



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

March 2021

Number 16

Special 2021 Pre-Conference Edition

We are very excited already by the prospects for our first online annual conference which has been set-up and co-ordinated by Briony Hudson. You may recall that due to the pandemic we had to cancel our planned in-person conference due to be held in March 2020 in Salford, Manchester.

To complement this, we'll be releasing each day at 10am over the conference weekend a series of short videos going "Behind the Scenes at the Museum" on our YouTube channel. This is so that you can supplement your conference experience with virtual visits to the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museum, the Science Museum, and the Thackray Museum of Medicine. The full programme is reproduced in this Gazette starting at page 2. The conference will take place via Zoom and YouTube. Registration (per day) is through Eventbrite – the links for registering for this are available on our website at <https://www.bsph.org/events/>.

Editorial

Alongside all the conference details, this quarter's newsletter contains updated information about our exciting new series of virtual events which have replaced our usual evening meetings. We also have many of the usual regular features.

E-mailing and Communication Service - JiscMail

We mentioned the availability of this new service last time but didn't get many takers. This provides a private, secure email system for members' only use, allowing easy communication, for example between members and the Committee, plus the possibility of discussion threads. If you are interested in joining this please email Chris Duffin using president@bsph.org. More details about JiscMail can be found here: www.jisc.ac.uk/jiscmail.

Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 51 No.1.

With this latest mailing you are receiving the March 2021 issue of our flagship international journal for the History of Pharmacy.

Membership Subscription Renewals 2021

With the December mailing, and where relevant, many of you will have received your subscription renewal invoice for £30 (or £15 for students). We know already that a few of you still have not amended your Standing Orders set up with your bank to pay your membership fee. We will be writing to those who still need to do this. A small reminder is opportune here to all others who have not yet renewed and this can be done easily by bank transfer, cheque or PayPal. Thank you.

New Members

We welcome the following into membership:

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|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Jennifer Boncey (Shoreham-by-Sea) | Michael Maher (Michigan, USA) |
| - Annika Wickman (Stockholm) | Maria do Sameiro Barroso (Lisbon) |
| - Per Bostrom (Bromma, Sweden) | Fabien Schulz (Student) (Hamburg) |
| - Okuleye Yewande (London) | Thomas Brendler (New Jersey, USA) |
| - Caroline Coles (Cambridge) | Freya Harrison (Leamington Spa) |

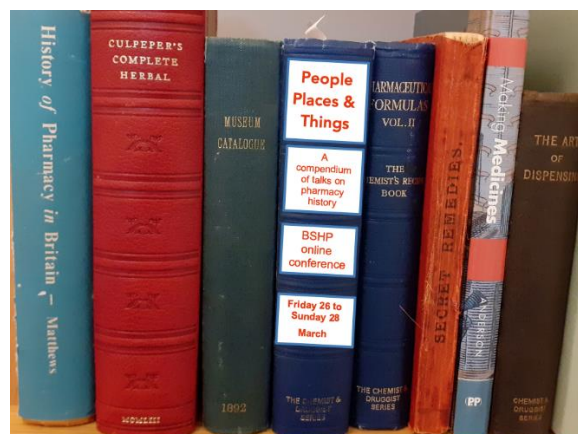
Most of these joined as result of registering with one of our recent online events.

BSHP's Online Annual Conference March 2021

People, places and things – a compendium of talks on pharmacy history

By necessity our annual conference this year has had to be online only, free for all delegates, and we very much hope that as many BSHP members as possible will be able to join us especially any who have never been able to travel to hotel-based conferences.

Each day's programme will consist of talks sessions taking place from 16:00 to 18:00 on Zoom. Speakers include our Burnby Bursary and Research Grant winners and BSHP members.



Friday 26 March

People and places

Released at 10am: Behind the scenes at the museum film (YouTube)

180 Years of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society

Join Catherine Walker, RPS Museum Officer, as she explores the history of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society. Find out where the Society came from, who founded it and how it became the RPS of today.

Talks session: 16:00 – 18:00 (Zoom)

16:00	Welcome from the session chair: Dr Chris Duffin, BSHP President
16:05	"Francis Bernard (1628-1698): A Seventeenth-Century Apothecary and Physician" Burnby Memorial Bursary 2021 talk by Emily Betz
16:35	"Drug Stores, 1870-1920" by Norma Cox
17:00	Comfort break
17:10	"A holistic view of the evolution of pharmacy education: a case study of the University of Sunderland's School of Pharmacy" Pharmacy History Research Grant 2020 talk by Soh Xi Ken
17:40	Discussion

Saturday 27 March

Reflecting on pharmacy history through material culture

Released at 10am: Behind the scenes at the museum film (YouTube)

Pharmacy history at the Science Museum

The Science Museum holds its own collection relating to pharmacy but also has on loan Sir Henry Wellcome's museum collection including some famous medicine chests.

Science Museum members of staff will share some of their favourite objects from their 40,000 objects relating to pharmacy history. From *materia medica* samples from across the globe, tools, signs and shop rounds, many of these objects have never been on public display.

Talks session: 16:00 – 18:00 (Zoom)

16:00	Welcome from the session chair: Selina Hurley, BSHP Treasurer
16:05	"An unnatural obsession with bottles: The use of Citizen Science and interdisciplinary approaches in researching materia medica collections." by Jemma Houghton
16:35	"Early Modern PPE" by Chris Duffin
17:00	Comfort break
17:10	"My Life, Written by Luer, an hypodermic syringe." John Crellin
17:40	Discussion

Sunday 28 March <i>Exploring pharmacy's global history</i>	
Released at 10am: Behind the scenes at the museum film (YouTube)	
The Apothecary Shop The Thackray Museum of Medicine in Leeds holds one of the largest collections of English 17 th and 18 th Century apothecary jars in the world. This collection is beautiful and historically significant but not always accessible to all museum visitors. Our new interpretation focuses on engaging a broad range of audiences with the fascinating stories these jars hold, including global trade, slavery, unusual ingredients, professionals and patients. Join us for a short tour of the collection with Project Curator Laura Sellers as we explore some of these stories and how we are trying to bring this collection to our museum audiences.	
Talks session: 16:00 – 18:00 (Zoom)	
16:00	Welcome from the session chair: Briony Hudson, BSHP Conference Organiser
16:05	<i>"Just the tonic: quinine cures and cocktails"</i> by Kim Walker & Mark Nesbitt
16:35	<i>"All aboard the Prosperous Solomon! The transatlantic trade of Thomas Mayleigh, Quaker apothecary"</i> by Nick Wood
17:00	Comfort break
17:10	<i>"Medical knowledge in transit between Manila and London: Philippine materia medica lost and found in translation."</i> - Burnby Memorial Bursary 2020 talk by Sebastian Kroupa
17:40	Discussion

Events - BSHP's Virtual Events - to date

Our new series of online events are live-streamed using the Zoom platform. Given our trial with this in January, and the amazing number of email responses, we soon realised that we needed an event booking system so we chose Eventbrite. Using this has proved significantly easier as it takes away all the administration and communication requirements of running such events. We have held the following two events so far with audiences beyond our most enthusiastic predictions.

Monday 11th January

A Panel discussion entitled **'What is the future for pharmacy history?'**

This was chaired by BSHP Vice-President Mark Nesbitt (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew). Speakers were: Briony Hudson (independent museum curator and pharmacy historian), Anna Greenwood (Nottingham University), and Yewande Okuleye (Leicester University).

We achieved nearly 120 people logging into this from about 15 countries. Therefore, in one fell swoop we managed finally to raise our profile amongst a truly international audience and from this we gained several new overseas members. It was a lively discussion about the future of the discipline. A recording of the discussion can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZpGShOWNYM&feature=youtu.be>

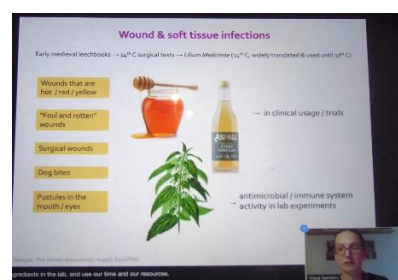
Monday 22nd February

'Unlocking the Medieval Medicine Cabinet' by Freya Harrison.

(Assistant Professor, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick). The session here was chaired by Briony Hudson and was a joint BSHP and Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy Meeting. It incorporated the Faculty's *Sydenham Lecture*. Nearly 200 logged in for this fascinating insight into the research being undertaken into some medieval antibacterial remedies. A recording of the talk was made and will be available shortly on YouTube.

Many of these remedies were plant-based as found in old "leechbooks" and especially studied were a particular eye salve and also wormwood. Details of Freya's published work into antimicrobials can be found here <https://freyaharrison.weebly.com/publications.html>

The photos opposite are two screenshots from the evening, showing (top) Briony studying all the incoming questions (note her virtual backdrop) and Freya's slide on honey, cyder and plants for treating infections (bottom) - her image is in the right-hand corner. These give a small idea of how the talk and images looked on computer screens.



Events -BSHP's Forthcoming Virtual Events

All Mondays at 6.30pm

26th April - "From Apollo to the ISS: the history of space pharmacy" by Dr Christiane Staiger (Neu Isenberg, Germany).

24th May - "The contribution of the Cairo Geniza to the study of medieval Arabic medicine" by Professor Efraim Lev (Haifa University, Israel).

21st June – "How Empire Turned People into Patients: Big Pharma's Early Modern Roots" by Dr Zachary Dorner (University of Maryland)

These talks will take place online using our Zoom platform via Eventbrite and all the required links will be publicised on the Events page of our website (www.bshp.org/events/), Facebook page and Twitter account. We plan to make the recordings available via YouTube.

Footnote – can anyone help provide further information:

Dr Dorner, our speaker in June, has asked if anyone can help him locate the business records of William Jones, an apothecary in Covent Garden active during the mid-eighteenth century. Mention of Jones can be found in Burnby's "A Study of the English Apothecary" (pp. 154-156) and in Poynter's "The Evolution of Pharmacy in Britain", but his business records are said to be in private hands. Jones's business would later become part of the pharmacies of William Hooper and William Warren c. 1900. Zachary's contact details are: zdorner@umd.edu

Events - Other Organisations

1) **British Society for the History of Medicine**

They are holding their 2021 Congress at the University of Sheffield 15th-18th September and this is entitled "The History of Medicine in the Workplace". Full information can be found here:

<https://bshm.org.uk/congress-2021/>.

BSHP is an affiliated organization so we can take advantage of this when members book BSHM events. You need to have registered on the BSHM website to take advantage of this.

2) **Worshipful Society of Apothecaries** – Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy – have these events which may be of interest:

a) 22nd March (held on Zoom 6-7pm) "The Sydney Selwyn Lectures" by Dr Mary Fletcher and Dr Ellis Onwordi. Full details can be found at: www.apothecaries.org/events/category/faculty-hp-events/

b) The Faculty has programmed an in-person one day symposium for 6th May (9.30am-5pm) entitled "Bark, Berries and Bitter Pills" which is subtitled "200 years of Quinine and other botanicals" and has five guest speakers. The cost is £50 per person. More information here: www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Barks-Berries-Bitter-Pills-Flyer-2021.pdf

3) **International Society for the History of Pharmacy**

The ISHP has organized a one-day virtual symposium (via Zoom) "Projects and Prospects in Pharmaceutical History" being held with five sessions across Friday/Saturday 23rd and 24th April. Details can be found here: histpharm.org/projects-and-prospects-virtual-symposium-and-general-assembly/

4) **Royal Society of Medicine** – History of Medicine Society

On Wednesday 26th May from 5.30pm they are holding an event under the overall title of "Medicines at Extremes". This will include two structured talks, one of which at 6.45pm is the 2020-2021 Presidential address "Medicines for explorers: Henry Wellcome's medicine chests" which will be given by Professor Tilli Tansey. This is both an in-person event and is also live-streamed. Further details can be found here: www.rsm.ac.uk/events/history-of-medicine/2020-21/hsp06/. This link gives all the various costs for attending or logging-in to this.

Contacts

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