

# PHARMACEUTICAL HISTORIAN

An International Journal for the History of Pharmacy

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## EDITORIAL

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### A New Chapter for *Pharmaceutical Historian*

It was in October 1967 that Volume 1 Number 1 of *Pharmaceutical Historian* made its appearance. It described itself at the time as the 'newsletter of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy'. The inaugural meeting of the Society had been held in London on 14 June that year following recognition that 'pharmacists are interested in the history of their ancient profession.' Its purpose was to foster that interest.

Initially the new committee agreed to sponsor two publications; a bulletin, *Pharmaceutical Historian*, which would carry news of a general character, items of information and short articles; and a more scholarly publication containing original research articles. Volume 1 Number 1 of the latter, under the title *Transactions of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy* appeared in 1970. Number 2 appeared in 1971, Number 3 followed 3 years later in 1974, and Number 4 (the last one) in 1977.

Each of the *Transactions* contained one or two scholarly and quite lengthy papers, but ultimately this proved rather too ambitious. *Transactions* was discontinued in 1977 and both the scholarly papers and the short articles were subsequently published together in *Pharmaceutical Historian*.

During its first fifty years *Pharmaceutical Historian* has had a total of six editors. Its inaugural editor was Nicholas Herdman, who served in this capacity from 1967 to 1968. He was followed by S. F. Woodward, from 1968 to 1970, with Owen Waller then taking up the reins until 1973. Since then editors have served rather longer terms; Arthur Wright served as editor for 18 years from 1973 to 1991, Nita Burnby for 10 years from 1991 until 2000, and Ainley Wade, the immediate past editor, also for 18 years, from 2000 to 2017.

Over recent years, under Ainley's leadership, *Pharmaceutical Historian* has undergone a number of changes.

It has gradually become more international in scope, with increasing numbers of contributions being submitted from around the world. The papers themselves are becoming increasingly rigorous as they are subjected to greater peer review. The journal has grown in length, and like the papers the readership has become increasingly international.

In recent months the Committee of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy has been examining ways in which it might better reach its wider audience and attract more papers on the history of pharmacy across all countries and across all time periods. Fortunately this coincided with discussions within the International Society for the History of Pharmacy about available platforms for publishing articles on the history of pharmacy. Discussions have therefore subsequently been held between representatives of the two Societies.

The result is the relaunch of *Pharmaceutical Historian* as an international journal for the history of pharmacy, which will now be published by the British Society for the History of Pharmacy on behalf of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy. It will be available online to members of the national societies that are members of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy, and indeed to a wider audience including students on an open access basis. Print copies will be provided at the discretion of the national societies.

*Pharmaceutical Historian* will publish articles only in English. It will not therefore replace the need for national and local outlets for publications in the history of pharmacy in other languages, which will continue to play an important part in publishing the work of pharmaceutical historians. It is hoped, however, that this new chapter for *Pharmaceutical Historian* will provide a useful additional forum for the publication of papers on the history of pharmacy, and offer a valuable benefit not only to members of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy but to all those interested in the history of pharmacy.

Stuart Anderson

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

It is my great pleasure to present the first international issue of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* published by the British Society for the History of Pharmacy on behalf of the International Society for the History of Pharmacy.

The *Pharmaceutical Historian* has been recognised for decades as a distinguished national journal for the history of pharmacy focusing mainly on the members of the British Society as readers. To reach a wider audience, and to attract more papers on the history of pharmacy across all countries, the International Society for the History of Pharmacy offered the British Society its cooperation to transform the journal into a publication with a more international focus. Starting in 2017, both societies agreed to re-launch the British journal *Pharmaceutical Historian* as their joint international journal, which is now available worldwide according to the 'open access' principle.

To those who have an interest in the history of pharmacy, may I welcome you to this journal and take the opportunity of inviting your scientific contributions and comments.

Christa Kletter

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

As BSHP President in our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year I am delighted that we have signed this important publishing agreement with the International Society for the History of Pharmacy (ISHP). This not only secures the future of the *Pharmaceutical Historian* as a leading publication on pharmacy history but also introduces on-line open access via Ingenta that will give us and ISHP a much wider international audience.

I must pay tribute at this point to Ainley Wade who has been the editor of *Pharmaceutical Historian* since June 2000. His stewardship of our professional journal has been unfailing, as has been his unrivalled attention to editorial detail. He has earned his retirement this year having single-handedly brought our publication to this point of change. We are most grateful to him, but also I must wish Stuart Anderson, his successor as editor, every success with this new way of working and publishing for us.

Our new website this year will be another key step forward providing links to diary dates, Society news, Royal Pharmaceutical Society Museum updates, general pharmacy history or people news, and short communications. Some of this information used to be included in the *Pharmaceutical Historian* but is now outside its revised scope. All feedback is welcome.

Roy Allcorn