

CHEMICAL INTELLIGENCE Summer 2022 issue

Society for the History
of Alchemy and Chemistry



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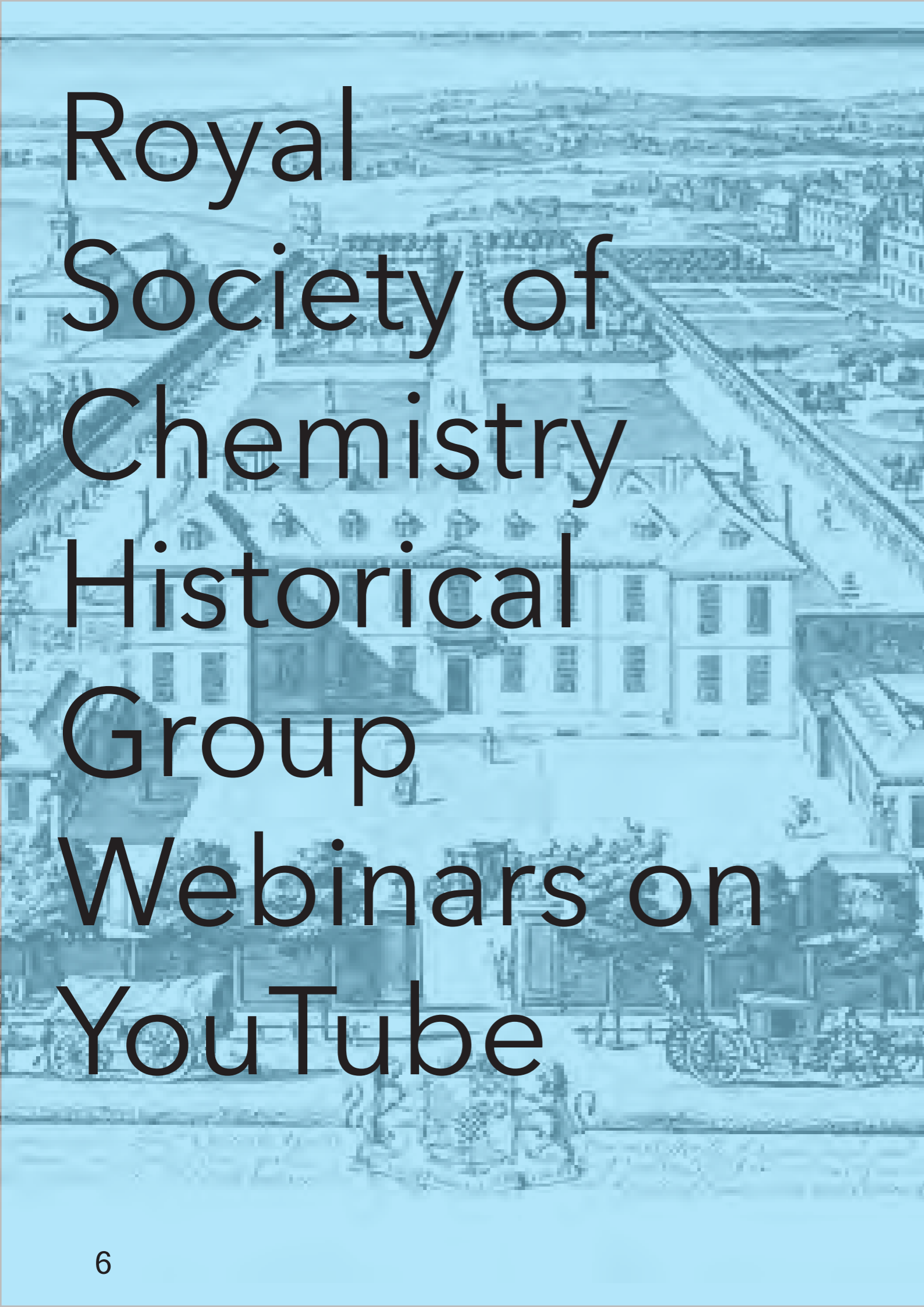
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At the SHAC AGM held online on 29 June we said goodbye to the following three Council members (Trustees): Simon Werrett, Sophie Waring and Robert Anderson. The Society thanks all of them for their service over the years and particularly Robert who served on Council continuously for nearly half a century and this was recognised at the Society's meeting at the Chelsea Physic Garden on 17 June. In their place the following were elected and we look forward to working with them in the coming years:

Annette Lykknes. Professor of chemistry education and historian of chemistry at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

Tara Nummedal. Professor of history at Brown University and a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of *Ambix*.

Peter Ramberg. Professor of the history of science at Truman State University and Associate Editor of *Ambix*.



Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group Webinars on YouTube

Recordings of some of the talks given to the RSC Historical Group are now grouped together in a single playlist in [the RSC YouTube Channel](#).

The talks have been given since July 2020, with regular recording commencing at the beginning of 2022. Currently there are two series, the main series which takes place each third Tuesday of the month (except August) and a series covering the history of chemistry between 2019 and 3000 BCE, loosely based on

the Bloomsbury Cultural History of Chemistry, which is on the fourth Tuesday of each month (except August and December). This is a work in progress, with some videos waiting to be uploaded.

For more information on the Historical Group's activities including its twice-yearly newsletter which contains short articles, book reviews and meeting reports and also details of forthcoming meetings and online talks please visit [here](#).

Summer 2022 RSC Historical Group Newsletter

The summer 2022 RSC Historical Group Newsletter is [now available to view](#).

The Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group publishes a twice-yearly newsletter which includes short articles on the history of chemistry, book reviews and reports of the group's meetings and webinars, in addition to news items and information on future events. The eighty-second issue, published in summer 2022, includes the following articles: Keith Parry writes about the pigment Maya Blue; John Nicholson highlights the life and death of John Masson Gulland, FRS (1898-1947); Stephen Cohen discusses the process behind writing and illustrating a graphic novel on the history of chemistry (*OMG! How Chemistry Came to Be*); and Peter E. Childs provides insights into the seaweed and kelp industries in Scotland and Ireland. Peter Morris reviews *Scientific Sleuthing: Chemical Discoveries Made in New Zealand* and there are reports on the group's meetings on the chemists George Porter (1902-2002) and Geoffrey Wilkinson (1921-1996) and summaries of recent talks in its webinar series.

Megan Piorko has been awarded The American Trust for the British Library (ATBL) and the Virginia Fox Stern Center for the History of the Book in the Renaissance at Johns Hopkins University ATBL Transatlantic Fellowship for 2022-2023. Megan will use this award to support research for a new project on the alchemical and astrological medical prognostication of John Dee and Arthur Dee.

<https://atbl.us/announcing-the-2022-2023-at-bl-transatlantic-fellows/>



Women in Chemistry Symposium

ROYAL SOCIETY OF
CHEMISTRY
HISTORICAL
GROUP

Wednesday 13 October 2022,
Royal Society of Chemistry,
Burlington House, Piccadilly,
London

This one-day symposium organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry's Historical Group will take place on 13 October 2022 at Burlington House, London. The focus is the 'hidden' women of chemistry and explores the barriers they faced, their roles and contributions to chemistry, and how information about their pioneering efforts can be uncovered.

Attendance is free of charge.

For more information and book go to: <https://www.rsc.org/events/detail/74348/women-in-chemistry>.

SPEAKERS

Anne Barrett, Imperial College, London: How archives can reveal hidden women in chemistry.

Sally Horrocks, University of Leicester: The 'Two Person Career' and the British Chemical Community in the Mid-twentieth Century.

Patricia Fara, Clare College, Cambridge: Listening to the canaries: munitions workers in World War One.

Annette Lykknes, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway: A seat at the table: women and the periodic system.

Marelene Rayner-Canham and Geoff Rayner-Canham, Grenfell Campus, Memorial University, Newfoundland, Canada: "Let us in!" - the opposition to the admission of women to the professional societies.

Professor Gill Reid, University of Southampton, President RSC: My journey with chemistry.



Photo by Swedish National Heritage Board
- Glamilders, Åland / Ahvenanmaa, Finland,
No restrictions,

SHAC AUTUMN MEETING: Archaeology, Conservation Science and the History of Chemistry

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry is organising a one day in-person meeting to be held on Saturday 22 October 2022 at UCL on the theme of 'Archaeology, Conservation Science and the History of Chemistry'. This theme covers both the history of chemical methods used in archaeology and conservation, such as carbon dating, and what has been learned from the use of such methods, for example in allowing the contents of the Herculaneum papyri to be read, albeit with considerable difficulty. While there are some invited speakers, offers of papers are welcomed and should be sent to the SHAC chair, Frank James (frank.james@ucl.ac.uk), by the end of August.

SHAC ONLINE SEMINAR SERIES

SHAC's popular online seminar series will next take place live on Thursday 29 September 2022 beginning at 5.00pm BST (6.00pm CEST, 12 noon EDT, 9.00am PDT). The format will be a talk of 20-30 minutes, followed by a moderated discussion of half an hour. Details will be sent out to members nearer the time. The second seminar of the autumn term will take place on Thursday 17 November at 17:00 GMT.

Most previous on-line seminars can be found on the SHAC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/Society-forHistoryofAlchemyandChemistry>



“The Largest and Best”

A Symposium
to mark the 350th
Anniversary of the
Society of Apothecar-
ies’ Laboratories

The year 2022 sees the 350th anniversary of the opening of a laboratory at Apothecaries’ Hall for manufacturing chemical medicines and one hundred years since its closure. On Friday 6 May over sixty participants came together at Apothecaries’ Hall to commemorate these dates at a symposium organised jointly by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry and the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries.

A Potted History of The Apothecaries' Hall Laboratory 1672-1922 and its Place in the Development of Drug Manufacturing

Anna Simmons, UCL and History of Medicine Course Director, Society of Apothecaries

This introductory paper provided an overview of the history of the Hall laboratory as context for the papers, tours and archive viewing which followed. When a laboratory for manufacturing chemical medicines became operational early in 1672, the Society of Apothecaries created a framework for production which would in time serve its members both practically and financially. Rooted in the burgeoning popularity of chemical medicines and the ongoing disputes with the College of Physicians, the project was a response to political pressures and filled a perceived gap in Society members' skills. As demand for drugs from state and institutional customers grew, members pooled their knowledge and skills to administer an undertaking which eventually supplied drugs throughout the British Empire. The Society of Apothecaries became a supplier of medicines to customers including hospitals, government, the Navy and the East India Company. These developments were set against the backdrop of London as a centre of commerce, manufacture and global trade.

In the nineteenth century, under the direction of the chemists William Brande,

Henry Hennell and Robert Warington, new directions of research and consultancy developed. However, as the landscape of medical, chemical and pharmaceutical practice shifted, the institution struggled to reconcile its historic drug trade with the changing priorities of those it represented and the new responsibilities gained in medical licensing. The loss of key institutional customers in the 1870s and a lack of adequate management led to a sharp decline. Despite a re-organisation in the 1880s, the Society struggled even more to adapt to changes in the pharmaceutical marketplace and its retail and wholesale trades finally closed in 1922. Whilst its trading operations were very different from those of contemporaneous and competing pharmaceutical businesses, studying the Society of Apothecaries' laboratories across their 250 years of existence provides a unique insight into the development drug manufacturing in Britain.

'The wonders of the apothecary's shop'

Patrick Wallis, LSE

This talk looked at one of the spaces of pharmacy: the apothecary's shop. This was a distinctive and unusual space – one of the sites of innovation in shop design and display. The effects of this are apparent in the objects that survive from the period, notably drug jars and pill tiles, and can be seen in images and reports of shops from the period

One of the central themes was the presentation of natural wonders. Patrick Wallis suggested that this development occurred in part because of the nature of the medical commodities that were sold there, particularly the concerns contemporaries had over apothecaries' reliability, trustworthiness and honesty, and general attitudes to consumption.

Plague, War and Medical Conflict: The Society of Chymical Physicians and Restoration England

Peter Elmer, Exeter University

In 1665, a group of chymical physicians sought to establish, with royal approval, a new body overseeing the regulation and practice of medicine in London. The Society of Chymical Physicians, as they called themselves, were determined to overthrow the monopolistic powers wielded by the London College of Physicians whose members they depicted as slavishly following the humoral medical system of the ancient Greek physician, Galen. In seeking change, they enlisted the vital support of a large number of sympathetic aristocrats, placemen and officer holders at the court of Charles II. They also sought to use the recent outbreak of plague in the capital as a literally heaven-sent opportunity to prove their worth by ministering with chemical medicines to the sick of the city.



Ultimately, they failed. Many of their number died in the plague. Other members fell out over economic, social and political differences. The attempt to create a new medical body based on Helmontian medicine did, however, leave a lasting legacy. The pamphlet war that raged between the Galenists and chymists continued throughout the following decades when further attempts were made to revive the original plan of 1665, often assisted by clerical sympathisers within the restored Anglican church. In particular, the grant of medical licences under the auspices of Gilbert Sheldon, archbishop of Canterbury, and Humphrey Henchman, bishop of London, proved invaluable to the chemists in their struggle

with the censors of the College of Physicians. Just as importantly, the court of Charles II proved enormously important in funding and encouraging the work of the chymists in the Whitehall laboratory which he had specially built and supplied with a constant stream of royal appointed chymists and chymical physicians. By the end of the seventeenth century, laboratory-based medicine and chymistry achieved wide approval as is evident from the new laboratory built at Apothecaries Hall in 1672 and others to be found in the College of Physicians itself and at both Oxford and Cambridge Universities.

The afternoon session began with a series of brief talks which showcased how the Society of Apothecaries' archives could be used in wider research.



Huguenot Apothecaries and the Royal Hospital Chelsea: Isaac Garnier (c. 1631-1712) and Family

Rosemary Baird Andreae

This short talk drew attention to the Garnier family of apothecaries, notably Isaac Garnier, a Huguenot Apothecary from Vitry in Champagne. Appointed Apothecary Extraordinaire to Charles II in 1682, Isaac was made free of the Society of Apothecaries in October 1684, with his son Isaac apprenticed to Benjamin Donne, then the Upper Warden, the following month. Isaac lived in Pall Mall and he was appointed apothecary to the Royal Hospital Chelsea in 1692. His son took over the appointment at Chelsea in 1702, becoming Apothecary General to the Army in 1733. When Isaac II died in 1736, his nephew George (1703-1763) was appointed to the post of Apothecary General to the Army. Through the extremely favourable terms of this appointment, the Garniers amassed a fortune from supplying the Army with medicines, with their transition to landed gentry further aided by financially beneficial marriages. The talk discussed the family's house in Pall Mall, where their apothecary shop was located and inspected by the Royal College of Physicians, and of which an inventory survives from 1740. During his travels through Europe, George was an avid collector, acquiring a remarkable group of paintings by Canaletto. His son, George Charles (1739-1819), was appointed Apothecary Gener-

on his father's death in 1763. Although his father had worked very hard in the role, at this point it was technically a sinecure which enabled him to earn £10,000 a year for little effort. George Charles was painted by Thomas Gainsborough and spent much of his time at the family's country estate of Rookesbury in Hampshire.

Opium Prices and Demand in the 19th Century

Pierre Lack, LSE

This talk explored the demand for opium in Britain between 1816 and 1916 and suggested that it was mostly consumed as a non-addictive and medicinal good rather than as an addictive and recreational good. Quantitative and qualitative evidence is sometimes mixed on the issue of how opium was consumed, but this talk highlighted that the evidence skews towards medicinal use and a lack of addiction. Most notably, this research constructs the first ever time series of long-run opium prices. A joint analysis of the data on prices and consumption indicates that demand for opium increased between 1840 and 1870 before declining during the 1880s and 1890s, and possibly rising during the 1900s. The relationship between prices and an extended series of home opium consumption is tested, and the inelastic response of consumption

the weak effect of past and future consumption on present consumption suggest that use was primarily non-addictive. The implication of this research's findings is that a free market in narcotics did not, in the social context of the nineteenth century, necessitate mass addiction or widespread recreational use. This talk also suggested that other psychoactive substances such as tea, tobacco and beer were likewise consumed mostly for practical rather than recreational purposes, and without causing much addiction.

A Multiple Post-Holder in Nineteenth-Century Scientific London: William Thomas Brande

Frank James and Anna Simmons, UCL

This short talk drew attention to the significance of the chemist William Thomas Brande (1788-1866). During his lifetime he tended to be strongly linked with his contemporaries and colleagues, Humphry Davy and Michael Faraday. Yet he is now seen as a somewhat marginal figure and James and Simmons have begun a project to rectify this incorrect (in their view) perception and to understand how it came about. They briefly outlined his career from birth into a wealthy Anglo-Hanoverian family of apothecaries, to holding a large number of paid positions simultaneously in London scientific institutions including the Society of Apothecaries, The Royal Institution, The London Institution, The Royal Society of London and The Royal Mint

In addition, Brande provided chemical advice to water companies and to the East India Company and as well as publishing numerous textbooks, mostly based on his lecture courses. The surgeon and sometime President of the Royal Society of London, Benjamin Brodie, attributed Brande's failure to pursue scientific research to his need to support a family and six children, which neither Davy nor Faraday had to do. The talk concluded with a discussion of a painting, once owned by the late Alfred Bader, that purports to show Brande or Davy making Prussian blue in front of Faraday. The speakers noted that the same scene is shown in a painting with a contextual background held by the Oxford History of Science Museum. This image is dated and signed and without that, they would dismiss the authenticity of the scene. Despite Bader's certainty and the fact that a copy of his painting now hangs in the Brande room of the Society of Apothecaries, research is still needed to identify firmly the subjects depicted in the painting and its provenance. But the very existence of the argument as to the identity of the sitters, suggests that the links between Davy, Faraday and Brande were strong, but need to be understood to restore Brande's reputation as a major figure of nineteenth-century science and to show that high scientific reputations then depended not just on research.

The Chase Family: Royal Spies to Gin Distillers

John Ford, Friends of the Archive

Several families have been connected with the Society over several generations but there are none who have served with greater distinction nor for longer than the Chases. Members served as Royal Apothecaries to all the monarchs from Charles I to George I. That meant that they acted as GPs who were in close personal contact with the monarch and who performed the final service of embalming the royal body. Fiercely loyal to the Crown they supported Prince Charles during the Interregnum and their premises were a centre for royalist spies and acted as their secret post office. On the Restoration this connection led to affluence and a rise in social standing. They moved their shop from the City to Covent Garden as it was being developed and their homes to gentlemen's residences in the country. One, James Chase (c. 1650-1721), served as Whig MP for Marlow from 1700 to 1710.

Within the Apothecaries there were three Chase Masters. One had to heal the divisions created by the Civil War, the problems created by the plague of 1665, and watch the Hall burn during the Great Fire of 1666. During his son's Mastership, the Society managed its change of allegiance from the Stuarts to William and Mary. Descendants of one branch of the family founded the Chase

Bank in America and recent members of the family farmed in Herefordshire. William Chase, who owned Tyrells Court Farm, produced potatoes which he started turning into Tyrrells Crisps in 2002 and later into Chase gin and vodka.

The Royal Society Repository: Museum, Library and Working Laboratory

Anna Marie Roos,
University of Lincoln

The century between 1660 and 1760 witnessed profound 'transitions from private to public responsibility of all kinds - for historic manuscripts and documents, early and modern printed books and access to modern research.' In early modern Europe, the ancient unification of museum, library, and scholarly centres joined newfound concerns about the relationship between the collection, the ruler, and the 'public'. This paper explored this moment of transition for the collection from the viewpoint of an institution entangled with changing notions of public and private - the learned society, namely the Royal Society and its Repository Museum. The Royal Society Repository Museum was founded in 1663 by the first state-supported scientific institution in the world, its charter granted by King Charles II. The 'repository', was displayed first at Gresham College, Bishopsgate, then

College, Bishopsgate, then in Fleet Street at Crane Court; at this point, the repository was housed in a separate building. Fellows made donations, and in 1665 the Society purchased Robert Hubert's cabinet of 'natural rarities'. The Repository may have been described by Antoine Joseph Dezailler D'Argenville in 1780. as a place dans un bâtiment au fond du jardinor, a deluxe shed in the bottom of the garden, but it was one of the most important 'sheds' in the world.



SHAC

Summer Event

at the Chelsea Physic
Garden, London, Fri-
day 17 June

At this special summer event SHAC members had the opportunity to come together, visit a major scientific site and enjoy talks and networking in the convivial surroundings of the Chelsea Physic Garden on one of the warmest days of the year. Founded by the Society of Apothecaries in 1673 on four acres of land on the edge of the Thames, it is London's oldest botanic garden and contains a collection of around 5,000 edible, useful and medicinal plants.

Following a presentation to Robert Anderson to mark over forty years of service to SHAC Council, Elaine Leong (UCL) gave the first lecture “At the Sign of the Globe and Chymical Furnaces’: Print, Medicine and Chymistry in Early Modern London.” Elaine explored the practical and intellectual worlds of Christopher Packe, a self-titled “operator in chymistry” working in late seventeenth-century London. An active drug producer and seller, Packe ran a successful laboratory and medical practice in Little Moorfields, as documented in his printed tracts such as the *Armanmentarium Chymicum* (undated), *Mineralogia* (1693) and *Medela Chymica* (1708). Aside from this flourishing drug business, Packe was also an active translator/editor and brought the works of figures such as Reinier de Graaf, Franciscus Mercurius van Helmont and Johann Rudolf Glauber to English audiences. Through examination of Packe’s various printed works, her lecture investigated the intersections between his chemical and translation practices and demonstrated that Packe’s activities as a book producer were closely bound up with his commercial medical practices.



Photos by Anna Simmons



Bloomsbury’s *A Cultural History of Chemistry*, edited by Peter J.T. Morris and Alan Rocke, was launched during the meeting and a copy was on display for attendees to view. Peter Morris gave a brief summary of its contents and format and thanked the many editors and contributors to the six-volume publication. Totalling 1728 pages, the volumes explore questions including “What are the relationships between chemistry and technology, the other sciences, knowledge, art, and culture more broadly?” and “How has chemistry been shaped by changing world views?” In fifty-four chapters, fifty experts survey the last 5,000 years of chemistry covering Europe and North America in addition to key developments from the Middle East and North Africa.

The Morris Award Lecture “Chemistry Laboratories at Universities: An Overview from The Netherlands,” given by Ernst Homburg of Maastricht University, followed. Published in 1989, *The Development of the Laboratory: Essays on the Place of Experiment in Industrial Civilization*, edited by Frank James, was one of the first book length studies on the history of laboratories.

Since then, our knowledge has been enriched by numerous detailed studies of individual laboratories and of other aspects of what has been called the 'spatial turn' in the history of science, culminating in Peter Morris's synthesis in *The Matter Factory: A History of the Chemistry Laboratory*.

In many of these studies, understandably, a limited number of historically well-investigated laboratories play a major role: Lavoisier's laboratory in Paris, the Royal Institution in London, Liebig's laboratory in Giessen, as well as laboratories in Heidelberg, Bonn, New York and Oxford. This raises the question: are these examples the exceptions, or the rule. Do lesser known laboratories follow the pattern that is based on these well-known examples, or can new trends or aspects be discovered that have been overlooked, when we take other academic laboratories into consideration?

Ernst's lecture presented the results of a 'prosopography of institutes' that includes all institutes of higher learning in The Netherlands between 1600 and 1940: eleven universities, and six so-called 'illustrious schools' that offered education on the bachelor level (to use the modern term).

For the earlier period, he made extensive use of illustrations, not only drawings, paintings, and photographs of a remarkable number of buildings that have survived, but also floor plans and city maps. He covered the symbiosis between chemical laboratories and botanical gardens during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; the growing connections between chemistry and physics; the rise of teaching-research laboratories initiated by Gerrit-Jan Mulder, independently of Liebig; and the palatial laboratories of the Van 't Hoff generation. Furthermore; he examined the differentiation between laboratories for chemistry, pharmacy, and microbiology as well the construction of specialized laboratories for analytical, organic, inorganic and physical chemistry.

A few conclusions were then drawn: (a) the number of academic laboratories in the Netherlands during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was exceptionally large, with the possible exception of Germany; (b) in general the international trend was followed, but the lecture hall type of laboratory started earlier than abroad (Leiden 1687; Utrecht 1726) (c) although most of the laboratories were installed in existing buildings,

there are also several early examples of purpose-built laboratories (Leiden 1687; Groningen 1814); (d) the impact of Mulder on rise of the teaching-research laboratory has been underestimated in the international literature; and (e) focusing too narrowly on the evolution of chemistry laboratories, overlooks the importance of 'horizontal' differentiation in the form of laboratories for pharmacy, mineralogy, microbiology, etc.



Photo by Anna Simmons

Information on SHAC Prizes and Prize-Winners

The Morris Award for 2021 was awarded to Ernst Homburg for his outstanding work on the history of the chemical industry. His contributions include major studies on the history of the madder industry; his seminal paper on the early history of industrial R&D laboratories; his comprehensive history of twentieth-century modern chemistry and the chemical industry embedded within a broader history of the Netherlands in *Techniek In Nederland in the Twintigste Eeuw*. And, particularly (in the context of this award), his "The Era of Diversification and Globalization (1950-2012)" in *Solvay: History of a Multinational Family Firm* (CUP, 2013), a book he co-edited with Kenneth Bertrams and Nicolas Coupain.

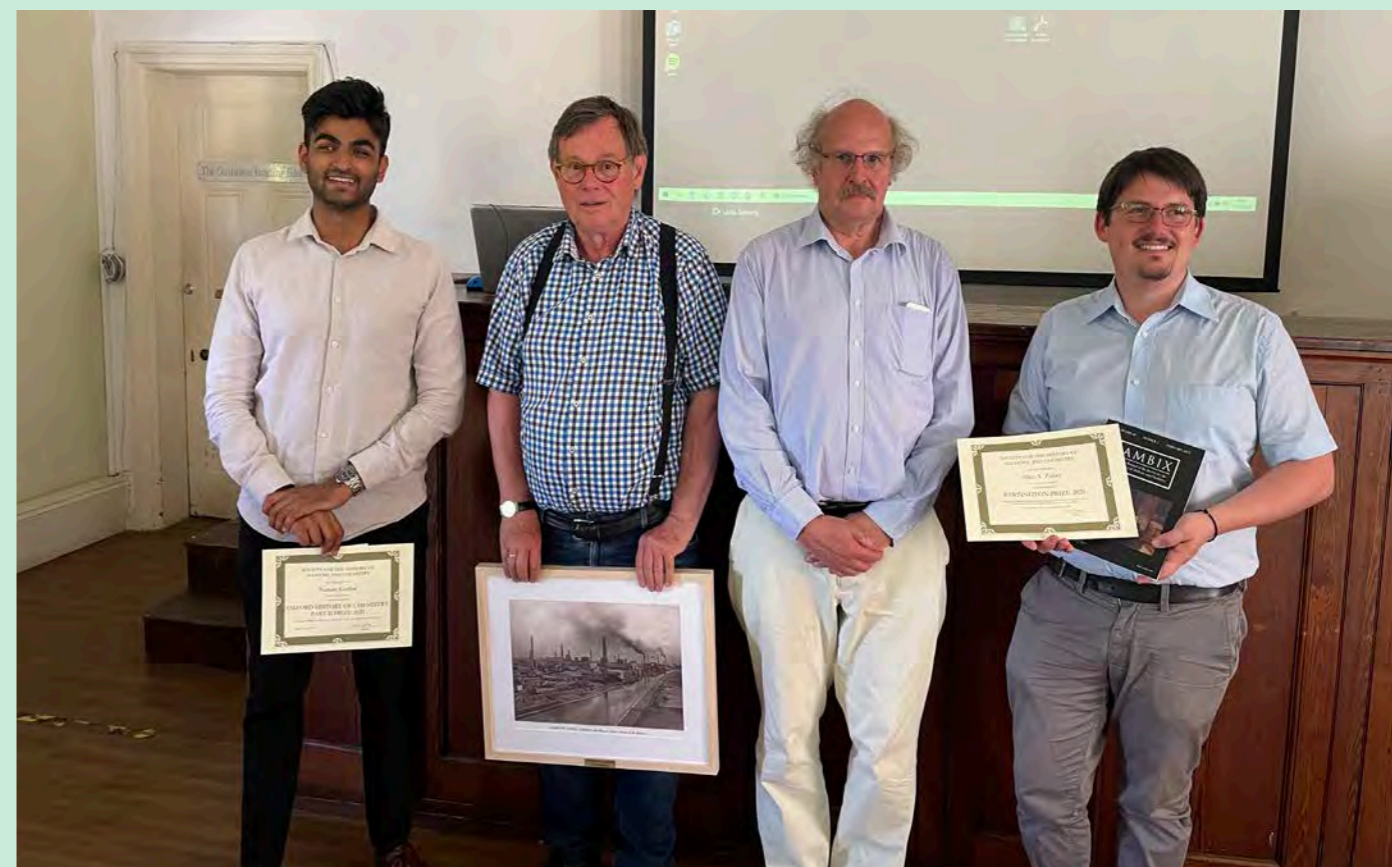
The Morris Award honours the memory of John and Martha Morris, the late parents of Peter Morris, the former editor of *Ambix* and recognises scholarly achievement in the History of Modern Chemistry (post-1945) or the History of the Chemical Industry. The next award will take place in 2024. A call for nominations will be circulated in 2023.

The 2020 Partington Prize was awarded to **Mike A. Zuber** for his article “Alchemical Promise, the Fraud Narrative, and the History of Science from Below: A German Adept’s Encounter with Robert Boyle and Ambrose Godfrey.” This was published in *Ambix*, volume 68, in February 2021. Mike explores environmental knowledge in the context of early-modern mining in central Europe between 1550 and 1750, funded by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He has published on the history of science and religious dissent in the early-modern period.

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 next Partington Prize will be in 2023, with the deadline for submissions 31 December 2022. Please see notice elsewhere in this newsletter for further information.

Mike’s article, amongst other past Partington prize-winning essays, is currently available [free-access](#).

The SHAC 2021 **Oxford Part II Prize** was awarded to Naman Kochar of Oxford University for his thesis “Making a Nobel Laureate: Reappraising the Life and Career of Cyril Norman Hinshelwood”. Naman is currently working in healthcare consultancy, where he applies his scientific knowledge in a real-world context whilst also using the qualitative analysis and writing abilities gained from the Oxford Part II.



Frank James, SHAC Chair presented the 2021 Morris Award to Ernst Homburg, the 2020 Partington Prize to Mike A. Zuber and the 2021 Oxford Part II Prize to Naman Kochar. There had been a delay in making the formal presentations due to the absence of in-person meetings during the covid-19 pandemic.

Partington prize 2023

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

The competition is open to anyone with a scholarly interest in the history of alchemy or chemistry who, by the closing date of 31 December 2022, has not reached 35 years of age, or if older is currently enrolled in a degree programme or has been awarded a master's degree or PhD within the previous three years. No restriction is placed on the nationality or country of residence of competitors. Only one entry is permitted from any competitor.

The prize-winning essay will be published exclusively in the Society's journal, *Ambix*. It must not have been submitted to any journal, including *Ambix*, at any time before 30 April 2023.

Essays must be submitted in English. Essays must be fully documented using the conventions used in the current issue of *Ambix* and include an abstract of no more than 200 words. Essays must not exceed 10,000 words in length, including the abstract, references and footnotes.

All entries should be sent to prizes@ambix.org in the form of two separate e-mail attachments in Microsoft Office Word (preferably 2013 or later). The first attachment should be headed "Partington Prize Entry 2023" and should give the author's name, institution, postal address, e-mail address, date of birth (and, if relevant, the date of the award of the master's degree or PhD), the title of the essay, and the word count. The second attachment should be the essay, which should not identify the author either by name or implicitly.

Entries must arrive before midnight GMT on 31 December 2022. The decision of the Society will be final on all matters. The result of the competition will be announced by 30 April 2023.

To view examples of past prize-winning essays published in *Ambix* please visit [here](#).

For any enquiries regarding entering the competition please email prize@ambix.org



Society of Apothecaries' Archive - New Collections Grant Scheme

The Friends of the Archive at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries will award up to 4 grants each year, each of £250, to support researchers to use the Society's collections.

The grants are intended to encourage researchers to use the collections either as the main focus of their project, or as part of a larger research proposal. We are keen to widen further use of the collections and engage with a wider range of researchers. Research projects that lead to a published outcome or those that use material that has previously been under-utilised are particularly welcomed. We interpret "publication" widely to include book, article, chapter, conference paper or poster, lecture, blog, exhibition, or film.

More info: <https://www.apothecaries.org/friends-of-the-archives-historical-collections-research-grant/>

PROJECT reports

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Joris Mercelis

Last month I could finally make the SHAC-supported archival research trip to Rochester, New York that I had originally scheduled for the fall of 2020. Rochester is a crucial destination for me as my research explores the development of photographic science and technology, a field dominated by the Eastman Kodak Co. for much of the twentieth century. My first priority was to go through additional sources in the Kodak Historical Collection #003 at the Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester, a comprehensive collection that has been more fully processed since I had last consulted it. I also spent a day at the George Eastman Museum, reviewing selected correspondence of Kodak's founder and parts of the

papers of Kenneth Mees, the company's first research director. In addition, I could interview the son-in-law of a biologist-turned-chemist who was one of the first scientists hired into Kodak's tropical research laboratories in Panama City.

My trip has been directly valuable to my work in progress. It has already helped me revise and improve an article manuscript on women chemists in the photographic industry, which has been accepted for publication in *Ambix*. Various sources that I could access in Rochester have also provided me with a fuller picture of Kodak's research and development internationalization strategies and the relationships between the company's scientific and manufacturing activities in different countries and world regions. These are themes that are central to my ongoing research, so I am most grateful to SHAC for granting me a research award.

Kate Allan

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to SHAC for an Award that enabled me to carry out research for my thesis on alchemical poetics in early modern women's writing. This research focused on Margaret Clifford (née Russell), Countess of Cumberland (1560–1616), literary patron and alchemical practitioner, and a key agent in the circulation of alchemical texts throughout the circles of the North Yorkshire elite during the seventeenth century.

I visited the Kendal Archive Centre with the aim of producing the first reconstruction of Clifford's library, based on evidence from the earliest known catalogue of books at the Clifford family estates, Appleby and Skipton Castle (1739) (YAS, DD121/111) and the alchemical material remaining at the Kendal Archives Centre (in particular, WDHOTH/1/1-5). My research indicates that a number of the texts in Skipton catalogue

remain extant in the archive, including Arnoldus de Villanova, *Novum lumen* (1572) and *Nova Disquisitio de Helia Artista Theophrasteo* (1606). I have identified for the first time a manuscript listed in the catalogue as 'A very old Abstract of some Book of Alchimy' (YAS, DD121/111) as an Index Rerum to John Isaac Holland, *Opera Mineralia* (Middelburg, 1600). This archival evidence invites us to look through the keyhole of the Clifford library to the volumes which sat alongside *The Margaret Manuscript*, detailed in Penny Bayer's seminal 2015 *Ambix* article, "Lady Margaret Clifford's Alchemical Receipt Book and the John Dee Circle." The reconstructed alchemical library displays the wide range of alchemical learning accessible to Clifford; it is replete with a variety of esoteric and exoteric texts in both tracts and poetry, manuscript and printed books. The texts have a notably spiritual, medical, and Paracelsian bias, a Paracelsianism, moreover, interlinked with Reformed Protestantism.

Although I consulted probate records at Borthwick Institute of Historical Research, York, I have not yet been able to propose a viable candidate for the mysterious 'C. T.' involved in the compilation of 'The Margaret Manuscript.' This research remains ongoing.

My thesis chapter uses the archival evidence of Clifford's intellectual and practical engagement with alchemy to restore the vital role that religion and alchemical thought played in Clifford's female literary coterie. Clifford was the literary patron of Aemilia Lanyer (1569-1645) and commissioned her to write one of the first volumes of original verse published by an English female poet: *Salve Deus Rex Judæorum* (1611). Based on the archival material from Skipton, I propose a new reading of this text that reveals how the theological concerns of Lanyer's poem, including the crucial operations of grace

are underpinned by Calvinist Paracelsianism in which Clifford and Lanyer were immersed. It is my hope that this research does not only materially contribute to our knowledge of female book ownership and alchemical practice; it also fundamentally rethinks how female coterie culture seriously engaged with the substance of transcontinental alchemical thought and theology.

I am deeply indebted to SHAC for supporting this research and providing me with the resources necessary to carry out these archival trips.

Book reviews for ***Ambix***

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

Ambix Edited Collections

Edited Collections are curated lists of articles previously published in *Ambix* and similar academic journals around a theme. Articles included in a Collection are free access for two months after publication.

Our current Edited Collection is “The Apothecary Beyond the Shop: Chemistry, Medicine and Laboratories from the 17th to the 19th Centuries,” edited by **Anna Simmons**.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/yamb20/collections/the-apothecary-beyond-the-shop>

The Apothecary Beyond the Shop: Chemistry, Medicine and Laboratories from the 17th to the 19th Centuries

Contributors to *Ambix* have long been interested in examining the relationship between the apothecaries of London and their Society. Founded in 1617, the Society of Apothecaries had responsibility for examining apprentices and regulating apothecaries' activities in the City of London and within a seven mile radius. This collection from *Ambix* and *Annals of Science* marks the 350th anniversary of the opening of a laboratory for manufacturing chemical medicines at Apothecaries' Hall in 1672 and one hundred years since the Hall pharmaceutical trade's closure in 1922. It places

pieces specifically about the Society alongside articles which explore the broader social, economic and intellectual contexts of chemistry, medicine and laboratories from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. With its creation rooted in the burgeoning popularity of chemical medicines and the ongoing disputes with the College of Physicians, the Society's laboratory expanded during the eighteenth century to become a major supplier of medicines to the Navy and East India Company. In the nineteenth century, under the direction of William Brande (1788-1866), Henry Hennell (1797-1842) and

Robert Warington (1807-1867), new directions of research and consultancy developed, whilst the Society of Apothecaries struggled to reconcile its new role as a medical licensing corporation with that of a wholesale drug manufacturer. Selected articles explore the wider contributions of Brande and Warington to nineteenth-century chemistry and focus on the site of chemistry at Apothecaries' Hall which served multiple functions over its lifetime and played a pivotal role in the development of British pharmaceutical manufacturing. The geographic perspec-

tive is broadened with studies of apothecaries in Nancy, Metz and Bologna and a discussion of the influence of Boerhaave's *Mineral Chemistry* on eighteenth-century pharmacy in the Netherlands and England, including its reception among apothecaries.

Sponsored by the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry and the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Society of Apothecaries, the articles in this collection have been made free access to all until the end of July 2022. After this date,

access to all past *Ambix* articles is included in membership of SHAC, whilst selected articles in the collection will remain free access. Please visit the link below: <https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/yamb20/collections/the-apothecary-beyond-the-shop>

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

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- Materials that you are working on and wish to share
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For any queries regarding the content of *Chemical Intelligence*, or to propose material for inclusion in future issues, please contact the editor, Dr. Karoliina Pulkkinen: karoliina.pulkkinen@helsinki.fi