



The Alchemist's Kitchen: Extraordinary Potions & Curious Notions

Guy Ogilvy

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From the revelation of fire to mediaeval quests for the legendary Philosopher's Stone, the alchemical path has attracted many great minds.

Packed with recipes for herbal elixirs, soothing balms, heady scents, rich pigments, and potent solvents, *The Alchemist's Kitchen* will appeal to anyone fascinated by the past and the occult world.

From the legendary Emerald Tablet of Hermes Trismegistus and Paracelsus's spagyric medicine, to the ancient science of the four elements and the symbolic associations of mediaeval pigment recipes, this book—illustrated with old engravings and original art—takes you inside mediaeval laboratories and kitchens to explore the sacred secrets of matter.

The Alchemist's Kitchen: Extraordinary Potions & Curious Notions Details

Date : Published October 17th 2006 by Bloomsbury (first published September 22nd 2006)

ISBN : 9780802715401

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Format : Hardcover 58 pages

Genre : Esoterica, Alchemy, Nonfiction, Spirituality, Fantasy, Mythology, Magic

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From Reader Review The Alchemist's Kitchen: Extraordinary Potions & Curious Notions for online ebook

Mandy says

Very informative and very condensed at the same time. A wonderful book for those just starting to delve into alchemical studies.

Darth Miky says

La base che più base non c'è. Comunque accessibile ai non addetti ai lavori e pieno di spunti interessanti.

Chris Hart says

There are still alchemists nowadays. Who knew? Hopefully they're more interesting people in person than they are as authors.

Hunter R. says

Got this one as a gift. Person that gave it to me thought it would have chemical poison recipe or something similar. It is more of history and symbolic observation. Still a cool book, but pretty small.

Marilyn says

Great illustrations in this adorable esoteric book. I found it in New Harmony, IL, where alchemy flourished in the 1820's.

Natalie Morgan says

A nice and brief overview of alchemy. Nothing too complex but covered a generalised basis. The imagery with the book was superb! Worth checking out if you want a quick read.

Constantin says

Nice little book, I was expecting to have a bit more content, but oh well...
It has great illustrations and is a very nicely made book. The information it gives create a great point for a beginner to start their research and provides quite q generous amount of stuff to research and take notes after

you finish the book.

Tim Pendry says

This is one of an extensive series of small, cheap and generally information packed pocket books produced in the West Country by Wooden Books.

These offer guides to scientific, natural and magical subjects in a broadly evidenced way that takes even arcane subjects on their own terms.

I find the editorial approach remarkable - neither New Age flummery nor the arrogance of the radical positivist. In amongst them are also tightly drawn reference works on the components of music and grammar which also sit on my shelves.

This particular book in the series is one of the few works that manages to be a clear description of the alchemical world view (notoriously obscure) and to provide detailed (very detailed) material on its connection to the practical matter of technology.

The book does what so many books on alchemy fail to do - present it as a rational by-product of the business of building a civilisation of making things.

The appendices on metallurgy, ceramics and glass production, artistic media, chemistry, the products of chemistry, perfumes and incense and fermentation are in themselves fascinating. It might be a vital small text for rebuilding civilisation - more useful than the Bible.

The plant-planetary correspondences and theoretical base for it now seem absurd but they were not absurd at the time. It is too easy in retrospect to be critical of a theoretical and practical approach to 'techné' that nevertheless contributed a great deal to human progress.

Of course, at a certain point in history, Western civilisation found better tools and methods for creating technology of use to humanity ... alchemists began the process that started with gunpowder but were not fitted to turn it into rocket fuel.

After that it became an antiquarian interest, a practice with perhaps private cultic aspects (which is where I think this little book is coming from) or became 'spiritualised' as a form of analogical psychotherapy, a development which owes a lot to the interest of Jung.

Anyone who claims to be educated should know something of what alchemy was and did, This book is a good basic primer attractively illustrated.

The only quibble is that the type in the Appendices is very small (undoubtedly to pack a great deal of data in the small format) so this is not a book for those with weak eye sight.

Bill Goodwin says

This book covers the basics in a way that I've seen no other books do. When it comes to alchemy, it's hard not to be lead astray. This book can teach you the core to understanding the terminology and symbology throughout other alchemy books. It is nowhere near an absolute guide, but it's a good place to start, and great for those who may be confused on the topic.

S E says

Love it

Rebekah Gamble says

I was surprised by this little less than 60 page book. There is one page of information and one page of illustrations per page, as well as a glossary both of symbols and words in the back. There are also correspondences and recipes in the back. It's by no means extensive or in depth, but I point out again that it's a very small book. It's a pretty, enjoyable introduction that makes sometimes complicated concepts easily approachable.

Missy says

It was possibly not a good idea to pick this up in the middle of a 24-hour binge-read--I am not sure how much of the craziness was my semi-delirium and how much was the book itself, but at least it fit into the pre-All Hallows Eve atmosphere.
