



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

June 2019

Number 9

Welcome to our latest communication to Members

Quite a lot of news for you all this quarter. In particular you will find details of our Summer visit, this year to the National Archives at Kew. This is a unique chance for us to make a themed Behind-the-Scenes visit. There is news from our AGM held in March, a feature on our latest evening meeting which told the fascinating story of the 1618 Pharmacopoeia Londinensis, some important news for our members who live overseas, and the usual update of news and forthcoming events.

Annual General Meeting March 2019

AGMs by their very nature are a formal requirement and we undertook the standard acceptance of reports (2018 Annual Report), the minutes of our previous AGM, agreement for our 2018 financial balance sheet and undertaking the annual election of both committee members and our Officers who are the Society's Charity Trustees.

Our Officers for the current year are now:

President	Peter Homan
Vice-President	Chris Duffin (newly elected)
Honorary Secretary	Roy Allcorn
Treasurer	Deborah Bishop

We sought and gained agreement regarding a different solution to our need for a Treasurer as there was no response to our appeal for someone to take on this key role. Please see the item on page 4 about this. Another agreement was to permit the committee to withdraw some of its investment in order to top-up our current account funds, given that these had been depleted over recent years due to the reduction in the number of members and because our expenditure had been greater than our income.

The meeting also asked the committee to look at options for sending our information overseas given the increasing costs of postage. Please see page 4 for some subsequent suggestions from our last committee meeting in May.

Membership Subscriptions 2019

Just a gentle reminder here to the few of you who did not pay in full the increased £30 subscription for this year. You should have had an invoice for the missing amount along with a request to amend your Standing Order for 2020. If you need this information again please ask.

Thank you, Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary (honsec@bshp.org)

Summer Visit - Friday 12th July at 2pm - Behind the Scenes at the National Archives, Kew

The National Archives is the official archive and publisher for the UK government and for England and Wales. It is the guardian of some of our most iconic national documents, dating back over 1,000 years.

What is on the National Archive site? : In addition to its Reading Rooms, the site has a restaurant, snack bar, bookshop and the Keeper's Gallery. The current exhibition in the Keeper's Gallery is '*Protect and Survive: Britain's Cold War Revealed*' which explores the impact of the Cold War on Britain from the corridors of power and hidden government bunkers to daily life in the home.

What is included in a Behind the Scenes tour? : A 'Behind the Scenes' tour explains the history of the site and its organisation, and tells how they keep and maintain the record for future generations. It is also an opportunity to explore some of the hidden gems in the collections. We are arranging for some documents of special pharmaceutical/medical interest to be shown. The tour lasts for about 1½ hours.

How to get there: The address is: The National Archives, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 4DU. For sat navs use the postcode TW9 4AD (Bessant Drive). The site is fully accessible to disabled visitors. By public transport the nearest stations are Kew Gardens, which is served by the District tube line and the London Overground line, and Kew Bridge, served by South Western Railway from Waterloo. See <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/how-to-find-us/> for details (see map below).



How to reserve your place : Please send an email requesting a place to Chris Duffin, who is kindly organizing the day, at this email address vice-president@bshp.org – we are indebted also to Tony Cartwright for setting up this special visit for us.

On the Day : Those going should assemble please at 1:55pm in the foyer of the building ready to start the tour and to meet our tour guide. **The tour will cost £11 per head, please bring cash or a cheque with you.**

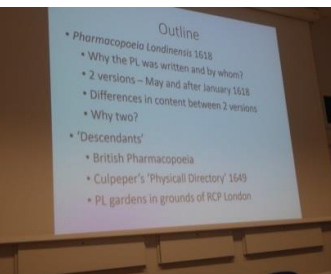
Accessing documents at the National Archive : If you think you might want to visit the National Archive to do some research, you would probably need to register for a Reader's Ticket. You might want to take the opportunity to do so. Details are at <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/visit-us/researching-here/do-i-need-a-readers-ticket/>

Evening meeting at UCL on Monday 13th May

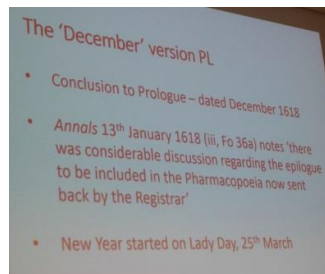
Professor Clare Fowler, Emeritus Professor at UCL, gave us a talk entitled "*Pharmacopoeia Londinensis 1618 and its descendants*" based on her book published last year with this same title. This book was published to coincide with the 500th anniversary of the Royal College of Physicians (RCP), and the 400th anniversary of the Pharmacopoeia. Her research and lecture centred around the reasons why the pharmacopoeia was conceived and published. Its issue coincided with the struggles that marked the separation of the two professions – the physicians and the apothecaries. Clare detailed the influences that led to the original pharmacopoeia including the interest shown in it by King James I. Many other men (worthies) associated with the College of Physicians were involved with the book notably William Harvey, Dr Henry Atkins and Theodore de Mayerne.



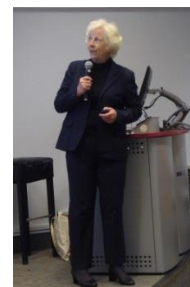
The opening slide of her talk



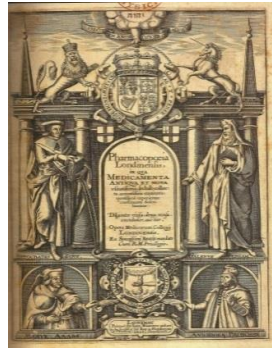
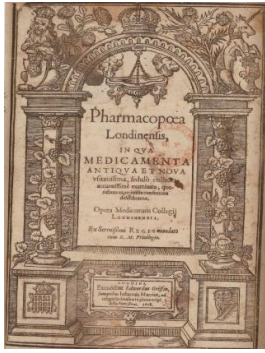
The outline of the talk



The December edition

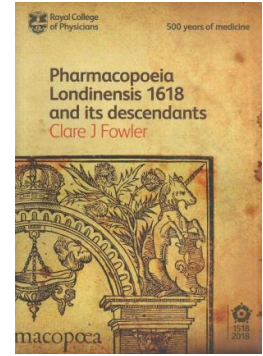


No notes used!



(Left) Title pages of the two versions of the book. Far left is the May 1618 edition and next to it for comparison is the December 1618 one

On the right is the front cover of her 140pp page book published in 2018 by the RCP.



She explained the differences between the May and December versions of the pharmacopoeia and gave her hypothesis as to why the first one was replaced so quickly. It has remained a mystery although a popular theory had been that the first edition contained many errors. Her view was that the May edition had been produced rather hastily through the efforts of de Mayerne who gave the text to the printer. However she believes there was a move among the younger contingent to produce a more comprehensive and substantial book which they did. She highlighted examples of the increased content in the December 1618 edition.

She emphasised that being in Latin and given that it listed no medical benefits, the book was not intended for the "common people" so that all within was a deliberate secret to help protect professional interests. However, at the end of her talk she referred to Culpeper's famous 1649 translation of this edition which intentionally revealed these secrets to all those that could read. She concluded by mentioning the Pharmacopoeia Londinensis gardens at the RCP in London.

Pharmaceutical Historian

With this month's mailing you are receiving the latest issue of our journal, Volume 49 No.2 (June 2019). Back in April you should have received volume 49 No.1. Please let us know if any issues are missing.

As before, all the issues from the start of 2017 are available online as open access pdfs through Ingenta Connect. This is where you can access them: www.ingentaconnect.com/content/bshp.

All the pre-2017 back issues of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* have been digitized and are available on an open access basis. They can be accessed directly using this link: <http://publikationsserver.tu-braunschweig.de/get/65362>

We monitor the number of downloads made from the online version and these are as follows to the end of 2018:

Volume 47, Numbers 1-4, published during 2017: downloads for 2017; total downloads = 327

Volume 47, Numbers 1-4, published during 2017: downloads for 2018; total downloads = 226

Volume 48, Numbers 1-4, published during 2018: downloads for 2018; total downloads = 255.

So total downloads to end of 2018 is 808. We have analysed the top 10 contributions by number of downloads into a table, showing here are the top three from this list:

Rank	No. of downloads	Author	Brief title	Type	Volume and number
1	51	Silvia Micheletti	Exotic poisons and resurrected donkeys: Charles Waterton & curare.	Article	47(3) Sept 2017
2	48	Owen Durrant	Cataloguing nature's library: the Doctrine of Signature.	Short communication	47(4) Dec 2017
3	44	Briony Hudson	English Delftware apothecary jars and their contents	Book review	47(3) Sept 2017

Three of the top ten were published in the first number to go online, in March 2017. It seems a steady trickle of downloads continues well after the date of publication.

Society Finances

As mentioned earlier there have been no offers forthcoming to take over as our Society Treasurer. So do any of you have personal book-keeping skills (using spreadsheets) or is there anyone you know who has these skills? The task of keeping our finances recorded is not onerous and we can explain exactly what the role entails. With this proposal we can have a Treasurer just by name on the committee and who will present information at meetings supplied by the book-keeper. This proposed solution will enable us to fulfil our charitable requirements under the constitution.

If you have any interest in this or know someone who might be able to do this for us then please contact Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary, at honsec@bshp.org. We can provide an annual honorarium for this if that helps.

Attention all Members living Overseas

We are aware that copies of our two publications, the *Pharmaceutical Historian* and the *BSHP Gazette*, after posting out from our Secretariat Office, take a very long time to reach you and do sometimes go astray. We also know that the costs of posting these abroad have risen over recent years.

With this in mind and starting in 2020 we are offering you the choice of continuing to receive printed copies as now or you can choose to receive both items four times a year in pdf format as soon as they are published. All we need from you is your email address which should be sent in reply to this email address: honsec@bshp.org.

Dates for your diary

1-3 July	Three day course jointly with BSHP and the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy entitled "History of Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Industry". See the full programme on the Apothecaries' website: www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Prog-app-form-HoPharmacy-2019.pdf
Monday 14 October (5.30pm)	"Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and ?": Dr John Addenbrooke's Cabinet of Materia Medica" by Henrietta McBurney Ryan, Newham College, Cambridge. Venue: UCL School of Pharmacy, Brunswick Square, London

Website links

BSHM Newsletter(British Society for the History of Medicine)

<https://bshm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/BSHM-May-2019-Newsletter.pdf>

ISHP Newsletter(International Society for the History of Pharmacy)

<http://histpharm.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/ISHP-Newsletter20.pdf>

Podcasts

We are conscious that many of you cannot get to our London evening meetings and so we are looking into making audio recordings of the talks which will be uploaded onto our website. More details soon.

BSHP Conference 2020

This is now being planned and will be held next year in Manchester from Friday 27th March to Sunday 29th March. This year's theme has been chosen and will be Materia Medica.

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members

Julie Wakefield (St Albans)

Patricia Oakley (Wimbledon)

Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

BSHP Secretariat : info@bshp.org