



Trustees' Annual Report for the period						
	Period start date				Period end date	
	1	JAN	2023		31	DEC
<b>From</b>				<b>To</b>		

## Section A Reference and administration details

**Charity name** SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ALCHEMY AND CHEMISTRY

**Other names charity is known by** SHAC

**Registered charity number (if any)** 1190304

**Charity's principal address** 45 THE DRIVE

ISLEWORTH

**Postcode**

TW7 4AA

### Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	F A J L JAMES	CHAIR (Officer)		
2	R A JOHNSTONE	TREASURER (Officer)		
3	A E WOODMAN	AMBIX SECRETARY (Officer)		
4	B T MORAN	JOURNAL EDITOR (Officer)		
5	C A COBBOLD	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (Officer)		
6	C J CAMPBELL	SOCIETY SECRETARY (Officer)		
7	A LYKKNES			
8	J M RAMPLING			
9	T E NUMMEDAL			
10	P J FORSHAW			
11	J WILSON			
12	H CHANG			
13	V M QUIRKE			
14	D G HEDESAN			

15	T TAAPE			
16	L M PRINCIPE			
17	P J RAMBERG			

**Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)**

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

Type of adviser	Name	Address

**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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## Section B Structure, governance and management

### Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Constitution (CIO registered 08.07.20 and operational from 01.01.21).
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Association of 293 members (number at year end 2023).
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	<p>With 42 days' clear notice before each AGM of the Society, the Trustees will advise members of the Society of the identities of –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Trustees who wish to continue as such and under the Constitution are permitted to do so without reappointment at the AGM;</li> <li>(b) Trustees who wish to continue as such and are seeking reappointment at the AGM as required by the Constitution; and</li> <li>(c) nominees of the existing Trustees for new appointments as Trustees at the AGM –</li> </ul> <p>and members of the Society will be invited to make further nominations. Such further nominations must be made with the written consent of the nominee and with no less than 28 days' clear notice before the AGM.</p>

Trustees serve for 3 years after which they retire or are re-elected subject to competitive nomination. The trustees may fill casual vacancies but their choice must be ratified at the next AGM.

**Additional governance issues (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity’s organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees’ consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

A Risk Register, including measures put in place to minimise risk, was approved by the Trustees at the Council meeting on 18.03.22.

No fraudulent activity has been detected during the year.

**Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document**

The scholarly study of all aspects of the history of the chemical sciences (including alchemy), the holding of meetings for the presentation and discussion of scholarly papers, either on its own or in conjunction with other learned societies, and the publication of relevant material, especially in the Journal of the Society, currently called *Ambix*.

**Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)**

The trustees in 2023 have had due regard to guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission. The trustees believe that a broad understanding of the history of the chemical sciences (including alchemy) is of benefit to the public by helping them to understand the place of chemistry in society and culture over the centuries. As a learned society it aims to advance education, the arts, culture, heritage and science through scholarly and/or curatorial activity relating to the history of alchemical and chemical science in any part of the world. Specifically, the charity achieved this by the following:

The charity's scholarly journal *Ambix* has for over 80 years been a major means of academic scholarly exchange, and therefore is of public benefit. It is sold to institutions and libraries, as well as distributed to members (annual membership fee is £40, reduced to £30 for retired members of 10 years' standing and to £25 for students). There were 44, 805 downloads of articles published in *Ambix* and its back catalogue (dating from 1937) from 1 January 2023 through to 31 December 2023. The net surplus from membership subscriptions and this publishing activity (together with any donations and interest on deposits), supports a range of further activities benefiting the public:–

- (i) The Society provides study grants to members who are students, early career researchers and independent scholars (membership being open to anyone).
- (ii) The Society organises and funds scholarly meetings, workshops, seminars and webinars, attendance at which is not confined to members.
- (iii) The Society's substantial newsletter *Chemical Intelligence* is available free to the general public online; it advertises and reports not only the Society's events and activities but those of other organisations involved in the history of alchemy and chemistry. The Society also maintains a website with similar objectives.
- (iv) *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry*, an occasional supplement to *Ambix*, is available at no extra cost to full institutional subscribers to the relevant annual volume of *Ambix* and to members subscribing for the relevant year.
- (v) The Society's Morris Award, Partington Prize, and Oxford Part II Prize are awarded to scholars from time to time regardless of whether they are members of the Society.

**Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grant-making;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The charity continues to rely heavily on the contributions of volunteers, without whose efforts the Charity would be unable to operate.

**Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**

On Wednesday 3 May 2023, the Society held its AGM on Zoom.

**Meetings**

All SHAC meetings are open to both members and non-members of the Society. In some cases a small charge may be made to contribute towards costs.

It was decided that SHAC's spring meeting would be a specific session of the 13th International Conference on the History of Chemistry held at the University of Vilnius between 23 and 27 May. The session, held on the 24th, 'New Approaches to the History of Chemistry', was designed to show the broad range of topics covered by SHAC. The speakers were Meagan Allen, Sarah Lang, Adrian Wilson, Frank James and Anna Simmons. As SHAC had provided significant support for the conference and attendees, the Society was frequently acknowledged in many other sessions.

SHAC's autumn one day meeting was held on 25 November at University College London on the theme of 'Alchemy and Chemistry in the Long Eighteenth Century.' This illustrated the continuity in practice and content between alchemy and chemistry during that century. The speakers were: Malika Basu, Hjalmar Fors (remote), Armel Cornu (who was also presented with the Partington Prize), Mieke Adriaens and Pieter Beck, Anna Simmons, Nicholas Zumbulyadis (remote), John Christie and Hasok Chang.

The Society arranged five on-line seminars covering a wide range of topics in the history of alchemy and chemistry. Speakers were: Eric Scerri, Alison McManus, Gabriele Ferrario, Adrian Wilson, Kelley Wilder.

**Publications**

*Ambix*: The Society published four issues of its scholarly journal *Ambix* in 2023.

February 2023 (Vol.70, No.1) was a Special Edition *Gold and Mercury, Amalgamated Histories in Chemistry, Chemistry, Culture, And Environment*, guest edited by Donna Milak, and included papers by Vincenzo Carlotta and Matteo Martelli, Donna Bilak and George Vrtis, Sebastian Rubiano-Galvis, Jimena Diaz Levia and Ruth Goldstein and also Peter Oakley.

May 2023 (Vol.70, No.2)

*Amateur Science and Innovation in Nineteenth-Century Europe*. Barry Sturman and David Garrioch.

*George E Davis: Editing the Chemical Trade Journal, 1887-1906*. Peter Reed

*Deciphering the Hermeticae Philosophiae Medulla: Textural Cultures of Alchemical Secrecy*. Megan Piorko, Sarah Lang and Richard Bean

August 2023 (Vol.70, No.3)

*When Ben met Mary: The Letters of Benjamin Thompson, Reichsgraaf von Rumford, to Mary Temple, Viscountess Palmerston, 1793-1804.*

Frank A.J.L. James

November 2023 (Vol.70, No.4)

*The Articles of Alchemy and Chemistry: Past, Present, and Ideas for the Future.* Umberto Veronesi

*Gershom Bulkeley, "Saltbox Science", and the Colonial New England Laboratory.* George D. Elliott

*Sense and Utility in the New Chemistry.* Armel Cornu. (Partington Prize)

During 2023 Bruce T. Moran was editor of *Ambix* with Viviane Quirke and Peter J. Ramberg as Associate Editors and Tillmann Taafe as Book Reviews Editor.

*Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry:* Work on the next issue is actively underway. The next issue of *Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry* (Gabriele Ferrario's edition of *On Alums and Salts* by Pseudo-Rāzī) went into production in 2023.

*Chemical Intelligence:* Two issues of the Society's newsletter were published in 2023, in February and August. Both were edited by Karoliina Pulkkinen. This publication advertised and reported not only the Society's events, but those of other organisations involved in the history of chemistry. It was distributed to members by email and was made available free to the public online.

### **SHAC Graduate Network**

The SHAC graduate network fosters interdisciplinary exchange among graduate students and early career scholars from any field whose work engages with the history of alchemy and chemistry.

To this end, in 2023, the SHAC Graduate Network continued to foster interdisciplinary exchange among early career scholars and planned its 14<sup>th</sup> annual postgraduate conference, titled "Uncovering The Secrets of the Universe" for St. John's College in January 2024, with Joshua Werrett as conference organiser.

### **The Partington Prize**

The winner of the 2023 Partington Prize was Dr Armel Cornu of Uppsala University for her entry "Senses and utility in the New Chemistry". The prize-winning article was published in the November 2023 *Ambix*. The Prize is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry.

### **SHAC Award Scheme**

The Society invited applications for funding under its Award Scheme with a deadline of 31 May 2023. Following consideration by a committee, Research Awards (for which both early career scholars and independent scholars are eligible) were approved as follows:

**Anatrini, Leonardo**

Università degli Studi di Firenze

*From Ether to God*

Award: £1000

**Basu (Ghosh), Malika,**

Kalna College, University of Burdwan, India

*History of Pharmaceuticals in India*

Award: £1000

**Coughlin, Sean**

Czech Academy of Sciences, Prague

*Practices of Perfume Production in the Ancient World*

Award: £950

**Elmer, Hannah**

Columbia University, USA

*Fire, Arts, Past and Futures*

Award: £1000

**Gennermann, Paulina**

Bielefeld University, Germany

*Connecting and Demarcating scientific environments: the development of pharmacology in the second half of the Twentieth Century.*

Award: £1000

**Kamalova, Sofiya**

University of Valencia, Spain

*Oral History: Collecting Voices from Ardystil Case*

Award: £289

**Moenius, Thomas**

*Re-enacting Alchemical Recipies*

Award: £800

**Silva Baptista, Vanessa**

University College, London, UK

*Playful experimentation in Medieval chemistry: The case of 88 natural experiments of Rasis*

Award: £760

**Villa, Eugenio**

University of Bologna, Italy

*An alchemist at work in 17C France: retracing the origin and sources of the Fondo Caprara.*

Award: £920

**Zotov, Sergei**

University of Warwick, UK

*Alchemical iconography as mediator of knowledge on the example of European manuscripts of the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries.*



Award: £970

The Society continued its series of free online seminars open to all, with recordings placed on SHAC's YouTube Channel.

#### **AD HOC**

In 2023 AD HOC held a mix of in-person and online meetings (total of 9). Sometimes we had presentations followed by Q&A, and sometimes we had discussions of pre-circulated texts, often with the authors joining us to discuss their works, including the following scholars: Catherine Jackson, Jennifer Rampling, Gary Patterson, Carmen Schmechel, Donna Bilak, Hasok Chang, and Sofiya Kamalov. All meetings were organised in or from Cambridge, with the exception of a special meeting at UCL with artist Kat Austen at the UCL Art Museum on 17 July. On 17 May we held an online round-table hosted jointly with the Commission on the History of Chemistry and the Molecular Sciences (IUHPST), through the initiative of Sarah Hijmans.

#### **The Oxford Seminar in the History of Alchemy and Chemistry**

The seminars took place between 3 May and 14 June, and comprised five sessions organised thematically and chronologically. The organisers were Jo Hedesan (Oxford) and John Christie (Oxford).

**Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves**

As agreed at Council in March 2023 the maximum level of reserves is unchanged from that agreed at council 18/3/22 (£140,000) owing to the continuing uncertainty regarding future journal subscription income created by open access "plan S" and the position of hybrid journals such as AMBIX. The knock-on effects for the Covid pandemic continued to suppress claims made against agreed awards and will do so in 2024. The achieved reserves in 2023 were £105.668, which is within the limit.

**Details of any funds materially in deficit**

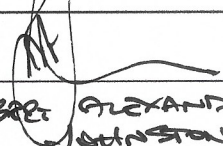
No fund is in deficit


**Further financial review details (Optional information)**

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.  
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	Frank James	
Full name(s)	Frank A.J.L James	Robert Alexander Johnston
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	19 March 2024	

	Charity Name Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry		No (if any) 1190304 incorporating 313777		CC16a modified to list 2 restricted funds
	Receipts and payments accounts				
	For the period from	Period start date 01-Jan-23	To	Period end date 31-Dec-23	

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted fund: General  to the nearest £	Restricted fund: Sources  to the nearest £	Restricted fund: Morris Prize  to the nearest £	Total funds  to the nearest £	Prior Year
A1 Receipts					
Membership subcriptions for 2023	4523			4523	5085
Membership subcriptions for 2024+	5530			5530	6030
Ordinary Society meetings	180			180	544
One-off special projects	0			0	643
spare line				0	0
Journal Ambix: Fixed payment and royalty on sales	16520			16520	14604
Sources supplement to Ambix: royalties				0	0
Donations	39			39	0
Gift aid	0			0	0
Interest	231	34	3	268	24
Miscellaneous	0		0	0	0
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	27023	34	3	27060	26930
A2 Asset and investment sales					
None	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	27023	34	3	27060	26930
A3 Payments					
Administration	3477			3477	4136
Ordinary Society meetings	912			912	1384
One-off special projects	0			0	500
spare line				0	0
Ambix editorial expenses	2530			2530	863
Sources supplement to Ambix: printing, publication, and distribution				0	0
Awards, prizes, and grants	11287		0	11287	6695
Archiving	0			0	0
Bank and Paypal charges	507		0	507	527
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	18713	0	0	18713	14105
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
Sub total	0	0	0	0	0
Total payments	18713	0	0	18713	14105
Net of receipts/(payments)	8310	34	3	8348	12825
A5 Transfers between funds	0	0	0	0	0
A6 Cash funds last year end	111489.06	16613.00	1417.00	129520	129520
Cash funds this year end	119800	16647	1420	137867	



## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

	Details	Unrestricted fund: General to nearest £	Restricted fund: Sources to nearest £	Restricted fund: Morris Prize to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Santander current account	582	81	7
	Paypal account	13913	1933	165
	NS&I investment account	27412	3809	325
	Cash	0	0	0
	CAF Account	16941	2354	201
	Shawbrook	60952	8470	722
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>119800</b>	<b>16647</b>	<b>1420</b>

	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted fund Sources to nearest £	Restricted fund Morris Prize to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>	Uncashed incoming cheques	0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0
		0	0	0

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			0	0

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			0	0
			0	0

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Membership subscriptions for > 2023 paid in advance during 2023	Unrestricted: general	5,530	hypothetical wind-up of Society
	Awards, prizes, and grants outstanding	Unrestricted: general	7,850	
	Expenses known to have been incurred during or resulting from 2023 activity not yet invoiced to SHAC	Unrestricted: general	732	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
<i>AE Woodman</i>	ANNA WOODMAN	19-03-24
<i>Frank James</i>	FRANK JAMES	19-03-24

The Charity -

- a) has given no guarantee where any potential liability under the guarantee is outstanding at the date of this statement, and
- b) has no debt outstanding at the date of this statement which is owed by the CIO and which is secured by an express charge on any of the assets of the CIO.



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry

On accounts for the  
period ended

31/12/2023

Charity no  
(if any)

1190304

Set out on pages

1 to 2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31/12/2023.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent  
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

*SAmbrose*

Date:

20 March 2024

Name:

Susan Elizabeth Ambrose

Relevant professional  
qualification(s) or body  
(if any):

FCCA FCA

Address:

Butt Miller Limited

1 Minster Court, Tuscam Way, Camberley, Surrey

GU15 3YY

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

**Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.**

No items to disclose.