

## Old Croone Day, 04 June 2020

Once again it is Old Croone Day, the international holiday on which we celebrate the anniversary of the first recorded mention of the preservation of scientific specimens in alcohol. It was on 04 June of 1662 that Dr. William Croone (1633-1684) demonstrated before the Royal Society of London “two embryos of puppy-dogs, which he had kept eight days, and were put in spirit in a glass-vial sealed hermetically.”

A graduate of Emmanuel College at Cambridge, Croone (sometimes spelled Croune) was a professor at Gresham College in London when he was invited to join a select group of people interested in science experiments, which became the Royal Society of London in 1662. Croone was later an anatomy lecturer and Fellow of the College of Physicians. Croone’s main interests were physics, physiology (particularly the circulation of blood and muscle movement), and embryology—it was the latter that led to his discovery of fluid preservation.

When the Royal Society was forced to suspend its meetings due to the Plague in 1665, Croone traveled to Montpellier to meet the Danish anatomist, Nicolas Steno (Niels Steensen, 1638-1686). The following year, after dissecting a giant shark, Steno became the first scientist to prove that “tongue stones” were really fossilized shark teeth.

In this same spirit of curiosity, inquiry, and diversion during a plague, you are invited to hoist a glass of your favorite beverage on 04 June and toast the preservation of good friendships as we bask in the pleasure of finding things out.

Here’s to you, Dr. William Croone!

*June 4. Dr. WILKINS president.*  
*WILLIAM WINDE, esq; was proposed as a candidate by Dr. WILKINS.*  
*Mr. FOYLE produced two of prince RUPERT’S draught-pieces in print.*  
*Mr. CROONE produced two embryos of puppy-dogs, which he had kept eight days, and were put in spirit of wine in a glass-vial sealed hermetically.*

