

II

Symposia

1. EARLY MODERN CHEMISTRY AND MECHANICAL PHILOSOPHY

Introduction by Hiro Hirai

The seminars, organised by Bernard Joly (University of Lille 3) for three years (2004-2007) in Lille (France), treated intensively questions concerned with the interrelations between corpuscular and mechanical philosophy and chemistry in early modern period. These seminars had as guest speakers a number of leading scholars on matter theories in the early modern period (Lawrence Principe, Antonio Clericuzio, Christoph Lüthy, Stephen Clucas, etc). The seminars' participants also formed an important part of two international conferences: "Robert Boyle and Natural Philosophy" (Bordeaux, March 2005) and "History of Alchemy and Chemistry" (Philadelphia, July 2006). Two more conferences have been held since in the same perspective: "Chemistry and Medicine" (Lille, March 2007) and "Chemistry in the Work of Philosophers" (Lille, June 2007). The present special session aimed to provide within the framework of the 6th ICHC a show-case of the outcome of this movement, by focusing upon interactions, boundary and neighborhood between early modern chemistry and mechanical philosophy. The following papers were read:

- Bernard Joly, *Etienne François Geoffroy, a French Chemist between England and Germany.*
- Rémi Franckowiak, *Eighteenth Century Chemistry, between natural Philosophy without Nature and Physics without Reason.*
- Luc Peterschmitt, *Homborg's Chemistry: a certain Truth in a disputable Physics.*
- Hiro Hirai, *Mechanical Agent in Renaissance Matter Theories.*