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978-0-521-79662-0 - The Alchemy Reader: From Hermes Trismegistus to Isaac Newton

Edited by Stanton J. Linden

Frontmatter

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The Alchemy Reader

From Hermes Trismegistus to Isaac Newton

The Alchemy Reader is a collection of primary source readings on alchemy and hermeticism, which offers readers an informed introduction and background to a complex field through the works of important ancient, medieval and early modern alchemical authors.

Including selections from the legendary Hermes Trismegistus to Robert Boyle and Isaac Newton, the book illustrates basic definitions, conceptions, and varied interests and emphases; and it also illustrates the highly interdisciplinary character of alchemical thought and its links with science and medicine, philosophical and religious currents, the visual arts and iconography and, especially, literary discourse. Like the notable anthologies of alchemical writings published in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it seeks to counter the problem of an acute lack of reliable primary texts and to provide a convenient and accessible point of entry to the field. In addition to newly edited, lightly modernised texts, *The Alchemy Reader* includes a substantial introduction to the subject, head notes to individual selections, annotations, a bibliography, and a glossary.

STANTON J. LINDEN is Professor Emeritus of English, Washington State University, where he taught courses in English Renaissance literature from Shakespeare to Milton. He has published articles on Bacon, Donne, Jonson, Herbert, Milton, Henry Vaughan, Margaret Cavendish, and others, often dealing with alchemical influences or relations between the visual and verbal modes. His recent publications include *Darke Hieroglyphicks: Alchemy in English Literature from Chaucer to the Restoration* (1996), *Emblems and Alchemy* (co-editor, 1998), and a critical edition of George Ripley's *Compound of Alchymy* (2001).

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Contents

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page vii
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	ix
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	x
<i>Illustrations</i>	xi
Introduction	1
Part I Ancient texts	
1 HERMES TRISMEGISTUS <i>The Emerald Table (Tabula Smaragdina)</i>	27
2 PLATO (c. 427–347 BC) From the <i>Timaeus</i>	29
3 ARISTOTLE (384–322 BC) From the <i>Meteorology</i>	34
4 PSEUDO-DEMOCRITUS (first or second century AD) From <i>The Treatise of Democritus On Things Natural and Mystical</i>	38
5 ANONYMOUS (first or second century AD) <i>Dialogue of Cleopatra and the Philosophers</i>	44
6 ANONYMOUS (late third century AD) From Leyden Papyrus X and the Stockholm Papyrus	46
7 ZOSIMOS OF PANOPOLIS (fl. c. 300 AD) <i>Of Virtue, Lessons 1–3</i>	50
8 STEPHANOS OF ALEXANDRIA (first half of seventh century AD) From <i>The Great and Sacred Art of the Making of Gold</i>	54
9 ANONYMOUS (eighth or ninth century AD) <i>The Poem of the Philosopher Theophrastos Upon the Sacred Art</i>	61
Part II Islamic and medieval texts	
10 KHALID IBN YAZID (635–c. 704) From <i>Secreta Alchymiae</i>	71
11 JABIR IBN HAYYAN (eighth century)/PSEUDO-GEBER (thirteenth century) From <i>Of the Investigation or Search of Perfection; Of the Sum of Perfection; and His Book of Furnaces</i>	80

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[More information](#)

vi CONTENTS

12	AVICENNA (c. 980–1037) <i>De Congelatione et Conglutinatione Lapidum</i>	95
13	ALBERTUS MAGNUS (1193? or 1206?–1280) From the <i>Libellus de Alchimia</i>	99
14	ROGER BACON (c. 1219–c. 1292) From the <i>Radix Mundi</i>	111
15	NICOLAS FLAMEL (1330?–1417?) From <i>His Exposition of the Hieroglyphical Figures</i>	123
16	BERNARD, EARL OF TREVISAN (fl. late fourteenth century) <i>A Treatise of the Philosopher's Stone</i>	136
17	GEORGE RIPLEY (1415–1490) <i>The Epistle of George Ripley written to King Edward IV</i>	141
Part III Renaissance and seventeenth-century texts		
18	PARACELSUS (1493–1541) From <i>Of the Nature of Things</i> and <i>Paracelsus His Aurora</i>	151
19	FRANCIS ANTHONY (1550–1603) <i>Aurum-Potabile: or the Receipt of Dr. Fr. Antonie</i>	170
20	MICHAEL SENDIVOGIUS (1566–1636 or 1646) From <i>A New Light of Alchymie</i> and <i>A Dialogue between Mercury, the Alchymist and Nature</i>	174
21	ROBERT FLUDD (1574–1637) From the <i>Mosaicall Philosophy</i>	191
22	GABRIEL PLATTES (first half of seventeenth century) <i>A Caveat for Alchymists</i>	199
23	JOHN FRENCH (1616?–1657) Preface to <i>The Divine Pymander of Hermes Mercurius Trismegistus in XVII Books</i>	208
24	GEORGE STARKEY/EIRENAEUS PHILALETHES (1628–1665?) <i>The Admirable Efficacy, and almost incredible Virtue of true Oyl</i> ; From <i>An Exposition Upon Sir George Ripley's Epistle to King Edward IV</i>	211
25	ELIAS ASHMOLE (1617–1692) From the “Prolegomena” to the <i>Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum</i>	222
26	ROBERT BOYLE (1627–1691) From <i>An Historical Account of a Degradation of Gold Made by an Anti-Elixir: A Strange Chymical Narrative</i>	234
27	SIR ISAAC NEWTON (1642–1727) <i>The Key</i> (Keynes MS 18); <i>The Commentary on the Emerald Tablet</i> (Keynes MS 28)	243
	<i>Glossary</i>	248
	<i>Bibliography</i>	250
	<i>Index</i>	254

Illustrations

1. “Mundus Elementaris.” *Musaeum hermeticum reformatum et amplificatum* (1678). Courtesy of the Wellcome Trust, Medical Photographic Library.
2. The four elements symbolized. Petrus Bonus, *Pretiosa margarita novella* (1546).
3. Nature and Art. Michael Maier, *Symbola aureæ mensæ* (1617).
4. Alchemist following Nature. Michael Maier, *Atalanta fugiens* (1617).
5. Library and Laboratory. Michael Maier, *Tripus aureus* (1618).
6. Fermentatio within the alchemical egg. University of Glasgow Library, MS Ferguson 253. Courtesy of the University of Glasgow Library, Department of Special Collections.
7. Coniunctio. Rosarium philosophorum. University of Glasgow Library, MS Ferguson 74, f. 42^v. Courtesy of the University of Glasgow Library, Department of Special Collections.
8. Winged Hermaphrodite. University of Glasgow Library, MS Ferguson 4, f. 97^v. Courtesy of the University of Glasgow Library, Department of Special Collections.
9. Alchemical Master and Disciple. Elias Ashmole, *Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum* (1652).
10. Alchemical signs and symbols with “A Cattalogue of Philosophycall & Chemicall Books,” University of Glasgow Library, MS Ferguson 155. Courtesy of the University of Glasgow Library, Department of Special Collections.
11. Resurrected Christ, Rosarium philosophorum. University of Glasgow Library, MS Ferguson 74, f. 191^v. Courtesy of the University of Glasgow Library, Department of Special Collections.
12. Alchemical Creation Design. *Musaeum hermeticum reformatum et amplificatum* (1678). Courtesy of the Wellcome Trust, Medical Photographic Library.
13. Geber’s furnaces. William Salmon, *Medicina Practica, or Practical Physick* (London, 1692), following p. 472. Courtesy of the University of Glasgow Library, Department of Special Collections.
14. Tympanum. Nicolas Flamel, *Exposition of the Hieroglyphicall Figures* (1624).

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Abbreviations

<i>Bibl. Chem.</i>	John Ferguson, <i>Bibliotheca Chemica</i> , 2 vols.
<i>Cath. Ency.</i>	<i>The Catholic Encyclopedia</i>
<i>DAI</i>	Lyndy Abraham, <i>A Dictionary of Alchemical Imagery</i>
<i>DNB</i>	<i>The Dictionary of National Biography</i>
<i>DSB</i>	Charles C. Gillispie, ed., <i>Dictionary of Scientific Biography</i>
<i>HMES</i>	Lynn Thorndike, <i>A History of Magic and Experimental Science</i>
<i>Lexicon</i>	Martin Ruland, <i>A Lexicon of Alchemy</i> . Translated by A. E. Waite
<i>OCD</i>	<i>The Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> , 2 nd edn.
<i>OED</i>	<i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i>
<i>TCB</i>	Elias Ashmole, <i>Theatrum Chemicum Britannicum</i> (London, 1652)