

# Timeline of Alchemy

This is my timeline of Alchemy and all the influences it *received* and produced.

This is a work in progress. Links take you to my [blog](https://blog.kf7k.com) at <https://blog.kf7k.com>

Ancient dates are uncertain.

10000 BC	Invention of the plow and using domesticated draft animals to pull it allows villages to form, centering on crops and animal domestication.
5000 BC	Towns form when food is abundant, supporting crafts like <i>pottery</i> and <i>gold metallurgy</i> , and early religious beliefs. Trade probably begins. Copper is smelted from ore. <i>Dyeing</i> with insect and vegetable dyes begins. <a href="#">pre-alchemy-alchemy-01</a>
3500 BC	The wheel is invented, promoting trade and consequently local political power. By 3000 BC urbanized cities appear with cuneiform and Indus script to record transactions and stock. Crafts begin to diversify into artistic representational pottery, wall decoration with <i>pigmented paints</i> . <a href="#">pre-alchemy-alchemy-01</a>
3000 BC	Tin is smelted from rare ores; when combined with 7 parts copper the resulting <i>bronze</i> is strong. The bronze trade expands across the Mediterranean by 2000 BC; the bronze age spans 1900 BC to 1100 BC. Trade booms: ivory and tin from Syria, copper from Sardinia and Cyprus, gold and alabaster from Egypt, pottery, cloth and olive oil from Greece and Crete. <a href="#">pre-alchemy-alchemy-01</a>
2500 BC	Colored <i>glass</i> beads and glass mosaics are created in Lebanon, Mesopotamia, Egypt. Industrial-size trade by 1500 BC.
2000 BC	<i>Astrology</i> is born from a combination of proto-astronomy and religion in the river valleys, where predicting floods from the sun's location in the heavens is key to planting at the right time.
1500 BC	Writing had progressed from pictograms (Chinese scripts, Cuneiform scripts and hieroglyphs) to stylized cuneiform marks to the proto-Canaanite alphabet, probably in Egypt. Alphabets spread quickly, making writing and reading much easier, speeding the spread of <i>ideas</i> along bronze-age trade routes.

1175 BC	Bronze age collapses when the Sea Peoples invade and destroy all urban centers in the Mediterranean. Egypt defends itself well. Climate change and earthquakes contribute. Trade ceases in the Mediterranean and the Levant. Civilizations begin to smelt <i>iron</i> because tin is no longer available. The biblical Philistines are one group of invaders who settle in the southern Levant (called Canaan in the <i>Bible</i> ).
800 BC	Iron-age wealth builds; trade restarts, driven primarily by the sea-faring Phoenicians, and cultural envy precipitates invasions. Assyria (in Anatolia, now Iraq and Turkey) dominates.
650 BC	Zoroastrianism founded in Persia; embraces astrology and magic. <a href="#">astrology-and-magic-alchemy-07-interlude</a>
590 BC	Thales of Miletus (a Greek city in Turkey) postulates, from Egyptian creation myths, a theory that <b>water is the primordial substance</b> . Studies geometry, astronomy and philosophy, founds the Miletian school of philosophy. Miletian philosophers (Anaximenes, Anaximander, etc) propose, in turn, earth, air, and fire as primordial elements. <a href="#">egyptian-creation-myths-as-interpreted-by-thales-of-miletus-alchemy-02</a>
586 BC	Nebuchanezzar II leads Babylon and Persia against the Levant and Anatolia (Turkey) and into Greece. Hebrews exported as slaves to Mesopotamia (Iraq), to be released by Cyrus the Great in 539 BC but some stay as free men.
540 BC	Pythagoras of Samos, near Miletus, excels in geometry, mathematics, numerology, and mysticism.
490 BC	Darius I of Babylon, having taken all of Mesopotamia, Anatolia and Egypt, invades the Greek city-states; they defend themselves successfully. Xerxes, his son, tries to finish the invasion but withdraws in 480 BC.
450 BC	Empedocles proposes <b>there are four "elements" or primal forms of matter, Air, Water, Earth, Fire</b> , as a capstone of the Miletian school.
360 BC	Plato adopts the four-element theory with transmutations (using examples of phase changes), adding <b>Prime Matter as matter which has no properties</b> . He also introduces the idea of Being and Becoming: Being are things which are perfect, as God is perfect; Becoming are things endeavoring to be perfect, but which are still mortal. Into the Being category he places reason, into becoming he places observation. This puts <b>reason as fundamental to interpreting the world, dismissing observation</b> . <a href="#">plato-alchemy-03</a>

350 BC	Democritus proposes a theory of atoms, the indivisible smallest parts of matter, of unique shapes. Can't prove it. Plato and Aristotle ignore the idea. <a href="#">what-might-have-been-democritus-and-the-atomic-theory-alchemy-08-interlude</a>
340 BC	Aristotle changes the four-elements theory to one related to <b>properties (hot/cold, wet/dry) allowing the addition or subtraction of these properties to change the nature of the matter, or transmutation</b> . He is very convincing and his ideas become the cornerstone of alchemy. Introduced <b>æther</b> as the fifth element, the element composing the heavens. Proposes a cosmology later influencing the Gnostics strongly. <a href="#">aristotle-alchemy-04</a>
334 BC	Alexander the Great, pupil of Aristotle, conquers all the lands the Persians held and more, from Rome to Tibet. Established trade on an immense scale using Koine (common) Greek. Aristotle's ideas were carried from Italy to China. Founds Alexandria, a trade port in the Nile Delta. <a href="#">alexander-the-great-spreading-ideas-alchemy-06</a> <a href="#">a-note-on-translations-from-the-greek-alchemy-10-interlude</a>
300 BC	Theophrastus, a follower of Aristotle, studies botany and the uses of plants in medicine.
221 BC	Shih Huang Ti, first emperor of China, legendary founder of <a href="#">alchemy in China</a> , believed <i>wuxing</i> , the five-element theory.
100 BC	Ssu-ma Ch'ien, historian, first mention of alchemy in Chinese literature
32 AD	Jesus founds Christianity
100 AD	Gnostic ideas begin in Israel and Egypt as a blend of Aristotelean cosmology, Christianity, Jewish mysticism, Coptic religion, and Zoroastrian astrology. <a href="#">gnosticism-alchemy-14-interlude</a>
100 AD	Pseudo-Democritus the alchemist: Recipes for coloring or alloying base metals. Contains the first hints at two important concepts: <b>the process is more important than the materials used</b> , and <b>alchemists are doing what nature does, only faster</b> . <a href="#">the-beginning-of-alchemy-psuedo-democritus-alchemy-09</a>
100 AD	Mary the Jewess: experimental alchemist, invented early alchemical equipment
150 AD	Cleopatra the Alchemist, experimental alchemist <a href="#">the-dialog-of-cleopatra-and-the-philosophers-alchemy-11</a>

200 AD	Composition of the Corpus Hermeticum, a collection of several Greek texts from the second and third centuries, survivors from a more extensive literature, known as the Hermetica. <a href="#">hermes-trismegistus-alchemy-15</a>
296 AD	Diocletian, Roman emperor, bans alchemy perhaps to control the economy, but alchemy continues in the Roman-controlled Alexandria, Egypt
300 AD	Earliest chemical recipes with alchemical outcomes written <a href="#">the-earliest-chemistry-alchemy-12</a>
300 AD	Zosimos of Panopolis (Hellenistic alchemist) writer of one of the oldest surviving alchemical tractates, introduces pure allegorical descriptions of alchemical processes <a href="#">the-visions-of-alchemy-alchemy-13</a>
600 AD	Stephanos of Alexandria, a public speaker, speaks rhapsodically about alchemy <a href="#">stephanos-of-alexandria-alchemy-16</a>
642 AD	The Muslims invade Egypt, pass through Oxyrhynchus and dump all the library records. They appear to keep Plato and Aristotle and any alchemical writings they find. <a href="#">oxyrhynchus-and-the-rise-of-islam-alchemy-24-interlude</a>
650 AD	Khalid Ibn Yazeed, Arabic Alchemist, summarized Greek alchemy <a href="#">khalid-ibn-yazid-alchemy-25</a>
700 AD	8th century. Copy of an Alexandrian manuscript (which?) gives first recorded mention of the word Vitriol. The same document gives first mention of cinnabar (mercuric sulfide)
776 AD	Jabir, the Arabian alchemist whose real name has been variously stated as Abu Musu Jabir ibn Haiyan or Abou Moussah Djafar al Sofi, is active. According to the tenth-century Kitab-al-Fihrist, Jabir was born at Tarsus and lived at Damascus and Kufa. <a href="#">jabir-ibn-hayyan-alchemy-26</a> <a href="#">what-jabir-said-alchemy-27-interlude</a>
800 AD	Alchemy, combined with medicine and yoga, printed in India. The practice may have predated the earliest texts we have. <a href="#">indian-alchemy-alchemy-21</a>
900 AD	Al-Tamimi Muhammad Ibn Umayl, Arabic Alchemist <a href="#">ibn-umayl-alchemy-28</a>
940 AD	Ibn Wahshiyh, Abu Baker, "Rhazes" Arabic Alchemist and botanist <a href="#">al-razi-alchemy-29</a>
950 CE	Al Majrett'ti Abu-al Qasim, Arabic alchemist and astrologer
954 CE	Alfarabi, an Arab Alchemist

1000 CE	Codex Marcianus 299: Earliest surviving Greek alchemical manuscript
1010 CE	Abu Ali Sina, "Avicenna", an Arab physician <a href="#">avicenna-alchemy-30</a>
1054 CE	Rome splits from orthodox church, forms Catholic church
1099 CE	Godfri de Bouillion takes Jerusalem as part of the crusades.
1100 CE	Al-Tuhra-ee, Al-Husain Ibn Ali, Arabic Alchemist
1144 CE	Earliest dated Western alchemical treatise - Robert of Chester <i>De compositione alchemiae</i>
1150 CE	<a href="#">Turba philosophorum</a> translated from Arabic in the <a href="#">Toledo School of the Translators</a>
1160 CE	Artephius (alchemist) asserts in his 'Secret Book' that he has lived for 1000 years before this date due to his use of the Elixir of Life.
1199 CE	Approximate date Grail romances appeared in Western Europe
1231 CE	First mention of alchemy in French literature - Roman de la Rose. William de Loris writes Le Roman de Rose, assisted by Jean de Meung, who also wrote The Remonstrance of Nature to the Wandering Alchemist and The Reply of the Alchemist to Nature
1235 CE	Robert Grosseteste, Bishop of Lincoln, discusses transmutation of metals in <i>De artibus liberalibus</i> and <i>De generatione stellarum</i> .
1248 CE	Albertus Magnus, alchemist, Dominican Monk, well-respected philosopher, publishes his version of Arabic alchemy, and his study of minerals and ores. <a href="#">albertus-magnus-alchemy-32</a>
1256 CE	King Alfonso the Wise of Castile orders translation of alchemical texts from Arabic. He is supposed to have written Tesoro a treatise on the Philosophers' stone
1267 CE	Roger Bacon, alchemist, occultist and Franciscan friar, is born. Bacon, also known as <i>Doctor Mirabilis</i> (Latin: 'wonderful teacher'), eventually places considerable emphasis on empiricism and becomes one of the earliest European advocates of the modern scientific method. <a href="#">roger-bacon-alchemy-33</a>
1270 CE	Thomas Aquinas, pupil of Albertus, is sympathetic to the idea of alchemical transmutation in his Summa theologia. In his Thesaurus Alchimiae, Aquinas speaks openly of the successes of Albertus and himself in the art of transmutation.

1272 CE	Provincial Chapter at Narbonne forbids the Franciscans to practice alchemy.
1275 CE	Raymond Lull, actually not an alchemist, believed to possess titanic physical and mental energy, who threw himself heart and soul into everything he did, is born. Writings attributed to Lull include a number of works on alchemy, most notably <i>Alchimia Magic Naturalis</i> , <i>De Aquis Super Accurtationes</i> , <i>De Secretis Medicina Magna</i> and <i>De Conservatione Vitoe</i> , <i>Ars Magna</i> . <a href="#">raymond-lull-alchemy-35</a>
1280 CE	<i>Sefer Ha-Zohar</i> , an essential Qabalistic text, makes its first written appearance, written by Moses de León but attributed to Simon ben Yohai.
1285 CE	Arnold of Villanova, physician and alchemist. His lengthy book <i>The Treasure of Treasures, Rosary of the Philosophers, and Greatest Secret of all Secrets</i> highly influential and popular. <a href="#">arnold-of-villanova-alchemy-34</a>
1298 CE	Alain de Lisle. There are also earlier accounts of Alanus de Insulis, born in Rijssel in 1114 CE in the Netherlands, later abbot of Clairvaux and bishop of Auxerre
1310 CE	Al-Jildaki, Muhammad Ibn Aidamer, Arabic Alchemist which shared knowledge with certain Templars
1312 CE	The Knights Templar become extinct, except for a few, when the order is dissolved by the Council of Vienne. All the property owned by the Templars is transferred to the Knights of St. John (The Hospitallers)
1314 CE	Jacques de Molay, Grand Master of the Knights Templar, is burned at the stake
1317 CE	The first Rosicrucian order is formed: the French Ordre Souverain des. Frères Aînés de la Rose Croix
1317 CE	Pope John XXII's Papal Bull, <i>Spondet quas non exhibent</i> , is issued against those who practice alchemy. The Cistercians ban alchemy. John Dunstin defends. <a href="#">john-dustin-and-the-pope-alchemy-38</a>
1323 CE	Dominicans in France prohibit the teaching of alchemy at the University of Paris, and demand the burning of alchemical writings
1329 CE	King Edward III requests Thomas Cary to find two alchemists who have escaped, and to find the secret of their art

1330 CE	<a href="#">Nicolas Flamel</a> is born. Flamel becomes a successful writer, manuscript-seller, and alchemist. Flamel is attributed as the author of the <i>Livre des Figures Hiéroglyphiques</i> , an alchemical book published in Paris in 1612 then in London in 1624 as 'Exposition of the Hieroglyphicall Figures.' Flamel is reputed to have succeeded in the two goals of Hermetic alchemy - to have made the Philosopher's Stone which turns lead into gold, and to have achieved immortality in a single incarnation, together his wife Perenelle. Pope John XXII gives funds to his physician to set up a laboratory for a 'certain secret work.'
1338 CE	Hospitallers acquire Templar Holdings in Scotland
1340 CE	Jean de Meung, author of the Romance of the Rose
1356 CE	Pope Innocent VI imprisons the Catalan alchemist John of Rupescissa, who insists that the only real purpose of alchemy is to benefit mankind. Rupescissa's works abound with medicinal preparations derived from metals and minerals and he emphasizes distillation processes which seemingly separate pure quintessences from the gross matter of natural substances.
1357 CE	Hortulanus' commentary on the Emerald Tablet of Hermes
1376 CE	The Dominican <i>Directorium inquisitorum</i> , the textbook for inquisitors, places alchemists among magicians and wizards.
1380 CE	King Charles V the Wise issues a decree forbidding alchemical experiments
1380 CE	<a href="#">Bernard of Trevisa</a>
1388 CE	Geoffrey Chaucer Canterbury Tales discussed alchemy in the Canon's Yeoman's Tale <a href="#">alchemical-cons-the-canon-yeomans-tale-alchemy-40</a>
1398 CE	Supposed date that Christian Rosencruez founds <a href="#">Rosicrucian Order</a>
1403 CE	King Henry IV of England issues a prohibition of alchemy and to stop counterfeit money
1450 CE	Basil Valentine, prior of a Benedictine monastery
1453 CE	Joost Balbian, Dutch alchemist born in Aalst, died in 1616 in Gouda
1456 CE	12 men petition Henry VI of England for a license to practise alchemy
1470 CE	<i>Der Antichrist und die funfzehn Zeichen</i> (the book of the antichrist) associates alchemists with demons and Satan
1471 CE	<a href="#">George Ripley</a> Compound of alchemy. Ficino's translation of the <a href="#">Corpus Hermeticum</a>

1476 CE	George Ripley writes <i>Medulla alchemiae</i> .
1485 CE	<i>Summa perfectionis</i> , attributed to <a href="#">Geber</a> , is published. In this important alchemical text, the sulphur-mercury theory forms the theoretical basis for an understanding of the metals, and the alchemist is informed that he must arrange these substances in perfect proportions for the consummation of the Great Work. Geber describes in considerable detail the laboratory processes and equipment of the alchemist
1493 CE	<a href="#">Paracelsus</a> , alchemist, physician, astrologer, and general occultist, is born. Born Phillip von Hohenheim, he later takes up the name Philippus Theophrastus Aureolus Bombastus von Hohenheim, and still later takes the title, Paracelsus, meaning 'equal to or greater than Celsus.' Celsus was a Roman encyclopedist from the first century known for his tract on medicine.
1530 CE	Georgius Agricola Bermannus, book on mining and extraction of ores
1532 CE	The earliest version of the <i>Splendor Solis</i> , one of the most beautiful of illuminated alchemical manuscripts, part of an illustrated book trend called <a href="#">Emblem Books</a> . The work consists of a sequence of 22 elaborate images, set in ornamental borders and niches. The symbolic process shows the classical alchemical death and rebirth of the king, and incorporates a series of seven flasks, each associated with one of the planets. Within the flasks a process is shown involving the transformation of bird and animal symbols into the Queen and King, the white and the red tincture. <a href="#">Slendor Solis.pdf (3.79 mb)</a>
1536 CE	<a href="#">Petrus Ramus</a> (Peter rami) publishes his thesis, translated as "Everything Aristotle Said Was Wrong." First break with the tradition of Aristotle as the smartest man who ever lived.
1540 CE	<a href="#">Paracelsus</a> , physician and alchemist
1541 CE	<i>In hoc volumine alchemia</i> first alchemical compendium
1550 CE	The <i>Rosarium philosophorum</i> , attributed to Attributed to <a href="#">Arnoldo di Villanova</a> (1235-1315), is first published, although it had circulated in manuscript form for centuries.
1552 CE	Emperor Rudolph II is born. Astronomy and alchemy become mainstream science in Renaissance Prague and Rudolf was a firm devotee of both. His lifelong quest is to find the Philosophers Stone and Rudolf spares no expense in bringing Europe's best alchemists to court, such as Edward Kelley and John Dee. Rudolf even performs his own experiments in a private alchemical laboratory.



1560 CE	Heinrich Khunrath is born in Leipzig. It is evident that the first Rosicrucian manifesto, the <i>Fama Fraternitatis</i> , is influenced by the work of this respected Hermetic philosopher and author of "Amphitheatrum Sapientiae Aeternae" (1609), a work on the mystical aspects of alchemy, which contains the oft-seen engraving entitled 'The First Stage of the Great Work', better-known as the 'Alchemist's Laboratory.'
1566 CE	Michael Maier, Rosicrucian alchemist, and philosopher, physician to Emperor Rudolph II, is born. Meier becomes one of the most prominent defenders of the Rosicrucians, clearly transmitting details about the "Brothers of the Rose Cross" in his writings.
1571 CE	Johannes Pontanus, born in Hardewijk, the Netherlands, studied the path of Arthepius together with Tycho Brahe. Died in 1640
1589 CE	Edward Kelley embarks on his public alchemical transmutations in Prague
1599 CE	First appearance of a work of Basil Valentine, the German adept and Benedictine monk, in alchemical philosophy is commonly supposed to have been born at Mayence toward the close of the fourteenth century. His works will eventually include the <i>Triumphant Chariot of Antimony</i> , <i>Apocalypsis Chymica</i> , <i>De Microcosmo degue Magno Mundi Mysterio et Medecina Hominis</i> and <i>Practica un cum duodecim Clavibus et Appendice</i> .
1608 CE	<a href="#">Seton</a> the cosmopolite
1608 CE	John Dee, an English clergyman
1612 CE	Flamel <i>figures hieroglyphiques</i> first published. Ruland's <i>Lexicon alchemiae</i> .
1614 CE	The <i>Fama Fraternitas</i> , the first <a href="#">Rosicrucian</a> manifesto is published. The Rosicrucian manifestos, <i>Fama Fraternitatis Rosae Crucis</i> (1614), <i>Confessio Fraternitatis</i> (1615), and <i>Chymical Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz</i> (1616) cause immense excitement throughout Europe.
1620 CE	Jean d'Espagnet, author of the Hermetic Arcanum
1626 CE	Goosen van Vreeswyk, the Dutch mountain master. Died in 1690
1636 CE	<a href="#">Michael Sendivogius</a>
1638 CE	<a href="#">Robert Fludd</a> , theologian and mystic
1640 CE	Albaro Alonso Barba <i>Art of metals</i>
1643 CE	Johannes van Helmont
1646 CE	<a href="#">George Starkey</a>

1648 CE	<a href="#">Elias Ashmole</a> , the antiquarian
1650 CE	Rudolf Glauber, physician
1652 CE	Georg von Welling, a Bavarian alchemical and theosophical writer, is born. Von Welling is known for his 1719 work <i>Opus Mago-Cabalisticum et Theosophicum</i> .
1661 CE	Robert Boyle publishes <i>Skeptycal Chymist</i> , a dialog against Paracelsian alchemy. Boyle continues as an alchemist another 5 years at least.
1662 CE	Robert Boyle conducts first scientific experiment, finds Law of Gasses.
1666 CE	Helvetius' account of the transmutation in the Hague. Crassellame Lux obnubilata
1667 CE	Johan de Monte Snijder performed a transmutation in 1667 for Guillaume in Aken, the Netherlands
1667 CE	<a href="#">Eirenaeus Philalethes</a> <i>An open entrance to the closed palace of the King</i>
1675 CE	Olaus Borrichius
1677 CE	<i>Mutus Liber</i>
1680 CE	<a href="#">Isaac Newton</a> begins his study of alchemy, continues until he dies.
1690 CE	Publication of the English translation of the Chemical Wedding of <a href="#">Christian Rosenkreutz</a>
1691 CE	Birth of Saint Germain
1710 CE	Samuel Richter begins to form the Order of the Golden and Rosy Cross
	Lascaris, A greek Adept / monk that live in the Netherlands for a while, and thereafter went to Berlin, where he gave J.F. Böttger the stone
1717 CE	Grand Lodge of English Freemasonry founded
1719 CE	Georg von Welling's "Opus Mago-Cabalisticum et Theosophicum" is published. This is an important and influential esoteric work, which influences numerous subsequent authors, including Goethe, who perused it during his alchemical studies.
1723 CE	The <i>Golden Chain of Homer</i> , written or edited by Anton Josef Kirchweger, is first issued at Frankfurt and Leipzig in four German editions in 1723, 1728, 1738 and 1757. A Latin version is issued at Frankfurt in 1762, and further German editions follow. This work has an enormous influence on Rosicrucan alchemy and on the Golden and Rosy Cross order. In the late eighteenth century
1735 CE	Abraham Eleazar <i>Uraltes chymisches Werck</i>

1739 CE	Matthieu Dammy, one of the last famous Parisian Alchymists, published his works in Amsterdam
1779 CE	<a href="#">Antoine-Laurent Lavoisier</a> assembles the coffin for alchemy by making exact measurements of chemical reactions. He is fundamental in establishing the nomenclature of chemistry.
1805 CE	<a href="#">John Dalton</a> nails the lid on alchemy's coffin when he publishes his atomic theory.

I am assisted for the dates by *History of the World Map by Map*, **2018**, DK/Penguin Random House.  
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