

Notiziario/News

**10/04/2014-12/04/2014, Philadelphia, Chemical Heritage Foundation, International conference: Chemical Reactions. Chemistry and Global History**

Call for papers: one of the most important developments in the history of science and technology in recent years has been the recognition that, far from being an essentially western history, it can best be understood and analyzed in the broader context of global history. This is not a call to investigate ‘influence’ or to compare the “achievements” of “the West and the Rest”, but to consider how globally spread interactions and networks of commercial and cultural exchange both depended on and fed scientific and technological investigation and development. Such an approach has proven extremely fruitful in the history of medicine, natural history (botany, etc.), astronomy, cartography and geography. Surprisingly, the history of chemistry has yet to be analytically integrated with global history in a sustained and organized way. This conference and subsequent edited volume are a first step in that direction. For the purposes of this conference, the term ‘chemistry’ should not be considered in a scientifically narrow, discipline-bound way. Rather, we are interested to include examinations of knowledge-claims and practices, wherever they were situated or travelled, that somehow involved the de- and re-composition of material compounds, irrespective of whether they were labeled as ‘chemistry’ by contemporaries. In order to provide a manageable way into this huge and fascinating field, the conference will be limited to the seventeenth - twentieth century and be organized around a small number of topic areas:

- Chemistry and Global Commodities: examples include porcelain, sugar, oil, rubber (natural and synthetic) and ‘recreational drugs’.
- Chemistry and Environment: modifying or sustaining the en-

*Key words:* Phantasma - Dream - Oniric image - Greece

vironment through chemistry, whether conscious or as an unintended by-product. Examples range from pest control to 'cradle to cradle' modes of production and include globally connected topics such as the Green Revolutions and Bhopal.

- Chemistry and Global Health: from the early-modern circulation of drugs and pharmaceutical knowledge to recent struggles over patent rights and distribution of medicines.

- Chemistry and Industry: from the early-modern world of porcelain manufacture, textile production and dyeing to recent issues relating to the mining and exploitation of minerals only available in war-torn areas of Africa, production of computers and cell phones.

- Chemistry and Governance: the role of governments, trading companies, (professional and amateur) scientific societies and corporations in managing and directing the production and circulation of chemically-based productions, methods and knowledge

- Chemistry and Everyday Life: the introduction of new processes and materials such as glass, cement, synthetic fibers, ersatz foods, plastics and nano-materials. Subject areas might include topics such as architecture, clothing and fashion, food and drink.

Proposals should be sent to: [cberkowitz@chemheritage.org](mailto:cberkowitz@chemheritage.org) . For further information, contact Carin Berkowitz ([cberkowitz@chemheritage.org](mailto:cberkowitz@chemheritage.org)) or Lissa Roberts ([l.l.roberts@utwente.nl](mailto:l.l.roberts@utwente.nl)).

**10/07/2014-12/07/2014, Oxford, UK, Society for the Social History of Medicine 2014 Conference: Disease, Health, and the State**

The Society for the Social History of Medicine hosts a major, biennial, international, and interdisciplinary conference. In 2014 it will explore the relationships between health, disease, and the state. Responses to disease and concerns about health contributed to the development of the state, yet disease and medicine have also challenged and disrupted state authority. The biennial confe-

rence is not exclusive in terms of its theme, and reflects the broad diversity of the discipline of the social history of medicine. **Call for Papers:** Proposals that consider all topics relevant to the history of medicine broadly conceived are invited, but the 2014 committee encourages proposals for papers, sessions, and roundtables that examine, challenge, and refine the history of disease, health and the state. Suggested themes include local and global understandings of health, medicine, and governance; the consolidation, breakdown, or absence of state power in the midst of health and medical crises; and the experience of health and medical bureaucracies in the past. From discussions on the health of the body politic, the role of public health in imperial governance, the nature of military medicine, environmental regulations, to socialized medicine, we welcome approaches from a variety of disciplines and time periods. However, submissions are not restricted to any area of study, and the committee welcomes proposals on a range of subjects relevant to the history of medicine, from the history of health and disease to the history of medical care. Submissions should be sent to [sshm2014@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sshm2014@wuhmo.ox.ac.uk). Additional information about the conference can be obtained at [www.ssh2014.org](http://www.ssh2014.org).

