

Marco Beretta (1962 -)



The winner of the HIST Award for Excellence in the History of Chemistry for 2022 is Marco Beretta of the University of Bologna for his leadership in the history of the materiality of chemistry. Professor Beretta received his BA with honors in the History of Science from the University of Milan in 1986. He proceeded to the Department of the History of Science and Ideas at Uppsala University. An early sign of things to come was the Partington Prize received in 1990 for his essay in *Ambix*: “The Historiography of Chemistry in the Eighteenth Century: A Preliminary Survey and Bibliography.” He received his Ph.D. degree from Uppsala in 1994 for his thesis: “The Enlightenment of Matter: The Definition of Chemistry from Agricola to Lavoisier.” This work was awarded the Johan Nordström and Sten Lindroth Prize and the Prize for young historians of the International Academy of History of Science.

Dr. Marco Beretta returned to Italy as a research fellow at the Museo Galileo in Florence in 1994. He compiled a critical edition of the library of Lavoisier: “Bibliotheca Lavoisieriana.” His fascination with Lavoisier resulted in an important monograph: “Imaging a Career in Science: The Iconography of Antoine Laurent Lavoisier” (2001). Professor Beretta is generally considered a leading Lavoisier scholar and since 1994 has been a member of the Comité Lavoisier (the Comité was the recipient of the Franklin-Lavoisier prize in 2018).

Marco Beretta joined the University of Bologna in 2000, where he is now Professor of the History of Science. From this position he has broadly impacted the entire field of the history of chemistry. He was the Editor of the journal *Nuncius: Journal of the Material and Visual History of Science*. He has retained his close ties with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He has contributed his knowledge and wisdom to the international project *Sites of Chemistry: 1600-2000*. He is a major organizer of scientific symposia, such as “Visual, Material and Sensory Cultures of Science” at the 9th ESHS Conference at the University of Bologna in 2020.

Professor Beretta is also a leading scholar of the history of glass in art and technology. He received the Paul Bunge Prize for his monograph *The Alchemy of Glass* (2009). He combines the full range of appreciation for the artifacts of science: curation, history, display, contextualization and artistic importance.

Marco Beretta has become a highly sought-after editor and collaborator for important publications in the history of science. Alan Rocke cites his role in editing volume I of the *Cultural History of Chemistry*. He is considered one of the leading scholars on ancient chemistry and has helped to create a vibrant research field of young and productive scholars.

For his numerous critical works covering an impressive timespan of history, as well as his noteworthy leadership and service to the field, HIST is pleased to present Marco Beretta with the 2022 HIST Award.