

2011, 28 mai

Alchemy and chemistry : continuities and fractures

The Oxford Seminar in the History of Chemistry. Colloquium in conjunction with the University of Lille, the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge, the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry, the History Faculty, Oxford University, the Maison Française d'Oxford, the Centre for the History of Medicine, Oxford Brookes University.

Conveners : Bernard Joly, John Perkins, Muriel Le Roux.

Papers

Jennifer Rampling (Cambridge), *'When Hermes met Hippocrates: medical alchemy and chemical medicine in early modern England'*

Anna Marie Roos (Oxford) [and Victor Boantz, Sydney], *'Alchemical Agendas, the New Science and patterns of authority at the early Académie Royale des Sciences and the Royal Society'*

Remi Franckowiak (Lille), *'Chimie et alchimie dans les papiers de Jean Hellot'*

John Perkins (Oxford), *'The rejection of alchemy and the construction of chemistry as an enlightened science, France, 1720-70'*

Forum

An opportunity for graduate students and those who have recently completed their doctorates to present their work.

Jo Hedesan (Exeter), *'Medical alchemy and Christianity in the thought of Johan Baptista Van Helmont (1579-1644)'*

Lindsey Fitzharris (UCL), *'Chemical corpuscularianism: theories of matter and the influence of van Helmont in John Webster's Metallographia (1671)'*

Cesare Pastorino (Chemical Heritage Foundation), *'Weighing matter: the origins of Francis Bacon's experiments on specific gravities'*

Karin Ekholm (Cambridge), *'Alchemical processes and metaphors in Highmore's theory of generation'*

Roundtable

Is alchemy chemistry? Should the two be treated beneath an umbrella term, like 'chymistry', or 'technoscience'? Was there anything distinctive about alchemy which was 'lost' during the 'transition' to chemistry? If there was a transition, when did it happen, and why? Discussion on the relations between alchemy and chemistry led by Bernard Joly (Lille) and Hasok Chang (Cambridge).