



ATOMIC COMICS

THE ALCHEMY DETECTIVES: THE CASE OF THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE

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FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS, PEOPLE TRIED TO TURN LESS VALUABLE SUBSTANCES INTO GOLD... WITHOUT SUCCESS!



THESE EARLY CHEMISTS WERE CALLED IDIOTS ALCHEMISTS, WITH THE WORD ALCHEMY GOING BACK TO ANCIENT EGYPT.



ALCHEMISTS OFTEN WORKED IN SECRET AS MANY OF THEIR BELIEFS BORDERED ON BLACK MAGIC.



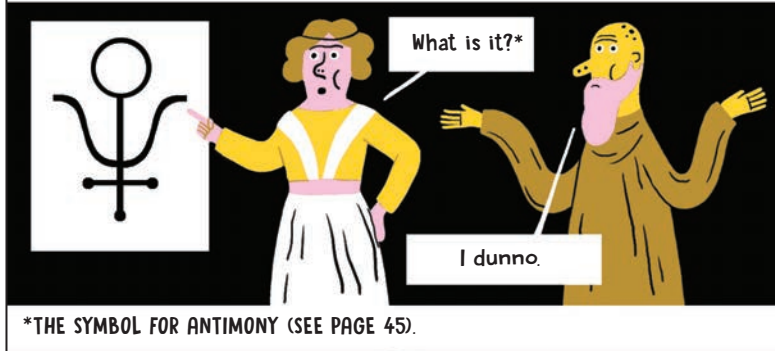
ALCHEMISTS ALSO SEARCHED FOR A UNIVERSAL PANACEA (PAN-AH-SEE-AH) CAPABLE OF CURING ALL DISEASES AND PROLONGING YOUTH.



ALCHEMY RECOGNISED 16 NATURAL ELEMENTS, OF WHICH GOLD WAS THE PUREST AND MOST PERFECT.



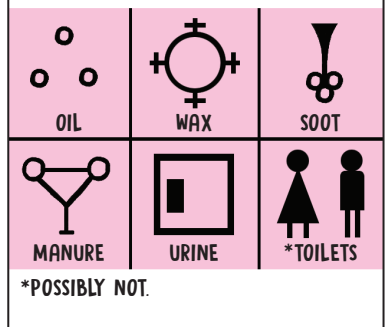
THESE ELEMENTS (SEE BOX ON RIGHT) WERE EACH GIVEN SECRET SYMBOLS SO ALCHEMISTS COULD RECORD THEIR RESULTS. SOME WERE QUITE BAFFLING.



MANY OF THE ELEMENTS HAD SYMBOLS THAT LINKED THEM TO OBJECTS IN THE HEAVENS WITH THE SUN BEING THE SYMBOL FOR GOLD (OF COURSE).



BESIDES ELEMENTS, ALCHEMISTS HAD SECRET SYMBOLS FOR EVERYTHING ELSE THEY USED TOO.



MANY EUROPEAN ALCHEMISTS SEARCHED FOR THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE BELIEVING IT WOULD GRANT ETERNAL LIFE - THE SAME STONE MENTIONED IN THE HARRY POTTER BOOKS!



EARLY ALCHEMY SLOWLY LED TO MODERN CHEMISTRY. THE GERMAN MONK ALBERTUS MAGNUS ISOLATED ARSENIC IN ABOUT 1250CE - THE FIRST ELEMENT WITH A KNOWN DISCOVERER.



BUT IF YOU THINK WE'VE LEFT ALCHEMY FAR BEHIND US, THINK AGAIN. THE VOLVO CARS LOGO IS THE OLD ALCHEMICAL SYMBOL FOR IRON!

