



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

September 2019

Number 10

Welcome to the latest issue of our quarterly newsletter

The Officers and Committee hope you have had a pleasant summer and are ready now for our periodic update of pharmacy history news. Lots to look forward to, including details of our next evening meeting in October and our annual conference in late March 2020.

Summer Visit 12th July

A group of twelve BSHP members attended our visit to the National Archives for a "Behind the Scenes" tour kindly arranged by member Tony Cartwright. After an initial overview of the archive we were accompanied around the site by members of staff Kevin and Marcus. Many may remember the archive when it was the Public Records Office in Chancery Lane, London. We learnt all about the relocation of all the archived items in the period up to 2003. Their collection is one of the largest in the world, containing over 11 million historical government and public records. From the Domesday Book to modern government papers and digital files, it includes paper and parchment, digital records and websites, photographs, posters, maps, drawings and paintings. As we walked around their holdings, in very secure locations and under strictly controlled storage conditions, we heard all about the specific processes that all the material goes through from arrival to meeting any research requests.

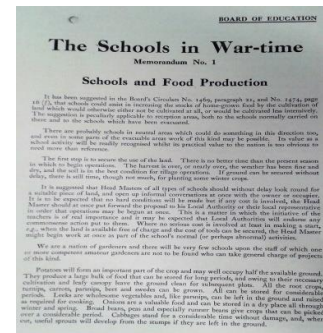
One of the most amusing items described to us was the rat, still retained by them, which was discovered by Henry Cole in the 1830s. He was shocked at the poor condition of the archives so using the rat with its stomach full of chewed documents as evidence ("the rat who ate history") he pioneered reform of the archives which became known as the Public Records Office (see photo bottom left).

At the end Tony had organized for some documents to be on display (see below for some details).



National Archive documents suggested for visit by the British Society for the History of Pharmacy on Friday 12 July 2019

Number	TNA Reference Number	Title of document	Date
1	C114/59	Wholesale druggist account books	1672-1683
2	ADM 106/1023/79	Letters to the Navy Board and Office for Sick and Hurt re supply of medicines from Apothecaries Hall	1746
3	ADM 106/854	Letters to the Navy Board and Office for Sick and Hurt re supply of medicines from Apothecaries Hall	1734
4	ADM 101/112/5	Medical journal of His Majesty's Ship Le Page (surgon's journal)	1805
5	ADM 101/119/3	Medical journal of her Majesty's Ship Samareg. Folios 21-35: Surgon's general remarks	1846-1847
6	ADM 101/21/5	Medical journal of the Earl Grey, convict ship. Folios 25-28: Surgon's general remarks	1849-1850
7	CO/137/90/2	Cultivation of Cinchona Trees, Governor of Jamaica	1865
8	WO/32/5112	Medical. Abroad. Control of malaria in Siskooka including prophylactic use of quinine for troops	1916-1917
9	ED 10/286	Pamphlet "Siskooka in War-Time". Collecting wild plants and fruits	1939-1942
10	AV 4/272	Arial zones: work done by the Tropical Products Institute on medicinal plants	1958



Memorial Award and Research Grant 2020

Calling all students, pharmacists, technicians and pharmaceutical scientists! Details of our two funding streams - both worth £500 - are now available on our website. They're both a great way to share your pharmacy history research with a wider audience, particularly if you're new to the subject - both have a closing date of 30th November 2019 :

Burnby Bursary : www.bsph.org/awards/BurnbyMemorialBursary.asp

Research Grant : www.bsph.org/awards/ResearchGrant.asp

Pharmaceutical Historian

With this month's mailing you are receiving the latest issue of our journal, Volume 49 No.3 (September 2019). Please let us know if any of the two previous 2019 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/bsph. 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 : publikationsserver.tu-braunschweig.de/get/65362

Society Finances

We've detailed our problem here in previous Gazettes but we have to report that unfortunately there have been no offers forthcoming to take over as our Treasurer.

We offered an alternative asking if anyone had personal book-keeping skills (for example able to use spreadsheets) or if there was anyone known to any members who have these skills? The task of keeping our finances recorded is not onerous and we can explain exactly what the role entails. With this book-keeping 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 is vital as it will enable us to fulfil our charitable requirements under the constitution.

So if there are still no offers of help by the time of our next Committee meeting in October we will fall back on the agreement obtained at the last AGM to have to pay for someone to undertake this role for us. This might take the form of an annual honorarium or some other form of payment.

If you have any interest in this or know someone who might be able to do any of this for us then please contact Roy Allcorn, Honorary Secretary, at honsec@bsph.org.

Attention all Members living Overseas - last chance!

Further to the item in the June Gazette we've had overseas member so far taking up the option of electing to receive the *Pharmaceutical Historian* and the Gazette four times a year in pdf format as soon as they are published. This will avoid all the delays caused by mailing printed copies. All we need from you is your email address - please contact : honsec@bsph.org.

Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

The Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy at the Society of Apothecaries is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year with special events alongside its usual programme of evening lectures. The first lecture of the academic year is on Tuesday 22nd October when Professor Patrick Wallis (LSE) will be speaking on 'The Transformation of Healthcare in Early Modern England.' Full details of this event and the rest of the Faculty's lecture programme is given on their website : www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Eponymous-Lecture-Prog-Flier-2019-20.pdf

You may like advance notice that BSHP are holding a joint lecture with the Faculty on Monday 1st June 2020 at Apothecaries' Hall when Dr Freya Harrison (University of Warwick) will be speaking on 'Unlocking the Medieval Medicine Cabinet'. Full details can found be here : www.apothecaries.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/200601-Flier-Syd-V5.pdf

In early July, the 3 day "History of Pharmacy and the Pharmaceutical Industry Course" was held jointly with BSHP. Although numbers were lower than in previous years, the busy programme hosted by Apothecaries, the Royal College of Physicians, the Wellcome Library and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museum was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

Obituary - John Newstead B.E.M. by Peter Homan, BSHP President

"I was saddened by the news that my friend John Newstead had died on 27th July. He had been a member of BSHP since 1976 and had a great interest in the history of pharmacy especially relating to Norfolk. He would travel the towns in search of pharmacy memorabilia, including fixtures and fittings, and had amassed some 2,500 items.

He built his own pharmacy in the back garden (called the Icen Pharmacy) and, when he retired, donated much of the collection to the Museum of Norwich at Bridewell, helping to catalogue and maintain the pharmacy 'shop'. He also helped with the creation of a pharmacy display at the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth.

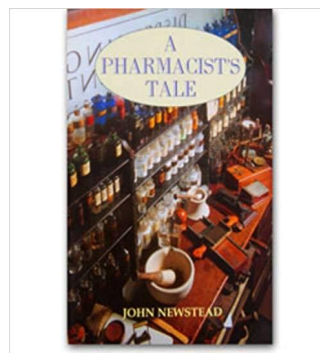


In 2003 he wrote a book "A Pharmacist's Tale" based on his collection.

In 1978, John was designated as a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society for services to the history of pharmacy and in 2019 was presented with a British Empire Medal for his contribution to the Norfolk Museum Services.

The Bridewell Museum has plans to set up a "John Newstead Day" when visitors will be given a guided tour of the Pharmacy Exhibit and demonstrations of dispensing techniques. Any 'in memoriam' donations to the Museum would be gratefully accepted.

My thoughts are with his wife, Janie, and Family."



BSHP Conference 2020 - An update from Briony Hudson:

"Save the date! Our 2020 conference will be in Manchester from Friday 27th to Sunday 29th March, based at the Copthorne Hotel in Salford Quays. The theme is plant-based medicines, and we'll be visiting Manchester Museum to see some of their wonderful *materia medica* collection on the Saturday afternoon. More programme details and a booking form to follow with the December Gazette.

If you would like to give a short talk on the Saturday morning (usually 20 minutes), either on the conference theme, pharmacy history links with Manchester, or an interesting topic that you're currently looking at, please get in touch. As many of you know, we're a really friendly audience so it's an ideal opportunity for less experienced speakers to share their findings as well as seasoned presenters.

If you'd like to bring a poster outlining some recent research, I would also love to hear from you. As usual, we will be displaying these for the whole weekend, so it's a perfect chance to present your recent investigations into pharmacy history!

Please get in touch at conference@bshp.org by Monday 4th November if you'd like to contribute a talk or a poster."

New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Maya Thomas (Barnes, London)
Catherine Dewsbury (Faversham, Kent)

Anita Hoffmann (Hampstead, London)

Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Twitter : @PharmHist

BSHP Secretariat : info@bshp.org



***Animal, Vegetable, Mineral and ...
Dr John Addenbrooke's Cabinet of Materia
Medica***

**Lecture by
Henrietta McBurney Ryan, MVO, FLS, FSA**

Independent Curator and Art Historian, Cambridge

Monday 14 October 2019 at 5.30pm

MAPLETHORPE LECTURE THEATRE,
UCL SCHOOL OF PHARMACY,

29-39 BRUNSWICK SQUARE, LONDON WC1N 1AX

Nearest Tube: Russell Square

Refreshments will be served from 5.00pm

NON-MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Questions? Contact Kim Walker, BSHP Programme Secretary:
events@bshp.org