

THE GAZETTE

NEWS FROM THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY



A note from the President

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

I must begin by thanking *Gazette* editor Kim Walker on steering through work on the Society's logo (on which more overleaf). The new image may not look very different - and that is deliberate - but it can now be combined much more neatly with the name of our Society, as can be seen on our website (bshp.org). As we start to partner with more organisations on events, this standalone logo will be a useful feature.

Talking of events, we have been giving attention to conference venues for 2027 and 2028. As soon as we have exact dates, likely to be in March in both cases, we'll let you know. The 2027 conference will be in Norwich, a very attractive city with excellent conference facilities and reasonably priced accommodation, with themes of 'look east' and 'pharmacy and food', the latter inspired by Norwich's association with Colman's mustard. For 2028 we are looking to Cardiff, and are in talks with the History of Medicine Society of Wales and the National Museum of Wales, among others.

I write this on my way to Türkiye, where I will be speaking at the 50th Meeting on Medicinal Plant Raw Materials at Istanbul University. My keynote will extoll the virtues of historic collections of *materia medica* as means for understanding the many ways in which humans catalogue, obtain and use medicinal plants. On that note, please join me on 19 October for what promises to be a fascinating talk on the Philippines by Kathleen Cruz Gutierrez- details on back cover.

In this issue:

- A logo refresh
- Membership news & new members announcement
- A new short course for March 2027
- Events listings

WWW.BSHP.ORG

FACEBOOK: [PHARMHIST](#) TWITTER: [@PHARMHIST](#)
SECRETARIAT: INFO@BSHP.ORG



BSHP NEWS

A New Logo for The Society

Since joining in a media partnership with *Hospital Pharmacy Europe* journal, we realised the current logo needed to be updated. The committee agreed to commission a new version in various digital formats to align more with the ever changing technical age.

The original woodcut logo has been in use since our founding in 1967, where it was used on the very first *Pharmaceutical Historian* (see the image below).

We asked artist and ethnobotanist **Harriet Gendall** (harriet.gendall@gmail.com) to propose some suggestions. After a few rounds of voting, we settled on a light refresh in various black and white versions that can be adapted to both digital and print purposes, as can be seen on the front cover, and now across our website.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Paul Lewin - Isle of Man
Edward Mallinson - Glasgow
Mark Stuart - London
Lynda Payne - Lincolnshire

Membership

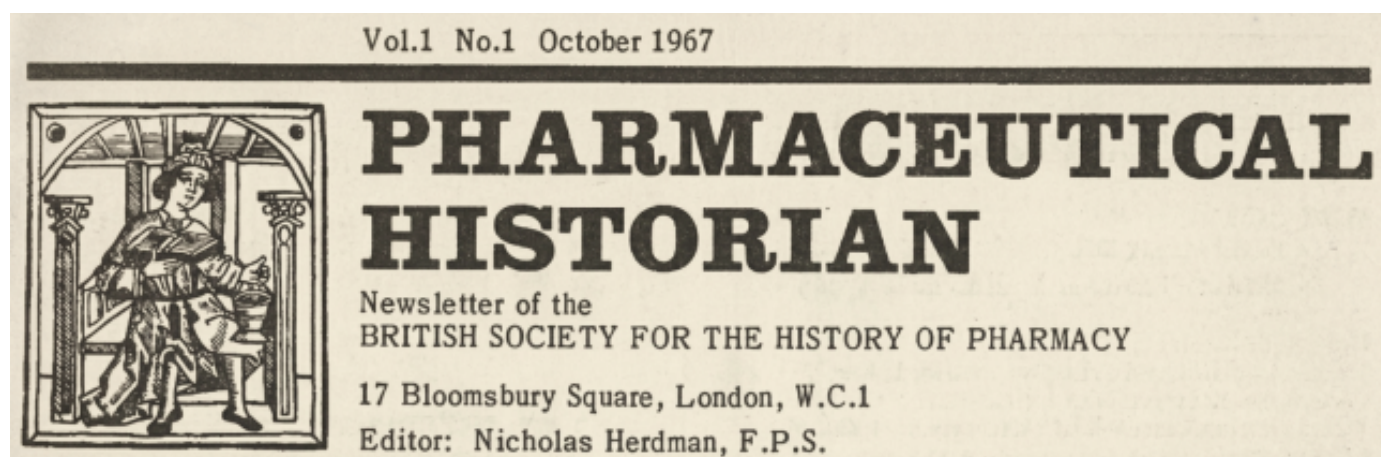
Many thanks to all new and renewing members for your support, which allows us to continue our activities promoting pharmacy history. Any queries, please email **Matthew Johnston**: honsec@bshp.org.

If you are eligible, please also consider adding Gift Aid to your subscription payment. This enables us to reclaim UK tax from HMRC on subscriptions and donations.

Pharmaceutical Historian

With this mailing you are receiving the September 2026 issue of *Pharmaceutical Historian*, Volume 56, issues 3.

Content includes an article by **John Crellin** entitled 'Exploring doctors' prescriptions, c.1900-c.1940: Individual or impersonal care?'; an update and international comparison of 'Pharmacists as politicians in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey' by Christiane Staiger; a short communication by **Patrick Chiu** on 'Kenneth Uttley and the Hong Kong Formulary of 1950'; and a list of major accessions to national and local repositories in 2023 relating to pharmacy and medicine reported by the National Archives at Kew.



BSHP Event: Pills, Plants and Poisons: Exploring London's Pharmacy History

A Short Course in association with the Centre for Health Studies at the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries

The history of medicines and the pharmacy profession is woven into London's past. This course invites you to look behind the counter and immerse yourself in the history of pharmacy. The fascinating collections held by an array of museums and historical institutions provide glimpses into centuries of healing, trading, and learning.

Learning Objectives:

- Explore the wide-ranging pharmacy history organisations, collections and exhibitions in London
- Increase your understanding of pharmacy history, with particular emphasis on the development of the profession in England through its key institutions and individuals
- Deepen your appreciation of pharmacy history's surviving material culture in museums, libraries, botanic gardens, archives, and the built environment.

Led by **Briony Hudson** of the BSHP, this 3-day course offers an unrivalled opportunity to delve into the capital's pharmacy history alongside expert guides. The programme includes behind-the-scenes store tours, private visits to key organisations, and curator-led discussion. We invite you to join us as we dispense London's lesser-known medicinal stories.

Venues include:

- Apothecaries' Hall
- Royal College of Pharmacy
- Royal College of Physicians Museum
- German Historical Institute (a chance to view the former Pharmaceutical Society's headquarters from 1841 to 1971)
- Science Museum Medicine Galleries
- Economic Botany Collection, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Please note: Lunches and refreshments are not included in your ticket. We will signpost on-site cafe's and nearby vendors, or you are welcome to bring your own lunch on the day(s) you are attending.

3-day and single day combination tickets are available for your desired dose of learning. Due to capacity we are limited to just 20 places per day. Participants can select to attend the full three days; a combination of two days; or a single day of their choice.

The BSHP is supporting a subsidised rate for students (those in full time or part time education as of 3 March 2027).

Dates:

3-5 March 2027

Tickets:

1 day: £120

2 day: £200

3 day: £300

Contact & Info:

Please email
Matt Scudder
AcademicTraining@apothecaries.org



Artwork: Pharmaceutical Chemist by Eric Ravillious

Peter Homan
Small Grant Award

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

BSHP ONLINE LECTURE SERIES

BOOKINGS: [BSHP.ORG/EVENTS](https://bshp.org/events)



Monday 19 October, 18.30-19.30 BST

KATHLEEN CRUZ GUTIERREZ

Assistant Professor, History,
University of California, Santa Cruz

A Narrative of Reiteration and Repetition:

Medicinal Plants, Nationhood, and the Postwar Philippines

All our past lectures
are now uploaded to:
www.youtube.com/@PharmHist

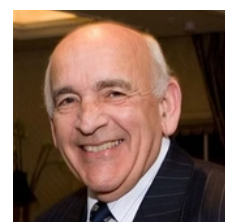
What features of medicinal plants produce ideas of nationhood? How can medical botany writing advance the symbolic and commercial promise of a postcolonial nation? In this talk, join Kathleen as she examines a seminal work in the history of medical botany in the Philippines, Eduardo Quisumbing's *Medicinal Plants of the Philippines* (1951). Published from the rubble of Manila after the brutality of the Pacific War, *Medicinal Plants of the Philippines* relies on a particular brand of "encyclopediaism" to recuperate the capital, its scientific institutions, and the nation more broadly following World War II. Kathleen suggests that medicinal plants help to anchor—through reiterative and repetitive discourse—a particular vision of the nation, no matter the political persuasion.

Monday 7 December, 18.30-19.30 GMT

ROD FLOWER

Professor of Biochemical Pharmacology,
Queen Mary University of London

'Homo pharmacologicus': Humans as medicine makers



BSHP ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 2027

Norwich

OTHER EVENTS

29 September 2026, 15-30 to 17.30

British Society for the History of Medicine

Meeting of Officers and

Representatives and AGM (Online)

Contact: Secretary@bshm.org.uk

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

100 years of Tremletts the Chemist

Lecture by Dr. Emily Turner

Donations to Two Saints, a local homeless and supported accommodation charity).

The Hub. Somerstown Community Centre,
Rivers Street, SOUTHSEA, PO5 4EY

<https://portsmouth.u3asite.uk/events/>

[INFO@BSHP.ORG](mailto:info@bshp.org)

[WWW.BSHP.ORG](https://www.bshp.org)

BSHP c/o RCPharm Museum

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