

Organized by
Gerasimos Merianos & Jennifer M. Rampling



Co-sponsored by
the Institute of Historical Research
of the National Hellenic Research Foundation
&
the Princeton University Athens Center
for Research and Hellenic Studies

International Symposium

Making Alchemical Knowledge:
From Antiquity
to the Middle Ages



National Hellenic
Research Foundation

10 June 2024



INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH
NATIONAL HELLENIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION



11.00 Welcome and Introductions

11.15 to 13.00 **Alchemical Practice and Authority**

Chair: JENNIFER RAMPLING

GERASIMOS MERIANOS (National Hellenic Research Foundation)
Crafting Knowledge: Gold Coinage, Goldsmithing Techniques, and the Versatility of Byzantine Alchemical Literature

VINCENZO CARLOTTA (University of Bologna)
Cleopatra, Komarios, and the Fourfold Division of Alchemy in the Byzantine Tradition

MATTEO MARTELLI (University of Bologna)
Zosimus on Divine Waters: The Syriac Tradition

13.00 to 14.00 Light Lunch

14.00 to 15.30 **Early Alchemical Recipes**

Chair: LAWRENCE PRINCIPE

MARCO BELLINI (University of Bologna)
The Extraction Process of Indian Lac Dye in an Early Byzantine Alchemist

VANGELIS KOUTALIS (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
A Byzantine Anonymous and Untitled Recipe in Three Early Witnesses to the Greek Alchemical Corpus

TONIO SEBASTIAN RICHTER (Freie Universität Berlin)
A Charlatan's Whimsy? The Eighth-Century Coptic Dye Recipe Papyrus Berlin P.8316 Revisited

15.30 to 16.00 Break

16.00 to 17.30 **Reworking Alchemical Knowledge in the Middle Ages**

Chair: GERASIMOS MERIANOS

GABRIELE FERRARIO (University of Bologna)
A Judaeo-Arabic Remedy to the Jābirian Dispersion of Alchemical Knowledge and its Context of Retrieval

LAWRENCE M. PRINCIPE (Johns Hopkins University)
Getting into the Habit: Why Are So Many Medieval Alchemists Franciscans?

JENNIFER M. RAMPLING (Princeton University)
George Ripley's Dream: Allegories of Practice in Fifteenth-Century England

17.30 to 18.00 Concluding Discussion

19.00 Dinner

