

CHEMICAL INTELLIGENCE

Winter 2021

issue

Society for the History
of Alchemy and Chemistry



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A note from the SHAC Treasurer Rob Johnstone

It is unusual for the treasurer to have anything to say in *Chemical Intelligence* but it's been an unusual year. As you know, SHAC transitioned from an "ordinary" Charity in England and Wales to being a Chartered Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This change took place at the beginning of 2021 when all the assets of the original charity (which include the members!) were moved from one Charity to the other. The old Charity still exists, as does its Bank account, so we have had to establish a new Bank Account for the CIO. The details for the new account are now showing on the Society web pages.

We also took the opportunity to make it a little easier for you to pay your subscription. As you may have noticed (if you are one of the 156 members who have already paid) you now have the opportunity to pay online using a credit or debit card as well as using PayPal. We have also given you the ability to set up an annual recurring payment to us, using a facility provided by PayPal. It's easy to use (whether or not you have a PayPal account) and, importantly for you, is easy to stop, should you decide to leave the Society. From my point of view it has the potential to save me some effort, particularly towards the middle of the year, when we actively start "pursuing" members who have not paid.

If you have not yet paid for this year, please consider setting up a repeat payment.

I hope the coming year will not be quite so exciting!

-Rob Johnstone

You can now access Mike Zuber's Partington prize winning essay [“Alchemical Promise, the Fraud Narrative, and the History of Science from Below: A German Adept's Encounter with Robert Boyle and Ambrose Godfrey”](#)

Dr Mike A. Zuber is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Queensland. He obtained his doctorate with distinction at the University of Amsterdam in 2017 and subsequently received grant funding from the Swiss National Science Foundation for a postdoc project based at the University of Oxford. He has published on the scientific, religious, and intellectual history of the seventeenth century, with particular expertise in German-speaking contexts.

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry established the Partington Prize in memory of Professor James Riddick Partington, the Society's first Chairman. It is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry.

Ambix, Volume 67, Issue 4 (2020)

Book reviews

“A True Adept”

Newton, the Alchemist. By William R. Newman.

Pp. xxii + 538, illus., index. Princeton University Press: Princeton & Oxford. 2019. £34.00.

ISBN: 978-0-6911-7487-7 (hardback)

Cornelis J. Schilt

“The Historic Role of Alchemy in the Holy Roman Empire”

Anna Zieglerin and the Lion’s Blood: Alchemy and End Times in Reformation Germany. By Tara Nummedal. Pp. 304, illus., index. University of Pennsylvania Press:

Philadelphia. 2019. £43. ISBN 978-0-81-225089-3.

Bruce Janacek

Ymage de Vie: Spéculation et Expérimentation dans un Traité d’Alchimie Médiévale

By Geneviève Dumas. Pp. 293, illus., index. Presses universitaires de la Méditerranée: Montpellier. 2019. £19. ISBN: 978-2-36781-323-3

Curtis Runstedler

Natural knowledge and Aristotelianism at Early Modern Protestant Universities

Edited by Pietro Daniel Omodeo and Volkhard Wels. Pp. 342, illus. Harrassowitz Verlag: Wiesbaden. 2019. £65, free ebook on publisher’s website.

ISBN 978-3-447-11265-9.

Fred Kim

“Liebig lebt!” 100 Jahre Liebig Museum im Laboratorium

Edited by Eduard Alter. Pp. 33, illus. Liebig Museum: Giessen. 2020. €6.

&

Das Liebig-Laboratorium von seinen Anfängen bis in die Gegenwart. Festschrift zum 100. jährigen Jubiläum des Liebig-Museum. (Berichte der Justus Liebig-Gesellschaft zu Giessen. Band 10). By Franziska Müller. Pp. 173, illus. Justus Liebig-Gesellschaft: Giessen. 2020. €14. ISSN: 0940-3426.

William H. Brock



By Wilhelm Trautschold (1815 – 1877)

Articles

“Materials, Furnaces, and Texts: How to Write About Making Glass Colours in the Seventeenth Century”

Thijs Hagendijk, Márcia Vilarigues & Sven Dupré

“*Fuit Ille non Empiricus Mercenarius:*

Apprehensions to Alchemy in Colonial New England”

Theodore R. Delwiche

“Chemical Paradigm vs. Biological Paradigm in the Biological Clock Controversy”

Jole Shackelford

“The Curious Story of the Chemical Society’s Missing Obituary of John Lloyd Bullock”

William H. Brock

Ambix, vol. 68, issue 1 (2021) will soon be going to press and the following articles are already [online](#).

Incoming Honorary Secretary Chris Campbell

My thanks to the editor for allowing me a few lines to introduce myself.

I take over the role of Honorary Secretary from Anna Simmons and am hugely grateful to both Anna and the Treasurer Rob Johnstone for having now dealt with the bureaucratic process of establishing the Society with the Charity Commission as a CIO. Anna will be continuing to manage SHAC's connections with Taylor and Francis in the publishing of Ambix.

I am currently an Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at University College London. My first degree is in chemistry and I later completed a PhD at University College London. My research interests are in the history and philosophy of chemistry with a particular focus on the interrelationships between the work of the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev and that of the American pragmatist philosopher Charles Sanders Peirce.

I look forward to meeting you in person once life returns to normal.



UPCOMING SHAC SEMINARS

18 February 2021

Megan Piorko

The Long Life of Fasciculus Chemicus:
Early American Reception of
Seventeenth-century Alchemical Texts

23 March 2021

Simon Werrett

All at 17.00 GMT.

Anyone, member of SHAC or not, may register to attend the seminar by e-mailing meetings [AT] ambix.org; a link to the seminar will be sent the day before. (If having registered you do not receive a link please check your junk folder). Note that the previous talks can be accessed [here](#).

Report on SHAC Seminars 2020

by Jo Hedesan

2020 has been a year like no other, and the physical meetings of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry had to be suspended due to the Covid crisis. SHAC has therefore decided to run a series of hour-long on-line Zoom seminars on the history of alchemy and chemistry. These kick-started on 21 July 2020. The standard format is to have a talk of 20-30 minutes, followed by a moderated discussion of half an hour. The seminars have been made available to anyone that may wish to join, whether member of SHAC or not. SHAC has also experimented with making the seminars available to a YouTube audience, setting up its own channel on [YouTube](#). At the beginning, the videos were uploaded after the talk, but since the beginning of 2021 the meeting has also been broadcasted live.

The first talk was given by **Tim Fulford**, Professor of English at De Montfort University, and marked the publication of Humphry Davy's letters by OUP in June 2020. It was entitled "The greatest chemist that has ever appeared?": Humphry Davy as Revealed in His Correspondence.' Fulford is one of the editors of the volume (the other is Sharon Ruston); he presented a selection of the letters, pointing out the importance of correspondence in the making of Davy's reputation across Europe and elsewhere. He discussed, amongst other things, the changing role of patronage, the cultivation of reputation, the institutionalisation of chemical investigation, the role of correspondence networks, relationships between poetic and scientific experimentation, and Davy's interactions with Ampère, Banks, Beddoes, Berzelius, Dalton, Faraday and Watt.

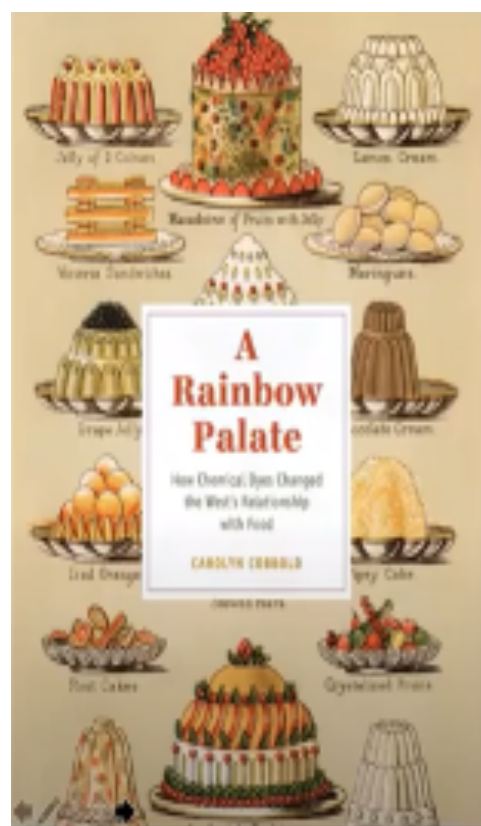


The second talk was given by **Jennifer M. Rampling** (Associate Professor of History, Princeton University) on 1 October 2020, and it was entitled 'Alchemy behind Bars: Practitioners, Patrons, and Prisons in Early Modern Europe.' Rampling focussed on the strategies used by alchemical practitioners to extricate themselves from prison. In early modern Europe, alchemists found themselves incarcerated for various reasons: some failed to make good on their gold-making promises, some were suspected of practicing magic, and others simply fell into debt. Once confined, some drew on their practical and rhetorical skills to write their way out of trouble, addressing petitions and alchemical treatises to princes and highly-placed figures in government. Perhaps surprisingly, they often ended up being released.

The talk focussed on English practitioners, and covered the fourteenth century to the sixteenth century. Rampling discussed the 'prison writings' of the notorious Edward Kelley, best known for his collaboration with the mathematician John Dee, who wrote a series of elaborate treatises to Emperor Rudolf II while imprisoned in Bohemia. She showed that the promise of transmutation, in particular, could offer a 'get out of jail free' card for alchemists.



The third talk was given by **Carolyn Cobbold** (University of Cambridge) on 3 November 2020 and was entitled 'A Rainbow Palate - chemists, colour and consumption.' Cobbold introduced her recently published book *A Rainbow Palate - How Chemical Dyes Changed the West's Relationship with Food* (Chicago University Press). She discussed how dye and food producers sought public support and approbation from chemists for the widespread use of synthetic chemicals in food, despite concern among some chemists that their new chemical substances had not been created for use in food.



A Rainbow Palate, How Chemical Dyes Changed the West's Relationship with Food

Published September 2020 University of Chicago Press

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry
Sh Ac
Online Seminars

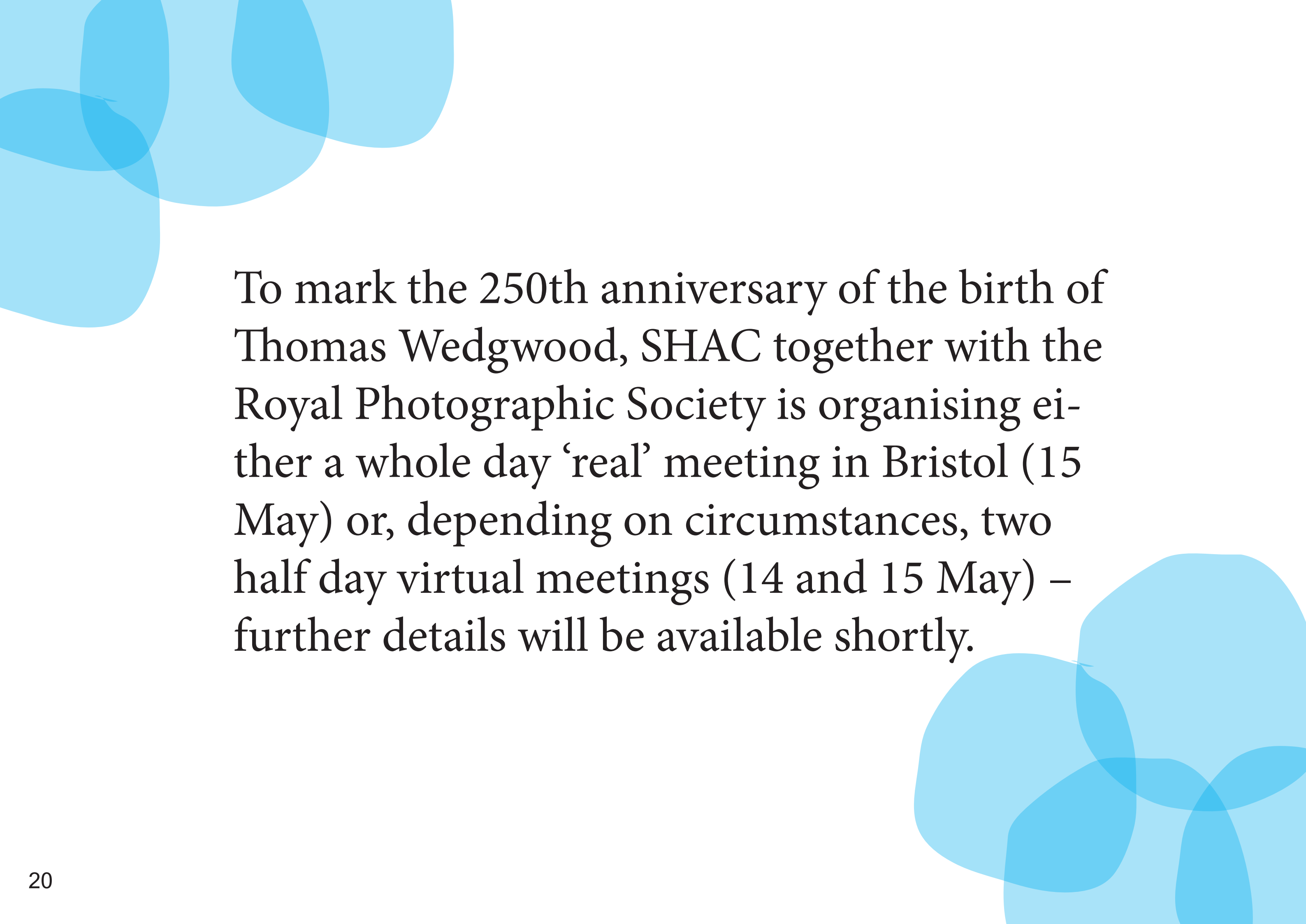
The Promise of an Alchemical Panacea: Francis Anthony (1550-1623) and his English Potable Gold

Chair: Prof Frank James (SHAC President)

Dr Georgiana D. Hedesan (University of Oxford)

The fourth talk, and first of 2021 was given by **Georgiana (Jo) Hedesan** (University of Oxford) on 21 January, and was entitled 'The Promise of an Alchemical Panacea: Francis Anthony (1550-1623) and his English Potable Gold.' Francis Anthony (1550-1623), an English physician active at the beginning of the 1600s was a sensation in his period for pandering his potable gold, an alchemical medicine that he claimed to be a panacea. Scholarship until now has judged him harshly; C.J.S. Thomson influentially included him in his *Quacks of Old London* (1928) as an archetypal marketplace charlatan. Although scholarship has nuanced this view since, there is still limited academic treatment of his career and medical practice.

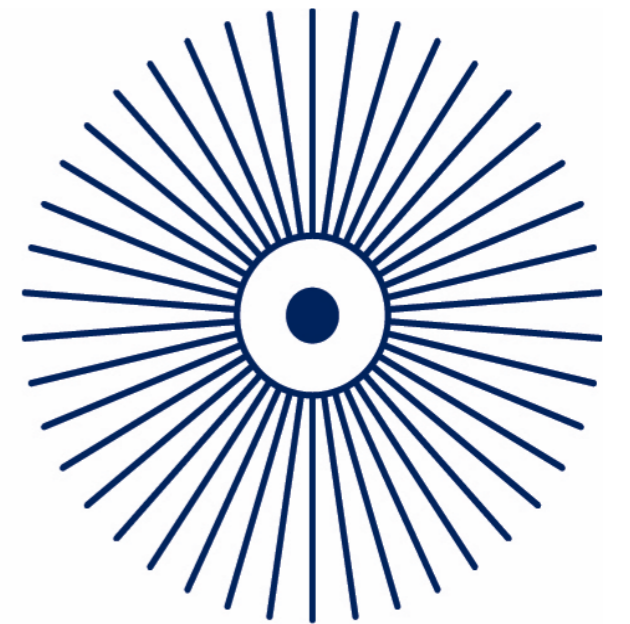
An unlicensed medical practitioner, Anthony drew the ire and persecution of the Royal College of Physicians in 1600. After several bruising encounters with the institution, Anthony turned to writing a defence of his medical product. In his 1610 *Statement on Alchemical Medicine and True Potable Gold* (*Medicina chymicae et veri potabilis Auri assertio*), Anthony positioned himself in the camp of the Paracelsianism, a reforming current opposed to traditional medicine. In doing so, Anthony successfully managed to draw the support and patronage of prominent individuals both in England and the continent, especially in the staunch Paracelsian circle of Landgrave Moritz of Hesse-Kassel. The talk also focussed on understanding Anthony's flagship 'English Potable Gold' medicine, its sources and its reception.



To mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Wedgwood, SHAC together with the Royal Photographic Society is organising either a whole day ‘real’ meeting in Bristol (15 May) or, depending on circumstances, two half day virtual meetings (14 and 15 May) – further details will be available shortly.

News from

Science
History
Institute



Chemistry · Engineering · Life Sciences

Science History Institute Applied Alchemy Conference

“The Applied Arts of Alchemy” Virtual Symposium, 20–21 May 2021

**Center for
Historical Research
Science History Institute**

The historiography of alchemy has significantly expanded over the last decade, demonstrating that its theoretical and practical applications underpinned diverse medical and scientific advances in the early modern period. Alchemy was more than a scholarly, hermetic art: it was a dynamic, entrepreneurial pursuit that supported the rise of the early chemical and medical industries. While attempts to discover the philosophers' stone were certainly a part of philosophical knowledge, alchemy and its outputs were embedded into European society, from dye-making and distilling to the development of new drugs. This virtual symposium will explore alchemy's practical and applied uses and their lasting impact on chemistry, technology, medicine, experimentation, and the marketplace. Through explorations of entrepreneurship, patronage, and commerce, we will examine the place of alchemical knowledge, ingredients, and products in a proto-industrial developing global market.

Virtual panels and workshops will be held on
20–21 May 2021, 11am–3pm EST.

Keynote Speaker:
Bruce Moran,
University Foundation Professor of History, Emeritus,
and editor of *Ambix*

Organizers:
Michelle DiMeo, Arnold Thackray Director of the Othmer Library, Science History Institute
Lisa Berry Drago, Research Curator, Science History Institute

Beckman Center Fellowships at the Science History Institute: Long and Short Term Opportunities

The Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry invites applications for its 2021–2022/3 cycle of fellowships. We award around 20 postdoctoral, dissertation, short-term and distinguished fellowships annually to an international cohort of scholars and researchers who would benefit from the use of our collections. Our materials range chronologically from the 15th century to the present and contain many areas of special interest to historians of alchemy and chemistry, especially those with overlapping interests in the history of art, business and labor, or the environment. For further details on how to apply, please visit <https://www.sciencehistory.org/fellowships>.

Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry

In August 2020 the Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry at the Science History Institute recruited Charlotte Abney Salomon to the new post of Assistant Director, which she will occupy jointly with a Cain Research Fellowship. Charlotte specializes in 18th-century chemistry, mineralogy, and geology and gained her PhD from the Yale Program in the History of Science and Medicine in 2019. Her current book project focuses on mineral science, natural history, and chemical invention and discovery in and around the Swedish mining industry. Charlotte joins the current Beckman Center director, Daniel Jon Mitchell, who took over from Carin Berkowitz in August 2019.

Science History Institute
Chemistry • Engineering • Life Sciences
315 Chestnut Street • Philadelphia, PA 19106 • U.S.A.
Learn about the scientific discoveries that changed our
world without leaving home at
[sciencehistory.org/learn](https://www.sciencehistory.org/learn)

2021 Morris Award: call for Nomina- tions

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry solicits nominations for the 2021 John and Martha Morris Award for Outstanding Achievement in the History of Modern Chemistry or the History of the Chemical Industry. This award honours the memory of John and Martha Morris, the late parents of Peter Morris, the former editor of *Ambix*, who has contributed the endowment for this award. The recipient chosen to receive the Morris Award will be expected to deliver a lecture at a meeting of SHAC, where the awardee will be presented with an appropriate framed photograph, picture or document and the sum of £300. The award is international in scope, and nominations are invited from anywhere in the world. The first Morris Award was given to Professor Raymond Stokes (University of Glasgow) for his path-breaking work on the German chemical industry. The second award was given to Professor Mary Jo Nye (Oregon State University) for her work on physical chemistry and the boundary between physics and chemistry in the twentieth century. The third award was given to Dr Anthony S. Travis (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) for his contributions to the history of the chemical industry (history of the dye industry and Henrich Caro) and the history of modern chemistry (history of chemical instrumentation and the history of groundwater pollution). The fourth award was given to Professor Yasu Furukawa for his 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).

A complete nomination consists of

- a complete curriculum vitae for the nominee, including biographical data, educational background, awards, honours, list of publications, and other service to the profession;
- a letter of nomination summarising the nominee's outstanding scholarly achievement in either the history of the chemical industry or in the history of recent chemistry (post -1945) and the unique contributions that merit this award; and
- names of two or three individuals for the panel to contact for further information if needed.

Only complete nominations will be considered for the award and the nomination documents must be submitted in electronic form. The Award will be judged by the selection panel on the basis of scholarly publication.

All nomination materials should be submitted by e-mail to Peter Morris at doctor@peterjtmorris.plus.com and a separate email which indicates that the material has been submitted should be sent to the same address (a precaution in case of incomplete transmission of documents) for arrival no later than 1 May 2021.

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Award Scheme 2021

Opening date: 1 March 2021

Closing date for applications:

31 May 2021

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry invites applications for its Award Scheme for 2021. SHAC offers two types of award: support for research into the history of chemistry or history of alchemy by both new and independent scholars and support for Subject Development of either history of chemistry or history of alchemy. It is expected that applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application by 31 July 2021. The Awards are most suitable for activities to be undertaken in the academic year October 2021–September 2022, but there will be flexibility regarding this due to ongoing uncertainty over plans for future research projects, conferences, workshops etc.

Research Awards are open to post-graduate students (both masters and doctoral students), those who have obtained a PhD since 1 January 2011 and also to independent scholars. Given that the circumstances of independent scholars differ we are letting members 'self-define' and if there are any unclear cases it will be left to the discretion of the Awards Panel.

Awards of up to £750 will be made to cover research expenses, including travel, accommodation, the reproduction of documents, and library fees. Applications may also include the costs of reproducing images for publication. The Scheme does not fund the purchase of equipment or course fees. It does not cover the costs of Open Access publication.

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 does not pay conference registration fees.

Subject Development Awards of up to £750 may be made to support activities such as seminars, workshops, colloquia, lecture series, conference sessions, conferences, exhibitions and outreach activities that support either the history of chemistry or history of alchemy as academic subjects. The Awards do not cover the costs of refreshments or catering for these events. The Scheme does not cover the costs of Open Access publication.

Please note that activities covered by the Awards do not have to occur in the UK, and that the Awards are open to members of the Society resident both in the UK and elsewhere. Members who have applied to the Scheme in previous years, whether successfully or not, are entitled to make an application in 2021.

Applicants must be members of the Society in good standing at the time of making an application, and, if successful, throughout the period of an award. For more information and application forms, please contact grants@ambix.org. Membership enquiries should be made to newjoiner@ambix.org.

An activity report must be submitted at the end of the Award. This will usually be published in SHAC's *Chemical Intelligence* newsletter.

The Economist
John Maynard Keynes,
**AN EARLY SHAC
MEMBER**

by Jo Hedesan



In the turbulent era before World War II, an auction at Sotheby's in London on 13 and 14 July 1936 drew a limited attraction of buyers. Viscount Lymington offered a huge amount of private papers of Isaac Newton for sale, but only managed to raise £9,000 (this would be c. £640,000 in today's money) (1). By comparison, just twenty pages of Newton's papers would be worth roughly the same amount now (2).

One of the men who bought some of Newton's work, mainly his alchemical papers, was the economist John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946) (3). We now remember Keynes as a revolutionary economist, arguably the most influential one of the twentieth century. His theories were geared against the Western consensus that advocated the policy of laissez-faire, having faith in the self-regulatory power of the markets. In the wake of the Great Depression, he successfully militated toward government intervention as way of wronging social injustice. Due to the 2008 financial crash and the coronavirus crisis, his policies are making a come-back across the world (4).

Cantabrigian Keynes had an enormous respect for Isaac Newton. As Keynes perused the Newton papers he bought, his interest in alchemy grew. His fascination overlapped the efforts of several English scholars to establish the Society for the History of Alchemy & Early Chemistry (now Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, or SHAC) (5)

Consequently, Keynes applied to join the organisation in September 1937 (6). He sent a letter to SHAC's secretary, Lionel Felix Gilbert, containing his application for membership, which is now preserved amongst the Newton papers at King's College, Cambridge. It is also available to view online at the Newton Project website. Keynes seemingly mistook Gilbert's initials; it should obviously have been L.F. Gilbert not W.F. Gilbert. He wrongly refers to the Society as 'the Society for the Study of Alchemy.' Daniel Kuehn's 2012 article does not make the identification (7). Since there are these two inconsistencies, William Brock has kindly confirmed that Keynes figures in the List of Members are available

in the SHAC Archives, SubscriptionsBook1937-1938,E/1/2(8). The Society's archives are in the History of Science Museum, Oxford.

In this letter, Keynes mentions that he received a letter of information from Gilbert regarding the Society, so presumably there was an anterior exchange or an unofficial request for information on Keynes's part. He describes his interest as being linked with his acquisition of a large number of Newton's private papers on alchemy at the auction. He mentions that he has read them and was unclear as to which were written by Newton and which are 'mere copies and abstracts of other writers'.

I am reproducing here the images courtesy of Professor Robert Iliffe of University of Oxford, Director of the Newton Project.

References:

- (1) Source: <https://www.in-2013dollars.com/uk/inflation/1936?amount=9000>.
- (2) Just two single pages of Newton were auctioned at Bonhams on 10 June 2020 with c. £60,000 (<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/26489/lot/1/>).
- (3) Source: <http://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk/history-of-newtons-papers/sotheby-sale>
- (4) Source: <https://theconversation.com/post-coronavirus-economic-thinking-could-go-one-of-two-ways-in-the-uk-135629>
- (5) For more on SHAC's early history, see William H Brock, 'Exploring Early Modern Chymistry: The First Twenty-Five Years of the Society for the Study of Alchemy & Early Modern Chemistry 1935-1960,' *Ambix* 58:3 (2011), 191-214.
- (6) Source: <http://www.newtonproject.ox.ac.uk/view/images/OTH-E00071?page=9>. Original: JMK/67/PP-60 (John Maynard Keynes Papers), King's College, Cambridge University.
- (7) Daniel Kuehn, 'Keynes, Newton and the Royal Society: the Events of 1942 and 1943,' *Notes Rec. R. Soc.* 67 (2013), 25-36, doi:10.1098/rsnr.2012.0053
- (8) Private communication on 25 October 2020. I have not been able to consult the SHAC Archives due to the current COVID crisis.

#1401

Rathin Castle
North Wales.

W.F. Gilbert Esq.

September 5, 1937

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter about the Society for the Study of Alchemy. I enclose an application for membership, and should be glad to have the first number of the Society's Journal.

I may mention that my interest in the subject, which falls rather outside my usual lines of study, is largely due to my having acquired a large proportion of Sir Isaac Newton's alchemical manuscripts. As you probably know, he left behind him an enormous volume of documents in his own hand relating to alchemy, an amount certainly exceeding half a million words. These have never been carefully examined and remained, until last year, locked up in the safes of his collateral representatives. When they were sold at Sotheby's, I acquired the major portion of them, and am now considering what ought to be done about them, especially in view of the tercentenary of his birth which will soon arrive and might offer a good opportunity

#1401

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for publishing these and other documents which I obtained at the same time. At the present stage I only mention this to explain my interest in the subject. I have read a large part of the Newton manuscripts and am left in great perplexity as to which of them are mere copies and abstracts of other writers (which the bulk of them are) and which, if any, are his own original contributions.

Yours faithfully,

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry invites submissions for the 12th Annual Postgraduate Workshop “Secrets of Matter, Matters of Secrecy: Concealing (al)chemical Knowledge from Ciphers to the Military Industrial Complex”

Two-day virtual workshop, June 3 – 4, 2021

Organizers:

Alison McManus, PhD Candidate, Princeton University Program in the History of Science

Sarah Hijmans, PhD Candidate, Université Paris Diderot

Sarah Lang, PhD Candidate, Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

Sponsored by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

SHAC’s annual series of workshops fosters interdisciplinary exchange among graduate students and early career scholars from any field whose work engages with the history of alchemy and chemistry.

We invite proposals for short, 10-minute virtual presentations related to secrecy in the history of alchemy and chemistry. Proposals representing any geographic region and time period are welcome.

We especially encourage projects pertaining to alchemical ciphers, information networks, trade secrecy, intellectual property, toxicology, agnotology, and the military industrial complex.

The virtual workshop will be held on June 3-4, 2021, 10am – 2pm EST. Presentations will be grouped thematically and followed by synthetic discussion.

Please send a 200-300 word proposal along with your CV by February 15th, 2021 to SHAC Student Representative Alison McManus, at studentrep@ambix.org. Successful applicants will be notified in early March.



Maurice Crosland

Maurice
Pierre
Crosland
(1931-2020)

The internationally-renowned historian of French chemistry, Maurice P. Crosland, died in his 89th year at his home in Canterbury on 30 August 2020. He was one of the pioneers of the modern critical history of science that emerged in 1950s, and he became known especially for his many important studies of French science. He was born in Wandsworth of French ancestry; his maternal grandfather, Jean-Baptiste Mispoulet (1849-1917), had been a Parisian civil servant who published several books on Roman law and history. Maurice read chemistry at University College London (1949-51) before settling into a decade of teaching chemistry and physics in secondary schools in London and Peterborough. In 1957 he married a fellow teacher, Joan Mary Cooley (d. 2012), with whom he had three sons and a daughter. They, as well as three grandchildren, survive him.

During his schoolmaster period (1952-63) he joined an important cohort of mature students who undertook part-time studies in the history and philosophy of science with Douglas McKie and his colleagues at UCL. Among them was W. A. (Bill) Smeaton who shared Maurice's interest in French chemistry. Maurice gained an MSc for a thesis on Nicolas Lemery in 1953, and a PhD in 1959 for the thesis which he subsequently turned into the internationally-famous book, *Historical Studies in the Language of Chemistry* (Heinemann, 1962; Constable, 1978; Dover pbk 1978). On the strength of this "best-seller", he was recruited by Jerry Ravetz to join a team of historians that formed a sub-unit of history of science within Stephen Toulmin's department of philosophy at the University of Leeds. There he joined company with an eager group of young historians: Ted McGuire, Charles Webster, Piyo Rattansi, Charles Schmidt, Robert Olby, and Alec Dolby. The group also formed part of the stimulating "Northern Seminar" with Donald Cardwell and Wilfred Farrar in Manchester, David Knight (Durham) and Jack Morrell (Bradford). These were exciting times intellectually and Maurice began to pour out articles on French chemistry, and to publish the outstanding study of Berthollet's private research school, *The Society of Arcueil* (1967). During 1968 he spent a sabbatical summer term at the University of California with Roger Hahn, who stimulated his interest in the history of the Académie de sciences; and the autumn term with the Lavoisier specialist, Henry Guerlac, at Cornell University. A further sabbatical in 1971 was spent at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1974 the Leeds physical chemist, Edward F. Caldin (1914-99), who was interested in the history and philosophy of chemistry, became the foundation professor at the new University of Kent at Canterbury. He persuaded Maurice (together with Dolby) to move to Kent to lead a Unit for the History & Philosophy of Science sponsored by the Nuffield Foundation. In 1994, when Maurice retired to be succeeded by Crosbie Smith, the Unit was taken over by the University as a Centre for History & Cultural Studies of Science and placed in the School of History. It is a matter of great regret that the Centre has been closed down during 2020, though some history of medicine will continue to be offered to students.

At Canterbury, Maurice investigated the research schools of Dumas, Wurtz and Madame Curie with his doctoral students Father Leo Klosterman (1985), Ana Carneiro (1992) and John L. Davis (1994), as well as the popularisation of science in English and French periodicals (Guy Kitteringham, 1981, and Gerald Colson, 1999). Major monographs written at Canterbury included the standard biography *Gay-Lussac, Scientist and Bourgeois* (1978); *Science Under Control: The French Academy of Sciences, 1795 -1914* (1992) which offered valuable comparisons with the Royal Society; and the pioneering study of a periodical, *In the Shadow of Lavoisier: the Annales de Chimie and the Establishment of a New Science* (1994). Valuable selections of his many articles were collected in two volumes of Ashgate's Variorum series: *Studies in the Culture of Science in France and Britain since the Enlightenment* (1995) and *Scientific Institutions and Practice in France and Britain, c. 1700-c.1870* (2007). Unfortunately, a long essay on 18th-century French chemistry that I found very useful for teaching purposes, and published in *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century*, 24 (1963), 369-441, was never reprinted.

Despite arm-twisting by his great friend, Bill Smeaton, Maurice was never persuaded to join SHAC's Council. Instead, he served on the Council of the BSHS and edited its Journal (1965-71). Most of his articles appeared in *Annals of Science*, *Minerva* and elsewhere; but he published three articles in *Ambix* on Gay-Lussac's library (28 (1981): 158-170); and on Lavoisier and the chemical revolution (42 (1995): 101-18; 56 (2009): 93-114). In retirement (when he gave up membership of SHAC) he continued publishing high quality research articles until about 2009. His beautifully-written final book, *Science under Suspicion*, which was directed at a general audience, appeared in 2011. In 1984 he received the Dexter Award of the Historical Division of the American Chemical Society in recognition of his contributions to the history of chemistry; it is surprising that he received no French honours.

I first met Maurice in Peterborough in 1963 when I was hoping he might supervise my Leicester PhD, but his move to Leeds made it impractical. During the late 1960s we both intended to collaborate on a study of Alexander Williamson's correspondence with the mathematician-philosopher, August Comte; but for reasons long forgotten, nothing came of the proposal. A tall slender man of headmasterly appearance, Maurice was notable for his Socratic questioning whenever he met a fellow historian. Despite his somewhat stern demeanour, he was always a kind and supportive friend. Our German colleague Christoph Meinel, who spent a post-doctoral year with Maurice at Canterbury in 1977/78, has provided a fitting tribute which historians and members of SHAC will appreciate: "working with Maurice was the turning experience in my own academic career. His mixture of French-styled academic sincerity and British sense of humour made him one of the few really exemplary teachers I ever had. Personally, I owe him quite a lot." All historians of chemistry will say, Amen, to that.

W. H. Brock
[with thanks to Peter Crosland
and Margaret Guye (née Crosland) for their comments]

George Kauffman 1930-2020

George Bernard Kauffman, who was a Professor of Chemistry at California State University, Fresno (CSUF) from 1956 until his retirement in 1992, died at his home in Fresno on 2 May 2020 aged eighty-nine. He received a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1948 and his Ph.D. from the University of Florida in 1956. Long active in both local and national American Chemical Society (ACS) affairs, George was the author of seventeen books and a multitude of papers, reviews, and encyclopaedia articles on chemical education, chemistry, and the history of science. He made a chemical-historical study of Werner's coordination theory under a National Science Foundation grant at the Universität Zürich (1963–1964) and published extensively on this subject, notably the biography: *Alfred Werner: Founder of Co-ordination Chemistry*, published in 1966. He received the ACS History of Chemistry Division Dexter Award in 1978 for his extensive contributions to the history of chemistry, particularly his studies on Werner and the history of co-ordination compounds. With Charlotte Steinberg, in 1988 he translated from Russian, *Aleksandr Porfir'evich Borodin: A Chemist's Biography* by N. A. Figurovskii, and Yu. I. Solov'ev, ensuring that this work became more widely accessible.

Kauffman was a significant contributor to *Ambix's* move into more modern chemistry in the 1970s. His contributions included three papers on Werner: the stereochemistry of trivalent nitrogen compounds in 1971; on Werner's Theory of Acids, Bases and Hydrolysis in 1973; and Werner's views of oxonium salts in 1974. With Paul M. Priebe he published on the discovery of saccharin, providing a retrospective on its centennial in 1978. With William Brock, K.A. Jensen and Christian A. Jørgensen, he published "The origin of the term 'ligand' in chemistry" in 1981. In 1983 a paper was published on the little-known Stephen H. Emmens, President of the Emmens Metal Company of Emmens, Pennsylvania and his claims to have converted silver into gold, a paper which included extracts of Emmens' correspondence with William Crookes and Henry Carrington Bolton.

- Anna Simmons

George was prolific. When I was editor of *Ambix* in the 1970s and 1980s he would submit at least four articles a year, most of which had to be turned down as too specialised for our readership. In January each year, he would send me, and his other friends, a huge parcel containing offprints and photocopies of all the articles and book reviews he had published during the previous year. He had that endearing, though infuriating, urge to publish the same article in several periodicals, tailoring each version to its readership. (Our ligand article appeared in, I think, seven versions in various languages and specialised journals.) He had a well-meaning compulsion to communicate his excitement about chemistry and its history to as many people as possible, even though the side-effect was to swell his list of publications to an extraordinary degree. He and his wife Laurie (who survives him) owned a dog which George would walk. While doing so, he would read a book or paper, and the dog would intuitively guide him round lampposts and other street furniture.

-W. H. Brock

Throughout his long career the history of coordination complexes of the platinum metals was one of George Kauffman's main interests. Between 1972 and 2010 he contributed 14 articles to the *Platinum Metals Review*, dealing with the lives and work of selected early workers. These included the neglected Italian Alfonso Cossa as well as the well-known Alfred Werner and Sophus Mads Jørgensen, several early Russian contributors (Chernyaev, Kurnakov, Lebedinski), and a number of pioneering Americans such as the platinum metals chemistry authority James Lewis Howe whose "Bibliography of the metals of the platinum metals" was a standard resource over several decades. Kauffman contributed 14 articles to *Inorganic Syntheses*, detailing preparations of many key complexes. He also provided early demonstrations of the value of chromatography in characterising and separating pairs of geometrical and linkage isomers of square-planar platinum and palladium complexes. We will publish a generously-referenced appreciation of his work in this area in the *Johnson Matthey Technology Review* (successor to *Platinum Metals Review*).

- Martyn Twigg and
John Burgess

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