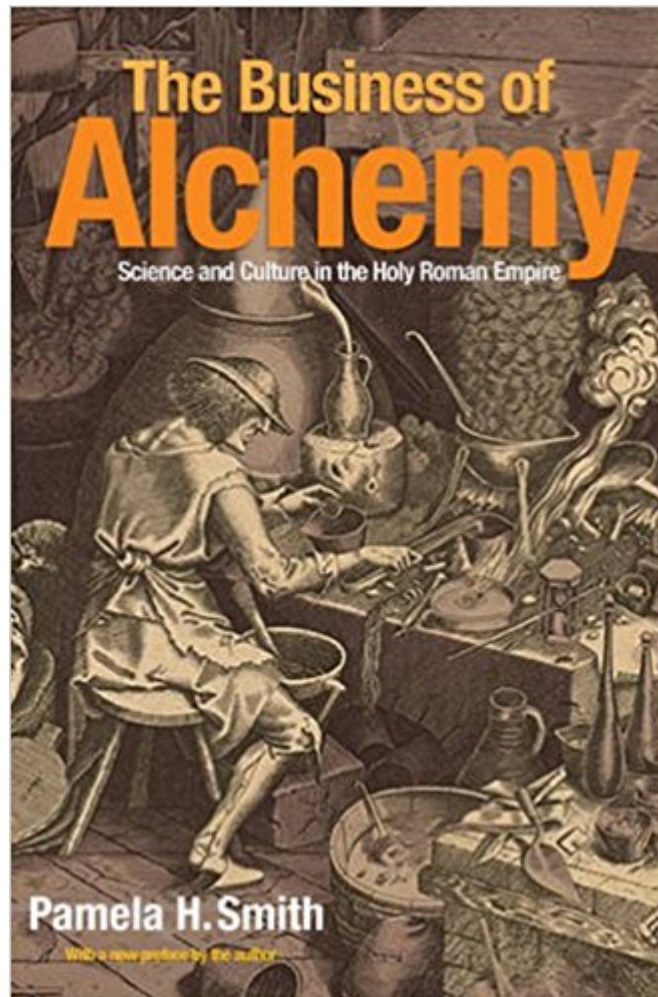


The book was found

The Business Of Alchemy: Science And Culture In The Holy Roman Empire



Synopsis

In *The Business of Alchemy*, Pamela Smith explores the relationships among alchemy, the court, and commerce in order to illuminate the cultural history of the Holy Roman Empire in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In showing how an overriding concern with religious salvation was transformed into a concentration on material increase and economic policies, Smith depicts the rise of modern science and early capitalism. In pursuing this narrative, she focuses on that ideal prey of the cultural historian, an intellectual of the second rank whose career and ideas typify those of a generation. Smith follows the career of Johann Joachim Becher (1635-1682) from university to court, his projects from New World colonies to an old-world Pansophic Panopticon, and his ideas from alchemy to economics. Teasing out the many meanings of alchemy for Becher and his contemporaries, she argues that it provided Becher with not only a direct key to power over nature but also a language by which he could convince his princely patrons that their power too must rest on liquid wealth. Agrarian society regarded merchants with suspicion as the nonproductive exploiters of others' labor; however, territorial princes turned to commerce for revenue as the cost of maintaining the state increased. Placing Becher's career in its social and intellectual context, Smith shows how he attempted to help his patrons assimilate commercial values into noble court culture and to understand the production of surplus capital as natural and legitimate. With emphasis on the practices of natural philosophy and extensive use of archival materials, Smith brings alive the moment of cultural transformation in which science and the modern state emerged.

Book Information

Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Princeton University Press; Reprint edition (September 20, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0691173230

ISBN-13: 978-0691173238

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,406,750 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #104 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Modern Renaissance #2028 inÂ Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Greek & Roman #7023 inÂ Books > Science & Math > History & Philosophy

Customer Reviews

Pamela Smith's work, "The Business of Alchemy", has a rather startling thesis. We all know that throughout history alchemy and empirical science have been considered separate, and as soon as such men as Newton and Darwin came along, pseudosciences such as alchemy disappeared lost all credibility. Right? Wrong. As Pamela Smith explains, that notion is ahistorical. The only problem with this book is that it is boring. I had trouble finishing even a single sentences without being bored. In conclusion, she should write more books about the history of science in Early Modern Europe. Over and out!

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Business of Alchemy: Science and Culture in the Holy Roman Empire BUSINESS:Business Marketing, Innovative Process How To Startup, Grow And Build Your New Business As Beginner, Step By Step Online Guide How To Effective ... Grow And Build Business As Beginner) Home Based Business Escape Plan: How To Make \$10,000 Per Month With Your Own Part-Time, Online Lifestyle Business: Home Based Business Ideas (Home Based Business Opportunities) The Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church, Wilmington, Del., From 1697 to 1773, With an Abstract of the English Records From 1773 to 1810 and Catalogue and Errata of the Records of Holy Trinity (Old Swedes) Church Holy Blood, Holy Grail: The Secret History of Christ & The Shocking Legacy of the Grail The Rise and Fall of The Roman Empire: The Clashes of Kings and Emperors Claiming The Crown ETSY: Complete Beginners Guide To Starting Your Etsy Business Empire - Sell Anything! (Etsy Business, Etsy 101, Etsy Beginners Guide) THE KYBALION: A Study of the Hermetic Philosophy of Ancient Egypt and Greece (Annotated HERMETICISM, SCIENCE AND ART OF ALCHEMY) THE CORPUS HERMETICUM :THE CORE DOCUMENTS OF THE HERMETIC TRADITION (An Early precursor to what was to be Christianity) - Annotated HERMETICISM, SCIENCE AND ART OF ALCHEMY Aphrodite and the Rabbis: How the Jews Adapted Roman Culture to Create Judaism as We Know It Siblings and the Family Business: Making it Work for Business, the Family, and the Future (A Family Business Publication) How to Start a Business Analyst Career: The handbook to apply business analysis techniques, select requirements training, and explore job roles ... career (Business Analyst Career Guide) Business Buyer's Guide: 1998 AT&T National Toll-Free Directory Business Edition (National Toll-Free and Internet Directory : Business Buyer's Guide) Empire, Islam, and Politics of Difference (Ottoman Empire and Its Heritage) Holy Moly Mackeroly! Reflections on the Business of Art and the Art of Life British & Empire Campaign Medals - Volume 1: 1793 to 1902 (British & Irish/Empire Campaign

Medals) The Achaemenid Empire: The First Great Persian Empire Rise and Shine: Awaken Your Energy Body with Taoist Alchemy and Qi Gong Beeswax Alchemy: How to Make Your Own Soap, Candles, Balms, Creams, and Salves from the Hive Resin Alchemy: Innovative Techniques for Mixed-Media and Jewelry Artists

[Dmca](#)