Lawrence M. Principe to Deliver 2014 Dibner Lecture

The Smithsonian Libraries will hold the 2014 Dibner Library Lecture Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. in the Warner Bros. Theater at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History. The lecture is free and open to the public.

This year’s guest lecturer is author Lawrence M. Principe, the Drew Professor of Humanities at Johns Hopkins University in the Department of History of Science and Technology and the Department of Chemistry. At the Smithsonian Libraries event, Principe will speak on “Alchemy on the Cutting-Edge: Theoretical Innovations and the Pursuit of Transmutation.” Click here for more event information.

Principe received two bachelor’s degrees from the University of Delaware, a doctorate from Indiana University and a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University. He is the first recipient of the Francis Bacon Medal for significant contributions to the history of science. His research focuses on the history of alchemy and chemistry. Principe has published The Secrets of Alchemy (Chicago, 2013) and The Scientific Revolution: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford, 2011).

Begun in 1992, the Dibner Library Lectures feature a distinguished scholar who has made significant contributions to his or her field of study. Previous lecturers include British historian Richard Holmes and Harvard University professor Joyce E. Chaplin. Since 2000, the Dibner Library Lecture has become available in published form and online. The lecture series and its publication are made possible by the support of The Dibner Fund.

The Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, one of the Smithsonian Libraries’ 20 locations, opened in October 1976. The library’s core collection of 10,000 rare books and 1,600 manuscript groups came to the Smithsonian from the Burndy Library, founded by Bern Dibner in Norwalk, Conn., at the time of America’s bicentennial celebrations. The collection includes premier scientific texts spanning the 13th to the early 20th centuries and has grown to form one of the cornerstones of the Smithsonian Libraries’ collections. For 35 years, this library has provided vital primary sources to scholars, curators and members of the scientific community.
About the Smithsonian Libraries

The Smithsonian Libraries maintains a collection of more than 2 million volumes and serves as an educational resource for the Smithsonian Institution, the global research community and the public. The Libraries are located in Washington, Edgewater, Md., New York City and the Republic of Panama. For more information, visit the Smithsonian Libraries website.

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