

# CHEMICAL INTELLIGENCE

No. 11, May 2014

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

## Before the Summer

Last year was a landmark year for the history of alchemy and chemistry, and this year we are reaping the results.

As you know, our journal *Ambix* is now published four times a year; the annual *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry* accompany it free of charge for SHAC members. The first issue, the *Four Books of Pseudo-Democritus* edited by Matteo Martelli was warmly received by membership.

We are pleased to report that the Partington Prize has been awarded to Evan Hepler-Smith (Princeton) with an honorary mention bestowed upon Joel Klein (Indiana). Both essays are due to be published in future issues of *Ambix*.

This year SHAC is turning global, sponsoring four meetings in the UK, continental Europe and South America: the SHAC Post-

graduate Workshop in the Netherlands, the 'Crossing Oceans' conference in Brazil, 'The Alchemist and the Royal Typographer' meeting in Belgium and SHAC's annual general meeting in the UK.

Beyond SHAC, there have been some exciting conferences. This issue of *Chemical Intelligence* contains reports of events taking place over autumn, winter 2013 and spring 2014, including the annual Gordon Cain conference at the Chemical Heritage Foundation and the annual *Scientiae* conference in Vienna.

We are looking forward to other exciting meetings this summer and autumn: the annual meetings of BSHS, SPC, ESHS and HSS. We hope to bring you reports from as many of these meetings as possible in the November issue.



Besides the usual reports, this issue of *Chemical Intelligence* also introduces a special feature, which could become a constant fixture of the newsletter. We are reporting on the rare book collection of the Middle Temple library in London. We use this opportunity to encourage our readers to highlight places of interest or events that we may feature in future *Chemical Intelligences*.

Until next issue, have a wonderful (al)chemical summer!

Jo (Georgiana) Hedesan  
Editor

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SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY  
OF  
ALCHEMY AND CHEMISTRY



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## UPCOMING SHAC EVENTS

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### 5th SHAC Postgraduate Workshop, 'Geographies of Alchemy and Chemistry' - Call for Papers

*University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands*

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**Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 15 June 2014.**



For the first time, the annual postgraduate workshop of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) will take place outside the United Kingdom, at the University of Amsterdam. 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 2014, 'Geographies of Alchemy and Chemistry', seeks to explore how spatial context shaped the theory, practice and development of alchemy and chemistry. Spatial context may be construed as (but is not limited to) city, region, nation; centre or periphery; public or private space; site or architectural environment. It is further distinguished by practical, theoretical, national, political, religious, intellectual and cultural factors. The workshop will examine to what extent space and geography affected historical developments in alchemy and chemistry.

#### **Keynote Speakers:**

***Dr. Peter J. Forshaw, University of Amsterdam***

***Prof. Dr. Lissa Roberts, University of Twente***

We would like to invite papers (between 15 and 20 minutes) on topics related to the workshop theme in any historical period. Please submit an abstract (200 words) by email to the SHAC student representatives, Mike A. Zuber and Judith Mawer ([studentrep@ambix.org](mailto:studentrep@ambix.org)). The deadline for proposals is **15 June 2014**. Presenters should either be currently enrolled as postgraduate students or active as junior researchers (within three years of PhD completion).

Possible topics include but are by no means limited to:

- exemplary cases from specific geographical contexts;
- mobility in people, objects, ideas and practices;
- relations between centre and periphery;
- sites and locations of alchemy and chemistry.

The workshop is free of charge. Bursaries are available towards the cost of travel and/or accommodation for confirmed presenters in the first instance.

## UPCOMING SHAC EVENTS

### **'Crossing Oceans: Exchanges of Products, Instruments, and Procedures in the History of Chemistry and Related Sciences' Conference - Call for Papers** *São Paulo, Brazil*

<http://www.pucsp.br/pos/cesima/eventos/CESIMAAnnoXXen.html>

August

24-28

2014

#### **Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 15 June 2014.**

SHAC is delighted to announce that it will be co-sponsoring an international conference in Brazil this summer.

In 2014, CESIMA (Centre Simão Mathias of Studies in History of Science) celebrates its 20th anniversary. To mark the occasion, CESIMA will host an international conference, co-sponsored with SHAC and the Centre of Logic, Epistemology and History of Science, Unicamp, Campinas (CLE), with particular focus on the history of chemistry and related sciences. This conference also marks SHAC's first meeting in South America.

The organisers invite abstracts for papers that investigate exchanges of chemical knowledge – whether of theoretical concepts, practices, materials, instruments, or apparatus – from the early modern period to the present day. From the reception of alchemical theories of matter to the development of worldwide markets for chemical raw materials and products, we will ask how the science of material transformation was itself transformed through local, regional and global exchanges. Papers are welcomed on all aspects of the history of chemistry, broadly defined to include related topics in the history of medicine and interfacial sciences.

We also welcome papers that discuss the organisation, acquisition and nature of knowledge: from 'trees of knowledge' in Antiquity and the Middle Ages to attempts to classify the scientific disciplines that ground contemporary science, and new historical methodologies and search tools that offer resources to scholars – for instance, the use of concept mining to locate historical information on chemistry in databases.

#### **Conference Venue and Programme**

São Paulo is the largest city in Brazil, and well known by its vibrant multi-ethnic and multicultural life. The city is also known for its excellent food, markets, architecture and museums. Beautiful beaches are at about one-hour drive, the closest ones are at Santos, a major town and port, 50 miles away. Campinas and São Paulo are 60 miles apart. The conference participants will be transferred by bus, and thus will have a chance to watch the beautiful *Paulista* countryside.

The cultural programme includes: guided visit to a museum; evening concert; city tour; *cachaça* (Brazilian typical drink) tasting; and probably also a visit to a local chemical factory. The organisers will gladly provide further information to the participants who want to stay longer in São Paulo or visit other places in Brazil.

Confirmed SHAC speakers include Robert Anderson (Clare Hall, Cambridge), Hasok Chang (University of Cambridge) and Jennifer Rampling (Princeton University).

#### **Paper Submission**

Please submit abstracts until 15 June. Abstracts should be no longer than 250 words, and be accompanied by a short bio or resume (one page maximum). References should follow *Chicago Manual of Style* 15<sup>th</sup> edition. All papers will be assessed by the Scientific Committee. If the Scientific Committee decides not to accept a paper for oral presentation, it may offer the option of poster presentation. Submissions by postgraduate students will only be considered for poster sessions.

The language of the conference will be English. **Decisions will be communicated by 25 July.**

## SHAC-SPONSORED MEETINGS

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### **Oxford Seminar in the History of Alchemy and Chemistry**

*7-28 May, Maison Française, Oxford*

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May

28

2014

The Oxford Seminar in the History of Alchemy and Chemistry has been taking place each Wednesday, from 3-5pm at the Maison Française, 2-10 Norham Road. The final session is:

#### **28 May: Early Modern Alchemy**

**Chair: Howard Hotson (Oxford)**

**Anke Timmermann**, Cambridge, 'Alchemy, Images and Early Modern Cambridge'

**Georgiana Hedesan**, Oxford, 'Van Helmont on the Acquisition of the Medical Alchemical Arcana'

We will report on the holdings of this seminar in the Autumn issue of *Chemical Intelligence*.

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### **'The Alchemist and the Royal Typographer: John Dee and Willem Sylvius'** *Plantin Museum, Antwerp, Belgium*

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October

26

2014

January 2014 marks the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the most mysterious alchemical works ever published: John Dee's *Monas Hieroglyphica*. Dee composed and published this work whilst living in the house of the Royal Typographer, Willem Silvius, and the *Monas* includes a fulsome dedicatory letter to Silvius, which stresses his role in bringing the work to fruition. This colloquium will bring together specialists on John Dee and specialists on late sixteenth-century print culture and humanistic activities in Antwerp. The aim of the colloquium is to investigate the links between Antwerp's vibrant print culture and its relationship to alchemy and the occult philosophy in the late sixteenth century. The Plantin Museum has kindly offered the use of a lecture room in the museum, and has been very encouraging about the event, as in 2014 it will be promoting a series of exhibitions and events relating to the topic 'Antwerp: Print Capital of Europe'.

Provisional speakers include: **Stephen Clucas**, **Peter Forshaw**, **Guido Marnef**, **Manuel Mertens**, **Steven Vanden Broecke**, **Arjan Vandixhoorn**, **Jeroen Vandommele**.

Further information will be made available on the SHAC website in due course.

## SHAC-SPONSORED MEETINGS

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### **AD HOC History of Chemistry Reading Group** *Cambridge and London*

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AD HOC is a history of chemistry reading group with parallel series of meetings held in UCL and Cambridge, organised by Hasok Chang, Jenny Rampling, Chiara Ambrosio, Emma Tobin, Simon Werrett and Sophie Osiecki. While our main focus is on history, we also pay attention to philosophical, sociological, public and educational dimensions of chemistry. Over the past years our meetings have been attended by a variety of scholars, ranging from advanced undergraduates to teaching staff in both science studies and chemistry, and often attracting visitors from other parts of the UK and abroad. Travel bursaries are also available for student participants. For more information, including the programme and details of readings, visit our website, [www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc](http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/adhoc). To join the mailing list, please contact Sophie Osiecki at [adhochistory@gmail.com](mailto:adhochistory@gmail.com).

#### **AD HOC (Cambridge)**

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

Meetings are held on **Mondays, 5.00–6.30pm in Seminar Room 1**. It is open to everyone, but part III, MPhil and PhD students in the Department are especially welcome to attend this seminar. Readings will be announced and made available in time for each meeting.

**2 June—Melanie Keene, Homerton College, Cambridge** and **Salim Al-Gailani, HPS, Cambridge**, ‘Chemistry Education – Books and Objects’  
*in collaboration with the Whipple Museum and Whipple Library*

#### **AD HOC (London)**

*6pm–7.30pm (Mondays, monthly), University College London*

The next session of Ad Hoc London will be held on **9 June** in Foster Court, Room 235 on the property of stickiness.

The summer meetings will provisionally take place on 8 July and 11 August. More information will be available in due course from the Ad Hoc secretary.



## AMBIX

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### May Issue

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Ambix 61.2 (2014) will be a special issue on 'Sites of Chemistry in the Nineteenth-Century.' Guest-edited by Antonio García-Belmar (Valencia) and John Perkins (Oxford), it presents selected papers from the 2012 conference on this topic, organised as part of the project *Sites of Chemistry, 1600-2000*. Papers include:

**Antonio García-Belmar**, Introduction

**Christine Nawa**, 'A Refuge for Inorganic Chemistry: Bunsen's Heidelberg Laboratory'

**Anna Simmons**, 'Stills, Status, Stocks and Science: The Laboratories at Apothecaries' Hall in the Nineteenth Century'

**José Ramón Bertomeu-Sánchez**, 'Classrooms, Salons, Academies, and Courts: Mateu Orfila (1787–1853) and Nineteenth-Century French Toxicology'

The issue also includes:

**Didier Kahn**, 'Eloge: "Joachim Telle (1939-2013)"', by Didier Kahn, translated by William R. Newman.

**Nathalie Jas**, 'Chemicals and Environmental History' (Essay Review).

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### Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry

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Last year, SHAC launched a new series of monograph-length volumes: *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry: Sir Robert Mond Studies in Early Chemistry*. This series provides critical editions and English translations of some of the foundational texts in the history of alchemy and early chemistry. The series is named in honour of the Society's first and only President, Sir Robert Mond (1867–1938). The publication of this series has been made possible by the extremely generous support of Robert Temple, and is made available free of charge to all SHAC members.

The series is under the general editorship of Professor Lawrence M. Principe (Johns Hopkins University) and Dr Jennifer M. Rampling (Princeton University). The international editorial board is comprised of Professor Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute), Dr Michèle Mertens (Université de Liège) and Professor Cristina Viano (CNRS, Paris).

The *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry* relies on the work of an international group of scholars working to edit and translate early texts. This work is facilitated by a series of annual workshops, which bring together specialists in Greek, Coptic, Syriac, Arabic, Hebrew and Latin alchemy to share their expertise and critique one another's work. For a report on this year's workshop, see below under the Reports section.

The first monograph in the series has now been sent to our members with the first issue of *Ambix* 2014. It contains one of the earliest known chemical texts: the *Four Books of Pseudo-Democritus*, edited by Dr Matteo Martelli (Berlin), [http://maneypublishing.com/index.php/books/the\\_four\\_books\\_of\\_pseudo-democritus/](http://maneypublishing.com/index.php/books/the_four_books_of_pseudo-democritus/). Martelli has presented not only a fresh edition and translation of the surviving Greek fragments, but also, for the first time, additional materials preserved in Syriac. The volume also presented important examples of the medieval and early modern reception of these writings, including the dialogue of Synesius and Dioscorus – the most influential Byzantine commentary on the *Four Books* – and previously unpublished Latin translations of both the *Four Books* and Synesius' commentary made by Matthaëus Zuber in 1606. Accompanied by a full introduction and commentary, these sources offered new and significant insights into the world of ancient chemistry: practical recipes and lists of ingredients, clues to the doctrinal content of ancient alchemy, and early hints of a tradition that linked the alchemist 'Democritus' to the wisdom of Egypt and Persia.

**BOOKS RECEIVED FOR AMBIX REVIEW**

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**NOTE:** Appearance in this list does not guarantee review in a subsequent issue. Please note that some of these books have already been given for review. Anyone wishing to act as a reviewer of any of the books should contact *Ambix* reviews editor: José-Ramón Bertomeu-Sánchez ([bertomeu@uv.es](mailto:bertomeu@uv.es)).

**UCL Chemistry Department 1828-1914.** By ALWYN DAVIES and PETER GARRATT. Pp. 287, illus., index. Science Reviews 2000 Ltd: St Albans, Herts. 2013. ISBN: 978-1-900814-46-1.

**Faraday, Maxwell, and the Electromagnetic Field. How two men revolutionized Physics.** By NANCY FORBES and BASIL MAHON. Pp. 320, illus., index. Prometheus Books: New York. 2014. (\$ 25.95). ISBN: 978-1-61-61614-942-0.

**Salz: Weisses Gold oder Chemisches Prinzip? Zur Entwicklung des Salzbegriffs in der Frühen Neuzeit.** By JÜRGEN HOLLWEG. Pp. 102, illus., index. Peter Lang: Frankfurt. 2014. (€ 19.95). ISBN: 978-3-631-64865-0.

**Histoire de l'alchimie.** By BERNARD JOLY. Pp. 200, illus., index. Vuibert-Adapt: Paris. 2013. (€ 25). ISBN: 978-2-311-01248-4.

**Anglo-American Connections in Japanese Chemistry. The Lab as Contact Zone.** By YOSHIIYUKI KIKUCHI, illus., index. Palgrave: New York. 2013. ISBN: 978-0-230-11778-5.

**Determinació de pesos moleculars de gasos pel mètode de les densitats límit. Traducció, introducció i comentaris de Joaquim Sales i Agustí Nieto-Galan. Traducció, introducció i comentaris de Joaquim Sales i Agustí Nieto-Galan.** By ENRIC MOLES ORMELLA. Pp. 164, illus., index. Societat Catalana de Química: Barcelona. 2013. ISBN: 978-84-9965-170-5.

**Acid Rain and the Rise of the Environmental Chemist in Nineteenth-Century Britain. The Life and Work of Robert Angus Smith.** By PETER REED. Pp. 209, illus., index. Ashgate: Dorchester. 2014. (£ 70 ). ISBN: 9781409457756.

**Toxic Airs. Body, Place, Planet in Historical Perspective.** By JAMES RODGER, ANN JOHNSON, (EDS.). Pp. 284, illus., index. University of Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh. 2014. ISBN: 978-0-8229-6290-8.

**Creating Romanticism. Case studies in the Literature, Science and Medicine of the 1790s.** By SHARON RUSTON. Pp. 218, illus., index. Palgrave Macmillan: Houndmills. 2013. ISBN: 978-1-137-26428-2.

**The Bet. Paul Ehrlich, Julian Simon, and Our Gamble over Earth's Future Paul Ehrlich, Julian Simon, and Our Gamble over Earth's Future.** By PAUL SABIN. Pp. 304, illus., index. Yale University Press: London. 2013. (£ 18.99). ISBN: 978-0-300-17648-3.

**Biologics. A History of Agents Made From Living Organisms in the Twentieth Century.** Edited by ALEXANDER VON SCHWERIN, HEIKO STOFF, BETTINA WAHRIG, illus., index. Pickering & Chatto: London. 2013. ISBN: 978-1-848934-306.

**Pioneers of Quantum Chemistry.** Edited by E. THOMAS STROM and ANGELA K. WILSON. Pp. xi + 330, illus., index. American Chemical Society: Washington. 2013. ISBN: 978-8-9412-2716-3.

## SHAC PRIZES & AWARDS

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### Partington Prize

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The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry is delighted to announce that the 2014 Partington Prize has been awarded to **Evan Hepler-Smith (Princeton University)**, for his article “Just as the Structural Formula Does”: Names, Diagrams, and the Structure of Organic Chemistry at the 1892 Geneva Nomenclature Congress.’

SHAC is also pleased to announce that **Joel Klein (Indiana University)** has been highly commended for his essay, ‘Daniel Sennert, the Philosophical Hen, and the Epistolary Quest for a (Nearly -)Universal Medicine.’ Both essays will be published in the Society’s journal, *Ambix*.

The Partington Prize was established 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).

The Partington Prize and certificate of commendation will be presented at a ceremony at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, held this year from 6-9 November 2014 in Chicago. Further details will be available nearer the time.

**Congratulations to our winners!**

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### SHAC Award Scheme

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**Closing date for applications: 31 May 2014.**

SHAC invites applications for its award scheme from members for 2014. Two types of award are available: support for research into the history of chemistry or history of alchemy by **New Scholars** and support for **Subject Development** of either history of chemistry or history of alchemy.

The **New Scholars Award** is open to post-graduate students (both masters and doctoral students) and those who have obtained a PhD within five years of 1 January of the year in which the application is made. Awards of up to £1000 will be made to cover research expenses, including travel, accommodation, subsistence, the reproduction of documents, and library fees. Applications may also include the costs of reproducing images for publication. The scheme will not fund the purchase of equipment or course fees. In addition, post-graduate students only may apply for the costs of travel to conferences and accommodation, but only in order to give a paper. The scheme will not pay conference registration fees. **An activity report needs to be submitted at the end of the Award. This will be publicised in the *Chemical Intelligence* newsletter.**

**Subject Development Awards** of up to £1000 will be made to support activities including, but not limited to, seminars, workshops, colloquia, lecture series, conference sessions, conferences, exhibitions and outreach activities that support either the history of chemistry or history of alchemy as academic subjects.

**Please note that awards do not have to be held in the UK.**

Only members of the Society, both those in the UK and those overseas, may apply. Members must be in good standing at the time of making an application, and, if successful, throughout the period of an award. For more information, and an application form, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Dr Simon Werrett, [s.werrett@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.werrett@ucl.ac.uk). Membership enquiries should be made to the Hon. Membership Secretary, Dr Anna Simmons, [a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk).



## GRADUATE NETWORK

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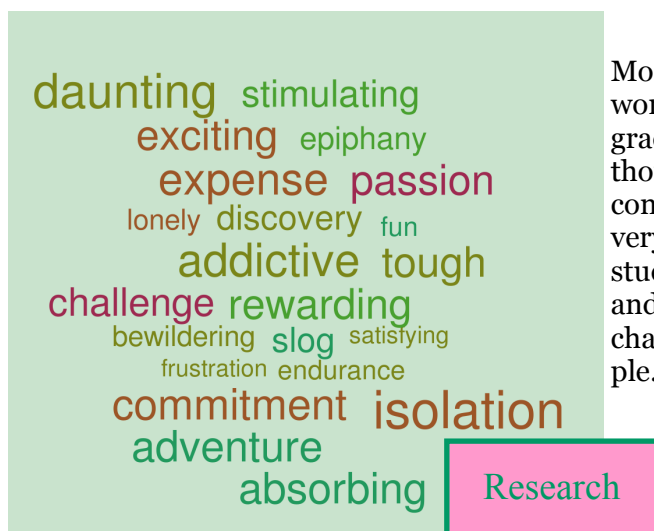
The SHAC Graduate Network aims to stimulate research into the history of alchemy and chemistry worldwide, by providing research training, grants and networking opportunities for postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers working in these fields. As part of this scheme, postgraduates and early 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. The 4th annual workshop took place on the 26 October 2013 in London. The upcoming annual workshop will for the first time be held outside of the UK, at the University of Amsterdam (the Netherlands). Please refer to the Call for Papers included in this issue of *Chemical Intelligence* for more information.

The current SHAC Student Representatives are **Mike Zuber**, International Student Representative and PhD candidate at University of Amsterdam ([intlstudentrep@ambix.org](mailto:intlstudentrep@ambix.org)) and **Judith Mawer**, UK Student Representative and PhD candidate at University of Exeter ([studentrepuk@ambix.org](mailto:studentrepuk@ambix.org)).

If you are a postgraduate student or junior researcher interested in the history of alchemy or chemistry, you are also invited to join our online Graduate Network group, which publicises announcements and hosts discussions related to the fields. Should you wish to join, please send an e-mail, mentioning your name, affiliation and brief interest, to: [shac\\_graduate\\_network-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:shac_graduate_network-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk). Please note that you do not need to be a member of SHAC to become part of the Graduate Network.

### An Invitation by the Student Reps

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Most students engaged in research will relate to these words as descriptors of and feelings generated by the graduate studies experience. Hopefully it's positive thoughts that prevail most days. Nonetheless, feeling connected to people on a similar journey can prove very helpful. The **SHAC Graduate Network** offers students the opportunity to present their work, offer and receive advice, share ideas and helpful tips, exchange news and communicate with like-minded people.

Judith Mawer and Mike Zuber, your SHAC student representatives, are keen to encourage opportunities for interactive communication between members of the Graduate Network and welcome your thoughts on how this might best be achieved. Options might include a members' blog, a Q&A section or a 'Did you know?' spot for interesting discoveries or useful hints and tips.

In the meantime, why not share the wisdom of your experience by emailing [studentrep@ambix.org](mailto:studentrep@ambix.org) with a short response to the statement: 'If I'd known then what I know now...'. Judith's wisdom, for instance, might be, 'If I'd known then what I know now I should have learned to use bibliographic software, such as EndNote, before, not after, I started my research'.

We look forward to hearing your ideas and insights. They are going to help us in supporting you and presenting your concerns to the SHAC Council.

## Graduate Network Showcase

### Hilde Norrgrén

*University of Oslo*



**Self-introduction:** I am a self-funded part-time PhD student in the Department of History of Ideas at Oslo University. I was first accepted in the PhD programme in 2005, but for family, health, and work reasons my work on the project was postponed until mid-2009. My working title is *The Problem of Proportions in Alchemy*. My research interests are mainly history of science, pre-modern scientific ideas, and alchemy. I have published articles on John Dee and his hieroglyphic monad, alchemy, and magic, and I devote part of my PhD dissertation to John Dee's ideas on proportions in alchemy. As a side project I have done research on the Norwegian 18<sup>th</sup> century missionary-priest and alchemist Hans Egede; some results of this research were presented at a past SHAC Postgraduate workshop. I am also developing an article based on my work on Egede.

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

As a self-funded part-time student with children the greatest challenge for me is combining research and writing with paid work and family life. Another challenge, arising both from my status as self-funded and from my research interests, has been a lack of contact with scholars with similar interests. I am grateful to have been granted several travel bursaries, which have been an invaluable support in both these matters, and also a grant from Professor Morgenstjerne's Fund.

### Agnieszka Rec

*Yale University*



**Self-introduction:** I am a PhD candidate in Medieval History at Yale University. My dissertation, tentatively titled 'Krakow's Alchemical Adepts: Jagiellonian University BJ 5465 and its readers,' studies a 15<sup>th</sup> century alchemical miscellany collected and read in the scholarly circles of the Krakow Academy. It provides a valuable litmus of the sort of material produced in a late medieval university setting, while extensive annotations allow us to assess how the codex was used by later readers. Although these readers are largely unidentifiable, a biography of the manuscript itself nonetheless provides access into these alchemical worlds.

I am also working on a project on the use of ciphers in medieval alchemical manuscripts, the preliminary results of which I presented in May at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI.

I am keenly interested in manuscript studies, and my research has taken me to libraries throughout Europe, supported in part by a Fulbright grant to Poland.

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

As I complete my dissertation, the greatest challenge I'm facing is the uncertainty of the job market. I very much enjoy the research I do and think that it's valuable for our understanding of medieval alchemy, but translating that into a professorship is no easy feat. SHAC has been tremendously helpful to that end, particularly for putting me in touch with a wide network of scholars, who are both knowledgeable and generous with their time and advice.

## OTHER MEETINGS

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### 4th Annual Meeting of the Social Studies of Science and Technology Network *Salamanca, Spain*

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June

04-06

2013

The encounter is aimed at anyone interested in doing research in social studies of science and technology, in any of the many disciplines this involves (history, sociology, history of science, philosophy of science, medicine, feminism, engineering, anthropology, psychology, environmental studies, law, gender research, etc.) irrespective of their academic position or level of training.

For more information and programme, see <http://redescts.wordpress.com/2014/04/30/4escts-programa-provisional-draft-programme/>

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### Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group Meetings, 'Chemistry as a Hobby' *Burlington House, London*

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June

19

2014

The programme of the meeting is the following:

1.50 **Dr John Hudson**, 'Welcome' and **Peter Reed**, 'Introduction'

2.00 **Dr Melanie Keene**, University of Cambridge, 'From Candles to Cabinets'

2.45 **Prof Frank James**, Royal Institution, 'Michael Faraday and the Chemical History of a Candle'

3.30 Tea

3.45 **Dr Salim Al-Gailani**, University of Cambridge, 'When Chemistry Sets became Toys'

4.30 **Rev Adrian McLaughlin**, Belfast, 'My Home Laboratories: One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six and Seven'

5.15 **Prof Alan Dronsfield**, 'Closing Remarks'

5.30 Conclusion of meeting

If you would like to register for this meeting please email the Historical Group Secretary, Prof John Nicholson ([john.nicholson@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:john.nicholson@smuc.ac.uk)).

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### 3rd Annual Robert Boyle Summer School *Lismore Co, Waterford, Ireland*

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July

3-6

2014

The main theme of this Summer School will be the relationship(s) between science and religion.

Speakers include: **Lawrence Principe** (Johns Hopkins Univ USA), **John Hedley Brooke** (former Professor of Science and Religion Oxford), **Terry Eagleton** (Professor of Cultural Theory NUI), **Lorraine Hanlon** (Astrophysics professor UCD), **Luke O'Neill** (Professor of Biochemistry TCD & RDS Boyle Medialist).

For more details and booking see [www.robertboyle.ie](http://www.robertboyle.ie).

## OTHER MEETINGS

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### **The British Society for the History of Science (BSHS) Annual Conference** *University of St Andrews*

<http://www.bshs.org.uk/conferences/annual-conference/2014-standrews>

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July

3-6

2014

The BSHS Annual Conference will take place at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

The Programme is now available on the BSHS website at <http://www.bshs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/BSHS14-Programme-Draft.pdf>.

Panels relevant to the study of alchemy and chemistry include:

#### **Nature Repurpos'd: Recycling Ideas, Images, Objects and Spaces in Early Modern Europe**

Organiser: *Jennifer Rampling*

Chair: *Anke Timmermann*

*Jennifer Rampling*, Princeton University, 'The adaptive adept: retooling medieval apparatus for early modern chymistry'

*Tillmann Taape*, University of Cambridge, 'A quintessential craft: Hieronymus Brunschwig's adaptation of learned alchemical concepts of distillation into artisanal medicine making'

*Bruce T. Moran*, University of Nevada, 'Preserving the cutting edge: woodblocks, visual knowledge, and recycling practices of botanical illustration in early modern Europe'

*Simon Werrett*, University College London, 'Making a home for science in early modern England'

#### **Natural Philosophy in Medieval and Early Modern Cambridge: A Reappraisal of Manuscript Culture and Knowledge Production**

Organiser: *Anna Marie Roos*

Chair: *Bruce Moran*

*Anna Marie Roos*, University of Lincoln/University of Oxford, 'Francis Willughby (1635–72): the chymical culture at Trinity College, Cambridge'

*Richard Serjeantson*, Trinity College, Cambridge, 'Natural philosophy in seventeenth-century Cambridge: a tale of three notebooks'

*Anke Timmermann*, Darwin College, Cambridge, 'Alchemy at Cambridge—A Collective Perspective'

## OTHER MEETINGS

### Jacob Böhme and His World

*Görlitzer Sammlungen für Geschichte und Kultur, Görlitz, Germany*

<http://www.moderna.uu.se/boehme2014/>

July

4-6

2014

#### 4 July

4:00-4:30 Conference Opening, Greeting

4:30-5:20 Keynote: **Ferdinand van Ingen**, University of Amsterdam, 'Jacob Böhme und seine Zeit'

5:20-6:10 **Bo Andersson**, Uppsala Universitet, 'Jacob Böhme's Philosophical Writing: A Rational Approach'

6:10-7:00 **Peter Forshaw**, University of Amsterdam, 'Opus Magnum Boehmianum: Alchemy in the Context of Böhme's Work'

#### 5 July

9:00-9:50 **Gerold Necker**, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, 'Divine Letters: Language as reflected in Kabbalistic Literature around 1600'

9:50-10:40 **Kristine Hannak**, Universität Tübingen, **Lucinda Martin**, Gotha Research Centre, Universität Erfurt, 'Jacob Böhme and the Crisis of Piety of his Time. Exemplified by Johann Arndt and Martin Moller'

10:40-11:00 Break

11:00-11:50 **Lutz Pannier**, Oberlausitzische Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, 'The Sciences of the Stars in Böhme's World'

12:00-2:00 Lunch and Pause

2:00-2:50 **Urs Leo Gantenbein**, Zürich Paracelsus Project, 'The Reception of the Paracelsian Theological Writings in Böhme's City and Region'

2:50-3:40 **Andrew Weeks**, Illinois State University, 'Jacob Böhme, Johannes Staricius, and The Transmission of Ideas'

4:00-6:00 Break and Pause

6:10-7:00 Keynote: **Leigh Penman**, University of Queensland, 'A Web of Heretics? A Sketch of Jacob Böhme's Networks in Görlitz, Upper Lusatia and Lower Silesia' ('Eine Ketzkerkabale? Jacob Böhmes Netzwerk der Kontakte in Görlitz, Oberlausitz und Schlesien')

7:00-7:50 **Ina Anders**, Oberlausitzische Bibliothek der Wissenschaften, 'Jacob Böhmes Görlitz'

#### 6 July

9:00-9:50 **Ariel Hessayon**, Goldsmiths London, 'Böhme and the English Philadelphians'

9:50-10:40 **Mike A. Zuber**, University of Amsterdam, 'Georg von Welling and Jacob Böhme's Theosophy'

10:40-11:30 **Scott Brown**, St. Louis, 'Jacob Böhme and the Image of the World'

11:30 Open-ended discussion of the conference results under the direction of **Wouter Hanegraaff**, University of Amsterdam

For information about the Böhme conference please contact either **Andrew Weeks** ([caweeks@ilstu.edu](mailto:caweeks@ilstu.edu)) or **Bo Andersson** ([bo.andersson@moderna.uu.se](mailto:bo.andersson@moderna.uu.se))



## OTHER MEETINGS

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### **International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry (ISPC) Annual Conference 2014**

*London School of Economics (LSE), London*

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/CPNSS/events/Conferences/ispc2014.aspx>

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July

07-09

2014

The Annual Conference of the International Society for the Philosophy of Chemistry will take place at the London School of Economics (Lakatos Building, LAK 2.06). The meeting will be jointly sponsored by ISPC and the Centre for Natural and Social Science (CPNSS) at LSE.

The conference will open with registration at 9 am on Monday 7 July and end at 12 noon on Wednesday 9 July. A light lunch will be available on the Monday and Tuesday at the Centre. A conference dinner will be held on the evening of Tuesday 8 July at a nearby restaurant. The conference fee will be £30, to be paid at registration.

For more information, please write to Rom Harré ([harre@juno.com](mailto:harre@juno.com)), President, ISPC or Roman Frigg ([r.p.frigg@lse.ac.uk](mailto:r.p.frigg@lse.ac.uk)), Director, CPNSS.

One of the approved sessions of this conference will be 'What Chemistry has brought to Philosophy: Philosophical and Historical Perspectives', taking place on Wednesday 9 July. Foreseen speakers include **Rom Harré** and **Jean-Pierre Llored**.

Most historical narratives about the socio-cultural impact of chemistry have been framed in the medical, industrial, or military contexts. However, a recent surge of interest in the philosophy of chemistry suggests that we can legitimately ask how chemistry has nourished philosophy over time. Indeed, Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent recently advocated that chemistry can be 'food for thought,' or in French 'matière à penser,' in her *Matière à penser: Essais d'histoire et de philosophie de la chimie* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de Paris 10, 2008). This emerging question is just the opposite to a more frequently asked question, namely the impact of philosophy on chemistry, and therefore merits fresh scholarly attention from both historians and philosophers.

This interdisciplinary session will address what chemistry has brought to philosophy by examining contemporary and historical cases through three overarching approaches: first, to examine how past and present chemistry helps elucidate important philosophical concepts (e.g. similarities, affordance, emergence); second, to analyse how chemical models and metaphors were historically used in part of philosophy (e.g. psychology in the first half of the nineteenth century); and third, to bring a new analytical tool pertaining to chemistry (know-how/know-that) into the history and philosophy of science. The commentator will then provide connections between philosophical and historical approaches to this question. In the process, we aim to facilitate discussion between historians and philosophers.

For more details on the session, please contact Brigitte Van Tiggelen at [van-tiggelen@memosciences.be](mailto:van-tiggelen@memosciences.be).

## OTHER MEETINGS

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### ICOHTEC Symposium

*Brasov, Romania*

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July–August

29 – 02

2014

The 41st ICOHTEC Symposium will be held in Brasov, Romania at the turn of July and August. The main theme of the meeting will be ‘Technology in Times of Transition’. The aim is to examine major breaks and turning points in technological development with the following conversion periods in a multidisciplinary framework. The general theme is tailored for the site, while the intention is to examine flexibility of technology to adjust to major societal transitions in the past and present. Times of transition refer to rapid and even revolutionary phases of history when major societal structures changed and nations had to bend to new conditions. Industrial revolutions of the 18th and 19th century, restructuring the economies during and after World War I, depression of the 1930s, post-war period of reshuffle and economic growth and collapse of the Soviet regime in the 1990s are examples of times of transition. In addition, the idea of the symposium is to promote dialogues between East and West as well as North and South and – if possible – also to compare experiences of various countries in the similar circumstances.

For any other information please contact the chair of the programme committee, Slawomir Lotysz at [s.lotysz@gmail.com](mailto:s.lotysz@gmail.com)

The provisional programme is available at: <http://www.icohtec.org/brasov2014/scientific-programme/>

Chemistry will be represented in several panels, particularly:

#### **W3E ‘Chemistry for a Better World’**

Location: UII3

Organiser: PC

Chair: TBA

1. ‘A. I. Virtanen's AIV method - a Technological System that Thrived in Bad Times but Struggled in Good’

***Dr. Jarmo Pulkkinen***

2. ‘New Materials for Promoting New Life Styles’

***Prof Maria Elvira Callapez***

***Ph.D. candidate Susana França de Sá***

3. ‘Polyurethane: the Fame and Decay’

***PhD candidate Susana França de Sá***

***Prof Maria Elvira Callapez***

***Researcher Joana Lia Ferreira***

***Prof Rita Macedo***

***Prof Ana Maria Ramos***

4. ‘Chemical Products in the Collection of the k. k. Consular-Academy Vienna’

***Dr. Susanne Gruber***

## OTHER MEETINGS

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### 9th Meeting of STEP (Science and Technology in the European Periphery)

*Lisbon, Portugal*

<http://step2014.ciuhct.com/>

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September

1-3

2014

STEP meetings have always sought to strike a balance between historiographical reflections, which help develop a broader comparative analysis, and case-studies examining different national and regional contexts. We will follow both approaches at the 9th meeting. STEP has several established research groups:

- Cross-National, Comparative and Transnational History of STM;
- Experts in the Periphery;
- Material Culture of Science: Museums and Collections in the Periphery;
- Popularization of Science and Technology: Centres and Peripheries;
- Science and the Press;
- Universities in the Periphery;
- Women in Science, Women in the 'Periphery';
- Science and Medicine.

The following sessions have been approved:

- Science and Technical Education. The Role of Scientists in the Training of Non-Academic Professional Groups
- Urban Peripheries? Science in “Second Cities” Around 1900
- Amateur Astronomy as Circulation of Knowledge
- Centres and Peripheries in the Changing Understanding of Pellagra, 1850-1915
- Planning for Peasants: Ideologies of Agronomic Science Compared
- Addressing the Dynamics of Museums
- Science and Religion in the Periphery. A Missing Historiography?
- Problematizing Transnationalism: Center/Periphery Relations in International Environmental Science Programs, 1945-2002
- Living the Babel: Dealing With Scientific Multilingualism in the European Periphery
- Scientific Concepts in the European Periphery
- Peripheral Mobilities, a Viable Concept?
- Experts in the Periphery: Governing Techno-Sciences and Societies from the 19th to the 21st Centuries
- Life at the Centre: Is Scientific Biography the Next Step?
- Medicine and Public Health – Networks in Colonial Spaces

For any other information please contact the local secretary Fátima de Haan ([occoe@occoe.pt](mailto:occoe@occoe.pt)).

## OTHER MEETINGS

### 6th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, 'Communicating Science, Technology and Medicine'

*Lisbon, Portugal*

<http://eshs2014.ciuhct.com/>

September

4-6

2014

Communicating science, technology and medicine has always been central to the scientific and technological enterprise, but across ages and spaces agents, audiences, means, aims and agendas behind this complex process have varied considerably. The interpretations put forward by historians of science, technology and medicine have also changed considerably. Historians have been compelled recently to move away from former historiographical categories opposing creative producers to passive recipients and consumers, and contrasting the production of knowledge with its transmission. The vertical model of diffusion has been superseded by a horizontal conception of circulation and appropriation of science, technology and medicine, which gives voice to various actors and to their different, often contradictory, agendas. Within this framework, science, technology and medicine are envisaged as active forms of communication, to such an extent as ultimately blurring the distinction between the making and the communicating of science, technology and medicine.

The following sessions have been approved:

- Priority Claims in the Published Record: The Role of Periodicals in Scientific Disputes, 1800-1900
- Science in Film and the Deficit Model
- Beyond the Academy: Histories of Gender and Knowledge
- From École Polytechnique to Secondary Education: Circulation Of Knowledge on Descriptive Geometry and Its Teaching
- 1964–2014. Hommage to Alexandre Koyré. Hypotheses, Perspectives & Popularization within History Of Science
- Networks of Natural Knowledge: Scientific Exchange in Britain's Maritime World c.1750-1850
- Nature at a Glance: The Contribution of Portuguese Expeditions to a Scientific Approach of Nature
- Translating Science
- Rethinking Modes of Teaching and Transmitting Knowledge: A Historical Perspective in East and West
- The Servant of Two Masters: Botanists between Lay and Professional Audiences
- The Farm, the Landscape and the Laboratory: Circulating Knowledge in The Atomic Age
- Speaking through Objects: The Shaping of Scientific Knowledge
- Religions as a Means for/against Communicating Sciences: Orthodoxy, Catholicism, and Reformation
- Communicating Conceptual Changes in the Physical Sciences
- Hypnotism and the Circulation of Knowledge in Western Europe, 1880-1914
- Mapping, Illustrating, Designing: Communication Strategies to Empower Researchers, Clinicians and Patients
- East-West Transnational Vectors at Work in European Experimental Sciences
- From Periodicals to Websites: Amateur Communication of Science and the Making of Collective Identities (18th-20th C.)
- Translating How To
- Trans-Cultural and Trans-National Communication of Science and Technology - The Exchange of

## OTHER MEETINGS

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### 6th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, 'Communicating Science, Technology and Medicine' Lisbon, Portugal

<http://eshs2014.ciuhct.com/>

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#### (continued)

Science and Technology between Europe And China in 17th and 18th Century

- History of Cartography: Charts, Maps and Globes in Early Modern Europe
- Iberian Science in Context and its Networks of Circulation
- Skull and Stones Meet Scoops and Scams. The Construction of Prehistoric Knowledge in Newspapers
- Cultures of Prediction: The Challenge of Computer Simulation in and for the History of Science
- Local Supply of Scientific and Technical Education
- Scientific Practice in Amateur Research, c. 1850–1914: A Study across Disciplines
- Mathematical Correspondences and Critical Editions
- Mathematical Specialization, Editorial Strategies and Audiences of 18th to 20th-Century Periodicals
- Communicating Health: Medical Risk Factors in Public Debates
- Aspects of Cooperation between Portuguese and Spanish Scientists in the Mathematical and Physical Sciences
- Science For Children
- 'The Beauty Fallacy': Religious and Scientific Aesthetics in Popular Science
- Imperial Geographies, Colonial Observatories, and the Circulation of Knowledge
- The Cure and Culture of Minds: Early Modern Pedagogies of Science and Medicine
- History of Science for Science Education
- Circulation and Communication of the Chemical Knowledge in the Greek-Speaking Communities from Antiquity to the 17th Century
- 1644–2014 370th Anniversary of Torricelli's *Opera Geometrica*
- Scientific Sociabilities: Beyond the 'Republic of Sciences'
- Reuniting Histories: The Humanities, Sciences and Arts
- Spaces and Modes of Communication: Popularization Scientific Concepts within History of Science, Education and Society
- Mixed Mathematics, Missed Mathematics: Mathematical Instruments, Multiple Mathematical Traditions and Misunderstanding in Early Modern Europe
- The Visual Culture of Medicine
- 'Provincial' Universities, Science and Scholarship in the Habsburg Monarchy – Regional Education Centres or Periphery of State Education?
- Pauling's *Nature of the Chemical Bond* in Post WWII Chemical Curricula: Europe and Beyond
- Medicine, Empire and Public Health (19th and 20th Centuries): Networks in Metropolitan and Colonial Spaces
- Science and Satire: Science, Technology and Medicine in the 19th Century Satirical Press

For any other information please contact the local secretary Fátima de Haan ([occoe@occoe.pt](mailto:occoe@occoe.pt)).



## OTHER MEETINGS

**6th International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science, 'Communicating Science, Technology and Medicine' - Panels***Lisbon, Portugal*

September

4-6

2014

**Pauling's Nature of Chemical Bond in Post-WWII Chemical Curricula: Europe and Beyond****Session organized by the Working Party on the History of Chemistry, EuCheMS, and co-sponsored by the Commission for the History of Modern Chemistry**

The American chemist Linus Pauling began investigating the forces that held together atoms to form molecules using quantum physics in a series of articles published between 1931 and 1933. His quantum mechanical approach was further developed and later disseminated through his ground-breaking textbook *The Nature of the Chemical Bond* published in 1939, soon to be followed by a second revised edition in 1940. Considered a milestone in theoretical chemistry in the late 1940s already, its circulation in Europe was however hindered by World War II and the subsequent partition of the Old Continent in two blocks that added to the natural inertia of scientific curriculum to novelty. As a consequence, in some places it could take a generation before the implications of this new approach was fully incorporated into the scientific and teaching communities.

This session aspires to explore how the appropriation developed, and how local cultures of chemistry and indigenous teaching policies and traditions adapted the main principles of Pauling's quantum approach to chemical bond to their chemistry curricula at the higher education level, including continuing education. The contributions explore different aspects of the incorporation of Pauling's ideas, among other things the circumstances of the translation and the use in textbooks and teaching of the *The Nature of the Chemical Bond*, and the *General Chemistry*, as well and studies of the impact of personal contacts.

Papers will be kept short as to allow ample time for the commentators to comment on the different case studies and trigger an open discussion.

Organisers : Brigitte Van Tiggelen (Chemical Heritage Foundation / Mémosciences and Université catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-neuve), Danielle Fauque (GHDSO University Paris Sud, and Club d'histoire de la chimie, SCF, Paris), Gisela Boeck (Institut für Chemie, Universität Rostock, Rostock), Annette Lykknes (Programme for Teacher Education (PLU), Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim)

Chair: **Danielle Fauque**

**Pierre Laszlo**, 'The Initial Reception in France of *The Nature of The Chemical Bond*'

**Gisela Boeck**, 'The Nature of The Chemical Bond and its Reception in the Chemical Education in the GDR'

**Marco Taddia**, 'Footnotes to the First Italian Translation of Pauling: a Curious History'

**G.M. Silva, L. Degrève, F.C.F.F. Sousa**, 'Impact of Linus Pauling's Ideas on the Activity of the Brazilian Professor Ricardo Ferreira'

Commentators : **Ana Simoes** and **Kostas Gavroglu**

## OTHER MEETINGS

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**XII Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Historia de las Ciencias y de las Técnicas, III Encuentro Internacional Europeo-Americano (12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Spanish Society for the History of Science and Technology and 3<sup>rd</sup> International European-American Meeting)**  
*Almadén, Spain*

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September

9-12

2014

**Subject Areas:**

1. Science and Heritage: documents, instruments and buildings.
- 2 Exchange and Circulation of Science and Technology between Spain and Latin America.
3. Industrial Heritage and Regional Development.
4. History of Sciences.
5. Industrialization, commemorations and anniversaries.
6. Free themes.

For more information, please refer to: <https://sites.google.com/site/sehcyt2012/noticias/entradasintitulo>

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**14<sup>o</sup> Seminário Nacional de História da Ciência e da Tecnologia/14th National Seminar of History of Science and Technology**  
*Belo Horizonte, Brazil*

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October

8-11

2014

The SBHC - Brazilian Society for the History of Science will hold the 14th National Seminar on the History of Science and Technology in the city of Belo Horizonte, in Pampulha Campus of the Federal University of Minas Gerais. Since 1986, this meeting is the most important national event in History of Science. The main activities planned are: conferences, round tables, thematic symposia, short courses, book presentations and cultural events.

<http://www.14snhct.sbhc.org.br/site/capa>

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**Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group Meetings, 'Chemistry and World War I'**  
*Burlington House, London*

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October

22

2014

The Historical Group of the Royal Society of Chemistry is organising a meeting on the role of chemistry in World War One as part of the commemorations to mark the 100th Anniversary of the start of the conflict. The meeting will cover a broad canvas both in terms of topics (developments in industrial chemistry, explosives, chemical warfare agents—poison gases and protection from them— and medicine) and the various nations involved in the war. Besides speakers from the UK, the Historical Group is planning to invite several speakers from abroad so the meeting provides a wider perspective than just the British response to the war. It is hoped to stream the meeting live to the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre in Widnes.

Further details and the meeting programme will be available from the Historical Group Secretary, Professor John Nicholson ([john.nicholson@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:john.nicholson@smuc.ac.uk)) from July.

## OTHER MEETINGS

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### 2014 History of Science Society Meeting

Chicago, USA

<http://www.hssonline.org/Meeting/index.html>

November

6-9

2014

The 2014 History of Science Society meeting will be held on 6-9 November 2014 at the Westin Michigan Avenue Hotel on the Miracle Mile in Chicago, IL. The meeting will be held jointly with the Philosophy of Science Association.

Submissions for the 2014 HSS meeting are now closed. HSS expects to make notifications regarding acceptance in June. If you have not heard anything about your proposal by 1 July, please contact the HSS Executive Office at [info@hssonline.org](mailto:info@hssonline.org).

For the second year, the HSS will have grants for dependent care (up to \$200) available, with preference given to those who appear on the program. HSS will also have a limited number of travel grants available for scholars outside the U.S. who are ineligible for the NSF-funded travel grants. Information about these grants and the NSF travel grants will appear on the website after the preliminary program has been posted. Online registration will begin in July 2014.

**The Forum for the History of the Chemical Sciences (FoHCS)** is an interest group of the HSS, representing scholars interested in all aspects of the history of chemistry. FoHCS plans a range of events at this year's HSS Meeting in Chicago. The Forum will hold its first distinguished lecture, to be given by Professor Hasok Chang (University of Cambridge), and has also proposed a joint session on chemistry and philosophy, co-sponsored by the Commission for the History of Modern Chemistry. The Forum's main session focuses on early alchemy and chemistry:

#### **The Alchemy of the Unexpected: Interpreting Alchemical Sources from Antiquity to the Seventeenth Century**

**Eduardo Escobar**, University of California, Berkeley, 'Technical Knowledge and Epistemic Values in Ancient Assyrian Procedure Texts'

**Matteo Martelli**, Humboldt University of Berlin, 'How to Read the First Books on Alchemy? Hellenistic and Late-Antique Interpretations of Treatises Ascribed to Angels and Persian Magicians'

**Tuna Artun**, Rutgers University, 'A Gift to the Sons of Rum: Turkish Alchemical Poems of the Seventeenth Century'

**Donna Bilak**, Columbia University, 'The Alchemical Emblem Book and Early Modern Game Theory: *Atalanta fugiens* (1618)'

Commentary: **Jennifer Rampling**, Princeton University

### 10 ICHC

Aveiro, Portugal

September

9-13

2015

The next International Conference organised by the Working Party for the History of Chemistry (EuCheMS) will take place in Aveiro (Portugal) in September 2015. The 10ICHC will start on Wednesday 9 September with the traditional welcome reception, and close on Saturday 12 September late afternoon, leaving Sunday 13 September for an excursion. The conference will be hosted by Isabel Malaquias as Chair of the Local Organising Committee, while Peter Morris has agreed to act as the Chair of the Programme Committee.

Call for papers and other information will start circulating in autumn 2014.

## OTHER CALLS FOR PAPERS

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### **The International Workshop on the History of Chemistry 2015: ‘Transformations of Chemistry from the 1920s to the 1960s’**

*Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan*

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March

02-04

2015

**Deadline for Submission of Abstracts: 30 May 2014.**

The years between the 1920s and the 1960s saw a transformation of chemistry in several aspects. These included the development of biochemistry, polymer chemistry, quantum chemistry, and computational chemistry, as well as the instrumental revolution. New methods, theories, and technologies opened up new fields of chemical sciences, and the chemical industry grew to be one of the most important branches of industry that supported national economies. Chemistry was greatly influenced by World War II and the Cold War, when it was directed especially to military and security needs, while the public image of chemistry also changed, due largely to the environmental problems caused by synthetic chemical materials.

These years also saw developments in Japanese chemistry. The first generation of Japanese chemists started their research in the early 20th century. Born and educated after the Meiji Restoration, the starting point of Japan's full-fledged modernization, some of them founded a research strategy that aimed to study the structure of components of Japan's local natural products using methods newly developed in Europe, in order to compete with chemists in the West. However, after several decades, the accomplishments of seven Japanese Nobel laureates in chemistry became not fundamentally different from those of their Western counterparts. Their researches, performed mostly from the 1950s to the 1970s, developed new methods and theories and opened new fields. Clearly, there must have been a transformation of chemistry research in Japan between the 1920s and the 1960s as well.

The aim of the workshop ‘Transformation of Chemistry from the 1920s to the 1960s’ is to stimulate a discussion of the transformation of chemistry in Japan and/or in the world during the period with comparative perspectives. The workshop may take an interdisciplinary approach and pay special attention to the social dimension of chemistry.

This subject has only recently started to be discussed and even then it has only been considered intermittently. This workshop attempts to bring those interested in the history of chemistry in the 20th century together for dialogue and debate from various perspectives. It will comprise thematic four keynote lectures, sessions with papers and commentaries, and a concluding general discussion.

#### **Keynote speakers:**

Professor Jeffrey Johnson, Villanova University, USA

Professor Mary Jo Nye, Oregon State University, USA

Professor Ernst Homburg, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

With an introductory lecture on the theme and on the Japanese Society for the History of Chemistry by its president, Professor Yasu Furukawa, Nihon University, Japan

#### **The workshop organising committee invites proposals for papers on the following themes, though other topics within the broad framework of the conference are also encouraged:**

Emergence of polymer chemistry, quantum chemistry, and computational chemistry

Biochemistry and the origins of molecular biology

Instrumental revolution in chemistry

Development of chemical engineering

Changes in the chemical industry

Chemistry and the environment

Chemistry and World War II

Chemistry and the Cold War

## OTHER CALLS FOR PAPERS

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International communication in chemistry  
Chemical heritages

Abstracts of less than 400 words should be submitted no later than **30 May 2014** by posting through the submission form on the workshop website <http://kagakushi.org/iwhc2015>. General inquiries should be sent through the contact form on the same website. The format of the conference will not allow for more than about 20 papers. Applicants will be notified if their papers have been accepted or not by 1 July 2014.

Full versions of papers are due to be submitted for commentators by 16 December 2014. Papers should be no more than 7,000 words in length. They will be made available only to registered participants in the workshop via a restricted section of the website before the workshop.

The registration fee will be 10,000 JPY, conference dinner 8,000 JPY, and excursion optional. It will be possible to obtain limited economic support for travel expenses of paper presenters from abroad. Please indicate in the application if such support is required for attendance and what level of support will be needed. More information will be announced later.

Workshop venue: Tokyo Institute of Technology (2-12-1 Ookayama, Meguro-ku, Tokyo 152-8552). The workshop will be two full days, from morning to late afternoon 3-4 March 2015. The late afternoon/evening of 2 March is reserved for registration, reception, and possibly one keynote lecture. The workshop language will be English (with simultaneous Japanese translation).

It is possible to apply for participation (to attend) without giving a paper. The deadline for such applications is 1 December 2014. Selected papers from the conference will be considered for publication.

The workshop is organised by the Japanese Society for the History of Chemistry (JSHC) with support from the History of Science Society of Japan and the Chemical Society of Japan. The workshop will be held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the foundation of JSHC. The Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC) will be co-sponsor of the workshop. The workshop is supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) KAKENHI Grant Number 24300295.

### Organizing Committee:

Masanori Kaji (chair), Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan  
Keiko Kawashima, Nagoya Institute of Technology, Japan  
Yoshiyuki Kikuchi, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), Japan  
Toshiya Kohno, University of the Sacred Heart, Japan  
Yasu Furukawa, Nihon University, Japan  
Makoto Ohno, Aichi Prefectural University, Japan  
Hiroaki Tanaka, Tokyo Denki University, Japan  
Togo Tsukahara, Kobe University, Japan  
Masao Uchida, Wako University, Japan  
Toshifumi Yatsumimi, Aoyama Gakuin Women's Junior College  
Hideyuki Yoshimoto, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies  
Jeffrey Johnson (ex officio), Villanova University, USA

### Program Committee:

Yasu Furukawa (chair), Nihon University, Japan  
Jeremiah James, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Germany  
Jeffrey Johnson, Villanova University, USA  
Masanori Kaji, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan  
Yoshiyuki Kikuchi, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI), Japan  
Peter Morris, Science Museum, UK  
Carsten Reinhardt, Chemical Heritage Foundation, USA  
Brigitte Van Tiggelen, Mémosciences, Belgium



## OTHER NEWS, EVENTS & GRANTS

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### News from the Chemical Heritage Foundation

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CHF's Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry received a **record number of fellowship applications for the 2014-2015 academic year**. 90 scholars from the US, UK, India, Italy, Germany, Spain, France, China, Canada, Greece, Russia, Finland, Belgium, Mexico, and Norway applied. Look for the new list of Beckman Center Fellows in the next issue of *Chemical Intelligence*.

The CHF is excited to announce the launch of a **new research group on the history of matter, materials, and culture**. The group, operating out of the institution's Institute for Research, will conduct original research into topics such as the materials and material culture of the laboratory, the scientification of culture in materials research, and the life of materials outside of the laboratory. The work will draw on and extend the vast resources in CHF's collections holdings and the institution's unique capabilities for integrating this work into physical, digital, and live media public outreach. The group will begin its work in the Fall of 2014 and last for at least the next three years. For inquiries, contact Jody Roberts, Director of the Institute for Research, at [jroberts@chemheritage.org](mailto:jroberts@chemheritage.org).

On 17 April, the Beckman Center hosted a public lecture by **Alex Csiszar** titled 'The Invention of Peer Review'. The lecture was a part of the 'Fellow in Focus' lecture series, a semi-annual series that highlights the work of CHF's fellows. Csiszar discussed the origins of peer review and the ways in which systems of refereeing have changed over time, helping to demonstrate that current concerns over possible changes to peer review as the supposed linchpin of modern science tend to be rooted in myths about the history and significance of peer review.

**Angela N. H. Creager** will give the first Beckman Center Synthesis Lecture, 'Atomic Tracings: Radioisotopes in Science and Medicine', on 29 May. The talk will juxtapose postwar developments in biochemistry, nuclear medicine, and ecology that grew out of a new supply of radioisotopes. In each of these areas one can see how governmental policy and infrastructure integral to the Cold War decisively shaped scientific opportunities and knowledge. Routine practices of radiolabeling and radio-tracing remained in place long after the positive political valence of radioisotopes dimmed in the 1960s and 1970s, in the wake of the debates over radioactive contamination of the environment from atomic-weapons tests and nuclear waste.

### CHF Travel Fellowships

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

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

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

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

Travel grant applications must be submitted electronically, as Word or PDF files, to: [travel-grants@chemheritage.org](mailto:travel-grants@chemheritage.org).

## OTHER NEWS, EVENTS & GRANTS

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### Obituary: Joachim Telle (1939-2013)

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Paracelsus's works, alchemical poetry and the intersections between alchemy and medicine in German manuscripts: pioneering and interdisciplinary work on these themes constituted the life and work of Prof Joachim Telle. Telle passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in December 2013, concluding an unprecedented career that shaped the history of alchemy.

Joachim Telle's academic beginnings in the field were both accidental and serendipitous. A student of Germanic and Slavonic studies, philosophy and history at Heidelberg he developed his interest in *Fachliteratur* under the mentorship of Gerhard Eis, the early expert on German medieval scientific literature. Following a PhD on Petrus Hispanus (1972) Telle specialised in early modern medicine, pharmacy, alchemy, astronomy/astrology and related areas, managing this vast interdisciplinary field through targeted, textual approaches, in the institutional setting of Heidelberg's Germanic Department.

It was also in Heidelberg that Joachim Telle's collaborations with colleague Wilhelm Kühlmann flourished, culminating in the *Corpus Paracelsisticum* (2001, 2004 and 2013), a substantial and ground-breaking collection of critically-edited texts related to 'the instigators, addressees, opponents and sympathizers of the Paracelsian reform and protest movement' (ref. <http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/159864>). Other major publications of Telle's on Paracelsus and Paracelsianism include the *Parerga Paracelsica* (1991) and *Analecta Paracelsica* (1994), a study of the Paracelsus reception and his oeuvre's afterlives. This meticulous, source-based engagement with Paracelsus' original and pseudonymous works has shaped the field of Paracelsus studies on an international level.

Critical editions were always at the centre of Joachim Telle's engagement with historical sources. Indeed, Telle's numerous articles (close to seventy can be counted on his official bibliography, ref. <http://portal.uni-freiburg.de/ndl/personen/Honorarprofessoren/telle/publikationen>) often engaged with previously unrecognised texts. It is through this focus that his interest in alchemical poetry developed, a genre previously dismissed as literary (and non-scientific) in scholarship, now restored to its rightful place as an integral part of the history of science. For the re-publication of his articles on alchemical poetry, *Alchemie und Poesie* (2 vols., 2013), Telle amended and supplemented the articles as necessary, and added insights to his own work of previous decades with his characteristic thoroughness.

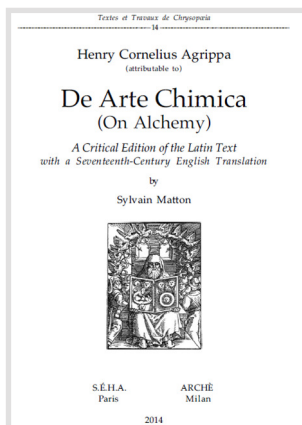
His meticulousness and critical, razor-sharp scholarly mind marked not only Telle's own research but also his mentorship. He admitted me to his weekly graduate research seminar at Heidelberg while I was still an undergraduate, provided that I do original research and repay his trust with knowledge. This Wednesday seminar brought together colleagues, former students and PhD candidates to discuss work-in-progress and recent developments in the history of alchemy, medicine and pharmacy. His unflinching commitment to sending off-prints of his most recent works to former students knit this group of researchers together across time and international borders: where German institutions failed to provide networks for historians of science, Joachim Telle's generosity and uncompromising insistence on high-quality source work created a group of researchers who define large parts of the field today.

Some of the research Joachim Telle's work fostered in his Heidelberg circle will be published this year in a *Festschrift*, now 'Gedenkschrift', originally planned for his 75th birthday. Telle knew this book was in preparation, and was silently delighted by this living legacy. Unfortunately he did not live to see its publication. It is with much sadness that we note the passing away of this eminent scholar, who closed his fountain pen forever in December 2013.

**Anke Timmermann (University of Cambridge)**

## OTHER NEWS, EVENTS & GRANTS

### New Publications



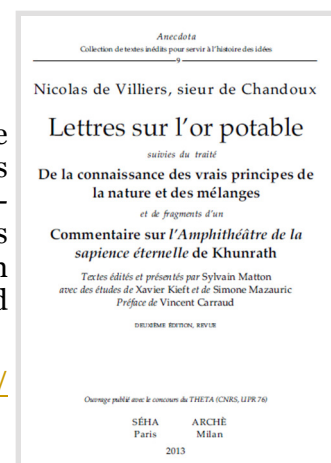
We signal the publication of an important alchemical text, 'De arte chimica', under the editorship of Prof Sylvain Matton. The book is appearing in the series 'Texts et Travaux de *Chrysopoeia*' published by SEHA Paris and Arché Milan. 'De arte chimica' has long been attributed to Florentine philosopher Marsilio Ficino (1433-1499) but Prof Matton argues persuasively that it is in fact a work authored by Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa (1486-1535).

You can purchase this book at

<http://www.editionsarche.com/PBSCCatalog.asp?ItmID=13860047>

The same series has recently published the second edition of Nicolas de Villiers, sieur de Chandoux's *Lettres sur l'or potable*, which contains the fragments of the philosopher's commentary on the famous *Amphitheatre of Eternal Wisdom* by Heinrich Khunrath. Chandoux is famous for his c. 1627 espousal of a 'new philosophy' inspired by alchemy in an assembly formed by the Cardinal de Bérulle, Marin Mersenne and René Descartes.

This book can be ordered at <http://www.editionsarche.com/PBSCProduct.asp?ItmID=11663523>



### Upcoming Publications

#### CHEMICAL KNOWLEDGE IN THE EARLY MODERN WORLD

*Osiris*, volume 29

Edited by Matthew D. Eddy, Seymour H. Mauskopf and William R. Newman

450 pages | 7 x 10 | © 2014

The last twenty-five years have witnessed some provocative transmutations in our understanding of early modern chemistry. The alchemist, once marginalized as a quack, now joins the apothecary, miner, humanist, and natural historian as a practitioner of "chymistry." In a similar vein, the Chemical Revolution of the eighteenth century, with its focus on phlogiston and airs, has been expanded to include artisanal, medical, and industrial practices. This collection of essays builds on these reappraisals and excavates the affinities between alchemy, chymistry, and chemistry from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries. It reveals a rich world of theory and practice in which instruments, institutions, inscriptions and ideas were used to make material knowledge. More generally, the volume will catalyze wide-ranging discussions of material and visual cultures, the role of expertise, and the religious and practical contexts of scientific inquiry.

## OTHER NEWS, EVENTS & GRANTS

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### **The 2014 HIST Award in the History of Chemistry**

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The History of Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society is pleased to announce Professor Ernst Homburg as the winner of its 2014 HIST award. This international award for contributions to the history of chemistry has been granted since 1956 under sequential sponsorships by the Dexter Chemical Company, the Edelstein Foundation, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and the History of Chemistry Division. The event, consisting of a monetary presentation, a plaque, a symposium honoring the work of Professor Homburg, and a lecture by the awardee, will take place on 12 August 2014 at the American Chemical Society's annual meeting in San Francisco, California.

The 2014 winner, Ernst Homburg, was born in 1952 in Venlo, The Netherlands. After studying at the Protestant Lyceum, he studied at the Municipal University, Amsterdam, where he received M.Sc. in chemistry and at the University of Nijmegen where he received a Doctoral degree in History. From 1972 to 1993 he served at various posts in history and technology at the Universities of Amsterdam, Groningen, Nijmegen, and Eindhoven. From 1993 to present he has served as Assistant Professor, then Professor, in the Department of History at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. With his broad background, Dr. Homburg is one of the leaders in the history of modern chemical industry and technology. He has been involved as a co-organizer and writer in two multi-volume book series on the history of European technology in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as a multitude of other books and papers. He has been president of a number of organizations that have promoted the history of technology and science throughout Europe and other parts of the world. As an influential speaker, Dr. Homburg is known for his conciseness and fresh viewpoints, with an ability to change viewpoints without any display of ego or discourtesy.

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### **'Sites of Chemistry in the 17th Century' Conference Postponed**

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A number of circumstances have led to the decision to postpone the conference on *Sites of Chemistry in the 17th Century* which was due to be held in Oxford on 17-19 July 2014. It will now be held in early summer next year. Further details and a call for papers will be circulated later in the year.

#### **John Perkins (Organiser)**

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### **Member News**

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Joel A. Klein (current CHF Research Fellow and Indiana University graduate student) and Donna Bilak (current CHF Edelstein Fellow) have received a 3-year postdoctoral fellowship that will allow Klein and Bilak to participate in Pamela Smith's 'Making and Knowing' project at Columbia University; this fellowship is also part of a collaboration between Columbia's 'Making and Knowing' project and the CHF's Institute for Research (a new research group for the history of materials and material culture).

**Congratulations to both of them!**

## REPORTS

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NOVEMBER 2013

### **Report on the FoHSC at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting 2013** *Held on 21-24 November 2013 in Boston, MA*

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The Forum for the History of the Chemical Sciences (FoHCS) is an interest group of the History of Science Society (HSS), representing scholars interested in all aspects of the history of chemistry. Each year, FoHCS organises sessions at the HSS Annual Meeting and other international meetings, often in collaboration with other interest groups and learned societies (including SHAC).

At the 2013 History of Science Society Annual Meeting, held in Boston, FoHCS held a session in honor of Alan Rocke, organized by Peter Ramberg (Truman State University) and co-sponsored with the Commission on the History of Modern Chemistry (CHMC). Speakers included Jeffrey A. Johnson (Villanova University), Mel Usselman (Western University), Ralph R. Hamerla (University of Oklahoma), and Seymour Mauskopf (Duke University), chaired by Mary Jo Nye (Oregon State University). Peter Ramberg provided an illustrated appreciation of Alan's many contributions to the history of chemistry. Naturally, commentary/response was provided by Alan himself!

The meeting was preceded by the FoHCS business/breakfast meeting. The Forum thanked the outgoing Executive Committee chair, Sy Mauskopf, for his work in setting up the interest group, while the new chair, Peter Ramberg, welcomed three new members to the Executive Committee: Margaret Garber (California State University, Fullerton); Robert Bud (Science Museum), joining from the Programs Committee; and Evan Hepler Smith (Princeton University), joining as the new graduate student member. John Powers (Virginia Commonwealth University) remained on the Executive Committee, with Sy Mauskopf and Alan Rocke stepping down.

FoHCS also welcomed two new members to the Programs Committee: Carin Berkowitz (Chemical Heritage Foundation), and Ashley Inglehart (Indiana University, Bloomington) as the graduate student member. It was agreed that the Programs Committee chair would step down after the submission of the annual HSS panel submission in April/May. Accordingly, this month Yoshi Kikuchi (Graduate University for Advanced Studies, Hayama) takes over as Programs chair from Jenny Rampling (Princeton University), who remains on the committee.

For the upcoming HSS meeting in Chicago, FoHCS is planning a range of events including a session on early alchemy and chemistry (see above, page 21). FoHCS hopes to welcome many SHAC members to these events (in addition to those already participating!). To enquire about joining the Forum and to receive updates on the group's activities, please contact Peter Ramberg: [ramberg@truman.edu](mailto:ramberg@truman.edu).

**Jennifer M. Rampling**  
**(Princeton University)**



## REPORTS

APRIL 2014

**Report on the 'Scientiæ' conference 2014**  
*Held on 22-25 April 2014 at the University of Vienna*

*Academia Scientiæ* is an international research group which has been growing over the last few years. Its field of investigation is at the junction between Renaissance/early-modern studies and history/philosophy of science, and it focuses on the period 1450-1750, when exciting epistemological and methodological innovations undoubtedly took place.

The main activity of the group is an annual conference: this year it was hosted by the University of Vienna. This event followed Vancouver 2012 and Warwick 2013. It was a three-day marathon well worth attending – and the weather was particularly nice too!

The offer was rich: 36 sessions consisting of three or four papers each, spanning from alchemy to medicine, music to philosophy, history of knowledge to cosmology, and much more. Interdisciplinarity is, surely, one of the strongest points of this project. The sessions, in fact, were not organised by discipline, but by subject-matter, thus enabling the scholars to discuss the same topic from a variety of points of view.

Although the breadth of the topics covered throughout the conference has been wide, I will focus more on the papers which were closer to the field of alchemy. In this respect, during the first day particularly worth mentioning was the panel 'A higher kind of natural magic: Francis Bacon and Giovan Battista della Porta on 'philosophical instruments' and the creative powers of experimentation'. Here, Cesare Pastorino addressed the problematic links between secrets and later experimentation, examining the case of Francis Bacon. Arianna Borrelli's stimulating account of a less-known treatise by Giovan Battista Della Porta (*On Refraction*) surely opened new intriguing questions, while Sergius Kodera addressed the theme of cross-breeding in Della Porta's *Magia naturalis*. Dana Jalobeanu's paper showed how Francis Bacon transferred the recipes of natural magic into the laboratory.

The second day was rich with fascinating papers; it was the third and last day, though, that offered the highest number of papers on alchemy and related topics. In fact, the panel 'Art, Technology and Alchemy in the Early Modern Period' grouped together Sylvie Neven, who investigated the authorship and the context of production behind a corpus of north-European recipe books written between the fourteenth and the sixteenth centuries; Fanny Kieffer, with a paper on the laboratories of art and alchemy at the Uffizi Gallery during the Renaissance; and Henrike Haug, who delved into the network of scholars, preachers, mineral collectors, mining officials and goldsmiths of *Erzebirge* (Bohemia) in search of exchanges of practice and methods.

In the panel 'Alchemy and Medicine', Anke Timmermann surveyed existing models of using the digital humanities and online catalogues with a particular view to the process of retrieving useful information for researchers of alchemy and scientific knowledge of the early modern period. The paper by Elisabeth Moreau retraced the medical side of Andreas Libavius through one of his medico-alchemical texts, *Novus de medicina veterum tam Hippocratica quam Hermetica tractatus*. I was delighted to give my contribution to this panel showing a development on Robert Fludd's metaphorical tools from the 'glorious' monochord (ever-present in his first publications) to the weath-glass, employed in his last works. One of the concluding papers of the whole conference was by Peter Forshaw, who brilliantly showed the presence and significance of the symbol of the androgyne in several early modern alchemical texts.

This conference has really been a valuable opportunity for scholars from a wide range of disciplines connected with Renaissance/early modern studies and, in particular, for those who feel their research sits more comfortably within an interdisciplinary environment. In this respect, this event was the perfect meeting-point. The next *Scientiæ* conference will take place next year (2015) in Toronto, and it promises to be another inspiring event!

**Luca Guariento (University of Glasgow)**

## REPORTS

APRIL 2014

**Report on the 2014 Gordon Cain Conference***Held on 10-12 April 2014 at the Chemical Heritage Foundation*

On April 10-12, the Chemical Heritage Foundation hosted its 2014 Gordon Cain Conference, 'Chemical Reactions: Chemistry and Global History'. Conference organizer Lissa Roberts, Professor of Long Term Development of Science and Technology at the University of Twente, assembled a group of over thirty scholars from around the world for three days of presentations and discussion on the relationship between the history of chemistry and global history.

The aim of the conference was, as one session abstract put it, to investigate 'the global through chemical exchange and the chemical through global exchange,' by looking beyond easy modern dichotomies that would cast chemistry as abstract and universal, and globalization as a unidirectional, homogenizing process. Interrogating each of these categories through the other, the papers presented at the conference revealed a much more complex story.

For several presenters, thinking globally about chemistry meant considering the material and conceptual transformations involved not only in the production of chemical products but also in their consumption, use, and recycling. Emily Osborn, for example, juxtaposed present-day expert practices of aluminum casting in West Africa with a history of efforts to develop large-scale aluminum smelting in the region. Despite the proximity of raw materials, the latter effort has so far made little headway, whereas the former has thrived on the basis of recycled materials that in other circumstances might be dismissed as waste.



Other papers situated the production of chemical knowledge in local circumstances. Projit Mukharji showed how assumptions about the racial and geographic difference of India shaped the way that colonial scientists designed their experiments, thereby reproducing colonial hierarchies in scientific inquiries into Indian bodies and land. Eugenia Lean presented the varied endeavors of early twentieth-century Chinese translator and industrialist Chen Diexian as practices of 'tinkering' that drew upon both traditional practice and a self-conscious effort to develop domestic industries. These pa-

pers and others demonstrated how, as actors' categories, the local and the national often did not precede the global but emerged in response to it.

In his plenary lecture, Ian Inkster connected the development of cellulose nitrate chemistry in Birmingham to the global camphor trade during the late nineteenth century. As a commodity situated both in the mountain forests of Formosa and in industrial polymer production, camphor provides a starting point for exploring the global 'connectivities' linking chemical technology, British patent regimes, conflicts among indigenous tribes and competing imperial powers in Taiwan, and patterns of consumption and trade around the world.

Other themes that arose repeatedly over the course of the conference included the persistence of sensory observation as an element of chemical judgment, the historical relationship among the categories 'natural,' 'synthetic,' and 'artificial,' and the role of chemistry in



## REPORTS

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national autarky efforts. Professor Roberts plans to carry forward these explorations of the chemical and the global in one or two edited volumes.

The CHF's Beckman Center provided generous support for the Cain Conference, ensuring a smooth, productive, and fun three days of work. Thanks to Beckman Center Director Carin Berkowitz, CHF President Carsten Reinhardt, and the rest of the CHF staff, the conference was a resounding success.

**Evan Hepler-Smith**

**(Princeton University Program in History of Science / Chemical Heritage Foundation)**



MAY 2014

### **Sources of Alchemy: Workshop and Symposium**

*Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA*

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This spring, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, hosted the second 'Sources of Alchemy' workshop and symposium. The first event, held in Cambridge in 2013, brought together specialists in early alchemy, with the goal of fostering scholarship on Greek, Syriac, Arabic, Hebrew and Latin texts. More specifically, the workshops allow prospective contributors to *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry*, SHAC's new series of *Ambix* supplements, an opportunity to discuss some of the technical issues associated with producing editions and translations of alchemical texts.

This year's workshop had an additional dimension. In the mornings, participants discussed issues of transcription, translation, interpretation, and presentation related to a range of texts, from Coptic recipes to Arabic versions of works of Zosimos and pseudo-Razi. In the afternoon, we moved into the Department of Chemistry, where we attempted to put some of our findings to the test under the guidance of Professor Lawrence Principe. A particular hit was our recreation of the 'beautiful moon,' a method for silvering copper extracted by Professor Sebastian Richter from a Coptic papyrus fragment.

On Friday 9 May, the group presented its research at a public symposium. The first session, on 'Syriac and Coptic Alchemy,' included papers by Matteo Martelli (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Sebastian Richter (Universität Leipzig). Dr Martelli (whose Syriac edition of the *Four Books of*



## REPORTS

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*Pseudo-Democritus* was recently published in *Sources*) introduced some alchemical and medical materials translated from Greek into Syriac, which suggest that Syriac translators connected alchemy with Hippocrates and Galen. Professor Richter then presented an enigma from Coptic alchemical fragments: a device or process described as the ‘Machine of the Sages,’ able to dissolve all bodies.

The second panel, chaired by Gabriele Ferrario (Cambridge University Library), introduced ‘Arabic and Arabo-Latin Alchemy.’ Bink Hallum (British Library) spoke on the Arabic reception of Greek alchemy, from the *Sulphurs* of Zosimos to descriptions of furnaces and apparatus. Sébastien Moureau (Université Catholique de Louvain) then discussed the alchemy of Jābir ibn Hayyan, with particular reference to the use of onomatology in Jābirian texts, which allowed alchemists to calculate proportions of ingredients based on analysis of their names.

The final session focused on ‘Latin and Practical Alchemy.’ Jennifer Rampling (Princeton University) attempted to decipher the practical content of fourteenth-century treatises attributed to Ramon Llull, focusing on the nature of ‘mercury’ in the pseudo-Lullian *Testamentum*. Lawrence Principe (Johns Hopkins University) then discussed some of the results of his attempts to replicate early alchemical processes, from the ‘divine water’ of the Leiden papyrus to the making of lead salts.

The event was sponsored by the Charles Singleton Center for the Study of Pre-Modern Europe.

### **Jennifer Rampling** **(Princeton University)**

Photo line-up (L-R): Sebastian Richter, Matteo Martelli, Jennifer Rampling (with gold), Gabriele Ferrario, Sébastien Moureau, Bink Hallum, Lawrence Principe.



## SPECIAL FEATURE

### The Rare Book Collection of the Middle Temple Library, London



The Middle Temple Library is one of the last places where you would expect to find alchemical and occult rare books. It is true that in the distant past the odd-looking Temple church used to be the gathering place of the Knights Templar in England, but since their demise the area has turned into lawyer district. It is still so today, buzzing with stern-looking gentlemen and ladies hurriedly crossing the carefully groomed courtyards. As I am told, the Middle Temple is one of the four Inns of Court which have the exclusive right to call students to the Bar.



In fact, the area could very easily be tourist paradise, but instead, I feel rather odd being the only one stopping to admire the long view towards the Thames and the fantastically-misshapen trees that partially obscure it. I feel fortunate to have uncovered this unusual part of central London that feels like a town within a town—a maze of red-brick buildings filled with black-suited lawyers and clerks perching over their case files.

I imagine the place could not have been much different four hundred years ago when the hero of the story, lawyer Robert Ashley (d. 1641) worked here. The costumes and customs have changed, but the same austerity must have pervaded the area then as now.

Still, Ashley was an unusual individual; fascinated by all things occult, from John Dee to Rosicrucianism, he travelled around Europe amassing an incredibly rich library of books. Upon his death he bequeathed his entire collection of 4,000 books to the Middle Temple, thereby setting up the Library that has guarded it ever since. Despite Ashley's profession, only 10% of his books are law-related: the rest are a treasure-trove of rare prints from England and Europe. This includes a sizeable portion of John Donne's library (79 books, largest collection of any institution), 28 defences of Rosicrucianism at the height of the early seventeenth-century furore, and over 73 books on alchemy, printed between 1538 and 1637. The earliest alchemical book is the 1538 *Alchimia* by Petrus Kertzenmacher (printed in Strasbourg), one of only two copies in the UK. Other gems include a John Dee's copy of *De typographiae inventione*, printed in Copenhagen in 1566, six books on palmistry, dating from 1538 to 1621, and a German illustrated manuscript dated ca. 1390-1415 on astrology, astronomy, calendars and fortune-telling.





## SPECIAL FEATURE



Not many people know about this central-London treasure. I myself wish I could boast of knowing about it beforehand, but I didn't. I was fortunate to be contacted by the Middle Temple library's zealous and enthusiastic Senior Librarian, Ms Renae Satterley, as she chanced upon SHAC and *Chemical Intelligence*. Renae is tireless in promoting this little-known rare book collection, which she rightfully feels that it could be put to excellent use by a new generation of historians. Since she began working for the library, the rare book collection has been re-catalogued and is now also available on the UK library network, COPAC. She has also recently authored an article on Robert Ashley's legacy, "To be unto them as the foundation of a library": The Books of Robert Ashley at the Middle Temple', published in *The Book Trade in Early Modern*

*England*, eds. John Hinks and Victoria Gardner (London: The British Library Publishing Division, 2013).

Limited finances (the library is funded from the rents of lawyers' chambers) mean that advertising is mainly by word-of-mouth and by the enterprising spirit of Renae, who is always seeking to uncover new avenues of promoting the library's collection.

Needless to say, Renae would welcome anyone with a scholarly interest in the Middle Temple rare books. She would be keen to hear from historians of alchemy and early chemistry. She tells me that all you would need to do is to write to her at [r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk) in order to make an appointment to see one or more books. The collection can be consulted from 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday in the main hall of the Middle Temple Library. This beautiful interior is dominated by a



huge painting of the patron of the library, Robert Ashley, dressed in Elizabethan clothes and appropriately carrying a scroll in his hand. His inquisitive eyes watch benevolently the procession of young lawyers walking to and fro in the hall in search for old case files and books of law.



It is not Ashley's gaze that briefly distracts me from my study of Michael Potier's little-known book *Novus tractatus chymicus* (1617), but the unusual sight of so many black suits roaming around me. They too find the presence of a historian surprising. A moment later, I delve back into the alchemical work remembering that, although Ashley's collection is priceless for a historian of alchemy, the main part of the library remains an active temple of the law.

If you wish to sponsor a book in the Robert Ashley collection, please refer to the website page dedicated to this purpose at <http://www.middletemple.org.uk/library-and-archive/library/rare-books/rare-book-sponsorship-programme/>

The Library catalogue can be accessed at <http://www.middletemplelibrary.org.uk/client/default>

The Middle Temple Library is easily accessed via the Temple underground station on Circle line.

**Jo Hedesan (University of Oxford)**

## NEW MEMBERS

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### SHAC welcomes the following new members:

Adrianes, Annemie	University of Ghent, Belgium
Blair, Hazel	St Andrews University, UK
Bocknek, Jonathan	Baysville, Ontario, Canada
Bolt, Tracey	Street, Somerset, UK
Böke, Christer	Malmö, Sweden
Cordes, David	Pacific University, Oregon, USA
Fischer, Hermann	Sankt Andreasberg, Germany
Gordin, Michael	Princeton University, USA
Grossman, Mark	New York, USA
Hepler-Smith, Evan	Princeton University, USA
Inglehart, Ashley	Indiana University, USA
Konečný, Peter	Slovak Academy of Sciences and Arts, Slovakia
Martelli, Matteo	Humboldt-Universität, Berlin, Germany
Matus, Zachary	Boston College, USA
McDonald, Paul	Murdoch University, Perth, Australia
Richter, Sebastian	University of Leipzig, Germany
Seo, Minwoo	University of Cambridge, UK
Sutherland, Peter	Denver, USA
Thick, Malcolm	Oxfordshire, UK
Vasconcellos, Eduardo	Sao Paulo, Brazil
Vidals, Victor	Gothenburg, Sweden
Watkins, Frances	Hertfordshire, UK
Weber, Andreas	University of Twente, the Netherlands

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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### Subscriptions 2014-2015

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Subscriptions are normally due on 1 January each year. It is also possible to pay for two years at a time. The rates are:

Type of Membership	For 2014	2014 & 2015
<b>Full Membership</b>	<b>£35</b>	<b>£70</b>
in US Dollars	\$70 US	\$140 US
<b>Retired member with 10 years standing</b>	<b>£27</b>	<b>£54</b>
in US Dollars	\$54 US	\$108 US
<b>Student member</b>	<b>£22</b>	<b>£44</b>
in US Dollars	\$44 US	\$88 US

### Methods of Payment

1. By debit or credit card, via Paypal, in pounds, through the 'Renew your Membership' link on the home page of the Society's website, [www.ambix.org](http://www.ambix.org).
2. By International Bank Transfer, in pounds, to Santander Bank, Bootle, Merseyside GIR oAA, UK.  
BIC: ABBYGB2L  
IBAN: GB12 ABBY 0901 5511 6100 09  
with the payer covering all charges.
3. By a cheque payable to SHAC, in pounds, drawn on a UK bank, posted to **the Honorary Treasurer, Dr Michael Jewess, The Long Barn, Townsend, Harwell, Oxfordshire, OX11 oDX, UK.**
4. By a US dollar cheque payable to SHAC, with the above amounts converted at the rate of £1 = \$2, and an additional \$ 15 added, posted to the **Honorary Treasurer, Dr Michael Jewess, The Long Barn, Townsend, Harwell, Oxfordshire, OX11 oDX, UK.**

*If you are paying by bank transfer please enter your **NAME** and '**SHAC subscription**' on the reference information to be sent with the payment. Otherwise, it is not possible to identify who the payment is from.*

If you have any queries regarding your SHAC Subscription or need details of your username

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

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### Subscriptions 2014-2015

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(continued)

and password for accessing back issues of Ambix via [www.ambix.org](http://www.ambix.org) please contact the Honorary Membership Secretary, Dr Anna Simmons, via [a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk).

You do not need to login as a member to renew your membership subscription online.

**UK members who subscribe in connection with their work are reminded that the subscription is tax-deductible.**

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### A Word from our Membership Secretary

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In the last issue of *Chemical Intelligence*, we introduced our newly appointed officers and explained how the role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary has now been split between Dr Michael Jewess and Dr Anna Simmons. Members who had not yet paid for 2014 were contacted in mid-February and since then several reminders have been sent out. If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2014, we would be grateful if you could do this at your earliest convenience. Full details can be found at [www.ambix.org](http://www.ambix.org).


If you have any queries regarding your SHAC Subscription or need details of your username and password for accessing back issues of Ambix via [www.ambix.org](http://www.ambix.org) please contact the Honorary Membership Secretary, Dr Anna Simmons, via [a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk).

New usernames and passwords were sent out to all members in an automated email in spring 2013, but it seems that these emails did not reach all of our members' inboxes. However, you should not need to login as a member to renew your membership subscription online as this can be done directly by clicking on the link on our homepage.

If you encounter any problems, please email the Honorary Membership Secretary.

The Secretary would also be very grateful if members could inform her if either their mailing address for *Ambix* or their email address changes.

**Anna Simmons**  
**Membership Secretary**



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We welcome any contributions that newsletter readers might wish to make to the *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:

Jo Hedesan, E-mail: [georgianahedesan@yahoo.com](mailto:georgianahedesan@yahoo.com)

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## Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

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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 chem-

istry. It offers a forum for advertising forthcoming events, both within the United Kingdom and internationally, and its website provides a portal to resources relating to the history of alchemy and chemistry.

Members receive the Society's journal *Ambix*, the leading scholarly journal in the field of history of alchemy and chemistry. *Ambix* is published by Maney Publishing and appears quarterly from 2013. Members also receive the Society's newsletter,

*Chemical Intelligence*, twice yearly, and the annual *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry* volume.

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

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

E-mail: [a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk)