

## Lettre du Club d'histoire de la chimie n°35 – Avril 2011

- **Prochaines manifestations du Club d'histoire de la chimie**

**Mercredi 18 mai 2011. Nantes.** Session thématique n° 5, sous la responsabilité du CHC, au Congrès de la Société française d'histoire des sciences et des techniques (SFHST), 18-20 mai 2011 (Voir lettre 29 – Novembre 2010) :

***Les chimistes, leurs institutions et leurs sociétés savantes entre les deux guerres mondiales***

Inscriptions, voir le site de la SFHST : <http://www.sfhst.org>. Avec la participation de

Chezeau Jean-Michel, *L'École de chimie de Mulhouse entre les deux guerres*

Emptoz Gérard, *Georges Claude et la nouvelle chimie de l'azote dans l'entre-deux-guerres*

Fauque Danielle, *Les congrès de chimie industrielle dans l'entre-deux-guerres : une volonté d'associer science et industrie*

Fonteneau Virginie, *L'Institut de chimie de Paris dans l'entre-deux guerres : comment et pour qui former des chimistes ?*

Langlinay Erik, *Albin Haller et la formation des chimistes français, projets et réalisations (1915-1925)*

Molles Camille, *La Société de Chimie Industrielle face au problème de l'alcool*

Riou Florence, *Georges Urbain (1872-1938), défenseur d'une "science sensualiste" au sein de la "croisade pour la science pure*

**Jeudi 9 novembre 2011. Paris,** 250 rue Saint-Jacques. Journée commune avec la Société d'histoire de la pharmacie.

**Appel à communication.**

Thème : ***La pharmacie dans les ouvrages de chimie, XVIIe-XXe siècles***

Merci d'envoyer les propositions accompagnées d'un résumé d'une page maximum (1500 caractères), et d'un court curriculum vitae à Olivier Lafont, président de la SHP, et Danielle Fauque, présidente du CHC, avant le 15 juillet.

**Jeudi 8 décembre 2011. Paris.** 250 rue Saint-Jacques. ***Les Vingt ans du Club d'histoire de la chimie (1991-2011).***

**Appel à communication.**

À l'occasion du cinquantenaire de l'élection de Léon Velluz à l'Académie des sciences (1961), le CHC organise une ***journée d'étude sur l'histoire de stéroïdes***. Merci d'envoyer les propositions accompagnées d'un résumé d'une page maximum (1500 caractères), et d'un court curriculum vitae avant le 15 septembre à Danielle Fauque.

***L'assemblée générale annuelle du Club d'histoire de la chimie se tiendra aussi le 8 décembre.***

- **RAPPEL : Participation du Club d'histoire de la chimie :**

**21-24 juin 2011, Paris.** Colloque de la Commission d'histoire de la chimie moderne (CHMC 2011).

**Le programme détaillé est en ligne sur le site : <http://www.chmc2011.fr> .**

***Renouveler le patrimoine de la chimie au XXI<sup>e</sup> siècle : Échanges et débats sur la conservation, la présentation et l'utilisation des sources, des sites et des objets de la chimie***

***Renewing the Heritage of Chemistry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Conversations on the Preservation, Presentation and Utilization of Sources, Sites and Artefacts***

Ce colloque est soutenu par l'Académie des sciences, la Société chimique de France, la Fondation internationale de la Maison de la chimie, le CNRS, l'ESPCI ParisTech, la Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF), l'IUHPS/DST ... **Il bénéficie des labels AIC 2011 et IYC 2011.** Contact organisation : [danielle.fauque@u-psud.fr](mailto:danielle.fauque@u-psud.fr) ou [Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu](mailto:Jeffrey.Johnson@villanova.edu)

**Voir la lettre du CHC n°33.** Modalités d'inscription : voir le site. En cas de difficulté contacter Danielle Fauque.

- **Autres manifestations**

Voir aussi les lettres 32, 33 & 34.

**4-5 Juillet 2011. Maison française d'Oxford. RAPPEL.** Colloque sur

*Sites of chemistry / Chantiers de la chimie in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.*

<http://www.sitesofchemistry.org/>.

Contacts : Antonio Belmar : [belmar@ua.es](mailto:belmar@ua.es) et John Perkins : [perkins@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:perkins@brookes.ac.uk)

**14-16 Septembre. Rostock. RAPPEL.** 8th International Conference on history of chemistry (8 ICHC). EuChemS.

*Pathways of knowledge*

<http://www.boeck.chemie.uni-rostock.de/schnelleinstieg/8th-ichc-rostock-2011/>

**22-24 September 2011. Cambridge.** CRASSH and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. **Appel à communications – voir annexe I :**

*Alchemy and Medicine from Antiquity to the Enlightenment*

- **Manifestations en France, Rappel**

**29-30 septembre, École polytechnique – Palaiseau.** Colloque international :

*La chimie au lendemain des révolutions – Gay-Lussac et l'après-Lavoisier.*

La date limite de remise des propositions était le 15 mars. Contacts : Andrea Breard : [andrea.breard@math.univ-lille1.fr](mailto:andrea.breard@math.univ-lille1.fr) et Rémi Franckowiak : [remi.franckowiak@univ-lille1.fr](mailto:remi.franckowiak@univ-lille1.fr)

- **Publications : appel à auteurs**

*HYLE: International Journal for Philosophy of Chemistry* invites papers for a special issue on "Chemistry & Mathematics".

**Deadline: August 15, 2011. Voir Annexe II.**

- **Publications**

Adrian-Mihail Stadler and Jack Harrowfield, « Places and chemistry: Strasbourg—a chemical crucible seen through historical personalities », *Chem. Soc. Rev.*, (on <http://pubs.rsc.org> | doi:10.1039/C0CS00197J), 48 pages.

Pascual Ronán Polo, « El sesquicentenario del Primer Congreso Internacional de Químicos », *Anales de la Real Sociedad de Quimica*, 106(3), segunda época, Julio-Septiembre 2010, 231-239

*N'hésitez pas à nous faire parvenir toutes les annonces de manifestations et de publications sur l'histoire de la chimie que nous aurons plaisir à publier dans notre lettre d'information.*

Danielle Fauque

Présidente du Club d'Histoire de la Chimie, 250 rue Saint-Jacques, 75005 Paris : [danielle.fauque@u-psud.fr](mailto:danielle.fauque@u-psud.fr)

Cotisation pour l'année 2011, par chèque ou par virement pour les non membres de la SFC : 28 euros (15 euros pour les étudiants). Vous trouverez l'ensemble de nos lettres sur

<http://www.societechimiquedefrance.fr/fr/club-histoire-de-la-chimie.html>

### **Annexe I : Call for Papers**

*'Alchemy and Medicine from Antiquity to the Enlightenment'*

22-24 September 2011. CRASSH and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge.

Alchemists pursued many goals, from the transmutation of metals to the preservation of health and life. These pursuits were continually informed and modified by medical knowledge, while alchemical debates about nature, generation, and the achievability of perfection in turn impacted on medicine and natural philosophy. Alchemical texts circulated in print and manuscript; in courts, in households, and in the marketplace, both reflecting and contributing to debates about the body and the natural world. Alchemy was studied by physicians, clerics, natural philosophers, merchants, artisans, and aristocrats; some drawn toward theoretical speculation, others towards empirical practice.

This three-day international conference, held at Peterhouse, Cambridge, will investigate these interactions, from alchemy's development in late antiquity to its decline throughout the eighteenth century. It will ask how alchemical and medical ideas changed over time, how they reflected the experience of individual readers and practitioners, and the extent to which they responded to significant currents in intellectual, political, religious, and social life.

Plenary speakers include:

- Chiara Crisciani (Università degli Studi di Pavia)
- Andrew Cunningham (University of Cambridge)
- Hiro Hirai (Radboud University Nijmegen)
- Didier Kahn (CNRS, Paris)
- Bruce T. Moran (University of Nevada at Reno)
- William R. Newman (Indiana University)
- Michela Pereira (Università di Siena)
- Lawrence M. Principe (Johns Hopkins University)
- Nancy Siraisi (City University of New York)
- Emma Spary (University of Cambridge)

***Proposals for 20 minute papers are welcomed, and the participation of postgraduate students and junior researchers is particularly encouraged (with student bursaries available).***

Topics might include, but are not limited, to:

- Transmission of alchemical and medical knowledge
- Elixirs and the prolongation of life
- Impact of alchemical remedies on medical practice
- Paracelsus, Van Helmont and their followers
- Shared ingredients, methods and apparatus
- Medical practitioners as alchemists
- Use of medical concepts in alchemy
- Medicine, alchemy and patronage
- Iatrochemistry vs. medical orthodoxy
- Charlatanry and fraud
- Books, recipes, and secrets

The language of the conference is English. Abstracts of 200-300 words, accompanied by a one-page CV, should be sent to Jennifer Rampling ([jmr82@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jmr82@cam.ac.uk)) **by 1 May 2011**.

Organised by Jennifer Rampling, Peter M. Jones and Lauren Kassell (Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge), and supported by the Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CRASSH). Jennifer Rampling, Wellcome Trust Research Fellow, Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge, Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH.

## **Annexe II : CALL FOR PAPERS**

*HYLE: International Journal for Philosophy of Chemistry* invites papers for a special issue on "Chemistry & Mathematics".  
**Deadline: August 15, 2011**

The relationship between mathematics and chemistry has a long history. In fact one of the new features of modern chemistry was the introduction of arithmetical relations by Lavoisier. One could even argue that the oldest molecular theory, in Plato's *Timaeus*, was a geometrical theory of chemistry. Not only chemistry but also mathematics has benefited from the relationship, as can be acknowledged in the development of Graph Theory, a mathematical theory with roots in chemical questions.

Other important results from this synergy are related to symmetry, such as the conception of a tetrahedral carbon, the octahedral symmetry of certain coordination compounds, the hexagonal nature of benzene, or the interpretation of spectra, on the one hand, and the development of the mathematical theory of symmetry out of mineralogy, on the other. More recent examples of successful interplay between mathematics and chemistry include the understanding of fullerenes, the rational design of drugs, and the estimation of toxicological and environmental impact of chemical substances.

And yet, chemistry and mathematics could hardly be more different in methodological regard: a strict experimental science here and a purist a priori approach there. That difference was perhaps responsible for the comparatively small role that mathematics has played in chemistry compared to its role in physics. While such

methodological tensions have been influential in mathematical physics since centuries, the field of mathematical chemistry has slowly emerged only since the 1970s. More recently it has established itself with an International Academy and an International Society of Mathematical Chemistry as well as two specialized journals, MATCH Communications in Mathematical and in Computer Chemistry and Journal of Mathematical Chemistry. The delayed development of mathematical chemistry suggests that there are considerable barriers between mathematics and chemistry, which philosophical analysis might help understand and perhaps eventually overcome.

Because HYLE is the international journal devoted to philosophy of chemistry, it is the ideal place for posing philosophical and historical questions regarding both the relationship between mathematics and chemistry and the nature of today's mathematical chemistry. We particularly welcome papers on one or more topics of the following non-exclusive list:

*Philosophical foundations of mathematical chemistry*

- \* Is mathematical chemistry a distinct field that can be clearly defined and distinguished from other established and related fields, such as physical chemistry, quantum chemistry, and mathematical physics?
- \* Does mathematical chemistry have a specific methodology and epistemology that distinguish it from both mainstream chemistry and mathematics as well as from mathematical physics?
- \* Does mathematical chemistry produce a priori or a posteriori knowledge? Is it a theoretical science as opposed to experimental chemistry? Could there be an experimental mathematical chemistry?
- \* Does mathematical chemistry require specific ontological or metaphysical assumptions or positions regarding the (mathematical) constitution of the world or the reality of mathematical entities?
- \* Are there specific branches of mathematics that are particularly appropriate for mathematical chemistry? If so, does that tell us something about chemistry in general and mathematical chemistry in particular?
- \* Does mathematical chemistry necessarily require or actually establish new relationships between mathematics and chemistry, other than taking mathematics as a mere tool for chemistry?
- \* Are there particular links between mathematical chemistry, on the one hand, and philosophy of chemistry and philosophy of mathematics, on the other?

*History of the mathematics/chemistry relationship and mathematical chemistry*

- \* Does the history of the chemistry/mathematics relationship provide any clues as to what has fostered and hindered its cooperative development?
- \* Why did mathematical chemistry emerge so late compared to mathematical physics?
- \* How did today's mathematical chemistry actually emerge? What socio-cultural and cognitive factors favored its development and determined its current shape and research focus? How was the development received by mainstream chemistry and mainstream mathematics?
- \* Could mathematical chemistry have been differently developed under different historical conditions? Could there be other definitions, other main areas, or even other methodologies and epistemologies of mathematical chemistry?
- \* Did the development of mathematical chemistry have any impact on other branches of chemistry and mathematics or even beyond?

Manuscripts should follow the general Guidelines for Authors, available on the HYLE website ([www.hyle.org](http://www.hyle.org)). Send inquiries regarding the suitability of submissions etc. and your submission in appropriate form for anonymous reviews not later than August 15, 2011 to Guillermo Restrepo, Guest Editor, Laboratorio de Química Teórica, Universidad de Pamplona, Pamplona, Colombia; [grestrepo@unipamplona.edu.co](mailto:grestrepo@unipamplona.edu.co), and [guillermorestrepo@gmail.com](mailto:guillermorestrepo@gmail.com). Or to Joachim Schummer, Editor-in-chief of HYLE; [editor@hyle.org](mailto:editor@hyle.org)  
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