



BSHP Gazette

The Newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy

January 2023

Number 23

Seasonal Greetings from Chris Duffin, our President

Dear Members, Friends and Colleagues,

We have come a long way since this time last year. We all wondered how long it would take to define and get used to a 'new normal' in the post-Covid era. Thankfully, although there is still some understandable hesitancy over social mixing while the virus is still a significant presence, we have been able to enjoy meeting in-person both at this year's conference in Manchester, and on the summer visit to Kew Gardens. Both events were blessed with fine weather – another bonus!

As with all relatively small societies, 2023 holds some challenges for the BSHP. Whilst our membership is healthy in terms of raw numbers, we would like to be enriched by embracing the experiences, talents and ideas of some new members. If you know someone who might be encouraged to join the Society, why not have a chat with them and try to get them on board. You could even consider giving them a gift of their first year's membership to get them started!

The committee tries its best to cater to the interests of the Society by delivering an efficient and engaging programme of events and publications. However, we are at the stage where an injection of new ideas, energy and talents is becoming an increasingly pressing issue. Could I encourage you to consider ways in which you might be able to promote and serve the society? Perhaps you could join the committee itself, or you might have ideas for outreach, topics for discussion, different ways of meeting together or potential speakers for our lecture programme. Please do contact us to share your suggestions and ambitions. We look forward to a year of new opportunities and initiatives and sharing the focus of our common interest. My thanks to the committee for their unfailing support and my very best wishes to you all for the New Year.

Pharmaceutical Historian - Volume 52 No.4

Also with this mailing you are receiving the December 2022 issue of our flagship international journal for the history of pharmacy.

Membership Renewal Subscriptions

If you have received an invoice for renewal of your 2023 subscription please follow the guidance reproduced on it which lists the various ways that your membership can be renewed. We would appreciate an early payment of this which helps us reduce the amount of time we have to spend on credit control. If any you have any queries please contact our Treasurer Selina Hurley (treasurer@bshp.org)

Urgent Blood Transfusion Needed

As remarked by our President in his seasonal message, your committee is now very keen to encourage some new blood. A number of committee members are reaching the end of their terms, most notably the President and Honorary Secretary, and we are keen to welcome new people with new ideas and associated enthusiasm. Committee roles are for a 3-year term, with quarterly meetings, currently held online. Committee members discuss forward planning for the Society, alongside taking an active role in its work from events organisation and promotion, to social media and bursaries. The roles are rewarding, a great way to play your part in the wider pharmacy history community, and, particularly for younger members, greatly enhance your CV. Anyone interested would be invited to observe the committee's next meeting on 6 February.

BSHP Online Lecture Series

Join us for a new webinar series at the cutting edge of research into the history of pharmacy and plants. Originally planned for last Autumn, our 4 free online talks run from January to April 2023. Four distinguished speakers from four countries will explore the history of medicinal plants in the Mediterranean over time periods ranging from classical to renaissance, drawing on varied sources including texts, images and botanical specimens. As usual, these online talks will be followed by a discussion period with questions from the audience.

Three speakers are sharing findings from a recent project, "Plants and minerals in Byzantine popular pharmacy", established with Royal Holloway, University of London and funded by the Wellcome Trust. Our Vice-President Mark Nesbitt was one of those on the project team. You can read more about the project here: <https://www.kew.org/science/our-science/projects/byzantine-popular-pharmacy>

The fourth speaker is Laurence Totelin, who will examine some of the interactions between perfumery and pharmacy in the Greek and Roman worlds. The study includes the reasons why ancient physicians used perfumes as part of their treatments, the ways in which medical texts inform us about ancient perfumes, and the role of perfumers in ancient medicine. Drawing upon literary and archaeological sources, she will show that ancient medicine was highly dependent on the perfume trade, which had access to numerous precious ingredients which could be difficult to find.

Laurence Totelin is Professor of Ancient History at Cardiff University. She is an expert on Greek and Roman science, technology, and medicine, with a specific focus on pharmacy, botany, and the history of cosmetics. Her recent books include the edited volumes *A Cultural History of Medicine in Antiquity* (Bloomsbury, 2021) and, with Mark Bradley and Victoria Leonard, *Bodily Fluids in Antiquity* (Routledge, 2021).

The programme is as follows:

Monday 23 January 2023: "Dioscorides' Botanical Legacy in the Medieval Mediterranean: Critical Practices of Botanical Illustration" by Dr Andrew P. Griebeler, Princeton University.

Monday 27 February 2023: "Perfumery and pharmacy: The Greek and Roman history of a match made in heaven" by Prof. Laurence Totelin, University of Cardiff.

Monday 6 March 2023: "The herbal materia medica in Greek texts – a botanical and pharmacognostic perspective".by Dr Andreas Lardos, Institute of Chemistry and Biotechnology, ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences.

Monday 24 April 2023: "Shifting from medicine to botany: the hidden history of 16th century herbaria" by Dr Anastasia Stefanaki, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden.

Each talk will be delivered using Zoom and also live-streamed on our YouTube channel. Booking will be done via the Eventbrite system as before. They are timed to start at 6.30pm and details will start to be released shortly.

Later in 2023 we will start a series on colonial pharmacy. Dates and further information will follow using email, our website and social media. Please email any questions about the talks to honsec@bshp.org



(Above) Glass unguentarium (perfume bottle), 3rd century BC, by courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Gift of J. Pierpont Morgan, 1917.



(Above) Glebionis coronaria from De Materia Medica from 10th Century, by courtesy of Morgan Library MS 652.

Annual Conference 2023 - "Training, learning and education"



With this mailing, you'll find the programme and booking form for this year's conference, to be held in Oxford from Friday 30 March to Sunday 2 April. We hope that you can join us for our usual mix of talks, visits and social events.

As for previous years, there are options to join us for a full weekend staying at the conference hotel, as a non-resident delegate, or on individual days.

Students are welcome to join us for our morning talks sessions free of charge.

Please spread the word, as you do not need to be a BSHP member to join us in Oxford.

Deadline for bookings is Monday 20 February 2023.

(Image: Detail from *Physic*, coloured etching by H. Heath, 1825, Wellcome Collection)

History of the Neurosciences

International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN)

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Submit your abstract for the
ISHN 27th ANNUAL MEETING
July 4 – 8, 2023
Rennes, France

Deadline: February 20th, 2023 at 11:59 pm ET

The International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN) invites you to submit abstracts and speakers to present your latest historical research in Rennes, France.

All papers must have at least one author who shall be a member of the ISHN (or when appropriate, a member of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy or the American Academy of Neurology) at the time of the meeting.

ABSTRACT REQUIREMENTS (Language: English)

- 2500 words, Microsoft Word, 11 compatible
- Indicate preference for Poster or Platform
- Indicate individual requirements

See the ISHN homepage for membership and conference details:
<http://www.ishn.org> or use this QR code

Any questions? Send us an email at ishn@isnhn.org

SCAN ME

RENNES INCL Inserm Société Neurosciences

We have been in detailed discussion with BSHP Member Manon Auffret, who is a member of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN), about co-hosting a symposium on the relations between pharmacy and the history of neurosciences at their annual conference in Rennes, France from 4-8 July 2023.

This is now a reality for later this year and full details of this can be found on the ISHN website: www.ishn.org which includes the call for abstracts shown here on the left in much greater detail.

The various advertising documents and call for papers are now ready for distribution.

The abstracts are required to be submitted by 20 February and must follow the guidance shown on the ISHN website.

Peter Homan Small Grant Scheme

We are delighted to announce that this grant scheme is now ready to be launched.

In memory of Peter Homan, past BSHP President, pharmacist and pharmacy historian, the Society has established this programme which is intended to support a wide range of pharmacy history activities.

We will award grants totalling £500 twice a year.

They could 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.

These grants are intended to encourage people of every background to engage with pharmacy history. We expect applicants to use the grants efficiently, for example making their best effort to travel in the most economical way within reason.

Applications for funding must be made in advance of any activity. Grants may not be used to cover expenditure that has already been incurred. A small panel has been set up to appraise applications.

Grants are available to all UK residents. If the applicant is applying on behalf of a team or institution, please ensure that contact details of a named individual are provided. Re-applications may not be made for the same project.

You just need to monitor our website under the Awards tab (www.bsph.org/awards/) for further details and for an application form with its associated guidance.

BSHP Member's Forum Online Meetings

The committee at its October meeting felt that there was just about enough interest in this idea to develop it further. Please register your interest or suggest topics alongside our initial thoughts which were to have *Pharmacy Artefacts* as the Forum's first theme. The Forum will be delivered on-line later in 2023. Please send any comments to honsec@bsph.org.

British Society for the History of Medicine - News

The December edition of the BSHM newsletter is now available (<https://bshm.org.uk>). This gives details of their next Congress being held at the University of Cardiff 14-16 September 2023.

Society of Apothecaries

Save the date! BSHP and the Faculty of the History and Philosophy of Medicine and Pharmacy are again running a three-day pharmacy history course, jointly directed by Professor Stuart Anderson and Briony Hudson. With a theme of *Collecting and Reflecting Pharmacy History*, it will run from Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 September 2023.

Host venues are confirmed as the Science Museum; the Economic Botany Collection at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museum; the Royal College of Physicians Museum; the Society of Apothecaries; and the Chelsea Physic Garden.

The full programme and booking details for this course will be available in the Spring.

The Faculty's series of Eponymous Lectures for the next period is as follows:

Thursday 19 January 2023, John Locke Lecture "What makes health public? Ethical and legal lessons from the pandemic" by Professor John Coggan.

Monday 13 February 2023, Osler Lecture "Feuds, egos and controversies in the history of cardiac surgery" by Mr Alexander Manché.

February 2023, Keats Memorial Lecture Speaker and title are still to be confirmed but the venue will be Guy's Chapel, King's College London.

Monday 13 March 2023, Gideon de Laune Lecture "Before Newton: 17th-century chymical practice at Trinity College, Cambridge" by Professor Anna Marie Roos.

Thursday 20 April 2023, Sydenham Lecture "Death in the household: A history of postmortems in domestic spaces" by Dr Jennifer Wallis.

Full details can be found on their website www.apothecaries.org/events/category/faculty-hp-events/

New Members

We welcome the following into membership:

Maurice Hickey, North Berwick

Jelena Manojlovic, Serbia

Contacts

Facebook: British Society for the History of Pharmacy

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