



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

April 2022

Number 20

Editorial

We have delayed this issue slightly in order to cover our recent Annual Conference which also included our 55th AGM, both of which are reported upon in this issue.

You will find more news inside about the Peter Homan memorial grant scheme and details of our online lectures up until June.

BSHP 55th Annual General Meeting 2022

This AGM was held on Sunday 27th March 2022. This was our first in-person AGM since March 2019 which was held in Southsea, Portsmouth. Two subsequent meetings after that had to be held online using Zoom.

So, with this, the Society has finally caught up with the sequence of its Annual General Meetings (AGM) after the various postponements and delays caused by the pandemic. AGMs are required by our constitution and are a necessary check and reporting mechanism to ensure we are fulfilling our charitable objectives. We were pleased to welcome 14 Members to the meeting which was chaired by our President Chris Duffin.

The main items of business conducted were

- Formal acceptance of our Annual Report and Accounts for 2021.
- To note the current members of our committee and to ratify those who are our Charity Trustees (namely Chris Duffin, President; Mark Nesbitt, Vice-President; Selina Hurley, Honorary Treasurer; and Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary)
- To receive reports on membership; past and present grant schemes (see page 4 an update on our new scheme dedicated to the memory of Peter Homan); the RPS Museum; and our online lecture programme up to June.

Those present were asked for ideas on the broad question of succession planning for the committee. The point was made that we need new members willing to join it in order to help us deliver specific aspects of the Society's aims and objectives, which support and promote the history of pharmacy. Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the Honorary Secretary, Roy Allcorn.

Urgent Reminder - Membership Subscription Renewals 2022

Please would you check whether you have remembered to renew your BSHP membership for this current year? If you have a letter and a reminder invoice included with this mailing, then we believe you have not yet paid your subscription. This was detailed on the invoice sent out with our January mailing. If we are wrong then we would welcome details from you about when you paid and how this was done.

We are faced this year with more Members than usual who have not paid this year's invoice and so we would urge you to pay by return please. Details of how to pay are on the invoice. We now have to spend valuable admin time following-up all our unpaid invoices and a few recurring underpayments.

Your assistance with all this is greatly appreciated. Our cashflow is being affected and we have a duty to ensure that those who have not paid are not being subsidized by those who have. Please email honsec@bshp.org with any comments or queries.

If, regrettably, you have decided not to renew then it would help us enormously to be advised about this. However, as you might expect, we are always extremely sorry to see any Members leave us.

BSHP Conference 2022 - Salford, Manchester

Here is a selection of photographs taken over our conference weekend

Copthorne Hotel, Salford Quays



A welcome by our President



Maria do Sameiro Barroso



Chris Duffin's talk on Hafliger



John Crellin



Patrick Chiu's recorded talk



Fay Hartley



Manon Auffret



Visit to John Rylands Institute



Rachel Webster



Briony Hudson



Our delegates



Our conference programme was as follows:

Maria do Sameiro Barroso – Portuguese monastic pharmacies; The legacy of the Monastery of Tibaes.

Chris Duffin – Josef Anton Halfliher (1873–1954) and his collection.

John Crellin – The Chafing Dish: Health and Social considerations of a pharmaceutical/medical artefact (c.1550-1850).

Patrick Chiu – A S Watson: Transformation from Colonial Chemist to Global Health & Beauty Retailer. (The talk was pre-recorded and shown on screen because Patrick was unable to visit the conference)

Fay Hartley – A Glossop Apothecary – Veterinary Prescriptions 1844-1902.

Manon Auffret - Apomorphine in human medicine: From the mid-19th Century to the present day.

Rachel Webster – Medicinal Plants at Manchester Museum.

Briony Hudson – “an heirloom to be handed down” collectors and collections at the RPS Museum.

Conference report continued

On the Friday afternoon there was an optional visit, made by a few delegates, to the Manchester School of Pharmacy and the Manchester Museum of Medicine and Health. In the evening we heard about "The spaces and places of Manchester Science" by Dr James Sumner from the University of Manchester.

On Saturday, after a welcome from Dr Chris Duffin, BSHP President, the morning consisted of six talks which embraced the overall theme for the weekend of "Collections, Collecting and Collectors".

After lunch there was an organized group visit to the John Rylands Research Institute and Library. One of their archivists, Dr James Peters, spoke about some of their pharmacy history holdings which included a specially selected display put on for us of manuscripts, books and ephemera. After this there was time for a quick personal tour of the buildings and its displays. We hope to feature some of the material put out on display for us in a future Gazette. Here are some initial examples:

An early Coptic prescription



An Institute archivist explaining the displayed early printed book material



An archived minute book from an early local Society



An after-dinner quiz based on the conference theme and devised by Briony rounded off the Saturday.

On Sunday, after the Society's AGM, we were able to take some additional time to look at the various posters on display. Our German colleagues shared three posters, on Teaching Pharmacy Ethics, Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching and the one shown here on Coptic Pharmaceutical Preparations. Three other posters from the UK were also on display.

Collective thanks were given to Briony, Conference Organiser, for arranging all the wide-ranging, extremely interesting and varied elements that made up the weekend.

Many remarked that it was so good to be back meeting in-person after the enforced gap since March 2019.

Our initial plan for 2023 is to hold the next conference in Oxford from 31st March to 2nd April.



Society of Apothecaries

The Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy has organized these two events:

Friday 6th May – "The Largest and Best" a full day joint symposium with the Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry to mark the 350th anniversary of the opening of the laboratory at Apothecaries' Hall in 1672 and the centenary of its closure in 1922. Speakers include Patrick Wallis, Anna Marie Roos, Anna Simmons and Peter Elmer. For further information please see:

<https://www.apothecaries.org/events/event/history-of-laboratories/>

Wednesday 6th July – Friday 8th July – "Up Close and Medical: Behind the Scenes at London's Medical Museums". Full details are available here: <https://www.apothecaries.org/events/event/up-close-and-medical-behind-the-scenes-at-londons-medical-museums-3-day-course/>

Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 52 No.1

With this mailing you are receiving the March 2022 issue of our flagship international journal for the History of Pharmacy.

BSHP online lecture series

We have held these two online lectures so far this year on Zoom hosted again via Eventbrite (see <https://www.youtube.com/c/BSHPBritishSocietyfortheHistoryofPharmacy>):

Monday January 24th

"The Poison Trials: Wonder Drugs, Experiment, and the Battle for Authority in Renaissance Science", by Professor Alisha Rankin (Tufts University, Massachusetts).

Monday February 7th

"The Medicinal uses of Emeralds in History", by Dr Chris Duffin (BSHP)

There are 3 Lectures planned again using Zoom up to June:

Monday April 25th (6.30pm)

"The Doctrine of Signatures in Early Modern Medical Practice", by Xinyi Wen (University of Cambridge)

Monday May 23rd (6.30pm)

"Precious and Potent: Tibetan Medical Pill Traditions" by Dr Barbara Gerke (University of Vienna)

Monday June 13th (NB 2pm)

"History of Pharmacy in the Arabic Civilisation in between past and future" by Dr Ayman Atat (Freie University of Berlin)

New Members

We welcome the following into membership:

Roisin O'Hare (Belfast)

Sylvia Pamboukian (Pennsylvania)

Peter Homan Memorial Small Grant Scheme

We are pleased to say that the above title is the one chosen for our new small grant scheme in memory of Peter Homan. More information will be forthcoming after our May Committee meeting.

In broad terms this scheme will encourage engagement at all levels and will be used to support:

- research including travel to archives/museums, photography, buying books.
- events and activities such as providing speaker expenses for a pharmacy history lecturer to give a talk at a school of pharmacy, or to pay for a group to visit a pharmacy history collection.
- engagement including funding towards a pharmacy history display, the production of a podcast, or to create a schools' activity.
- networking such as attendance at a conference or lecture.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this. It is not too late to add to the fund.

American Institute of the History of Pharmacy (AIHP)

All of the lectures and panels from the 2020 AIHP conference "New Social History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals Festival" are [available here](#) to watch and share. It's now possible to read some of the important new histories from the Festival in both print and online format. Please see the pages of [History of Pharmacy and Pharmaceuticals](#), [The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs](#), as well as [Canadian Bulletin of Medical History](#)!

Other News - Two Books

- 1) "Transformation from Colonial Chemist to Global Health and Beauty Retailer – A S Watson" by Patrick Chiu. New 2022. Full details: <https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/12703>
- 2) "That High Design of Purest Gold – A critical history of the Pharmaceutical Industry 1880-1920" by Graham Dutfield. Published 2020. See: <https://www.worldscientific.com/worldscibooks/10.1142/11889>

If ordering online from WS, please use the discount code WSASIAN20 (for 20% off).



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