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Alchemy symbols and meanings pdf

What are alchemy symbols used for. Alchemical table of symbols pdf. Spiritual alchemy symbols and meanings. Alchemy symbol. Alchemy symbols and meanings. Alchemy symbols pdf.

German-Swedish chemist employed numerous alchemical symbols. (H.T. Scheffer, Chemiske forelasningar, Upsalla, 1775)Alchemy predated modern chemistry as a philosophy and natural science. The term "alchemy" originates from the Arabic word al-kimia, referring to an ancient Egyptian process aimed at creating the Philosopher's Stone or Elixir. Initially, kimia derived from the Coptic work khem, possibly representing the mystery of the universe's first matter or the Nile delta's fertile black soil.Alchemy existed before the understanding of atoms and elements, yet alchemists recognized unique properties in different substances. In the 17th century, alchemists devised secret symbols to identify various materials. These symbols were often duplicated due to persecution, resulting in multiple representations for each "element." The majority of current symbols are those developed by prominent alchemists during that time.Alchemy encompassed chemical elements familiar today like gold, silver, and iron, as well as other substances such as earth, air, fire, water. In Eastern cultures, metal and wood were also considered elemental components.Here's a selection of common alchemical symbols and their interpretations:Alchemy symbolized the element of Earth with a downward-pointing triangle intersected by a horizontal bar, often associated with green or brown hues and qualities like "cold" and "dry." Alchemists represented air as an upright triangle crossed by a horizontal bar, linked to blue, white, or gray colors and characteristics such as "hot" and "wet," opposing those of earth. Alchemy symbolized fire through an upright triangle resembling a flame, signifying red and orange hues and representing the male or masculine nature.Alchemy depicted water with an inverted triangle, associated with the color blue and standing for female or feminine nature, along with qualities like "wet" and "cold."Wood was sometimes considered a fifth element in Chinese alchemy, often symbolized by spring, east, green colors, and Jupiter, contrasting with standard elements earth, air, fire, and water.Alchemists sought to transmute one element into another, such as lead into gold. The Philosopher's Stone, also known as the Elixir of Life, was believed to have the power to transform base metals into precious ones and grant eternal life. Its symbol, the squared circle, represents the method of preparation, which involves combining the four primary elements in harmony. The alchemists' understanding of chemistry was limited, considering salt a chemical element when it's actually a compound. The Three Primes of Alchemy, comprising salt, sulfur, and mercury, can be represented as points on a triangle. Salt symbolizes the essence of a substance, representing condensation or crystallization. Sulfur represents the fluid connecting salt and mercury, signifying dissolution and evaporation. Mercury's symbol stands for the life force, transcending death and the earthly realm. Copper, associated with Venus, has various symbols, including the "woman" symbol. Silver is often depicted as a crescent moon, representing purity. Gold symbolizes mental, physical, and spiritual perfection, surrounded by rays. Iron, connected to Mars and the masculine side of nature, is represented by an arrow or a circle. Tin, a common silver-colored metal, has multiple symbols including numerals 4 and 7, letter Z, or geometric shapes. Arsenic, known as a poison, has symbols like an "S" or stylized swan, representing its ability to change forms like the cygnet. Other arsenic symbols include interlocking triangles and a cross connecting two circles. Antimony is represented by two common symbols: a circle topped with a cross and a square on edge, resembling a diamond. These symbols reflect antimony's property of changing forms or allotropes. In ancient alchemy, symbols played a crucial role in representing elements and their properties. For instance, platinum was often depicted as a stylized wolf or a combination of the crescent moon and solar circle, reflecting its supposed alloy of silver and gold. Lead, known as plumbum, had multiple symbols, including Saturn's planet symbol, due to its association with the planet. Phosphorus, an element that glows in the dark, was represented by various symbols such as triangles or simple arcs, possibly due to its unique properties. Bismuth, although less common, appeared as open figure eights or circles topped with semicircles. Potassium was often depicted as a rectangle or open box resembling a goalpost, reflecting its use as potash. Zinc and magnesium, which occurred in compounds rather than pure forms, had symbols that resembled the letter "Z" or the word "magnesia alba", respectively. These symbols were not limited to European alchemy; other cultures like Egypt also developed their own unique hieroglyphics-based symbols. References: * Lepsius, Metals in Egyptian inscriptions, 1860 * Franklyn and Budd, A Survey of the Occult, Electric Book Company, 2001 * Holmyard, Alchemy, Dover Publications, 1995 * Lau, The Handbook of Chinese Horoscopes, Souvenir Press, London, 2005