

WORKSHOP ON 18TH-CENTURY CHEMISTRY



INTERIOR WITH ALCHEMIST by Lodewijck de Moni. Courtesy of the Chemical Heritage Foundation Collections, Philadelphia, PA. Photo by Will Brown.

APRIL 21–23, 2005
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

*Organized by the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences
at the California Institute of Technology and the Francis Bacon Foundation*

The 18th century has long been considered critical for the development of modern chemistry. Despite the rhetoric of the “Chemical Revolution,” many crucial features of the period remain largely unknown, for classic accounts have been quite selective. This workshop’s goal is to probe the complexities of 18th-century chemistry, in an attempt to build a richer, more complex view of chemical work during the period.

The Francis Bacon Award in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology is given biennially by Caltech and the Francis Bacon Foundation to an outstanding scholar whose work continues to have a substantial impact on any of the three fields: the history of science, the history of technology, or historically engaged philosophy of science.

If you plan to attend or need information, please call Sanja Ilic at 626.395.1724 or RSVP by email to sanja@hss.caltech.edu. Space is limited.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
25 Baxter Hall

6:00 pm

Keynote lecture by
Bacon Prize winner

Lawrence M. Principe

*Professor of the History of Science and
Technology and of Chemistry
Johns Hopkins University*

“A Revolution Nobody Noticed: The Transformations of Early 18th-Century Chemistry”

FRIDAY, APRIL 22
Treasure Room, Dabney Hall

9:00 am – 10:00 am

John Powers

“Chemistry without Principles:
Herman Boerhaave on Instruments
and Elements”

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Rina Knoeff

University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

“Herman Boerhaave, Calvinism and
the Practise of Chemistry ‘after the
Hippocratical Manner’”

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Kevin Chang

Academia Sinica, Taiwan

“Alchemy in the Works of Georg
Ernst Stahl”

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Ursula Klein

*Max Planck Institute for the History of
Science, Berlin*

“Plant Chemistry and Plant Analysis
in 18th-Century Europe”

SATURDAY, APRIL 23
Treasure Room, Dabney Hall

9:00 am – 10:00 am

Matthew D. Eddy

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“The Aberdeen Agricola: Dr. James
Anderson and the Chemistry of
Georgics and Geology”

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Trevor Levere

University of Toronto

“Thomas Beddoes, Books, and
Medical Chemistry”

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent

University of Paris, Nanterre

“Public Lectures of Chemistry in
18th-Century France”

3:45 pm – 4:15 pm

Seymour Mauskopf

Duke University

Summary statement and introduc-
tion to concluding discussion

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Concluding discussion