To the Courteous Reader,

A recent rash of activity has flooded the project... Old document discovered, new titles suggested and a new translations underway (but more on that next quarter).

Paracelsus College suggest texts

One of the unique strengths of the Original R.A.M.S. was that the choice of titles to include in the collection was precisely guarded. In the late 1970’s R.A.M.S. sought out and obtained copies of ancient Alchemical manuscripts that at the time where very limited editions. In these times of ‘rare’ being the act of having to find the link on the 10th page of a Google search it may be hard to reflect upon. However, one of the unique strengths is that the texts where decided by practicing Alchemists and shared with passionate, practicing Alchemists or aspirants. On this understanding it is why the recent advice of Paracelsus College is greatly valued. They have suggested new texts that they considered of value to include in the R.A.M.S. collection that have not been previously published: Tyrocinium Chymicum by Jean Beguinus, The Secrets of the Adept by Johannes Weidenfeld, Collectanea Chymica, The Pearl of Great Price by Bernhard Trevisan, The Complete Chemist(1677) by Christopher Glazer and Magnalia Naturae (1680) by Wenceslaus Seilerus. A University Colleague was able to acquire and donate faxsimile copies of the texts and now the great work of transcribing them has begun.

News from the Archive

The lamp remains lit so the light survives... and to attract elegant moths. An enthusiastic volunteer, Jamie Wilson, has provided a scanned copy of an original catalogue advertisement that was placed with ordered titles that where distributed by post. Considering much of the reputation of the Original R.A.M.S. was slowly and solidly build by word of mouth and personal introduction with little public advertising conducted this document is a rare find. It is a grand comparison to the only publicly available advertisement in Essentia, Volume 5, in the Fall of 1983. It is of a later date (early 90’s) to the Essentia advert as it contains titles dated with a 1990 release date, yet not including ‘Marrow of Alchemy’ by Eirenaeus Philoponos Philalethes limits it to pre-1993 the release date of this last R.A.M.S. published title. A comparison reveals that: the 51 titles available in 1983 increased to 83 titles in the later advert, some titles evolved or combined especially the Bacstrom texts, the price increased to .15c/page from the 1983 .12c/page, if there was no page count in the catalogue the title was not currently available as is the case of eight titles in 1983 and three texts in post-1990, and certain texts where marked as ‘important works’ by use of a w (for two Adiramled text, Cyliani, Glauber, Hollandus, Tugel, Lintuat, two compilations by Hans Nintzel and Valentine) and ww (for only three titles by Kirchweger, Urbigerus and Valentine). The advertisement can be seen at: http://www.ramsdigital.com/pics/RAMS-list.jpg

Podcast Quarter Series!

Editing remains to be completed for the next new series of AlchemyPod episodes to be made available. The .mp3 file will be added to the library and remain available for download from the website.

Next on the list... research into Bacstroms’ Compendium.

Otherwise, to all readers of this simple newsletter I wish you success in your endeavours and thank you for your continued support. Please give the new cards to friends in The Art! Remember when ordering through Paypal to check that your account address is correct. If you know someone that would be interested in the library collection please forward them the url: http://www.ramsdigital.com

Kind regards,
Andrew Kettle.