

Thesis Workshop

Alchemy: Between Science and Religion?

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE)
in collaboration with the University of Amsterdam, 24 June 2010



The *Lab-Oratorium* of Heinrich Khunrath (1560-1605)

A one-day workshop for graduate and postgraduate students organised by the Chair for History of Hermetic Philosophy and Related Currents, University of Amsterdam, on Thursday 24 June 2010.

Throughout the day, international scholars from varying perspectives (cultural, intellectual, history of science) will present papers, discuss issues around framing research questions, and reflect on the importance of developing the skills necessary to successfully carry out research. This workshop will provide an opportunity for graduate and postgraduate students to engage with specialists in the history of medieval and early modern alchemy and with other scholars more broadly based in the field of Western Esotericism. It should be stressed that while the focus of our three specialist speakers is on alchemy, time will be available for students to interact with all the scholars and discuss more general strategies for research, such as the issues of definitions, typologies, disciplinary boundaries and interdisciplinarity, questions of primary and secondary sources, publication, networking and other practical matters of a scholarly life. The chronological focus will not be restricted to the Early Modern period, but will range from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century.

The day will be divided into three parts:

1) *Oratory*: Presentations by guest speakers

- > Prof. Lawrence Principe (Johns Hopkins University)
- > Dr Stephen Clucas (University of London)
- > Dr Jennifer Rampling (University of Cambridge)

2) *Laboratory*: Students have the opportunity to discuss practical research issues with the following scholars, in addition to the speakers: Jean-Pierre Brach, Antoine Faivre, Peter Forshaw, Nicholas Goodrick-Clarke, Wouter Hanegraaff, Boaz Huss, Andreas Kilcher, Marco Pasi, Mark Sedgwick, & Gyorgy Szonyi)

3) A roundtable discussion focussing on specific themes:

- > Definitions & Typologies: issues of terminology, reification, essentialism, actors' categories
- > Boundary Work: Magic, Science and/or Religion, Hybridity
- > Alchemy & Culture (Elite, Court, Popular)

Please note: this is a **free event**. For more details, or to book a place, contact Dr Peter Forshaw: p.j.forshaw@uva.nl

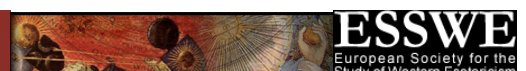


Society for Renaissance Studies



HISTORY OF HERMETIC PHILOSOPHY
AND RELATED CURRENTS

Faculty of Humanities, Universiteit van Amsterdam



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