

BSHP GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY



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A note from the President

*Professor Mark Nesbitt, Senior Research Leader,
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*

Thank you to all involved in our **summer excursion to Cambridge**. Staff at St John's College and the University Library made us feel very welcome, and there was much to see. The marvellous display of medieval manuscripts at the Library continues to 6 December.

Our online talks programme continues on **13 October with Lucy Santos** on Radioactive Remedies. Please do join us; registration details are on the BSHP website.

Work continues behind the scenes, most of all on the transfer of our flagship journal **Pharmaceutical Historian** from Ingenta to hosting by the University Library at TU Braunschweig. The first fifty years are already hosted there; they will be joined by current issues. For the technically minded, our articles will also start to bear DOI links, making it easier to find and cite them. Many thanks to Stuart Anderson for leading on this important initiative.

We have also implemented enhanced security for our **Zoom broadcasts**, following an unauthorised incursion into our last talk. In essence, we are reinstating the very robust security precautions that we had in 2020, when this kind of event was all too frequent. Apologies to all those affected; we plan to reschedule the talk to a later date.

In exciting news, the centennial conference of the **International Society for the History of Pharmacy** will be held September 2-5, 2026 in Innsbruck. Please note the date in your diary! The conference website will go live soon at ishp2026.com



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SUMMER EXCURSION 2025: REVIEW

A picture record of a visit to the Cambridge University Library: *Curious Cures: Medicine in the Medieval World* exhibition & tour of the Heberden Materia Medica cabinet at St John's College Library - 18 July 2025



Above: The Curious Cures Tour and lecture featured Dr. James Freeman, while Dr. Chris Duffin discussed minerals (Below).



St. John's College Library and Heberden Cabinet visit. Thanks to Dr Adam Crothers for bringing out the Heberden drawers for BSHP members to view.

Our trip to Cambridge coincided with a beautiful sunny day. This allowed us to enjoy many beautiful historical objects at both the museum and the college library, as well as see the famous moving grasshopper clock on Corpus Christi College. It was a great day out, and we look forward to arranging next summer's excursion!



Thanks also to Mika Hyman, PhD student (Left), for sharing insights on the Heberden Cabinet's history; Right: The Cambridge 'Grasshopper' clock



Peter Homan
Small Grant Award

Apply for up to £500 - Open for applications.
<https://www.bsHP.org/awards>

BSHP NEWS

Membership renewals

Many thanks to all new and renewing members for your support, which allows us to continue our activities promoting pharmacy history, including our annual conference and online lecture programme. If you have received a reminder invoice with this mailing it is because our records show that you have not yet paid for the 2025 subscription year. If you believe you have received this in error, or if you wish not to continue with your membership, please do get in touch with us, either by email (honsec@bshp.org), or via our new registered address which can be found on the invoice."

Pharmaceutical Historian

With this mailing you are receiving the September 2025 issue of *Pharmaceutical Historian*, (Volume 55, Number 3), our flagship international journal.

GAZETTE HISTORY HIGHLIGHT:

As seen in the banner image from the Wellcome Collection,

Lady: "Are these complexion powders warranted fast colours?"

Chemist: "Well, madam, I can't say they will wash like the natural complexion, but they won't come off on a coat sleeve!"

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Graham Parsons, Plymouth
Lucas Richert, Madison, WI

OTHER EVENTS

Art in Medicine and Pharmacy Course

17-19 September 2025

A 3-day short course

www.bshp.org/post/art-in-medicine-and-pharmacy-course

RPS Museum and Library: Open House London

10am-4pm Saturday 20th September

Free Drop In! A chance to see the RPS Museum. See the library's rare book collection and take a tour of the Museum.
museum@rpharms.com

RPS Scotland: Doors Open Day

Saturday 27th September, 10am-4pm

Free Drop In to see the RPS's Historical Scottish Collection. museum@rpharms.com

29 March – 6 December 2025

Exhibition: Curious Cures: Medicine in the Medieval World.

Cambridge University Library

16-17 October 2025

History of Alchemy & Chemistry Autumn Meeting
Science History Institute, Philadelphia
Info/Call for Papers: frank.james@ucl.ac.uk

Call for Committee Nominations

Fancy joining us as on the committee? We have spaces for committee members.

Any interested parties can view the officers on the committee here:

<https://www.bshp.org/officers>

Nominations for candidates by email to president@bshp.org

BSHP ONLINE LECTURE SERIES
[BOOKINGS: BSHP.ORG/EVENTS](https://www.bsHP.org/events)**Monday 13 October, 6.30 -7.30 pm (BST)**

LUCY JANE SANTOS

Author & Researcher

Radioactive Remedies: The Unlikely History of Uranium and Radium in Pharmaceuticals

There is a fascinating and often bizarre world of early 20th century pills, potions and powders made from radioactive materials. In this illustrated talk Lucy will explore how both uranium and radium were incorporated into pharmaceutical preparations from tonics to face creams in the UK, the US and France and explain how these radioactive substances were marketed to the masses as essential for health. The talk will conclude with a reflection on why uranium and radium fell out of favour, shedding light on the shifting attitudes toward safety, science, and regulation.

Specialising in the late 19th and early 20th century Lucy Jane Santos is a freelance historian and consultant uncovering the hidden stories of how science and technology have transformed daily life, especially when it comes to innovations in beauty practices.

**Monday 1 December, 6.30 -7.30 pm (BST)**

DR HALIL TEKINER

Erciyes University School of Pharmacy, Turkey

A Dose of satire: Caricatures Tracing the History of Turkish Pharmacy**Watch previous online talks on our NEW youtube channel:**
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