* (1633), who assumed that, since natural knowledge had progressed beyond that of the ancients, there was no reason to assume that life itself could not be prolonged. Indeed Hart believed that Paracelsus had lived on long in his grave, writing many further works. Importantly, he saw the learned tradition of the arts and sciences, which increased knowledge, as being the equivalent of



prolonging life. A person did not, therefore, have to live to be a hundred years old if they had acquired knowledge and learning in the arts and sciences. Nonetheless, if you had the right diet and what today would be deemed a 'healthy lifestyle', life could be prolonged to extend to one hundred or even one hundred and twenty years.

George Hakewill, writing in 1627, argued that because men no longer lived as long as the ancients of Biblical times, something must have gone wrong. He concluded, however, that if you acquired learning, it was not necessary to have such a long life. Both he and Hart proposed that reason, as a faculty, was intrinsically linked to diet and the length of time that one needed to live. This seventeenth-century preoccupation with longevity looked back, therefore, to ancient scriptural and philosophical wisdom, while at the same time introducing new concepts with regard to the efficacy of diet and living a healthy and pure life.

The post-lunch panel, chaired by Jennifer Rampling, took as its overarching theme, '**Early Paracelsianism**'. First to present was Didier Kahn (CNRS Paris), whose paper 'The Apocalypse spiritus secreti and the Rupescissan Quintessence', examined the inspiration for, significance of, and Paracelsian developments deriving from the ideas expressed in this anonymous work. The *Apocalypse spiritus secreti*, with its commentary by Giovanni Battista Agnello (1566), embraces both alchemy and astrology in considering the medical benefits of the quintessence. The five essences are seen to be infused with heavenly influences and to have the power to raise people from death to life.

The *Apocalypse* is not, in Didier's view, just a re-writing of Rupescissa's work and the best estimate is that its anonymous author produced the work towards the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth centuries. In considering the reception of the work by Paracelsians, it

should be noted that Paracelsus himself rejected Rupescissa as extravagant in his claims. For Paracelsus, there would always be one of the four elements that would be stronger in its influence than the other three and account had to be taken of this. He saw the Quintessence as the prime matter resulting from the Biblical Creation and in his *De vita longa*, he privileges the balsam above the quintessence. It was intrinsic to Paracelsus' beliefs in this area to acknowledge that, when a person died, the *spiritus* departed from the body.



This point was picked up by Peter Forshaw (University of Amsterdam) in his paper, '*De vita longa* and its Paracelsian Afterlife'. In this seminal work, Paracelsus distinguishes the bodily from the spiritual and makes long life both physical and magical. In the preface to *De vita longa*, six factors



are identified by Paracelsus as having some bearing on the prolongation of life: *magia divina*; *causa naturalis*; *magia*; *transmutat corpus naturale in phantasticum*; *impressio Deltica, sive imaginatio*; and *astrorum influentia*. For Paracelsus and his followers, alchemy may be deemed a subset of magic.

In this paper, Peter traced the publishing history of *De vita longa* which, in itself, reflects the impact that the work had on sixteenth-century philosophers and alchemists, an influence that, as other speakers demonstrated, extended and developed in the seventeenth-century. *De Vita Longa*

(1526-7) was first published in four books by Adam von Bodenstein (1528-1577) in 1560, then reissued as five books by Bodenstein and Valentius de Retijs in 1566. Two years later a four-book version ‘full of mysteries, parables and enigmas’, was to appear in *Theophrasti Paracelsi ... Compendium* (1568), with the scholia of the French Paracelsian Leo Suavius, aka Jacques Gohory (1520-1576). Then followed a German language edition edited by Michael Toxites (1514-1581), *Fünff Bücher Vonn dem Langen Leben* (1574). Almost a decade later yet another Latin edition saw the light of day as *De Vita longa, brevi, & sana deque triplici corpore* (1583), edited, with a commentary, by the Belgian Gerard Dorn (c.1530-1584).

In considering whether *De vita longa* might be a forgery, Peter concluded that, in many respects, it was of little consequence, since he accepts the actors’ categories. Didier offered to explain why he believed it was the work of Paracelsus. The *vita longa* is more than just a prolongation of life; it is a spirit of life.

Stephen Clucas (Birkbeck, University of London) took the chair for the penultimate panel; **‘Reforming Universal Medicine: Sendivogius and Van Helmont’**. In his paper, “‘One Only drop of that Latex . . .’: Sendivogius as an Alchemical Physician”, Rafał Prinke (Eugeniusz Piasecki University, Poznań) introduced his somewhat enigmatic subject with a few, brief biographical details. Sendivogius’ best known work is probably the *Novum lumen chymicum* (1605), an amalgam of three texts translated into English in 1650 by John French. Many legends surround the person of Sendivogius and it is not easy to separate the fact from the fiction, neither of which is devoid of colour. His reputation has tended more towards that of a typical chrysopoeian, rather than a physician, mention of medical alchemy scarcely featuring in his published texts. There is evidence of his medical practice scattered across numerous sources, however, and Rafał’s research has identified many of these.



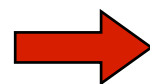
One such incident, which has contributed to the Polish alchemist's notoriety, was his implication in the death of Ludvík Korálek, a wealthy burgher who was patron to a circle of alchemists, amongst whom Sendivogius was numbered. Korálek had been treated by four famous doctors before his death in 1599, probably from alcoholism. Václav Lavin, Mikuláš Lev of Levenštejn and Oswald Croll had each treated the burgher, but it was Sendivogius who was sued over Korálek's death. Croll was amongst those who had witnessed miraculous cures performed by Sendivogius through the administration of his 'summam et universalem medicinam'. Indeed, in the case against him, brought on behalf of Korálek, twenty witnesses testified in the Polish alchemist's defence, claiming to have seen him effect transmutations and to save lives through his medicines. In a case they had witnessed, 'one only drop of that latex' they claimed, restored the man's life.

Tales surrounding the *Elixir vitae* abounded in the 1620s, but this was not the sole source of Sendivogius' medical knowledge. His personal annotated copy of *Pharmacopoeia Augustana*, which survives, suggests he was well versed in the traditional Galenic pharmacy. The fame he achieved during his lifetime coupled with his obsessive secrecy resulted in less reliable stories about him that were circulated around Europe. One of them described the power of his elixir for prolongation of life, which involved a complete rejuvenation of an 85 years old person. There is little of medicine in the *New Chemical Light* and only one statement if made in the *Dialogue*. In the *Parabola*, however, the elixir is called the greatest poison, but he point out, after a convenient boiling it is the greatest medicine. The universal medicine in Sendivogius was the sulphur of gold. His recipe for colloidal gold took tetrachloroauric acid and added ether, as a reducing agent, to the gold chloride. 'So far reached my experience', he conceded, 'I can do no more, I found out no more'.

Next up was Georgiana (Jo) Hedesan, with her paper 'Making Sense of Van Helmont's Universal Medicines'. Jo recognised that, for the Flemish physician and alchemist, medicine was the supreme form of charity. In his posthumous masterpiece *Ortus medicinae* (1648), Jan Baptist Van Helmont argued that the supreme medicine was that of the Tree of Life, which radically lengthened one's life to hundreds of years. Yet in order to reach this greatest of all medicines, an alchemical physician had to first master other medicines that were 'universal', meaning that they could cure many or even, in the case of the 'little stone of Butler', all diseases. What Van Helmont expected the alchemical student to do was to master increasingly complex medicines. The preparations of several of these medicines were interlinked, with each subsequent step being enabled by a previous one.

The originals of most of Van Helmont's universal medicines could be located in the works of Paracelsus, but Van Helmont's contribution resided in carrying out his own interpretation of them. The *Arcana*, or secrets of Nature, of Paracelsus acted to cleanse or refine specific organs of the body. In Van Helmont's later period, between 1637-1644, he worked with what he regarded as the greatest Paracelsian *Arcana*, including 'horizontal gold' or *Mercurius diaphoreticus*, a 'universal' or, in the traditional medieval sense, powerful and effective medicine for the treatment of fevers, intended to eliminate the source of the disease.

Jo concluded her paper by observing that, through his work with universal medicines, Van Helmont stimulated an medical-alchemical research programme that would be later followed up by the likes of George Starkey, Robert Boyle, and Albert Otto Faber.



Having delivered her own paper, Jo then took the chair for the final panel of the workshop; **‘Framing the Discourse of Universal Medicine’**. Hiro Hirai (Radboud University Nijmegen) took as his subject ‘Early Seventeenth-Century Paracelsians on God, Creation and Universal Medicine’, starting with an examination of Joseph Duchesne’s *Ad veritate Hermeticae medicinae* (Paris, 1604). Here again the influence was Paracelsian. Matter has been penetrated by a celestial essence and the skill of the artisan is to separate not only the elemental bodies, but also the Quintessence. The Quintessence is extremely simple, pure and incorruptible and is itself the universal medicine.



This process rests on a chemical interpretation of the Book of Genesis and accords with the Paracelsian formulation of the twin books of Scripture and of Nature. Popular with seventeenth-century alchemists, such as Oswald Croll, working in the Paracelsian tradition, the theosophical principle upon which operations in the laboratory were predicated assumed that hidden medicinal powers were contained within the ‘shell’ of matter. The Archaeus, conceived by Paracelsus as an inner fire, functioned as an internal chemist. The role of the alchemist was to isolate the medicinal powers infused in matter at the moment of Creation by the Word of God. Here the link between Christ as healer and Christ as the Word of God, seen in Genesis as initiating

Creation, is fundamental. God’s Word is the source of all forms of light, as evidenced by the *fiat lux*, which marked the moment of material Creation. For Croll, the Word was created by God, while for Paracelsus the Word was with God. Ultimately the means by which healing may be effected are part of God’s provision, and alchemists must examine and reflect upon the Creation account, recorded in Genesis, if they are to understand how to operate alchemically to access the universal medicine.

Bruce Moran (University of Nevada, Reno), brought the panels to a close with his paper entitled, ‘Particles and the Panacea: Alchemical Cosmology, Ancient Knowledge, and the Catholica Medicamenta of Edmund Dickinson’. Edmund Dickinson was a ‘famous’ chemist in Oxford, known to have visited Isaac Newton in 1705 and to have been in conversation about the elixir with the diarist, John Evelyn.

Aware that there had been knowledge of particles since the time of Noah, and that Moses the Phoenician had promoted an atomic theory, Dickinson questioned how ancient knowledge had been lost. Aristotle wrote that matter in motion constituted Nature and that motion could be transverse or circulatory. Dickinson’s own alchemical and corpuscular cosmology centred upon the notion of a universal circulating mercury and its relevance to making a universal medicine. This was expressed in four interrelated texts: Dickinson’s account of the six days of creation and ancient corpuscular alchemy, *Physica vetus et vera sive Tractatus de naturali veritate Hexameri Mosaici* (1705), his attack upon Peripatetic philosophy, *Ad peripateticos*, the alchemical processes in regard to

transmutation described in his *Epistola . . . ad Theodorum Mundanum . . . de quintessentia philosophorum et de vera physiologia* (a text which inspired six editions between 1686 and 1705 and parts of which were transcribed by Isaac Newton), and an account of the material basis for, as well as the means of extracting, purifying, and exalting, a *catholica medicamenta*, *De medicamentis universalibus dissertatio* (ca. 1687).

Dickinson's discussions regarding the preparation of panaceas can be seen to connect with a variety of views expressed within a community of chemists that included Robert Boyle, Peter Stahl, Ambrose Hanckewitz, and others. More practical observations concerning Dickinson's search for a panacea come to light however from notes kept by the Danish polymath, Ole Borch (1626-1690), who visited Dickinson's laboratory on several occasions in the early 1660s. In Dickinson Borch found an ally in defending alchemy and the quinta essentia against the views of Hermann Conring (1606-1681); and from Borch's notes we are able to reconstruct in part Dickinson's attempts to refine the sal mirabilis of Johann Glauber (1604-1670) as part of a practical effort to explore a further means of obtaining a medicine with far reaching applications. Glauber believed his salt, sodium sulphate, was essential in processing minerals.

Bruce sounded a cautionary note by recounting the salutary tale of a countess who was found having partly combusted, her legs, complete with stockings, remaining intact. It emerged that she had been using camphor somewhat excessively to treat a cold. The importance of particles in understanding chemistry was about to be realised.

After the concluding discussion, this highly stimulating and enjoyable workshop closed with a drinks reception, at which the launch of Jo Hedesan's monograph on Jan Baptist Van Helmont was celebrated (see page 20 above). This was a fitting ending to proceedings, since it was Jo herself who had organised the workshop.



5-7 July 2016

Scientiae: Disciplines of Knowing in the

Early Modern World

St Anne's College, University of Oxford

With Jo Hedesan as the Lead Convenor, it was not surprising to discover that *Scientiae 2016* had a strong set of panels and papers exploring the history of alchemy. A full report on this excellent conference was not available for this issue of *Chemical Intelligence* but, for now, it may interest readers to learn of some of the topics covered:

'Seventeenth-Century Alchemy'

Chair: Tara Nummedal (Brown)

Rafał T. Prinke (Eugeniusz Piasecki Poznań), 'The Quest of Unknown Philosophers: A Mid-17th Century Alchemical Society Project'

Judith Mawer (Goldsmiths London), 'Religion and Chymistry: Strange Bedfellows in a Seventeenth-Century Utopian Landscape'

Mike A. Zuber (Amsterdam), 'Alchemical Manuscripts, Patronage and Correspondence, 1684/85: Duke Frederick I of Saxe-Gotha, Johann Heinrich Vierordt and the 'Speculum Sapientiae''

'Continuity and Change: Theories of Matter in Early Modern Medicine'

Chair: Joel A. Klein (Columbia)

Elisabeth Moreau (Brussels/Nijmegen), 'From Elements to Complexion: Discrete Matter in Late Renaissance Physiology'

Joel A. Klein (Columbia), 'Minima Naturalia and Corpuscles in Sixteenth-Century Paduan Medicine'

Georgiana D. Hedesan (Oxford), 'Transmuting Medical Practice into Theory: The Case of the Mummy'

'Thinking with Images'

Chair: Jennifer M. Rampling (Princeton)

Alexandra Marraccini (Chicago), 'The Six-Fold Mirror: Alchemical Process As Image in Glasgow MS Ferguson 6'

Giulia Martina Weston (Courtauld London), 'Salvator Rosa and Niccolò Tornio: Portraying Alchemical and Astronomical Knowledge in post-Galilean Rome'

Rebecca Whiteley (UCL), 'Fetal Fruit, Maternal Tree: Analogical Thinking about the Pregnant Body and the Unborn Child in Seventeenth-Century England'

'Alchemy and Religious Orders in Early Modern Italy'

Chair: Andrew Campbell (UCL)



Neil Tarrant (Edinburgh), 'Censoring Alchemy: Thomist–Augustinian Censorship in the Roman Inquisition'

Andrew Campbell (UCL), 'Playing a Dangerous Game: The Constitutional Status of Alchemy in Italian Religious Orders at the Turn of the Seventeenth Century'

Lorenza Gianfrancesco (Goldsmiths, London), 'Searching for the Essence: Alchemy in Early Modern Naples'

'Earthly Metabolisms: Resource Flows in Early Modern Mining'

Chair: Tina Asmussen (Max Planck, Berlin)

Tina Asmussen (Max Planck, Berlin), 'Cycles of Uncertainty, Mining and Fortune in Sixteenth-Century Europe'

Sebastian Felten (Max Planck, Berlin), 'Closing the Cycle, Shielding the Flow: Wastage and its Containment in Early Modern European Mining'

Peter Konečný (Slovak Academy of Sciences and Arts), 'Circulation of Metallic Resources: Silver, Copper, Lead and Mercury in 18th Century Hungarian Mining'

'Practicing Medicine in Early Modern Europe'

Chair: Georgiana Hedesan (Oxford)

Michael Stolberg (Würzburg), 'The Figure of the Town-Physician in 16th- and Early 17th-Century Germany. An Analysis of Town-Physicians' Letters, Contracts and Practice Journals'

Tillmann Taape (Cambridge), 'The Concept of Distillation in Alchemical Medicine and its Reception in Vernacular Print in the Early Modern German Lands'

Allen Shotwell (Ivy Tech Community College), 'The Medical Empiric as a Villain'

Katherine Allen (Oxford), 'Hobby and Craft: Distilling Household Medicine in Eighteenth-Century England'

Also of interest to historians of alchemy was the final plenary session in which Prof Tara Nummedal (Brown) presented a fascinating paper entitled, 'Alchemical Bodies: Transmutations of Self and Substance'.

This was an excellent conference which, in addition to a vast range of panels and three notable plenary sessions, included stimulating roundtable discussions, tours of the Museum of the History of Science and a two-part workshop on the astrolabe.

25-28 July 2016

Pseudo-Paracelsus: Alchemy and Forgery in Early Modern Medicine and Natural Philosophy*Villa Vigoni, Italy*

This international conference, jointly sponsored by SHAC, took place in the beautiful surroundings of the Italian Villa Vigoni, and was organised by Didier Kahn (CNRS, CELLF 16-18) and Hiro Hirai (Radboud University, Nijmegen). The Swiss physician, Paracelsus (1493/94-1541), with his radical criticism of Aristotle and Galen and his equally radical theological and spiritual reforms, ignited a long process leading to the emergence of chemistry as an autonomous science. Paracelsus' ideas were diffused through his followers and through works disseminated in his name. An integral part of this diffusion, however, involved the production of forgeries.

In setting the context for this conference, the organisers explained:

Many of those forgeries were widely read and extremely influential, not only in the fields of medicine and “chymistry” (alchemy/chemistry), but also in cosmology, anthropology, theology and magic. For example, the famous *Philosophia ad Athenienses* included the dangerous idea on the uncreated “prime matter” of the world, while the *De natura rerum* described how to create a homunculus. Those were clearly alien to Paracelsus's own philosophy but were taken at face value by both Paracelsians and their opponents. A number of other apocryphal works are no less interesting. All of them have yet to be studied in their own right.





The conference marked the start of a four-year project, in which specialists with diverse knowledge will study the content, sources, subject matter and potential authorship and dating of pseudo-Paracelsian treatises. In addition to these comparative analyses, the project will explore the impact of the treatises on the evolution of both Paracelsianism and anti-Paracelsianism. This broad survey of the *corpus*, the organisers added;

will address many related disciplines and issues: medicine and alchemy, the four elements and the three principles, as well as the corpus attributed to George Ripley, the *corpus* attributed to Isaac Hollandus, the Ficinian idea of the World-Spirit (*spiritus mundi*) and its relation to alchemical quintessence, the “signatures doctrine” (*signatura rerum*), magnetism and imagination.

The conference itself had a packed programme of panels and workshops, in which a broad range of the themes introduced and developed in Paracelsian and pseudo-Paracelsian works were presented and explored. A flavour of the topics addressed, and of the subject matter that will be under consideration during the project, can be derived from the programme, which was as follows:

Dane T. Daniel (Wright State University, Ohio) ‘Evaluating the Authenticity of Paracelsus’s *Astronomia Magna*: Toward a Diagnostic Rubric Clarifying Authentic and Spurious Elements in Paracelsus’s Œuvre’

Martin Žemla (Palacký University, Olomouc) ‘*Astronomia Olympi Novi* and *Theologia Cabalistica*: Pseudo-Paracelsian Works of the *Philosophia Mystica* Collection (1618)’



Georgiana Hedesan (University of Oxford) ‘Completing the *Archidoxis*: The *Clavis* of 1624 and the Impulse to Fabricate Paracelsus Forgeries’

Jiří Michalík (Palacký University, Olomouc) ‘The *Archidoxis magica* and Medieval Magic’

Jennifer Rampling (Princeton University) ‘Lull, Ripley, Paracelsus: the Vegetable Stone and the Evolution of Pseudepigraphic *Corpora*’

Elisabeth Moreau (ULB, Bruxelles & Radboud University, Nijmegen) ‘Petrus Severinus and Daniel Sennert on *Philosophia ad Athenienses*’

Didier Kahn (CNRS, CELLF 16-18) ‘The *Philosophia ad Athenienses* in the Context of Genuine Paracelsian Cosmology’

Workshop 1: ‘Created vs. Uncreated Prime Matter in Paracelsus’

Charles Gunnoe (Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI) ‘Paracelsus, Plague, and *De Pestilitate*: Astral Influence, Divine Judgement, and Magical Medicine’

Hiro Hirai (Radboud University, Nijmegen) ‘Into the Forger’s Library: The Genesis of *De natura rerum* in Publication History’

Tobias Bulang (Germanistisches Seminar, Universität Heidelberg) ‘Text and Context: Edition and Commentary of the Pseudo-Paracelsian *Aurora Philosophorum*’

Lawrence M. Principe (Johns Hopkins University) ‘Paracelsian and Pseudo-Paracelsian Ideas in the *Corpus* of Basilius Valentinus’

Claude Rétat (CNRS, CELLF 18-21) ‘Paracelse: iatricie et instruction maçonnique selon Jean-Marie Ragon’

Amadeo Murase (Seigakuin University, Tokyo) ‘The Eschatological Image of Paracelsus in *De tinctura physicorum*’

Kathrin Pfister (Anglistisches Seminar, Universität Heidelberg) ‘Towards a Critical Edition of the *De tinctura physicorum*’

Workshop 2: ‘*De natura rerum* and Related Issues’

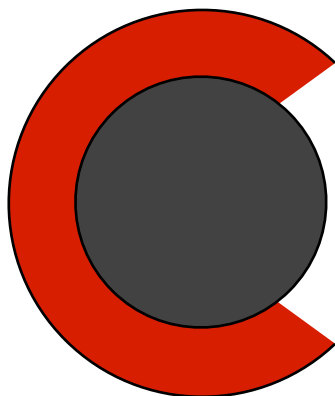
Workshop 3: ‘Digitization || Perspectives of Common Research’

The conference made an excellent start to a project that readers will undoubtedly wish to follow as it progresses over the next four years. We look forward to learning more, as the research uncovers new facts about this enigmatic character, his followers, and those who chose to write in his name.

NEW MEMBERS

SHAC welcomes the following new members:

David Alexander	Edinburgh, UK
Amanda J. Arceneaux	Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, USA
Vangelis Antzoulatos	Anstaing, France
Andréa Bortolotto	São Paulo, Brazil
J. Cecilia Cárdenas-Navia	Yale University, USA
Renan Crouvazier	Centre d'Etudes Supérieures de le Renaissance, France
Eduardo Escobar	
James Evans	
Anna Gielas	University of St Andrews, UK
Paul Greenham	
Vera Keller	University of Oregon, USA
John Langrish	Manchester, UK
Alexandra Marraccini	Florida, USA
Luis Moreno Martínez	Institute of History of Medicine and Science "López Piñero" of the University of Valencia, Spain
Donald Oshields	York, South Carolina, USA
Megan Piorko	
Barbara Rhodes	New York
Umberto Veronesi	Institute of Archaeology, UCL, UK
Doris Vickers	University of Vienna, Austria



We welcome any contributions that newsletter readers might wish to make to *Chemical Intelligence*. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Upcoming Conferences or Meetings
- Publications
- Conference or Meeting Reports (these should not normally exceed 1,000 words)
- News Items or Announcements
- Grants, Fellowships or Awards
- Reviews of Websites, projects or blogs of interest (up to 500 words)

The Editor retains the right to select those contributions that are most relevant to the interests of the Society's members.

We also wish *Chemical Intelligence* to provide a platform for interaction between members. We therefore encourage you to submit:

- Questions you may wish to put to other members
- Materials that you are working on and wish to share
- Suggestions for improvement

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

Judith Mawer, Email: chemintel@ambix.org

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Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

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 Taylor & Francis and appears quarterly. Members also receive the Society's newsletter, *Chemical Intelligence*, twice yearly, and any new editions from the Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry volume.

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

For all membership questions, please contact the Membership Secretary, Dr Anna Simmons.

E-mail:

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