



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date		Period end date			
1	JAN	2024	31	DEC	2024
From			To		

### 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	SOCIETY AWARDS (Officer)		
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)<sup>1</sup>**

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 295 members (number at year end 2024).
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 reviewed and updated by the Trustees at the Council meeting on 19.03.24

Revised guidelines for the Award Scheme, including guidance for arranging meetings in partnership with external organisations were approved by the Trustees at the Council meeting on 23.09.24.

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*.

The trustees in 2024 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 2024 through to 31 December 2024.

**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 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.

(vi) Brock Award (newly established) honours Professor William 'Bill' Hodson Brock, one of the leading historians of chemistry of the last fifty years. The Award will be for outstanding contributions in the fields of the history of alchemy and chemistry. The individual's impact on the community of historians of alchemy and/or chemistry, through historical research, publication, support and encouragement of students and



fellow researchers and contributions to the wider promulgation of the subject will be significant criteria for selection.

#### **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 Tuesday 14 May 2024, 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.

During the year SHAC held three meetings and six on-line seminars. SHAC is enormously grateful to all three institutions that have hosted and supported the meetings throughout the year.

On 13 January the SHAC PG meeting was held at St John's College, Oxford, on the theme of 'Uncovering the secrets of the universe'. The speakers were: Josh Werrett, Yusuf Tayara, Diego Gorini, Sergei Zotov, Ellen Hausner, Maddie Reynolds, Elena Morgana, Leonardo Anatrini and Georgiana Hedesan, with Frank Jamed delivering the keynote lecture.

On 28 and 29 May, the SHAC Spring meeting was held at the Maison Française d'Oxford on the theme 'From Antique to Early Modern Alchemy: New Approaches, New Horizons'. The speakers were: Thijs Hagendijk, Hannah Elmer, Peter Oakley, Gary Patterson, Petr Pavlas, Vojtěch Kaše, Jo Hedesan, Sean Coughlin, Victor Golubev, Eduardo Escobar, Giacomo Montanari, Joshua Werrett, Carmen Schmechel, Athanasios Rinotas, Stefania Buosi Moncunill, Elisabeth Moreau, Eugenio Villa, Farzad Mahootian, Zoe Screti, Tom Fischer and Sergei Zotov with Jennifer M. Rampling delivering the keynote lecture.

On 11 October, the SHAC Autumn meeting was held at the Allard Pierson, University of Amsterdam on the theme 'Alchemy, Freemasonry, Hermeticism and Rosicrucianism'. SHAC The Speakers were: Sergei Zotov, Tjalling Janssen, Corey Andrews, Noah Rigggenbach, Kyra Gerber, Amber Rozenrichter, Peter Forshaw and Jennifer Rampling. Stephen Clucas delivered the keynote lecture following which there was a presentation to him marking the end of twenty years service on SHAC Council.

As usual the six SHAC on-line seminars covered a wide range of topics in the history of alchemy and chemistry. The speakers were Sharon Ruston, Robert Fox, Annette Lykknes and Brigitte van Tiggelen, Peter Morris, Joshua Werrett and Matthew Eddy.

#### Publications

*Ambix*: The Society published four issues of its scholarly journal *Ambix* in 2024

#### February 2024 (volume 71, number 1)

A Special Edition *Changing Colour – Yellow Dyes from Antiquity to Early Modernity*, guest edited by Marjolijn Bol, Matteo Martelli, Lucia Raggetti and Jennifer M. Rampling.

*Is Gold Yellow? Plant Dyes and Gold-Making in the Ancient Chemical Arts*. Caterina Manco and Matteo Martelli

*Stolen Horses and Scented Garments: Vegetal and Mineral Yellow in Arabic Technical Literature*. Lucia Raggetti



*Citrination and its Discontents: Yellow as a Sign of Alchemical Change.*

Jennifer M. Rampling

*Making Yellows Last with Nitric Acid: Exploring Colour Permanence in Art and Knowledge, 1600–1850.* Marjolijn Bol and Giacomo Montanari

*The Historical Chemist.* Giacomo Montanari, Marianna Marchini and Lucia Maini

#### **May 2024 (volume 71, number 2)**

*Fragments of Alchemy from a Cairene Synagogue: Context, Codicology, and Contents of the Alchemical Corpus of the Cairo Genizah.* Gabriele Ferrario.

*Translating Forbidden Authors: New Evidence on the Alchemical Library of Don Antonio de' Medici.* Stefano Mulas.

*A Very "Distilled" Emblem in Baroque Rome: Natural Philosophy, Alchemy, and Atomism in the Academy of the Umoristi.* Maria Fiammenta Lovine

*Lavoisier and the History of Chemistry.* Marco Beretta.

#### **August 2024 (volume 71, number 3)**

Special Issue: *The Chemistry of Life*, guest edited by Carmen Schmechel  
*Leaven of Dough, Ferment of Gold: The Breadmaking Analogy in Medieval Metallic Transmutation.* Carmen Schmechel.

*Fire, Vulcanus, Archeus, and Alchemy: A Hybrid Close-Distant Reading of Paracelsus's Thought on Active Agents.* Georgina D. Hedesan

*The Emergence of Chemical Medicine in Early Modern Naples (1600–1660).* Antonio Clericuzio

*Distilling the Art of Distillation in an Unstudied Manuscript of "Chymicall Notions".* Justin Begley.

*Diderot's Vital Materialism.* Charles Wolfe

#### **November 2024 (volume 71, number 4)**

*Renaissance Goo: Senses and Materials in Early Modern Apothecary Taxonomies and Soft Matter Science.* Jill Burke and Wilson Poon

*New Research on the Origin of Mosaic Gold.* Rafael Marqués García

*Why Do Things Burn? Elizabeth Fulhame's Challenge to the Antiphlogistic Theory of Combustion.* Amy Fisher

*Stirring the Pot: Antoine Baumé, Josiah Wedgwood, Pierre-Louis Guinand, and the Development of Optical Glass.* Mark I. Grossman

In 2024 Bruce T. Moran was editor of *Ambix* with Viviane Quirke and Peter J. Ramberg as Associate Editors and Tillmann Taape as Book Reviews Editor.

#### **Sources of Alchemy and Chemistry**

Work on the next issue is actively underway.

#### **Chemical Intelligence**

Two issues of the Society's newsletter were published in 2024, 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.

The SHAC Graduate Network continued held its 14<sup>th</sup> annual postgraduate conference, titled "Uncovering The Secrets of the Universe" at St. John's College in January 2024, with Joshua Werrett as conference organiser.

#### **The Partington Prize**

The Partington Prize was established in memory of Professor James Riddick Partington, the Society's first Chairman. It is awarded every three years for an original and unpublished essay on any aspect of the history of alchemy or chemistry. The prize consists of five hundred pounds (£500). There was no award for 2024.

#### **SHAC Award Scheme**

The Society invited applications for funding under its Award Scheme with a deadline of 31 May 2024. Following consideration by a committee, Research Awards (for which both early career scholars and independent scholars are eligible) were approved as follows:

##### **Dafydd Roberts**

Aberyswyth University

*In a Strange Garden - Alchemy in Sound and Nature*

Award: £ 912 U.K.

##### **Pieter D.L. Beck**

Ghent University

*Replicating the Ingenhousz-Fontana Eudiometer*

Award: £1000 U.K.

##### **Sergej Zotov**

University of Warwick, U.K.

*Alchemical iconography as mediator of knowledge on the example of European manuscripts of 15th and 16th centuries*

Award: £1000 U.K.

##### **Robert Nigel Slinn**

University of York, U.K.

*Vocational education and training in the British chemical industry (1945-95)*

Award: £1000 U.K.

##### **Silvia Pérez-Criado**

University of Valencia, Spain



*Exploring the Archives: History of Organochlorine Pesticide Production in Spain (1945-1976)*

Award: £1000 U.K.

**Elena Morgana**

University of Oxford, U.K.

*The 'liquor Alkahest' and the pursuit of purification in early eighteenth century chymistry.*

Award: £774.12

**David Labastida Rodriguez**

University of Toronto, Canada

*Encountering and Living with Plant Life: Quinine's Role in the Making of German Global Biomedicine in Imperial Contexts, 1800-1943.*

Award: £1000 U.K.

**Laurence Chen**

University College London, U.K.

*The Hermeneutics of Early Modern English Alchemical Metaphors*

Award: £1000 U.K.

**George Borg**

University of Pittsburgh, U.S.A.

*Discovery, innovation and technology in science: geochronology and the ontology of scientific methods.*

Award: £1000 U.K.

The Society continued its series of free online seminars open to all, with recordings placed on SHAC's YouTube Channel. The following speakers presented papers: Matthew Daniel Eddy, Joshua Werrett, Peter Morris, Annette Lykknes and Brigitte Van Tiggelen, Robert Fox, Sharon Ruston.

In addition, the Turba seminars on alchemy included presentations from: Sergei Zotov, Carmen Schmechel, Umberto Veronesi, Matteo Soranzo and Cristoforo da Parigi, Antonio Clericuzio,

**AD HOC**

During 2024, AD HOC held several sessions. At some meetings we had presentations followed by Q&A, and at others, discussions of pre-circulated text. These meetings were hosted hybrid. We also held a hands-on workshop focused on questions around re-enacting past experiments.

## Section E

## Financial review

## 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 in 2024 and will do so in 2025. The achieved reserves in 2024 were £122,958.

## 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.

## Section F

## Other optional information

## Section G


## Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<i>Frank James</i>	<i>A Woodman</i>
Full name(s)	FRANK A. J. L. JAMES	ANNA ELIZABETH WOODMAN
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	AMBIX SECRETARY
Date	29. 03. 2025	



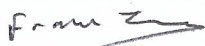
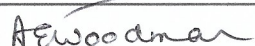
	Charity Name <b>Society for the History of Alchemy and Chemistry</b>		No (if any) <b>1190304 incorporating 313777</b>		<b>CC16a modified to list 2 restricted funds</b>
	<b>Receipts and payments accounts</b>				
For the period from		Period start date 01-Jan-24	To	Period end date 31-Dec-24	

Section A Receipts and payments					
	Unrestricted fund: General	Restricted fund: Sources	Restricted fund: Morris Prize	Total funds	Prior Year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Membership subscriptions for 2025+	5072			5072	4523
Membership subscriptions for 2024+	5355			5355	5530
Ordinary Society meetings	0			0	180
One-off special projects	0			0	0
<i>spare line</i>				0	0
Journal Ambix: Fixed payment and royalty on sales	19474			19474	16520
Sources supplement to Ambix: royalties				0	0
Donations	0			0	39
Gift aid	0			0	0
Interest	2351	327	28	2705	268
Miscellaneous	0		0	0	0
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>32252</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32607</b>	<b>27060</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
None	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>32252</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32607</b>	<b>27060</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Administration	3412			3412	3477
Ordinary Society meetings	537			537	912
One-off special projects	0			0	0
<i>spare line</i>				0	0
Ambix editorial expenses	3614			3614	2530
Sources supplement to Ambix: printing, publication, and distribution				0	0
Awards, prizes, and grants	7863		0	7863	11287
Archiving	0			0	0
Bank and Paypal charges	602		0	602	507
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>16029</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16029</b>	<b>18713</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)</b>					
	0	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>16029</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>16029</b>	<b>18713</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>16224</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16578</b>	<b>8348</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>119799</b>	<b>16647</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>137867</b>	<b>137867</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>136023</b>	<b>16974</b>	<b>1448</b>	<b>154446</b>	



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

Categories	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	339	42	4
	Paypal account	19451	2427	207
	CAF Account	24346	3038	259
	NS&I investment account	28275	3528	301
	Cash	0	0	0
	Shawbrook	63612	7938	677
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>136023</b>	<b>16974</b>	<b>1448</b>
		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
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			0	0
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			0	0
			0	0
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Membership subscriptions for > 2024 paid in advance during 2024	Unrestricted: general	5,355	hypothetical wind-up of Society
	Awards, prizes, and grants outstanding	Unrestricted: general	6,999	
	Expenses known to have been incurred during or resulting from 2024 activity but not yet invoiced to SHAC	Unrestricted: general	792	
	Total		13,146	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
			FRANK JAMES	29.03.25
			ANNA WOODMAN	29.03.25

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

31/12/2024

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 31/12/2024.

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:

4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

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.