

Chemical Intelligence Winter 2025 issue

Society for the History
of Alchemy and Chemistry



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W.H. 'Bill' Brock, 1936- 2025

It is with great sadness and regret that we announce the death of Professor W.H. Brock on 16 February 2025. Almost his entire career 1959-1998, from postgraduate student to professor was spent at the University of Leicester. He then enjoyed a very active retirement with many publications. Among many other roles, he served as President of the British Society for the History of Science, Editor of *Ambix* and Chair of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry. In an extraordinarily productive career Brock published many papers and books on the history of chemistry. The latter included *From Protyle to Proton. William Prout and the Nature of Matter*, the Fontana (Norton) *History of Chemistry* and the OUP *History of Chemistry: A Very Short Introduction*. He also wrote biographies of a number of important chemists including Justus von Liebig and William Crookes. His final book was also a biography, *Fifth Business: A Life of the Chemist and Educationist Henry Edward Armstrong (1848-1937)* which will be published later this year by University of Chicago Press; Brock sadly did not live to see it appear. A full obituary will be published in due course.

Raymond G. Anderson 1947-2024

Ray Anderson, a long-standing member of SHAC, passed away in Brighton on 25 February 2024. Ray's true passion was the history of brewing on which he published widely. He was also a former treasurer (and membership secretary) of the Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group between 1994 and 1999 and a regular attendee at SHAC meetings.

Ray was born in Tynemouth in 1947 and brought up in Whitley Bay. He went to Rutherford College of Technology (now Northumbria University) where he graduated with first class honours in Applied Chemistry. Ray then took an MSc in Microbiological Chemistry at the University of Newcastle followed by a

PhD on 'The biosynthesis of the bacterial cell wall'. He joined the Brewing Industry Research Foundation at Nutfield as a Research Fellow in 1972. Ray then moved to the research department at Allied Breweries in Burton-upon-Trent, and he became the manager of the research laboratory in 1983. Following the takeover of Allied Breweries by Carlsberg, Ray took redundancy in 1998. He was instrumental in saving the archives of Allied Breweries which spanned three centuries. Ray published a history of the Institute of Brewing and Distilling with the title *Brewers and Distillers by Profession* in 2012. He gave talks about the interaction between chemistry and brewing, and was happy to assist anyone researching his predecessors, Peter Griess (azo dyes) and Henry Medlock

(magenta). Ray was a keen follower of Newcastle United and also enjoyed watching cricket and growing vegetables.

Acknowledgements to the obituary by Peter Brookes in the April 2024 issue of *Brewer and Distiller International* and to Peter Morris for his tribute to Ray, published in the winter 2025 issue of the *RSC Historical Group Newsletter*.

Note from the Treasurer

I take this opportunity to thank those of our members who have already paid their subscription for 2025. That's over 78% of our members as at the end of January. For those members who have yet to pay, please do so before the 28th February 2025 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.

Don't forget, you may pay by Credit or Debit card if you wish.

- Rob Johnstone

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry



Spring Meeting 2025: 'Biographies of Alchemists and Chemists'

University College London (26 Bedford
Way), London, WC1H 0DS Saturday 29th
March 2025 9:30AM

Programme

9.30 Coffee

10.00 Frank James (UCL)
Opening remarks

10.15 Laurence Chen (UCL)
'Mercurial self-fashioning:
mythological
(auto)biographies in Elias
Ashmole's Theatrum
Chemicum Britannicum'

10.45 Sergei Zotov (Warwick)
'Visual Biographies: Portraits
and Monuments in Early
Modern Alchemical
Manuscripts'

11.15 Charlotte Abney
Salomon (SHI) 'J.G. Gahn, in
the Words of Others'

11.45 Anna Simmons (UCL)
'"The perspicuity of style,
and the proprietary of
expression": Lectures,
Laboratories and William
Thomas Brande (1788-1866)'

12.15 Lunch break (NB: lunch
is not provided, but some will
be heading to the Wellcome
café)

2.00 Jenny Wilson (UCL)
'Campaigning for peace: The
work of Dame Kathleen
Lonsdale FRS (1903-1971)'

2.30 Annette Lykknes (NTNU,
Trondheim) 'Clusters of women in
laboratories or institutes of
technology: Reflections on
prosopographical approaches to
the history of (women in)
chemistry'

3.00 Tea

3.30 Carsten Reinhardt (Bielefeld)
'Autobiographies of Chemists:
The Lives in Chemistry Series'

4.00 Judith Kaplan (SHI) 'Who are
the Biographers? Reflections on
Problem Choice and Personal
Investment'

4.30 Roundtable for
reminiscences to mark the 90th
anniversary of SHAC with a glass
of wine
Participants will include Gerrylynn
Roberts, John Brooke and Peter
Morris

5.30 End of meeting

[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
society-for-the-history-of-
alchemy-and-chemistry/t-vvgzdpv](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/society-for-the-history-of-alchemy-and-chemistry/t-vvgzdpv)

SHAC's 90th Anniversary

In 2025 the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry will be 90 years old! The Society was first established in November 1935 by James Riddick Partington (1886-1965), Frank Sherwood Taylor (1897-1956), Douglas McKie (1896-1967), and Gerard Heym (1888-1972), and named the Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry. Partington was its first Chairman and Sherwood Taylor was responsible for launching the Society's journal *Ambix* in May 1937. From these early days, the Society worked on chemistry and chemical technology in antiquity and the Latin West and the development of iatrochemistry and chemical philosophy. Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Early Chemistry wound up its activities, but it was re-established in 1946, with the second volume of

Ambix published in the same year, with articles by Dorothea Waley Singer (1882-1964) and Carl Gustav Jung (1875-1961). From 1956 onwards, when Desmond Geoghegan became editor, *Ambix* began to extend its readership and its period of historical coverage to the time of John Dalton (1766-1844) and the nineteenth century. In 1975 the Society changed its name to the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry.

The Society's early history is chronicled in William H. Brock's article "Exploring Modern Chymistry: The First 25 Years of the Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Modern Chemistry" which was published in *Ambix*, 58, no. 3 (2011): 191-214. This is currently available to view free access at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1179/174582311X13129418298947>



Left to Right: William Brock, Mike Sutton, Gerrylynn Roberts, Peter Morris and Jennifer Rampling.

However less has been written about the Society's activities in recent years. To mark its 90th anniversary, SHAC is keen to hear from its members with their recollections of past meetings, *Ambix* articles and anything SHAC related. Did you attend the 75th anniversary meeting at the Royal Institution or one of the Sites in Chemistry Conferences organised by John Perkins? Perhaps your first paper was published in *Ambix*, you spoke at a postgraduate workshop or received funding from the Award Scheme. Maybe you attended one of the joint meetings held with the RSC Historical Group at Burlington House or participated in a meeting in locations from Leiden to São Paulo and Philadelphia.

There will be an opportunity to reflect on SHAC's past activities and where the future may take the Society at the Biography Meeting to be held at University College London on Saturday 29 March 2025. Other opportunities will arise during the year and we hope to meet again at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia in October 2025. If you would like to share your recollections and ideas via email, please contact Frank James (frank.james@ucl.ac.uk) and Anna Simmons (a.simmons@ucl.ac.uk). Frank and Anna will be preparing an article based on these contributions and the SHAC Archive which is located at the Museum of History of Science, Oxford (see <https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/collections-online#/browse-by-list/archives>).

British Society for the History of Pharmacy Annual Conference Saturday 5 April 2025

To be held at the George Marshall Medical Museum in Worcester. The theme will be the interaction between pharmacy and its history with other professions and disciplines. Details from conference@bshp.org or <https://www.bshp.org/events/>

Programme

Friday 4 April 2025

3:00pm Optional private visit to Worcester Cathedral Library to view medieval medical manuscripts, monastic infirmary rolls, and selection of medical publications.

Additional fee of £10 (plus TicketSource booking fee). Limited places.

Note: The medieval library is located up a spiral staircase of 46 steps

7:00pm

Optional dinner in central Worcester

Saturday 5 April 2025

9:30am

Arrival and refreshments

10:00am

Welcome from BSHP President, Professor Mark Nesbitt

10:05am

Early modern plague amulets – Dr Chris Duffin

10:30am

Sir Edwin Landseer's part in pharmacy history – Briony Hudson

10:55am

Stomatin from the laboratory of pharmacist Mr Milan Kovačević – Jelena Manojlović

11:20am

Coffee and tea

11:35am

Culpeper on compound medicines in the Pharmacopoeia Londinensis 1618 – Dr Graeme Tobyn

12:00 noon

“Serum Medicines Meet the Market” – Edward J Wawrzynczak

12:25pm

Lunch

1:00pm

Guided tour of the George Marshall Medical Museum by Curator Louise Price and free time to explore

2:30pm

Refreshments available

3:00pm

Presentation of Leslie Matthews medals to Dr Anne Stobart and Dr Chris Duffin

3:15pm

Researching historical medicinal recipes - collaboration and links between household medicine practitioners and apothecaries

Dr Anne Stobart, Leslie Matthews Medal recipient 2025

4:00pm

Annual General Meeting

5:00pm

Depart museum

7:00pm Optional dinner in central

Worcester

Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Award Scheme 2025

Opening date: 1 March 2025

Closing date for applications: 31 May 2025

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry invites applications for its Award Scheme for 2025. 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 2025. The Awards are most suitable for activities planned to be undertaken during the period August 2025–September 2026. A two-year window for completion of all Awards will be given.

Research Awards are open to post-graduate students (both masters and doctoral students), those who have obtained a PhD since 1 January 2015 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 copying or scanning 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 2015 and independent scholars may apply for the costs of travel to conferences and accommodation, but only in order to give a paper. There is an expectation that awardees will attend the entire conference, unless there are exceptional circumstances. 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 2025. Members who have applied for funding to support attendance at ICHC14 in Valencia are allowed to apply to the Annual Award Scheme. However, they are only permitted to make one application to each annual Award Scheme.

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.



At aurum ab argento hac ratione fecernitur. Temperatura primum adjecto plumbo coquatur in catino cinereo usque dum omne plumbum exhalet, atque ejus bes æris tantummodo drachmas quinque, aut summum sex, in se contineat: nam si plus æris in ipsa fuerit, argentum ab auro separatum mox rursus cum eo conjungitur: tale argentum, in quo aurum inest, liquatum vel formetur in globulos bacillo inferius diffusio agitatum, vel in canaliculum ferreum infundatur, & ex refrigerato efficiatur tenuis bractea. Quoniam verò ratio faciendi globulos ex auro argenteo acriorem curam & diligentiam

SHAC Special ICHC14 Award Scheme – Grants to support attendance at ICHC14 in Valencia, Spain, 11-14 June 2025

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 14th International Conference on the History of Chemistry in Valencia, Spain on 11 June to 14 June 2025. 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 2015. 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**. SHAC has the expectation that awardees attend the whole conference, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

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://esdeveniments.uv.es/116631/detail/14th-international-conference-on-the-history-of-chemistry-14ichc.html>

The timescale for the conference is as follows:

- Deadline for submitting conference proposals: 1 December 2024
- Notification of acceptance: 5 February 2025
- Provisional Programme: March 2025
- Early Bird Registration: before 15 April 2025
- Late Registration: 16 April 2025-15 May 2025
- Final Programme: Late May 2025

It is expected that applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application in good time to register for early-bird conference fees which are available until **15 April 2025**.

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

Please note that applying for a Special ICHC14 Award does not preclude applying to the usual SHAC Award Scheme for 2025. There is also a separate scheme from the Commission on the History of Chemistry and Molecular Sciences (CHCMS) for ICHC14. Applying for the SHAC Scheme does not preclude application for the CHCMS grant and vice versa.

However, it should be noted that there are different eligibility requirements for the two schemes. Should an application be made to both schemes, the evaluation process will be co-ordinated between SHAC and CHCMS.

The deadline for the ICHC Special Awards Scheme has passed and no further applications will be accepted.

SHAC Brock Award – call for nominations

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry (SHAC) has decided to establish the Brock Award which honours Professor William 'Bill' Hodson Brock, one of the leading historians of chemistry of the last fifty years. For most of that time he was based at the University of Leicester, where he also directed the Victorian Studies Centre between 1966 and 1990. His *Fontana History of Chemistry* (1992) is a masterly summary of the field, while his biographies of Justus Liebig (1997) and of William Crookes (2008) continue to provide invaluable insights into the subtleties of nineteenth-

century chemistry. In terms of SHAC, he served as editor of *Ambix* between 1968 and 1983 and then as Chair from 1993 to 2007. He contributed extensively to *Ambix* and served on SHAC Council for fifty years from 1967 until 2017. He has given extensive support to the history of chemistry community, always ready to share his expertise and insights and creating a welcoming environment for new scholars, particularly through his service to *Ambix* as editor and as a frequent reviewer.

The Brock Prize consisting of £500 and an appropriate framed image will be awarded every three years beginning in 2025. This will dovetail with the Society's other two awards, the Partington Prize for an unpublished essay on any area covered by SHAC written by an early career researcher to be next awarded in 2026 and the Morris Award given for outstanding achievement in the history of post-1945 chemistry or the history of the chemical industry to be awarded next in 2027.

The Brock Award will be for outstanding contributions in the fields of the history of alchemy and chemistry. The individual's impact on the community of historians of alchemy and/or chemistry, through historical research, publication, support and encouragement of students and fellow researchers and contributions to the wider promulgation of the subject will be significant criteria for selection.

The awardee will be determined by a panel appointed by SHAC Council; serving members of Council are ineligible for the award. Nominations, including a cv and at least two letters of support, should be sent by 30 June 2025 to Professor Annette Lykknes: annette.lykknes@ntnu.no.

It is expected that the announcement of the first Brock Prize winner will be made in the autumn.

New Student Ambassador SOFIYA KAMALOVA

Sofiya Kamalova earned a bachelor's degree in Arabic and Islamic Studies (University of Alicante) and a master's degree in History of Science and Scientific Communication (University of Alicante) and obtained an award for academic excellence (University of Alicante) and an award from the Catalan Society for the History of Science for her master's thesis. She then completed a master's in bioethics (KU Leuven) with the help of the Fund Roger Borghraef Scholarship and is currently a PhD candidate at the Institute López Piñero (University of Valencia) with funding from

Generalitat Valenciana Conselleria de Educació, Universidades y Empleo (CIACIF). She formed part of the research group 'Tóxicos invisibles: Química, Agricultura y Salud Pública (1940 - 1990)' and is currently part of the new research project "Exchange Zones in the Production and Regulation of Technoscience in the Iberian Peninsula: Academics, Activists, and the Industry, 1930s-1990s." She participated in numerous national and international conferences. She also obtained a four-month fellowship from the Science History Institute (Philadelphia). Her thesis studies the dangers and problems of workplace poisoning that took place in l'Alcoià y el Comtat (Spain), focusing her research on epidemiological and toxicological studies that followed this poisoning.





**New Postgraduate
Representative
AMBER ROZENRICHTER**

Amber Rozenrichter is a Research Master's student in Religious Studies at the University of Amsterdam, where she explores the rich intersections of mythology, alchemy, and nature. Her primary research centers on Renaissance alchemy, with a particular focus on the symbolic roles of trees, the natural world, and feminine personifications within alchemical processes. Amber's work emphasizes mytho-alchemy, investigating how mythological narratives intertwine with alchemy and esoteric thought. A key area of her research is Michael Maier's *Atalanta Fugiens*, where she delves into the interplay of myth, music, and alchemical symbolism to uncover deeper alchemical and philosophical insights.

Amber's dedication to understanding Renaissance esotericism is informed by her study of Late Antiquity. She has conducted research on the intellectual traditions of this period, with particular attention to Classical and Neoplatonic thought. By tracing the ways ancient ideas were reinterpreted and transformed, Amber

situates Renaissance alchemy within a broader historical and philosophical context, shedding light on its intellectual lineage.

In addition to her academic pursuits, Amber's research celebrates the profound connections between humanity and nature, highlighting how the natural world is central to philosophical and esoteric traditions. She is particularly inspired by the symbolic and transformative power of feminine archetypes. Through her work, Amber seeks to challenge and expand traditional perceptions of the feminine, urging a revision of feminine archetypes as active, dynamic forces of creation and transformation. Ultimately, her work aims to uncover the enduring threads that connect mythology, philosophy, and alchemy, inspiring a renewed appreciation for the interplay of nature, imagination, and intellect in both historical and contemporary contexts.

George Borg

I am pleased to report successful completion of my attendance and participation at HSS Mérida. My contribution was part of the two-panel session, "Multidisciplinary Approaches to the History of Chemistry." The experience was quite refreshing, given the (in my experience) insufficient opportunities for interdisciplinary exchanges of ideas in the history and philosophy of science. I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Guillermo Restrepo, who did an excellent job chairing the panels and eliciting stimulating conversations during the Q&As and the roundtable at the end. His knowledge of chemistry, his acquaintance with the history and players of HP chemistry, and his interest in philosophical issues was one of the highlights of the conference for me. I was also very pleased to meet Professor José Chamizo, whose work was an important inspiration for my dissertation work. Professor Chamizo is one of those rare researchers who is deeply interested in both history and philosophy of science, and I look forward to interacting with him in the future. His talk, on the end of chemistry as a discipline, struck me as an excellent and important application of philosophical categories to the history of science, and I look forward to seeing it in print. My appreciation of the different perspectives that can be applied to the study of the history of chemistry was further enriched by the contributions of the other panelists.

My presentation itself went smoothly. The participants asked questions that helped me sharpen my thinking about my project and will help me as I approach the home stretch. The SHAC was acknowledged both on a slide and orally.

With respect to the conference as a whole, I was impressed by the multitude of different approaches and topics of interest to historians of science. This is in sharp contrast to my primary discipline, philosophy of science, which tends to focus narrowly on a few features of science. The general interest in the history of chemistry was also refreshing and another point of difference with my home discipline. Moreover, some of the other sessions connected with topics

of interest to me besides chemistry. Highlights included the session on "Making Arguments in the History of Science," which covered issues in the history of technology, the demarcation of science from pseudoscience, and the nature of historiographical arguments that are all relevant to my past, present and prospective research. The session on "Deep Time and Theories of Migration" was also particularly interesting to me, given that both my conference presentation and another work-in-progress of mine concern deep time. In this connection, I also had the pleasure of meeting Professor Melissa Charenko, who happens to work at my university and who is working on geological proxies for the study of paleoclimates. Since that topic is directly relevant to my current research, I look forward to continuing our conversation here at Penn.

I found the choice of Mexico for the conference site to be a welcome break from the usual cities in the US.

Please allow me to extend my heartfelt thanks to the SHAC for providing funding for this fruitful opportunity for me.

Marianne Jennifer Datiles

The Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry Research Award funded research for my project, "Trans-Pacific Movements of Jesuit *Materia Medica* in the Early Modern Spanish Empire" (2021-2024). This funding, which I received during the Covid-19 pandemic, allowed me to investigate two specific items of interest to historians of chemistry and alchemy that are mentioned in colonial Philippine Jesuit missionary manuals: *Piedra de Goa* (the Jesuit cordial stone, or *Piedra de Gaspar Antón*) and *lignum nephriticum* (kidney wood).

Project Activities/Expenses

The main purpose of the funding was to assist me in identifying archival sources documenting of the trade and use of these Phillipine *materia medica* digitally and in person, and obtaining transcripts for selected mansucirpts with the most challenging abbreviations and script, which I then used as a reference for my own further transcription work.

As this began during the Covid-19 Pandemic I primarily focused on primary source materials available through digitised archives in the Archivo General de Indias (AGI), Sevilla, Spain, the Library of Congress, Washington DC, USA, National Library of Medicine, Bathesda, USA, and the British Library, London, UK. In February 2022 Transcription Services LTD (Isle of Man) agreed to transcribe the selected MS; this company had done previous work for the British Library. As expected, the work yielded valuable information relating not only to the identification of galleon cargo, but also for paleography work, allowing me to conduct my own further transcriptions. Following this 2024 I undertook a visit to the AGI in Sevilla in order to view undigitised records and microfilms, as these could not be accessed remotely.

Contributions to Research and Outputs

Through this grant I have honed a far more focused approach in my continued examination of Philippine *materia medica*. I argue that the appearance of cordial stones and *lignum nephriticum* in Philippine missionary manuals at the end of the 17th century represents shifting

notions of otherness and exoticism in the missionary approach to nature in the "Spanish East Indies" during this period: cordial stones as both a locally used remedy for 'los pobres indios' in the Philippines and a secretive panacea in Europe worth more than its weight in gold; and *lignum nephriticum* as a crossover of the trans-Pacific appropriations. I will present this work as a paper at the Science History Institute-sponsored panel, "Bodies Underground: Conceptualising Metals and Minerals in the Early Modern World" (22 Mar 2025), at the 71st Renaissance Society of America (RSA) Meeting in Boston MA; USA (accepted abstract attached). A draft will first be workshopped at the European Unviersity Institute (EUI)'s upcoming panel, "Conflicts, Connections, Convergences" taking place on 27 February 2025. With input and feedback from these events and further review, I aim to publish this research as at least one shrot article in scholalry journal, with full acknowledgement of SHAC's support.

My sincerest gratitude to the Awards Committee and Hon. Secretary of SHAC for their support of this project.

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.

Volume 71, Issue 4, 2024

Jill Burke and Wilson Poon, "Renaissance Goo: Senses and Materials in Early Modern Apothecary Taxonomies and Soft Matter Science".

Rafael Marqués García, "New Research on the Origin of Mosaic Gold".

Amy Fisher, "Why Do Things Burn? Elizabeth Fulhame's Challenge to the Antiphlogistic Theory of Combustion".

Mark I. Grossman, "Stirring the Pot: Antoine Baumé, Josiah Wedgwood, Pierre-Louis Guinand, and the Development of Optical Glass".

Notes and Communications

Rainer Werthmann, "Michael Maier's Medicament Coelidonia – A Possible Explanation of its Composition and Production".

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Special Issue: The Chymistry of Life

Guest edited by Carmen Schmechel. *Ambix*, The Journal of the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, vol. 71, issue 3, August 2024

Introduction: Carmen Schmechel, "Medicine, Life, and Transformations of Matter".

Carmen Schmechel, "Leaven of Dough, Ferment of Gold: The Breadmaking Analogy in Medieval Metallic Transmutation".

Georgiana D. Hedesan, "Fire, Vulcanus, Archeus, and Alchemy: A Hybrid Close-Distant Reading of Paracelsus's Thought on Active Agents".

Antonio Clericuzio, "The Emergence of Chemical Medicine in Early Modern Naples (1600–1660)".

Justin Begley, "Distilling the Art of Distillation in an Unstudied Manuscript of "Chymicall Notions".

Charles Wolfe, "Diderot's Vital Materialism".

Membership

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