

# Chemical Intelligence Summer 2024 issue

Society for the History  
of Alchemy and Chemistry



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## Table of contents

### Meetings

SHAC Annual Autumn Meeting 4-7

SHAC Webinars 8-9

SHAC Postgraduate and ECR Workshop 10-11

RSCHG: Chemistry, Medicine and History 12-13

The 14<sup>th</sup> ICHC: Chemistry and Capitalism 14-15

CHCMS Conversations in the History of  
Chemistry 16-18

### Awards

Morris Award to Carsten Reinhardt 20-21

### Reports

Project reports 22-27

### Ambix

Book Reviews 28-29

Latest issues 30-31

*Sources* 32-33

Membership 34

Contribute to *Chemical Intelligence* 35

# SHAC Annual Autumn Meeting

SHAC, in collaboration with the Allard Pierson of the University of Amsterdam and the [Centre for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents \(HHP\)](#), invites abstract submissions for its Annual Autumn Meeting, to be held at the Allard Pierson on 11 October 2024. The meeting will be hybrid, although we strongly encourage in-person attendance.

In its extensive collections, the Allard Pierson holds the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica State of around 4,400 rare manuscripts and printed works relating to the hermetic tradition, assembled by Dutch businessman Joost Ritman. For this meeting, we invite proposals for papers related to the alchemical material in the collection.

The keynote speaker will be Prof. Stephen Clucas (Birkbeck, University of London).

There will be an exhibition of some of the highlights of the collection.

Preliminary Timetable:  
45-minute Keynote + Twelve 20-minute papers

9:00 registration and coffee  
9:30 Welcome

**Keynote 10:00-11:00**

Coffee 11:00-11:15

**Session 1 11:15-12:30**

Lunch 12:30-13:30

**Session 2 13:30-14:45**

**Session 3 14:45-16:00**

Coffee 16:00-16:15

**Session 4 16:15-17:30**

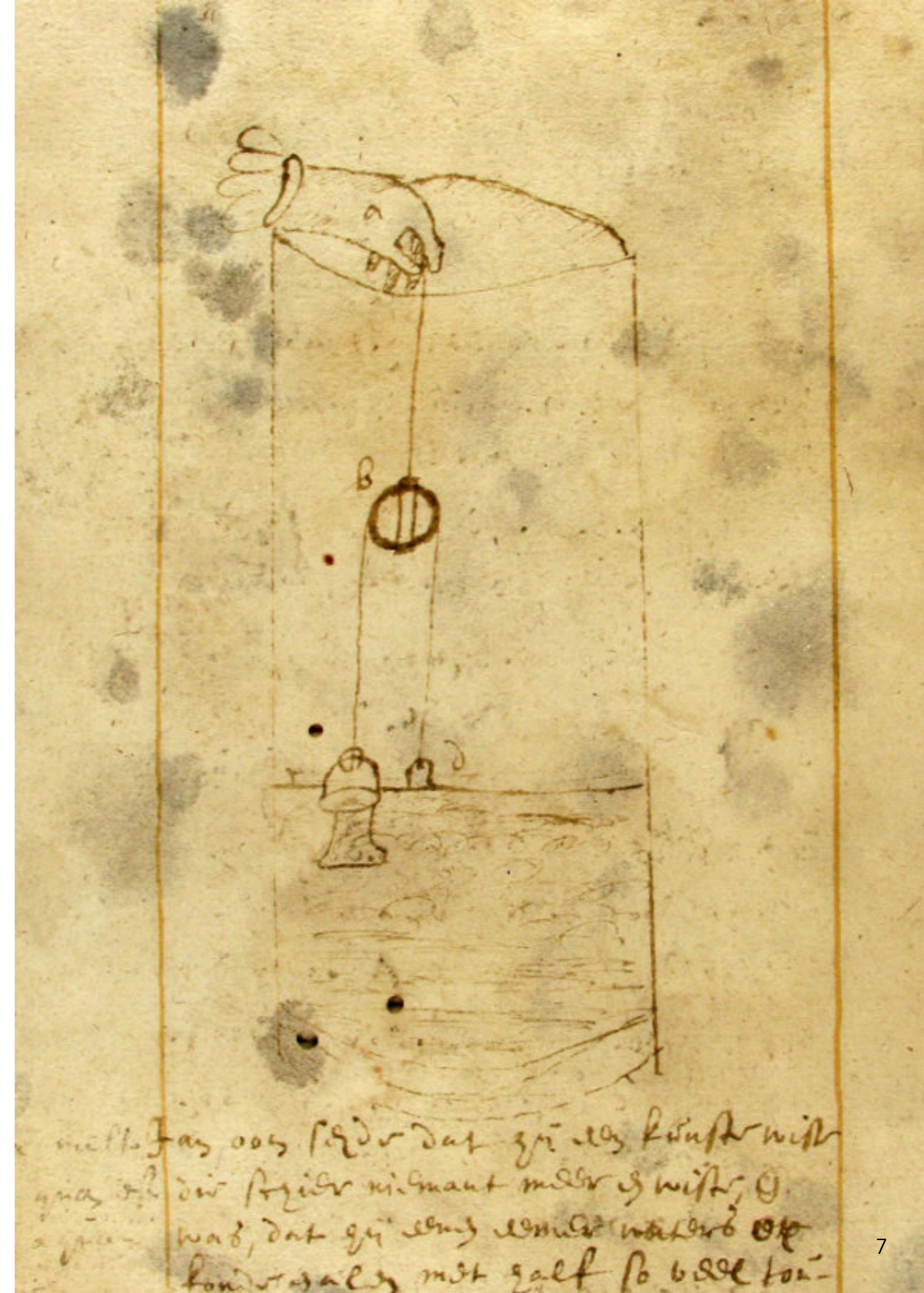
**Roundtable: 17:30-18:00**

Titles of works in the collection can be found via the University of Amsterdam Library Catalogue (using the search terms [Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica](#) and [selecting 'Allard Pierson Depot'](#) in the Library filter on the right of the screen).

Approximately 100 manuscripts from the collection have been digitized.

The Allard Pierson can provide an Excel file of all the books and manuscripts in the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica State collection.

[Allard Pierson on Google Maps](#)





# Webinars

The next SHAC webinar will take place on Thursday 19 September at 5.00pm BST (6.00pm CEST, 12 noon EST, 9.00am PDT). The format will be a talk of 20-30 minutes, followed by a moderated discussion of half an hour. Look out for details on social media and in member emails nearer the time. The Zoom link can be accessed by anyone, SHAC member or not, by booking through Ticket Source. The final webinar of the year will be on 21 November.

Most previous on-line seminars can be found on the SHAC YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/SocietyforHistoryofAlchemyandChemistry>

# SHAC Postgraduate and Early Career Workshop

SHAC invites proposals for the 2024 iteration of its annual postgraduate and early career workshop, “Alchemy and Chemistry as Vessels for Cultural Discourse”. This conference seeks to explore the interface between (al)chemical work and various facets of culture outside of the laboratory. For as long as the disciplines have been studied, alchemy and chemistry have not only been integral to scientific discourse, but have also served as mirrors reflecting the social, political, and religious currents of their times. Papers might explore, for example, the ways in which alchemical iconography reflects the political tensions of the climate in which they were produced, as well as the role of chemistry in the Industrial Revolution or the discipline of astrochemistry reflecting a *Zeitgeist* of interest in worlds beyond our own. Selected papers from the conference will be considered for publication in a special edition (or special series) of *Ambix: Journal for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*.

We welcome proposals for 20 minute talks by graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career scholars who have received their doctorate no more than three years ago. If you are interested in presenting your work, please send an abstract of approximately 300 words and a short bio to SHAC Student Representative Josh Werrett, at [studentrep@ambix.org](mailto:studentrep@ambix.org). The deadline for submissions is 30th September 2024. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Josh Werrett at the above email address.

# Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group: Chemistry, Medicine and History

This one-day in-person meeting organised by the Historical Group will take place on Wednesday 16 October 2024, 10.15-17.00, at Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BA.

Without chemistry's contributions to medicine, especially with respect to drug-discovery and development, life indeed would have remained, to use Thomas Hobbes' 1651 phrase, "Poor, brutish and short". Only a few effective medicaments were in use up to the mid-nineteenth century. These were mainly of natural origin such as: quinine as a cure for (and a prophylactic against) malaria, castor oil as a purgative (and its cousin, the more mildly-acting senna, extracted from the shrub [senna alexandrina](#)) and laudanum (an alcoholic tincture from opium poppies) to alleviate pain and

induce euphoria. This meeting, starting with registration and coffee from 10.15 will consider how the development of chemistry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries contributed to the amelioration of disease, and the prolonging of life.

For more information please visit: <https://www.rsc.org/events/detail/79434/chemistry-medicine-and-history>. To book please email Peter Morris, Historical Group Secretary, directly at [doctor@peterjtmorris.plus.com](mailto:doctor@peterjtmorris.plus.com), giving your name, email address and any special requirements. The event is free of charge. Coffee and tea will be available, but lunch is not included, although there are plenty of cafes nearby in Piccadilly and adjoining streets.

## Programme

*Morning Session – Chair John Nicholson*

10.15: Coffee

10.45: Welcome – John Nicholson

10.50: "Diabetes: An Overview with a Glance at the Chemistry" - Miranda Rosenthal

11.25: "Diabetes: A History of the Monitoring of Blood and Urine for Glucose" - John Dungate

12.00 Lunch (not supplied)

*Afternoon Session 1 – Chair Alan Dronsfield*

13.20: "Chloroform as an Anaesthetic – Some Historical Perspectives" - Alistair McKenzie

13.55: "Medicine, Chemistry and Apothecaries: William Thomas Brande and John Nussey" - Anna Simmons

14.30: Tea

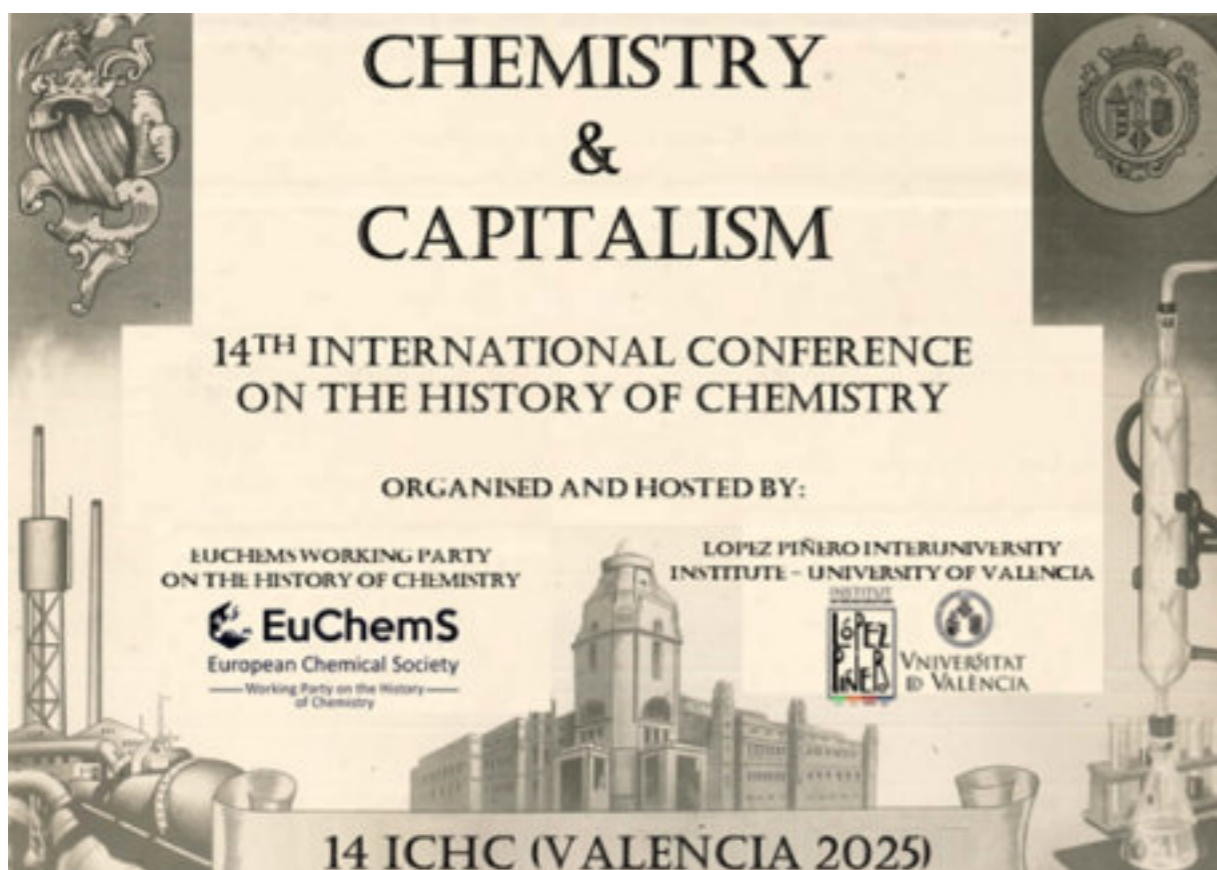
*Afternoon Session 2 – Chair Anna Simmons*

14.55: "Chemists in the Early Pharmaceutical Industry: A Case Study from Burroughs, Wellcome & Co" - Tilli Tansey

15.30: "A History of the Treatment of TB, Principally Using Drugs" - Alan Dronsfield

16.05: "Science, Art and Drug Discovery: A Personal Perspective" - Sir Simon Campbell

16.50-16.55: Final remarks – John Nicholson



Every other year the [EuChemS Working Party on the History of Chemistry](#) organizes an international conference on the history of chemistry, open to colleagues from all over the world. The general aim of the conferences organised by the WP is to facilitate communication between historically interested chemists, museum curators, science educators and historians of chemistry, and to gather the community on a regular basis. The [14th International Conference on the History of Chemistry](#) (14 ICHC) will take place from 11 to 14 of June, 2025 in Valencia, Spain, on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

The 14 ICHC will be hosted by the [Lopez Piñero Inter-University Institute - University of Valencia](#), an academic institution which supports research projects and outreach activities on historical and social studies on medicine, technology, science and the environment. The Institute is located in a restored 18<sup>th</sup> century palace in the centre of the city of Valencia, where the Historical-Medical Library and the Scientific-Medical Collection of the University of Valencia are located, with permanent and temporary monographic exhibitions.

The conference programme will include scientific sessions, key-note lectures, the WP business meeting, as well as social events such as excursions, a reception, and a conference dinner. As in the previous ICHC conferences, the conference fees will be kept as low as possible, covering welcome reception, coffee breaks and lunches. For more information about preparing your submission and the conference presentation, please check the proposal guidelines.

The general conference theme is **Chemistry & capitalism** with the aim to foster debates about the relationship between chemistry broadly constructed, industry, environment, and regulations through a historical perspective. A non-exhaustive list of possible topics includes:

- chemistry/chymistry in the market before capitalism
- artisans & industries
- globalization & corporative powers
- experts in economy & science
- Fascist science
- Communist science
- gendered technologies
- regulation & decision-making
- commodification & circulation of chemistry
- toxics & agriculture
- environmental history
- labor & trade unions in chemistry
- neoliberalism & academy
- communicating science and propaganda
- chemistry in mass media

Sessions and papers on other aspects of the historical development of material and life sciences are also welcomed. Please check the [conference website](#) for additional information and proposal templates.

#### Important Dates:

- Deadline for submitting proposals: 1 December 2024
- Notification of acceptance: January 2025
- Provisional program: February 2025
- Early bird registration: before 15 April 2025
- Normal fee registration (deadline to appear on the program): 15 May 2025
- Final program: May 2025
- Conference dates: 11-14 June 2025 (Saturday excursion included)

**Conference web site:** <https://esdeveniments.uv.es/go/14ICHC>

We welcome your participation  
Ignacio Suay Matallana and  
Brigitte Van Tiggelen  
(co-chairs of the Steering  
Organizing Committee)



# CONVERSATIONS ON *The History Of* CHEMISTRY

In 2023, the Commission on the History of Chemistry and the Molecular Sciences launched its Conversations on the History of Chemistry, a series of roundtables aimed at discussing the past, present and future of the history of chemistry and the molecular sciences.

After a successful first installment (the recordings of which are available on the [CHCMS website](#)), we are pleased to announce another series of online conversations during which speakers from different career stages will meet to share their thoughts, introducing a general discussion to which the audience is invited to take part. Each session will focus on a specific theme, relevant to the methods, topics and objects of the history of chemistry and the molecular sciences. The roundtables will take place on Zoom during the fall of 2024.

## **Conversation 1. Global History and History of Chemistry**

August 28, 4-5 pm UTC (9-10 am PT/12-1 pm EST/6-7 pm CEST/1-2 am JST)

Chair: Paulina Gennermann (Philipps Universität Marburg, Germany)

Speakers:

- Leonardo de Bem Lignani (Centro Federal de Educação Tecnológica Celso Suckow da Fonseca, Brazil)
- Júlia Gorges (Casa de Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil)
- Joris Mercelis (Johns Hopkins University, USA)
- Yang Li (Princeton University, USA)

Themes of the conversation:

- Circulation and adaptation of scientific/chemical knowledge
- Local consequences of global/international issues
- Circulation of chemical substances
- Connections/entanglements of history of chemistry with global history

## **Conversation 2. Green chemistry**

September 18 - time TBD

Chair: Marcin Krasnodębski (Sarah Hijmans if Marcin Krasnodębski is a speaker)

Speakers:

- Arjan Linthorst (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)
- Leonardo Victor Marcelino (Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, Brazil),
- Mark A. Murphy (independent scholar, Atlanta, USA)

### Conversation 3. The history of chemistry conferences

September 25 (time TBD)

Chair: Candida Sanchez Burmester (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)

Speakers:

- Georgiana Kotsou (Maastricht University, The Netherlands)
- Thomas Mougey (Université Aix-Marseille, France)
- Arthur Daemmrich (School for the Future of Innovation in Society, USA)

### Conversation 4. Digital methods in the history of chemistry

Date: 2 October, 1-2 pm UTC (6-7 am PT/9-10 am EST/3-4 pm CEST/10-11 pm JST)

Chair: Guillermo Restrepo (Max Planck Institute for Mathematics in the Sciences, Germany)

Speakers:

- Jeffrey A. Johnson (Villanova University, USA)
- Evan Hepler-Smith (Duke University, USA)
- Sarah Lang (University of Graz, Austria)

### Conversation 5. History of Chemistry and Area Studies

Chair: TBD

Date: 31st of October - TBD

Speakers:

- Yoshiyuki Kikuchi (Aichi Prefectural University, Japan)
- Karoliina Pulkkinen (University of Helsinki, Finland)
- \*TBD



At aurum ab argento hacratione secernitur. Temperatura primum adje-  
cto plumbo coquatur in catino cinereo usque dum omne plumbum exhalet  
itq; ejus bes æris tantummodò drachmas quinq; aut summum sex, in se con-  
ineat: nam si plus æris in ipsa fuerit, argentum ab auro separatum mox rur-  
us cum eo conjungitur: tale argentum, in quo aurum inest, liquatum vel for-  
netur in globulos bacillo inferius diffisso agitatum, vel in canaliculum fer-  
reum infundatur, & ex refrigerato efficiatur tenuis bractea. Quoniam vero  
ratio faciendi globulos ex auro argenteo acriorem curam & diligentiam



# Morris Award 2024 to Carsten Reinhardt

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry wishes to announce that the Morris Award for 2024 has been given to Carsten Reinhardt for his outstanding work on the recent history of chemistry and the history of the chemical industry. He has been an innovator and a leader in the history of modern chemistry and chemical industry from the beginning of his career, exploring the instrumental, theoretical, commercial, industrial, and regulatory dimensions of the field that we call chemistry, while emphasizing the frequent "disappearance" of "chemistry" into other fields, such as molecular biology, materials science, nanotechnology, or environmental science. He has a gift for collaboration and cooperation that has greatly benefitted studies in the history of chemistry and chemical technology.

His most important contribution to the history of recent chemistry is his book entitled *Shifting and Rearranging: Physical Methods and the Transformation of Modern Chemistry*, published in 2006. This is a prize-winning study of the impact on chemistry of physical instrumentation in the second half of the twentieth century, with a focus on the development of NMR spectroscopy and mass spectroscopy. Reinhardt shows the important role played by instrument manufacturers, universities, governmental agencies, and chemical industries, arguing that the science-technology relationship was a reciprocal process from the 1950s to the 1980s. He elaborated on this thesis with regard to biochemistry and molecular biology in a later paper in *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, published in 2017.

His joint book with Anthony S. Travis, a previous Morris Award winner, on the life and work of the German colourist Heinrich Caro (published in 2000) revealed a similar interplay between industry and academia. In an important contribution to volume six of the *Cultural History of Chemistry* (published in 2022) he drew together the history of the chemical industry and the history of recent chemistry to show how chemistry was seen as both a science and an industry providing material goods in the first part of the twentieth century, but also became perceived as a health and environmental hazard as the century wore on. These insights were also the outcome of original research on 'chemical objects', including their experiencing, testing and regulation, started by Reinhardt about 2008. His publications on that topic are excellent, combining a deep understanding of the science involved, with an understanding of politics and bureaucracies. This culminated in a co-authored international project, the result of which were published in the book *Residues: Thinking Through Chemical Environments* (2022).

Carsten Reinhardt took his PhD on chemical research at BASF and Hoechst between 1863 and 1914 at the Technical University of Berlin in 1996. He was an Assistant Professor, at the University of Regensburg between 1997 and 2005 and was a Research Fellow at the Max-Planck-Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, in 2006-7.

He became Professor for Historical Studies of Science, University of Bielefeld in 2007. Between 2013 and 2016, Reinhardt was President and CEO, Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia, USA (now the Science History Institute). From 2017 to 2021, he has been the President of the Gesellschaft für Geschichte der Wissenschaften, der Medizin und der Technik (GWMT). He is a co-editor of the *Mitteilungen der Fachgruppe Geschichte der Chemie*. Carsten Reinhardt also has played a leading role in managing major projects on the history of the Max Planck Gesellschaft and on the history of the Institutes of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, such as the Physikalisch-Technische Reichsanstalt in the Post-War era, including several institutes doing chemical research.

*The Morris Award honours the memory of John and Martha Morris, the late parents of Peter Morris, the former editor of Ambix and recognises scholarly achievement in the History of Modern Chemistry (post-1945) or the History of the Chemical Industry. The recipient of the award gives the Morris Award Lecture at an appropriate meeting and this is usually published in Ambix. Previous holders of the award are Ray Stokes (2009), Mary Jo Nye (2012), Anthony Travis (2015), Yasu Furukawa (2018) and Ernst Homburg (2021). The next award will take place in 2027 and nominations from all with a track record of publishing on the history of modern chemistry and/or the history of the chemical industry are warmly welcomed. A call for nominations will be circulated in 2026.*

## Eugenio Villa

I am deeply grateful to SHAC for granting me a Research Award, which enabled me to spend two weeks in Paris at the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

As a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bologna, my research focuses mainly on the *Fondo Caprara*, a collection of alchemical manuscripts now kept at the University Library of Bologna that belonged to the 17th century Parisian printer Milliet de Bosnay. This collection is particularly important from both a historical and a textual point of view. On the one hand, since the ownership of at least one hundred and fifty manuscripts can be traced back to de Bosnay, it is the largest and oldest alchemical collection known. On the other hand, although these manuscripts show a predominant interest towards the texts transmitted under the name of Raymond Lull and Arnaud de Villa Nova, most of which have already been edited and are relatively well known, we often come across texts and collections of recipes that are unknown or found only in only a few other manuscripts in the world. However, apart from a seminal paper by Didier Kahn published almost thirty years ago, little work has been done on the *Fondo Caprara*, mainly because very few manuscripts have been digitised and that the catalogue of the University Library of Bologna is incomplete and unreliable.

The main aim of my stay in Paris was to investigate possible links between some manuscripts in the *Fondo Caprara* and others in the BnF. Thanks to textual and codicological data, I was able to demonstrate that a number of manuscripts now in the BnF were copied by de Bosnay himself or by his collaborators. I also had the opportunity to exchange ideas with Flavio Bevacqua, a PhD student at the University of Paris IV-Sorbonne who is working on the Greek handwriting of de Bosnay. The results will be presented in an article that will provide scholars with new insights and tools for studying the *Fondo Caprara*. While in Paris I was also able to complete an article on the *Liber Mariae*, an unedited text on the philosophical stone ascribed to Mary the Jewess and transmitted by only three witnesses (including one in the *Fondo Caprara* and one in the BnF).

## Leonardo Anatrini

The research focused on the work of François Jollivet-Castelot (1874 - 1937), the most prolific French alchemist at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The founder of the French Alchemical Society and leader of the so-called Hyperchimie (Hyperchemistry) - the outcome of an occultist synthesis between alchemy and chemistry - Jollivet-Castelot developed an intriguing theory of matter in an endless mass of monographic and periodical publications issued between 1894 and 1937, accompanied by complex speculations of an esoteric nature and increasingly detailed accounts of laboratory practices aimed at the transmutation of metals.

I used my SHAC award for the retrieval of relevant primary sources. To this end, I spent the entire month of February in Paris, as the Bibliothèque nationale de France preserves copies of all the sources necessary for my research. Thus, I was able to consult and reproduce by personal means (without incurring further expense), over 6000 pages of sources including articles published in esoteric journals from the 1890s and 1930s (starting with those founded and edited by Jollivet-Castelot) and monographs. During my stay in Paris, I was also able to access the collections of other institutions where I retrieved other sources extremely useful for my purposes, in particular the University Library of Paris X-Nanterre and the archives of the Académie des Sciences. Similarly, by further researching Jollivet-Castelot's colleagues and collaborators during his early period of activity (1894-1901), I was able to find unpublished manuscript sources attributable to him kept in the Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon and the Swedish Royal Library in Stockholm.

## Sergei Zotov

The SHAC research award facilitated a comprehensive research trip to Cambridge, where I consulted a significant number of alchemical manuscripts. The primary locations for this research included the Cambridge University Library, Trinity College Library, Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, and St John's College Library. Unfortunately, my visit coincided with the closure of King's College and the unavailability of the Ripley Scroll at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Trinity College Library was particularly fruitful, offering access to a diverse collection of manuscripts (MSS O.2.16, O.2.18, O.4.39, O.5.31, O.8.1, O.8.24, O.8.25, O.8.32, R.14.14, R.2.96, R.14.44, R.16.26). These manuscripts encompassed a broad range of alchemical writings, including theoretical treatises, practical manuals, illustrative diagrams and allegorical illuminations. The diversity of these documents allowed for a comprehensive examination of English alchemical traditions and their evolution over time.

At the Cambridge University Library, I checked two crucial illustrated manuscripts: MSS Gg. i. 8 (Crowning of Nature) and Ff.2.23 (Ripleian miscellany). These manuscripts provided insight into early alchemical practices and texts, contributing significantly to my understanding of the historical context and the development of alchemical knowledge.

At the Parker Library (Corpus Christi), I consulted CCCC MS 395, a manuscript that stands out for its detailed illustrations and comprehensive coverage of alchemical, botanical, and medical processes. This document was particularly valuable for understanding the early visual and symbolic language of alchemy.

St John's College Library provided access to MS G.14. This manuscript is notable for its unique annotations and marginalia, providing insights into the personal interpretations and applications of alchemical knowledge by its historical users with its connection with the Reformation.

Despite the overall success of the trip, there were some challenges. My visit coincided with the closed period of King's College, preventing access to their collections. Additionally, the Fitzwilliam Museum could not provide access to the Ripley Scroll (Ms. 276) due to reasons beyond my control.

The success of this research trip was greatly aided by the assistance of several library workers:

Tuija Ainonen provided invaluable help in navigating the collections and accessing rare manuscripts. Adam Crothers, Frank Bowles and Maria Giovanna De Simone facilitated access to restricted materials and provided codicological support. Their dedication and expertise were instrumental in the successful consultation and documentation of approximately 20 alchemical manuscripts.

The SHAC research award has significantly advanced my research by enabling access to a wealth of alchemical manuscripts across several famous Cambridge libraries. The insights gained from these documents will contribute to a deeper understanding of the historical and practical aspects of alchemy. Despite minor setbacks, the trip was overwhelmingly productive, and the support received from library staff was crucial to its success. This award has thus provided a vital boost to my academic pursuits.

## Hannah Elmer

I received a Subject Development Award for work on fire and early modern European furnaces. The grant enabled me to take part in the workshop “Fire Arts, Pasts and Futures,” which was held at Texas A&M University, November 6-8, 2023. This three-day, hands-on research event explored the history and potential futures of artisanal technologies of fire through experimental reconstructions of historical techniques for metalwork, glasswork, ceramics, and alchemy. We focused on three main reconstructions: an early modern European furnace used for assaying metals, a pre-Columbian South American goldsmithing furnace, and an early modern European circular distillation apparatus. The collaborative work and the fruitful juxtaposition of techniques and contexts prompted questions not only about human engagement with the material world, but also fundamentally about conceptions and agencies of fire itself.

It became clear by the end that the research conducted at the workshop and the questions it inspired could and should be developed for publication; the resulting contributions will form the core of an upcoming special issue of *Ambix*, tentatively entitled “Fire Arts – Heat Technologies, Matter Theory, and Agency in the Premodern World,” to be co-edited by me and Tillmann Taape.

Prior to “Fire Arts, Pasts and Futures,” my research had focused on textual traditions in early modern European alchemy. Participation in the workshop has enabled me to develop my thinking around the materials and processes that are central to the texts I’ve examined. I’m currently developing an article with Thijs Hagendijk for the *Ambix* special issue. By focusing on furnaces as spaces of fire in several applied contexts (such as glass making, metallurgy, industrial and medical chymistry) through 16th/17th-century images, textual descriptions, and modern reconstruction, we seek to bring early modern European discursive and material/practical understandings of fire into conversation with each other, thus opening the dialogue with practices coming from global social-cultural contexts.

Also thanks to the Subject Development Award, I was able to present a draft of this piece at the SHAC Spring Meeting (Oxford, May 28-29, 2024), where we received constructive feedback.

The first phase of this project will culminate with the article and special issue, but I am planning for a second phase to produce a monograph-length study on premodern fire that will also consider the relationships between fire as element/principle and its role as agent of change in early modern European thought and practice, focusing on alchemical and medical contexts.

Some articles from the August Issue of *Ambix* are already online and the print issue will follow in due course. For more information visit <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/yamb20>

## Book reviews for *Ambix*

Book reviews are an important part of *Ambix* and of our scholarly community. Please feel free to contact book reviews editor Tillmann Taape ([tillmann.taape@cantab.net](mailto:tillmann.taape@cantab.net)) with any books that you would like to see reviewed, that you would like to review yourself, or simply to register your interest in reviewing books for *Ambix*, with a note of your preferred topic areas.

# Volume 71, Issue 2 (2024)

is now  
available  
online.

Article  
**Fragments of Alchemy from a Cairene Synagogue: Context, Codicology, and Contents of the Alchemical Corpus of the Cairo Genizah**

Gabriele Ferrario

Article  
**Translating Forbidden Authors: New Evidence on the Alchemical Library of Don Antonio de' Medici**

Stefano Mulas

Article  
**A Very "Distilled" Emblem in Baroque Rome: Natural Philosophy, Alchemy, and Atomism in the Academy of the Umoristi**

Maria Fiammetta Iovine

Article  
**Lavoisier and the History of Chemistry**

Marco Beretta

Book Review  
**The Three Deaths of Cerro de San Pedro: Four Centuries of Extractivism in a Small Mexican Mining Town**

By Daviken Studnicki-Gizbert. Pp. 324, illus., index. The University of North Carolina Press: Chapel Hill. 2022. £27.50. ISBN: 978-1-4696-7110-9.

Andrés Vélez-Posada

Book Review  
**The Varnish and the Glaze: Painting Splendor with Oil, 1100–1500**

By Marjolijn Bol. Pp. 336, illus., index. The University of Chicago Press: Chicago. 2023. £43.50. ISBN: 978-0-226-82036-1.

Cleo Nisse

Book Review  
**Molecular World: Making Modern Chemistry**

By Catherine M. Jackson. Pp. xii+444, illus., index. MIT Press: Cambridge, MA. 2023. £60.00 (paperback). ISBN: 978-0-262-54554-9.

David E. Lewis

Book Review  
**Atmospheric Chemistry: A Critical Voyage Through the History**

By Detlev Möller. Pp. xxii + 914, illus., index. De Gruyter: Berlin. 2022. £156.19 (hardback). ISBN: 978-3-11-073739-4.

Régis Briday

# Changing Colour – yellow dyes from antiquity to early modernity

Volume 71, Issue 1, 2024

Introduction  
**Changing Colour: Yellow Dyes from Antiquity to Early Modernity**

Marjolijn Bol, Matteo Martelli, Lucia Raggetti & Jennifer M. Rampling

Article  
**Is Gold Yellow? Plant Dyes and Gold-Making in the Ancient Chemical Arts**

Caterina Manco & Matteo Martelli

Article  
**Stolen Horses and Scented Garments: Vegetal and Mineral Yellow in Arabic Technical Literature**

Lucia Raggetti

Article  
**Citrination and its Discontents: Yellow as a Sign of Alchemical Change**

Jennifer M. Rampling

Article  
**Making Yellows Last with Nitric Acid: Exploring Colour Permanence in Art and Knowledge, 1600–1850**

Marjolijn Bol & Giacomo Montanari

Epilogue  
**The Historical Chemist**

Giacomo Montanari, Marianna Marchini & Lucia Maini

Book Review  
**Atoms, Corpuscles and Minima in the Renaissance**

Edited by Christoph Lüthy and Elena Nicoli. Pp. x + 322, illus., index. Brill: Leiden and Boston. 2023. (Medieval and Early Modern Philosophy and Science, vol. 36). £139.50. ISBN: 978-90-04-52891-8.

Antonio Clericuzio

Book Review  
**The Alchemy of Conquest: Science, Religion, and the Secrets of the New World**

By Ralph Bauer. Pp. 670, illus., index. University of Virginia Press: Charlottesville, VA. 2019. £65.50 (hardback), £32.50 (paperback). ISBN: 9780813942544

(hardback), 9780813942568 (paperback).

Jennifer M. Rampling

Book Review  
**Alchemy and Exemplary Poetry in Middle English Literature**

By Curtis Runstedler. Pp. xii+205, index. Springer/Palgrave Macmillan: Cham, Switzerland. 2023. £110.50. ISBN: 978-3-031-26605-8.

Joe Stadolnik

Book Review  
**The Gas Mask in Interwar Germany: Visions of Chemical Modernity**

By Peter Thompson. Pp. 328, illus., index. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. 2023. £107.00 (hardback). ISBN: 978-1-009-31482-4.

Alison McManus



# *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry*

## The Book on Alums and Salts of Pseudo-Rāzī: The Arabic and Hebrew Traditions

Gabriele Ferrario

The latest *Sources* is now available online through the following link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00026980.2023.2222505#d1e313>

If you have joined SHAC in 2024 after the issue of *Sources* was dispatched in May and would like a physical copy, please email [info@ambix.org](mailto:info@ambix.org) with your postal address.

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

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- 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, Dr. Karoliina Pulkkinen: [karoliina.pulkkinen@helsinki.fi](mailto:karoliina.pulkkinen@helsinki.fi)