

## The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2017

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at 12:30 pm on Saturday 30 June 2018 in Room 728, UCL Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London. There were 23 members present.

**1. Chair's Introduction:** Frank James (Chair), conducted the meeting and welcomed those present.

**2. Apologies for Absence:** The following apologized for absence at the AGM: Robert Anderson, José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez, Bill Brock, Hasok Chang, Lyke de Vries, Alan Dronsfield, Jo Hedesan, Bruce Moran, Peter Morris, Rafal Prinke, Viviane Quirke, Sebastian Richter, Alan Rocke, Ignacio Suay Matallana and Tillmann Taape.

**3. Presentation of Trustees Annual Report (TAR) and Statement of Accounts (as independently examined) for 2017:** The 2017 accounts for members were distributed in hard copy with annotations specifically for members. (The *unannotated* accounts had already been published on the SHAC website.) The meeting noted these accounts together with the Trustees Annual Report ("TAR"), also already published on the website, without comment.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** Rob Johnstone (Treasurer) gave a brief oral report on SHAC's finances highlighting the changes resulting from the new contract signed with Taylor and Francis. He thanked Mike Jewess for all the work he had done as SHAC Book-keeper in 2017, particularly in relation to the 2017 Accounts. Rob highlighted the importance of recruiting new members and getting them involved in the Society's activities.

**5. Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's Report for 2017 was included in the TAR which has been published on the website. Minutes of the AGM held on 30 September 2017 had been published on the website and were available to consult. Anna Simmons (Secretary), provided members with a report on SHAC's activities to date in 2018.

#### *GDPR*

With GDPR coming into effect from 25 May, SHAC Officers in conjunction with Council developed a Data Privacy Statement. It was sent to all members on 6 May 2018 and posted on the website.

#### *Graduate Workshop*

For the ninth year SHAC held an international workshop to provide training on research skills and methodology for postgraduate students and early career researchers. This took place on 29 June 2018 at the Royal Institution and was organised by the Society's student representative Megan Piorko, to whom a vote of thanks was given for an excellent meeting.

#### *General Meetings*

The AGM was held during SHAC's first meeting of the year "Alchemy and Print Culture", with papers given by Didier Kahn, Peter Forshaw, Jennifer Rampling and Stephen Clucas. The autumn SHAC meeting for 2018 is being arranged for Saturday 24 November at UCL. The meeting will not address any particular theme but will consist of a succession of papers on topics appropriate to the Society's interests. Those wishing to present papers were asked to

email the organiser of the meeting, Frank James, with a 300 word abstract of the proposed paper by 30 September 2018.

#### *SHAC Website and Wikipedia Page*

Thanks to the hard work of content webmaster, Lyke de Vries, the Society finally has a Wikipedia page. This can be found by typing Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (not SHAC) into Google. Joel Klein was thanked for his contribution to the Society as technical webmaster and Magdalena Luszczanska was welcomed as his successor.

#### *Morris Award 2018*

The Morris Award for 2018 has been given to Yasu Furukawa for his outstanding work on the history of chemistry and its relationship with the chemical industry, specifically for *Inventing Polymer Science: Staudinger, Carothers, and the Emergence of Macromolecular Chemistry* (1998) and *Chemists' Kyoto School: Gen-itsu Kita and Japan's Chemistry* (2017). Arrangements for presenting the prize will be announced when they are available.

#### *Chemical Intelligence*

One issue of the Society's newsletter, Chemical Intelligence, has been published in 2018. On behalf of the editor Judith Mawer, the Secretary invited contributions for the next issue.

### **6. Membership Secretary's Report**

Carolyn Cobbold (Membership Secretary) reported that there were currently 284 members, 190 full members, 45 retired members, 46 student members and 7 corporate members. 8 of these were unpaid for 2018 and were subsequently removed for non-payment, bringing membership down to 276. She spoke briefly about David Knight and Robert M. Black, longstanding members of SHAC who had passed away in 2018. She encouraged those present to recruit colleagues and friends.

### **7. Editor's Update on *Ambix***

Prior to the start of the AGM, Jennifer Rampling was presented with a framed cover of *Ambix* to mark her service to SHAC as both Editor and Deputy Editor of *Ambix*. Dr Rampling stepped down from her role as editor following the publication of the journal's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary issue. At the beginning of 2018 Bruce Moran took over as Editor of *Ambix*, Viviane Quirke as Deputy Editor and Tillmann Taape as Book Reviews Editor, with Alan Rocke continuing as Deputy Editor. *Ambix* also now has an Editorial Assistant, Millie Schurch.

Anna Simmons reported on behalf of Bruce Moran. So far three issues of the Society's scholarly journal *Ambix* have been sent to members in 2018. One was the final issue from 2017 which marked the journal's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary and contained papers by Jennifer Rampling, Stephen Irish, Hasok Chang, Angela Creager and Matteo Martelli. February 2018 was a special issue on paper tools from the 1780s to the 1960s edited by Mary Jo Nye and Stephen Weininger and including papers by Wolfgang Lefèvre, Michael D. Gordin, Stephen J. Weininger and Evan Hepler-Smith. The May 2018 issue was dispatched in June and included articles by Ignacio Suay-Matallana and Ximo Guillem Llobat, Mike A. Zuber, Andrei Vinogradov and Stanislav Petriashin and Amy Fisher. The August *Ambix* will be a special issue, Alchemy in the Mendicant Orders, containing four articles and a 4,000 word introduction.

### **8. Composition of Council**

The Secretary reported that there had been one change to composition of Council since the AGM on 30 September 2017. Tillmann Taape replaced José Ramón Bertomeu Sánchez as

Book Reviews Editor on 1 January 2018. Dr Simmons explained that Council have the power to fill casual vacancies in their number during the year which shall be proposed for ratification at the next AGM. The appointment of Tillmann Taape was proposed by Jennifer Rampling and seconded by Peter Forshaw and passed nem con. Dr Bertomeu Sanchez was thanked for his significant contribution to the Society and *Ambix* as Book Reviews Editor from 2011 to the end of 2017.

### **9. Proposed Change to Constitution**

The following change to SHAC's constitution had been circulated to members in advance of the AGM.

*Constitution Item 7 - Finance:* It was proposed that the individual appointed to examine the annual accounts need not be a member of the Society and the phrase "appropriately qualified individual" should be used instead. Due to the increased regulatory environment in which charities operate, it was felt that the Society should have the option of engaging a professional to carry out this role.

*The new clause for item 7 of the constitution:*

The Hon. Treasurer shall keep a proper record of all monies received and expended by him on behalf of the Society. A Statement of Account shall be made up as at 31 December in each year and shall be *examined by an appropriately qualified individual appointed for the purpose by the Council*. The Statement of Account, or when necessary a draft version of the Account, shall be presented to Council, and subsequently presented to the Members at the Annual General Meeting.

The change was proposed by Stephen Clucas, seconded by Simon Werrett and passed nem con.

### **10. Any Other Business**

There was none.

Dr Anna Simmons  
Secretary  
17.08.2018