

CHEMICAL INTELLIGENCE

Winter
2023 issue

Society for the History
of Alchemy and Chemistry



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news & announcements

Dear readers,

I take this opportunity to thank those of our members who have already paid their subscription for 2023. That's over 75% of our members as at the end of January. For those members who have yet to pay, please do so before the 31st March 2023 to ensure you remain on the distribution list for *Ambix* after that date.

Just go to <https://www.ambix.org/renew-membership/> and select how you want to pay. Perhaps you tried this link earlier in the year and found the web site unresponsive. Various words have been exchanged with our web site host and (at the time of writing) the response is now much better!

Best regards
Rob Johnstone

Introducing new student representative and webmaster

Josh Werrett

I am a second-year DPhil student of Classics at St John's College, Oxford, and the postgraduate rep for SHAC.

Having completed an undergraduate degree in Classics at the University of Exeter and a master's degree in Classics at Queens' College, Cambridge, I was keen to pursue doctoral work. My thesis is a commentary on The Visions of Zosimos of Panopolis. This text blends together the scientific and religio-philosophical aspects of ancient alchemy in very interesting ways, incorporating many religious trends which thrived in Egypt in Late Antiquity, from Hermeticism to Christianity. My broader research interests lie in the ancient occult sciences, primarily alchemy and astrology, and how they relate to various religio-philosophical movements in the ancient world.

In addition to my research, I also teach Ancient Greek grammar to undergraduate students at Oxford, as well as teaching Latin and giving frequent lectures on a wide range of Classical topics at a local secondary school.

In keeping with my personal research interests in ancient occult sciences, I would be interested in running a workshop which explores the relationship between alchemy and other esoteric disciplines, such as magic and astrology. I believe that such a conference would bring together specialists in both the history of alchemy and chemistry, as well as specialists in adjacent fields, to discuss interesting questions about the role which alchemy has played in the history of both esoteric and scientific thought.

Sarah Lang

(she/they)

I am a Digital Humanities Post-Doc at the Centre for Information Modelling Graz (Zentrum für Informationsmodellierung). Having been a SHAC Student Ambassador in the past, I have taken on the role of content editor for SHAC over the past summer.

After completing undergraduate and graduate degrees in History and Classics (Latin and Greek) in Graz and Montpellier, I moved into the field of Digital Humanities where I have worked since 2016. In 2018, I decided to pursue a PhD Dissertation at the intersection of Digital Humanities and the early modern history of science, focusing on decoding cryptographical stylistic devices specific to alchemy (Decknamen) on the example of chymist Michael Maier's (1568-1622) Neo-Latin corpus, which I completed in 2021.

I was awarded the Bader Prize for the History of Science by the Austrian Academy of Sciences for my work on computational methods for the history of alchemy in 2021. In the past, I have been a fellow at German Historical Institute (Paris), Herzog August Bibliothek (Wolfenbüttel), Leibniz Institut für europäische Geschichte (Mainz), Ludwig Boltzmann Institut für Neulatein (Innsbruck), and the Science History Institute (Philadelphia).

My research interests center around the question of how we can integrate modern digital methods which are the state of the art in Digital Humanities (such as Distant Reading, Distant Viewing and using Computational Humanities methods) in scholarship on the history of alchemical and chymical print.

Notably, together with colleagues Megan Piorko and Richard Bean, we were able to use a combination of digital and traditional methods to decode an alchemical cipher.

I have been known to blog about the Digital Humanities and typesetting in LaTeX but I don't get around to doing that as much lately. Besides my activities for SHAC, I am part of the board of the Society for Digital Humanities in the German-speaking area where I lead an interest group in questions such as the gender data gap, data feminism, diversity in the field, decolonizing data and related topics.

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Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Award Scheme 2023

**Opening date:
1 March 2023**

**Closing date for
applications:
31 May 2023**

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry invites applications for its Award Scheme for 2023. 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 2023. The Awards are most suitable for activities planned to be undertaken during the academic year October 2023–September 2024. However, there will be a two-year window for completion 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 2013 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 £1000 will be made to cover research expenses, including travel, accommodation, subsistence (at the discretion of the award panel), 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, those who have obtained a PhD since 1 January 2013 and independent scholars 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 £1000 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 2023. Members are only permitted to make one application to each annual Award Scheme (not including the SHAC Special ICHC13 Award Scheme which closes on 28.02.2023).

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.

SHAC Special ICHC13 Award Scheme - Grants to support attendance at ICHC13 in Vilnius, May 2023

The deadline for
applications:
28 February 2023

Applicants are invited to apply for grants under a Special Award Scheme from the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) to support attendance of early-career scholars and independent scholars at the 13th International Conference on the History of Chemistry in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 23 May to 27 May 2023.

Awards of up to £400 will be made as a contribution towards the cost of travel, accommodation, and registration fees for those giving a paper at the conference. Early-career scholars are defined as post-graduate students (both masters and doctoral students) and those who have obtained a PhD since January 2013. 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.

Applicants must be members of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry in good standing at the time of making an application and if successful through the period of the award. For more information and application forms please contact grants@ambix.org stating that you are applying for a grant to attend ICHC.

Details of how to join the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry can be found at <https://www.ambix.org/subscription/>. Membership enquiries should be made to newjoiner@ambix.org

For further information on the conference - please visit: <https://www.ichc2023vilnius.chgf.vu.lt/>

The timescale for the conference is as follows:

Revised deadline for submitting proposals for the conference: 9 January 2023

Notification of acceptance: January 2023

Provisional programme: Early February 2023

Final programme: April 2023

The deadline for applications to this Award Scheme is 28 February 2023. It is expected that applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in time to register for early-bird conference fees which are available until 1 April 2023.

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



Vilnius city panorama, painted by Tomasz Makowski in 1600.

Please note that applying for a Special ICHC13 Award does not preclude applying to the usual SHAC Award Scheme for 2023. This is also a separate scheme from the CHCMS for ICHC13. Applying for the SHAC Scheme does not preclude application for the CHCMS grant, although it should be noted there are different eligibility requirements.

U A I S Project Reports

Zoe Screti

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has been difficult for me to get to archives over the past few years because of the health risks involved. The SHAC New Scholar Award has afforded me the opportunity to order copies of archival materials from the British Library and the Bodleian Library I would otherwise have been unable to see, with these being used to enhance my doctoral research and to form the basis of additional publications. I would like to express my sincere thanks to SHAC for providing me with such an opportunity.

My project sought to explore the relationship between the Reformation and alchemical study in early modern England, using marginalia in alchemical composite manuscripts to explore changes in readerly interactions.

Whilst alchemical texts themselves bear witness to the tumultuous tides of the Reformation, it is these marginal notes that reveal how alchemists were engaging with Reformed thought on a daily basis. The materials I accessed through the award were owned by two individuals who, on the surface, appear to be very different: the merchant Clement Draper who was imprisoned in King's Bench for debt, and John Thornborough, Bishop of Worcester. A Prisoner and a bishop may seem to have little in common, but these two contemporaries were deeply invested in both alchemy and religion and their marginalia reveals the distinctly Reformed – and even borderline Puritanical–exegetical approaches they applied to their chemical study.

Both revised mentions of controversial topics like Purgatory, both invoked

key scriptural passages favoured by the Reformers, and both understood Biblical references in alchemical texts in a largely literal sense. By viewing their marginalia, it has thus been possible to trace common threads in the ways in which early modern alchemists were drawing upon religious reform to shape their alchemy study.

As a result of this research, I have been able to enhance my doctoral research as I undertake the task of transmuting my thesis into a book, adding further illuminating examples to my chapters in order to better reflect the relationship between religious reform and alchemy in this period. It has also enabled me to write a research article exploring John Thornborough's alchemical practices, networks, and theories, revealing for the first time the extent to which his religious beliefs were entwined with his chymical activities.

I also hope to produce a second research article exploring the role of marginalia in Clement Draper's notebooks, exploring how this marginalia functioned and what this can tell us about Draper's reading of theoretical texts with the intention of conducting practical experiments. I am exceedingly grateful to SHAC for the opportunities afford me through this award and look forward to continuing to work with this exceptionally interesting archival material in the coming months.

Umberto Veronesi

The SHAC Research Award allowed me to take part in the 2022 Fall Meeting of the American Chemical Society, held in Chicago between the 21st and the 25th of August. ACS is a very large body and one of its many sections is dedicated to the history of chemistry. This year's HIST symposium honoured Prof. Marco Beretta, the latest recipient of the HIST Award for outstanding achievement in the history of chemistry. The specific theme of the symposium was "Glass and Chemistry 1400-1800" and I was invited to speak on this topic.

My talk "Glass for chemistry and the chemistry of glass: a kaleidoscopic story" traced the fascinating and dynamic relationship between glass and

chemistry/alchemy throughout the ages, with specific focus on the early modern period. I told this story from the point of view of two case studies: the supply of glass distillation apparatus at the alchemical laboratory of Oberstockstall and Michael Faraday's experiments with optical glass.

The talk was very well-received but, more importantly, taking part in this event allowed me to create new professional connections with ACS, one of the leading bodies for the history of chemistry in the United States. Some of its members, like Mary Virginia Orna who was present during the symposium, have produced enormously influential scholarship on a variety of topics and I discovered how my own research often overlaps with theirs. Moreover, I was finally able to meet prof. Beretta, whose work on

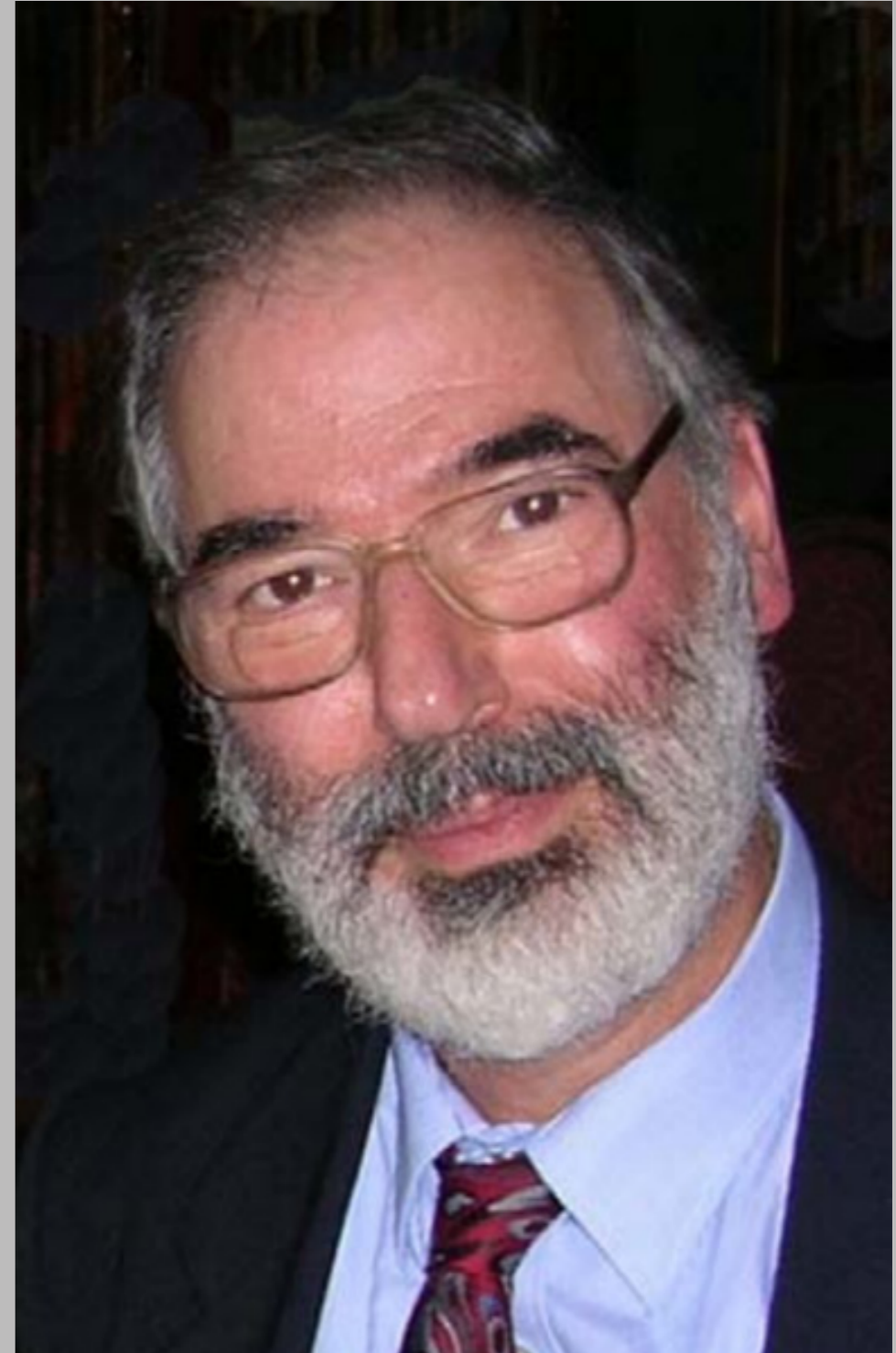
incredibly important to me, to my own PhD and more broadly to my focus on glass technology and its relationship with early modern alchemy. The chair of the meeting, Prof. Seth Rasmussen, is also an expert in pre-modern and modern glass and his more technical, chemical expertise very well complements my archaeological/historical background.

In this sense, I believe that my presence at the ACS meeting will lead to new collaborations and the chance for exciting new work, both in Europe and in the United States. I am extremely grateful to SHAC which helped making this possible, once more displaying a sensitivity towards supporting early career scholars and cross-disciplinarity in the history of alchemy and chemistry.



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TREVOR
HARVEY
LEVERE
(1944-2022)



The highly accomplished and much admired historian of science, Trevor Levere, has died in Toronto at the age of 78. He was a member of SHAC for essentially the whole of his career and he published his first paper in *Ambix*, 'Affinity or Structure: An Early Problem in Organic Chemistry' in 1970. Trevor was born in North London during the Second World War. He first went to a private preparatory school, enduring a brutal headmaster, and then proceeded to the academically highly-regarded St Paul's School, where he thrived. He went on to the University of Oxford in 1962 to read chemistry at New College. After three years he chose history of chemistry as his Part 2 research

working on the 18th century Dutch natural philosopher, Martinus van Marum. His research then took a different direction when he studied for a DPhil under the supervision of A C Crombie, work which in 1971 appeared as *Affinity and Matter: Elements of Chemical Philosophy 1800-1865*. In Oxford he had come into contact with Gerard L'Estrange Turner, a curator at the Museum of the History of Science who was also fascinated by van Marum. Levere's essay on the introduction of Lavoisier's work to the Netherlands was published in the first volume of the van Marum series, and then, publishing jointly with Turner, the whole of volume four was devoted to

Teyler's Museum in Haarlem (van Marum being its first director). Levere was fascinated by instruments and by the scientists who created them: he edited and contributed to a book on *Instruments and Experimentation in the History of Chemistry* in 2000 which resulted from a meeting at the Dibner Institute at MIT, and on *The Enlightenment of Thomas Beddoes* in 2017. The 18th century kept pulling him back: the Coffee House Philosophical Society in London, active from 1780 to 1787 was composed of chemists, industrialists, and instrument makers. It met fortnightly and kept a minute book. Editing this with Turner, it emerged as *Discussing Chemistry and Steam* in 2002.

But back to the realities of life: having completed his doctorate, Trevor Levere needed a job. He found a temporary one in 1968 at the University of Toronto as a lecturer in the newly created Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. Though he couldn't have known it at the time, this is where he would spend the whole of his career. He was appointed Assistant Professor one year after he first joined and he made his way inexorably up the promotion ladder: Associate Professor (1974), Professor (1981) and prestigious University Professor (2006). He retired as University Professor Emeritus in 2007. Toronto was his home but on occasions he worked outside Canada:

he was Visiting Fellow at the Centre national de recherche scientifique in Paris in 1981, a Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge in 1983 and a Dibner Institute Fellow at MIT in 1995. His research, books and papers took on a number of directions. As examples, he published on Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Science in 1981 and edited essays on Galileo in 1990. He became keenly interested in the development of science in Canada. As early as 1974 he published *Science and Society in Canadian History*, then on *Science and the Canadian Arctic* in 1993, the *Royal Society of Canada* in 1998 (he had become a Fellow in 1980), and his final book, *The Arctic Journal of Captain Henry Wemyss Feilden*, published in 2017.

Trevor Levere was an excellent teacher and influential scholar. That was more than proven when in 2017 during the course of the HSS meeting in Toronto, several of his former students and others (I was one of the 'outsiders') presented him with a Festschrift at a splendid party in his former Institute: *The Romance of Science* edited by Jed Buchwald and Larry Stewart. Trevor was fun to be with. I remember when with little persuasion he joined a party of truants from the Berkeley IUHPS 1985 meeting. Together with Gerard Turner, Peter Spargo and me, we absented ourselves from the conference for 24 hours to go camping in

in Yosemite National Park. Trevor's career added a great deal to history of chemistry and related subjects. Though fundamentally a modest man, he offered warmth and intellectual stimulation to all those students and colleagues who were lucky enough to come into contact with him.

Robert G W Anderson
November 2022

PIYO RATTANSI

(1930-2022)

Piyo Rattansi, one of the leading figures in the history of science post 1945 and a longstanding member of SHAC, died on 28 August 2022 aged 91. His parents had moved from India to Kenya in the early twentieth century where they became reasonably well off. Rattansi was born on 15 October 1930, one of eleven children. The family belonged to the Ismaili sect which he said 'was not a very demanding religion'. Between the ages of eight and seventeen he was educated at the Indian Government School in Nairobi. He then worked for a newspaper, becoming involved in radical politics somewhat to the dismay of his father. Nevertheless, his father supported him financially in his higher education in England. In 1953 Rattansi moved to London where he read economics at the LSE. There he came under the influence of Karl Popper, describing the experience as 'almost a religious conversion'.

Significantly he did not become a follower of Popper but instead concentrated on the issue of the 'Two cultures', then a subject of lively debate where there was a strong expectation that the history of science would be able to resolve the issues. So Rattansi's thesis, undertaken at the LSE and completed in 1962, was entitled *The Literary Attack on Science in England, 1665-1715*. He had originally thought he would return to Kenya, but decided to look for a post-doc position before doing so. The Cambridge Marxist embryologist turned historian of Chinese science, Joseph Needham, whom he came to know while writing his thesis, tried unsuccessfully to get him a job in

Cambridge University. Needham did, however, put Rattansi in touch with Jerry Ravetz who worked in the philosophy department at the University of Leeds, where he was building up what became the division of the history and philosophy of science. Rattansi gave a successful seminar there on Jonathan Swift and science on the basis of which in 1962 he was appointed Leverhulme Senior Research Fellow and two years later became lecturer in the history and philosophy of science which he held for three years.

His colleagues at Leeds included Maurice Crosland, Charles Webster and J.E. (Ted) McGuire, a team that



Rattansi described as 'very lively'. It was with McGuire that he collaborated on their famous paper 'Newton and the 'Pipes of Pan'' published in *Notes and Records* of the Royal Society of London in 1966. This emphasised the importance to Isaac Newton of his biblical and alchemical studies to how he viewed the Principia and yet how difficult it was for modern historians to grasp Newton's thought processes. This paper was part of the long-running debate (to use the politest term) conducted during the 1960s and 1970s between those who viewed science as proceeding through its own internal logic and those, like Rattansi, McGuire and Webster,

who foregrounded external influences on the development of science.

After some personal tensions between members of the Leeds group, Rattansi, again with Needham's help, in 1967 moved to be a Senior Research Fellow for four years at King's College, Cambridge, though at the invitation of Thomas Kuhn he spent the academic year 1968/9 at Princeton. At King's he studied the Newton manuscripts in the Keynes collection and belonged to a seminar where members of the university, such as Roy MacLeod, Roy Porter and Bob Young, with radical views on the nature of science and its place in society, would meet with outside speakers.

Towards the end of his fellowship Rattansi was approached by the Provost of University College London, Lord Annan, formerly Provost of King's (though he did not overlap with Rattansi) inviting him to apply to be Professor and head of the Department of History and Philosophy of Science (now the Department of Science and Technology Studies). He applied and was successful (it is not clear if there were other candidates). He took up his position at the start of the 1970/71 academic year and held it until his retirement, aged 65, in 1995. The Department was very small but he kept it going. In 1989, after a decade of university cuts, the engineer and businessman Derek Roberts was appointed as Provost.

Rattansi became very concerned that the Department, because of its smallness, would be shut but much to his great surprise Roberts became a champion for the subject (he had read Eddington as a student). The outcome was that the Department thereafter expanded, as it has continued to do under its new name.

Shortly before his retirement, Rattansi was contacted out of the blue by two members of the Centro Simão Mathias de Estudos em História da Ciência of the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo. They were Ana Alfonso-Goldfarb and Márcia Ferraz who were in London to study manuscripts at the Royal Society of London. The outcome was that Rattansi formed a close collaboration with

them in which they co-authored a series of papers, published in the Society's *Notes and Records*, based on alchemical manuscripts that they identified in the Society's archives. The collaboration also resulted in Rattansi making a number of visits to São Paulo, which was where I first got to know him.

An excellent and engaging scholar, he was very much a product of the sense of radicalism in universities of the 1960s and '70s, except that in manner he was always gentle and polite and in dress always neatly turned out. In terms of output, especially quantity, it is doubtful whether Rattansi would have survived the rigours of the audit culture now so unnecessarily imposed on English universities. It is so much to impoverishment of modern university life, that it has become unlikely that scholars in Rattansi's mould would now be able to pursue such a career trajectory.

Frank James

31 January 2023

Much of this obituary has been drawn from a transcription of the taped interviews that Raphael Uchôa conducted with Rattansi in São Paulo in 2016 when he was in his mid eighties. They can be accessed through the following links, though note they do contain a significant number of mis-transcriptions and mis-hearings as well as the occasional misremembering by Rattansi himself.

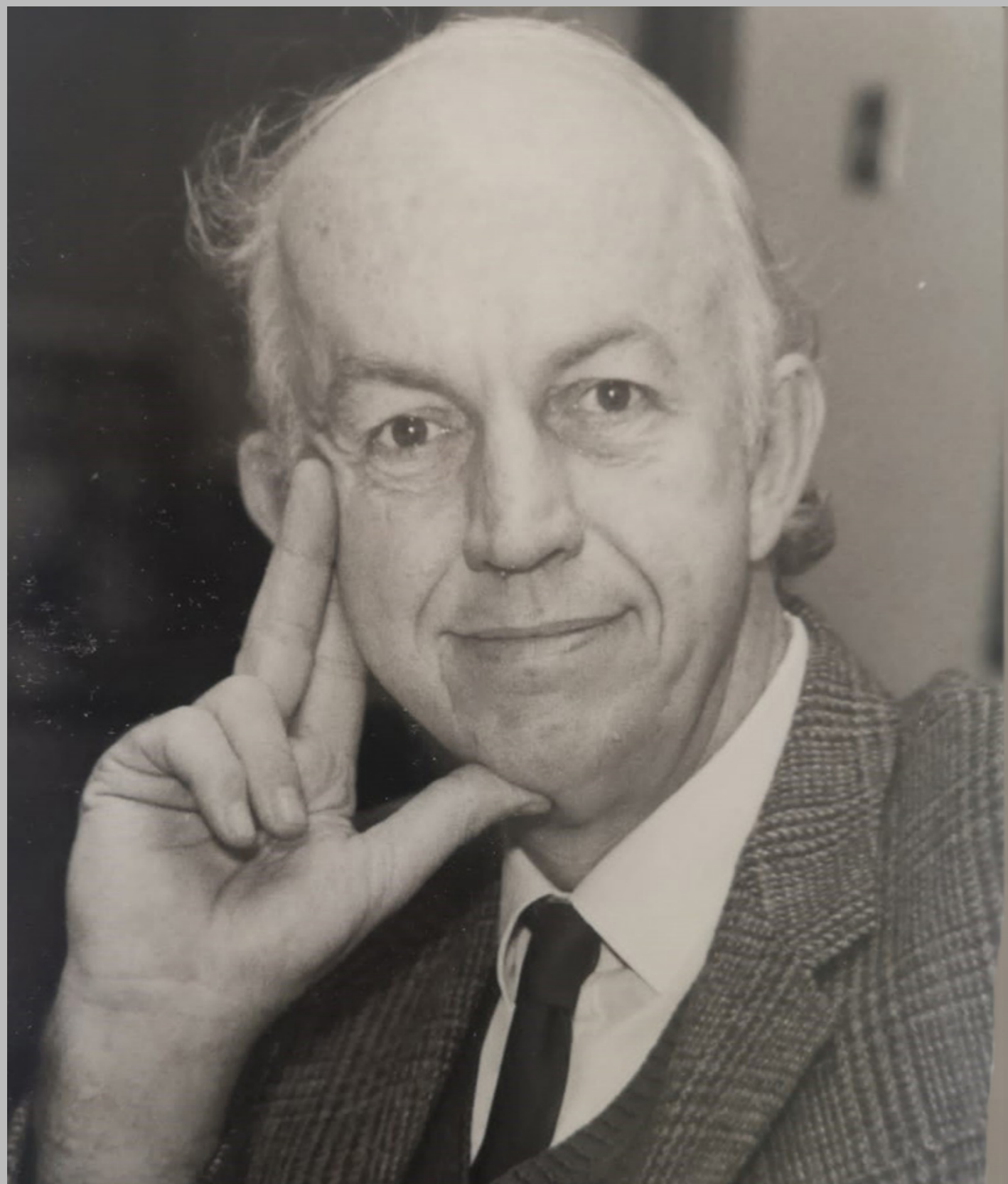
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<https://doi.org/10.23925/1980-7651.2019v23;p23-30>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.23925/1980-7651.2019v23;p31-44>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.23925/1980-7651.2019v23;p45-64>

<http://dx.doi.org/10.23925/1980-7651.2019v23;p65-76>



PETER
ERNEST
SPARGO
(1937-2021)

It is sad to have to report the death, following a long illness, of Emeritus Professor Peter Spargo. In recent years, at least, he was SHAC's only member who lived in South Africa. Peter was born in Johannesburg and graduated in engineering and metallurgy at the University of Witwatersrand in 1960. He came to the University of Cambridge in 1962 and was awarded a post-graduate certificate in education a year later. It was probably this experience which sparked his interest in the chemistry of Isaac Newton. He returned to South Africa and became head of the Science Department of Johannesburg College of Education. After several moves working in education departments, he was

appointed senior lecturer in the School of Education at the University of Cape town in 1976, later being promoted professor and then its director up to his retirement in 1997. He spent several periods in Europe and America, one of which was as visiting fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge.

An innovative piece of research he conducted, published in *Notes and Records* of the Royal Society, was the analysis of hair samples of Newton, and he showed that they contained significantly high levels of heavy metals. He speculated that this might have been the cause of Newton's 'year of madness', 1692-93. For many years Newton had conducted alchemi-

-type experiments in a laboratory on the external wall of Trinity College. Spargo considered he had identified its exact location and he persuaded the college (with difficulty) for him to take core samples of soil at its site. Fairly high concentrations of mercury, antimony and bismuth were discovered, though perhaps not sufficiently high to be decisive. In 1993 he contributed a paper to the tercentenary symposium commemorating the publication of *Principia*, and published on David Brewster. His interest in metals led to investigations of historic mines in South Africa, and to studying the most massive iron meteorite known, the Hoba Meteorite, at a remote site in South-West Africa.

Peter was enthusiastic and entertaining, though there was always an underlying seriousness, even sternness, in his demeanour. He was General Secretary of the Royal Society of South Africa between 1986 and 1990. In many ways he made a worthy contribution to the history of science and to the scientific culture of his country.

Robert G.W. Anderson
27 November 2022



Winter 2023 RSC Historical Group Newsletter

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-third issue, published in January 2023, is available online: <https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/historical/newsletters/>

The issue includes the following short articles:

Alan Dronsfield and Pete Ellis, "Monitoring blood-glucose levels during a century of insulin therapy."

Michael Jewess, "Calculating Chemistry - How it Used to be Done, a Witness Account."

Edward Clarence-Smith, William Clarence-Smith and Peter J.T. Morris, "A Chemist who was a Photomicrographer: Alton Ewart Clarence Smith (1887-1936)."

There is also an essay review of José G. Perillán, *Science between Myth and History: The Quest for Common Ground and Its Importance for Scientific Practice* and a book review of Stephen M. Cohen, *O Mg! How Chemistry Came to Be*, plus reports of the group's meetings and online lectures.

Past issues of the newsletter back to 2010 can be accessed at Historical Group Newsletters: <https://www.rsc.org/membership-and-community/connect-with-others/through-interests/interest-groups/historical/newsletters/>

The recordings of a number of previous online lectures can be found at the Historical Group's playlist on the [RSC YouTube Channel](#).

Anna Simmons,
RSC Historical Group Newsletter Editor

The next RSC Historical Group Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 14 March 2023 at Burlington House, London from 10.15 to 15.40.**

It will be an open meeting where members present papers. Further details: <https://www.rsc.org/events/detail/76021/historical-group-open-meeting>

Jargonium

Established by early-career researchers with a shared research interest in history and philosophy of chemistry [Jargonium](#) is a blog showcasing short essays on chemistry and alchemy from the perspective of humanities.

[Jargonium](#)'s objective is to show that chemistry is a source of insight not only for those inherently curious about oxidation states, but for anyone with an interest in philosophy, history, art, sociology, or any other facet of humanistic inquiry. Together with our contributors, we show how looking at chemistry gives rise to reflections that often extend the chemical realm.

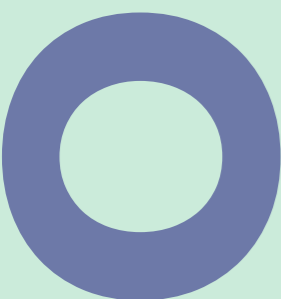
If you wish to contribute to the blog, do let us know by contacting us (karoliina.pulkkinen@helsinki.fi).



mentoring



scheme



The Forum for the History of Chemical Sciences (FoHCS), an interest group of the History of Science Society, has been establishing a network of mentors who can assist graduate and early career scholars in preparing manuscripts of journal articles for submission to peer-reviewed journals. We are encouraging, in the first instance, submissions to *Ambix*. A mentor's role would be to be in touch with the author over the duration of their article preparation, with the expectation that they will read one or two drafts and offer advice and comments on the work.

We leave it to individuals to decide how much they wish to be involved in this process, but it should be understood as more than just offering general advice on one occasion. If you are interested in signing up as a potential mentor, please send details of your area of expertise and contact information to Simon Werrett at s.werrett@ucl.ac.uk.

Graduates and early career scholars are also encouraged to get in touch if they wish to be connected to a mentor who could support them in preparing journal articles in the history of chemistry. Again, please contact Simon Werrett at s.werrett@ucl.ac.u.

Regards,
Simon Werrett

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, vol. 69, issue 3, August 2022

Elena Serrano, Joris Mercelis and Annette Lykknes, “‘I am not a Lady, I am a Scientist’: Chemistry, Women, and Gender in the Enlightenment and the Era of Professional Science.”

Francesca Antonelli, “Becoming Visible. Marie-Anne Paulze-Lavoisier and the Campaign for the ‘New Chemistry’ (1770s-1790s).”

Elena Serrano, “Patriotic Women: Chemistry and Gender in the Eighteenth-Century Spanish World.”

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Essay Review: Helge Kragh, “Biographical Histories of 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 chemistry. 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 Taylor & Francis and appears quarterly. Members also receive the Society's newsletter, *Chemical Intelligence*, twice yearly, and any new editions from the 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. Carolyn Cobbold: cacobbold@gmail.com.

Contribute to *Chemical Intelligence*

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

- Publications
- Upcoming Conferences or Meetings
- Conference or Meeting Reports (these should not normally exceed 1,000 words)
- News Items or Announcements
- Grants, Fellowships or Awards
- Reviews of Websites, projects or blogs of interest (up to 500 words)

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

We also wish *Chemical Intelligence* to provide a platform for interaction between members. We therefore encourage you to submit:

- Questions you may wish to put to other members
- Materials that you are working on and wish to share
- Suggestions for improvement

For any queries regarding the content of *Chemical Intelligence*, or to propose material for inclusion in future issues, please contact the editor, Dr. Karoliina Pulkkinen: karoliina.pulkkinen@helsinki.fi