



Unpacking the historian's toolkit

Briony Hudson



Historical periods

Industrial

Ancient

Middle Ages

Early Modern

Prehistory

Modern

Medieval

Enlightenment

Prehistory

Ancient

Medieval

Middle Ages

Early Modern

Enlightenment

Industrial

Modern

When??



Historical periods...peoples...civilisations

Prehistory

Ancient

Anglo-Saxons

Medieval

Vikings

Middle Ages

Tudors

Stone Age

Early Modern

Stuarts

Ancient Egypt

Enlightenment

Victorians

Industrial

Modern



What do you want to know?

Dry drug jar

Apothecary's initials

Date made

“Angel with
outspread wings”
design

V Egiptiacv
Egyptian ointment



Sources

- Records from the collection/museum the jar is held in
- Details from the collector eg auction catalogue
- Drug jar catalogues – published/online
- Books on ceramics history
- Apothecaries records – membership/minutes
- Handwritten recipes
- Printed recipe book – 17th century
- Latin book – 17th century? Later?
- Ebers Papyrus!
- Secondary book on Egyptian medicine eg by Rosalie David



What do you want to know?





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Sources

Primary sources

Institutional

Parke Davis records
Gordon Hall school records

Personal

Census
1939 national register

Professional

Pharmaceutical Society registers
Apothecaries' assistant pass lists

Broader context?

Pharmaceutical journals
National newspapers

Secondary sources

Institutional

Books/articles on school or industry

Personal

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography
Wikipedia
Used Google to track down Nigerian articles on Francis Akanu Ibiam and Eudora

Professional

PhD theses
Books/articles on pharmacy education or women in pharmacy

Broader context

Pharmaceutical journals



Overview

What do you want to know?

What have other people found out already?

What has been written/published already?

How does that fit into wider trends of writing/thought?

Has that changed over time? Why?

What sources might be helpful?

Primary? Secondary?

Where might you find them?

Who might help you?

Have your questions been answered?

If not, why not?

