

Dates of important chemical events of 50, 100, 150 ... years ago from 2000

General Chemistry

5550 years ago

3500 BC

- The element tin was used in bronze objects

4600 years ago

2600 BC

- The element lead used (i.e. in a statuette)

3700 years ago

1700 BC

- Enamel prepared and used (i.e. in a bracelet belonging to the Egyptian Queen Aahotep)

3600 years ago

1600 BC

- The element of mercury found in Egyptian tombs

3300 years ago

1300 BC

- Steel used in Egypt

2750 years ago

750 BC

- Roman chemistry under influence of the Greeks

2600 years ago

600 BC

- Alchemy developed in China

2450 years ago

450 BC

- *Empedocles* launches his four-elements-theory: fire, air, water, earth (heat, dry, moist, cold)

2400 years ago

400 BC

- *Ktesias* reports on natural gas, which was used for heating in houses
- *Democritos* of Abdera extends the atomic doctrine: matter cannot be destroyed, the atoms of the singular bodies distinguish only in form and size

2250 years ago

250 BC

- *Archimedes of Syracus* determines specific weights

2100 years ago

100 BC

- *Ktesibios* constructs and uses pressure pumps

1600 years ago

400

- *Bishop Synesios* constructs an areometer

1400 years ago

600

- Invention of porcelain

1200 years ago

800

- Silver, lead and iron mines in Odenwald, Germany

750 years ago

1250

- *Albertus Magnus* discovers arsenic
- Invention of gunpowder (sulphur, carbon, saltpetre etc.) in Europe

650 years ago

1350

- Discovery of mercury in Bohemia

500 years ago

1500

- *Hieronymus Brunschwyg* edits his "Liber de arte distillande"

400 years ago

1600

- *Zacharias Janssen* constructs the composed microscope
- *William Gilbert* discovers the force of attraction of amber and gives the name "electric power". He edits his "De magnete"

350 years ago

1650

- *Otto von Guericke* invents the air pump

300 years ago

1700

- *Guillaume Amontons* constructs an air thermometer
- *John Canton* and *John Michell* discover independently a method to magnetise iron bars

250 years ago

1750

- With his book "Eléments de Chymie Théorique" *Pierre Joseph Macquer* gains an important influence on the spread of chemistry
- *Richard Watson* discovers the metallic properties of platinum
- *William Brownrigg* describes platinum

200 years ago

1800

- In France the normal measure of the meter is introduced by law
- *René Just Haiüy* edits his book "Traité de Minéralogie"
- *Thomas Young* proposes a theory of light and colours
- *J B Andrada* describes petalite and spodumene, minerals in which later the element lithium was discovered by *J A Arfwedson*

150 years ago

1850

- *Robert Wilhelm Bunsen* invents his gas burner
- *J A Natterer* researches the compressibility of gases at high pressures
- *Thomas Graham* studies the diffusion of liquids
- *Lord Kelvin (Sir William Thomson)* studies the phenomenon heat, and postulates the Second Law of Thermodynamics
- *August Bravais* researches crystallography
- *Max von Pettenkofer* discovers that the difference in atomic weights in the group of the alkaline metals and the earth alkaline metals is 8 or an multiple of 8

100 years ago

1900

- *Karl P G von Linde* proposes liquid oxygen, mixed with oxidisable substances, as wood carbon, as explosives
- *Georg W A Kahlbaum* is able to distillate with his constructed mercury air pump a large number of elements, as the alkaline and earth alkaline metals, the noble metals and nickel, iron and lead. Tin seems an exception
- *W Manchot* edits his book on voluntary oxidation
- *Otto Lehman* observes the attemption of the molecules of liquid crystals to set in the direction of magnetic fields
- *Max Planck* postulates his quantum of energy
- Foundation of the *International Atomic Weight Commission*

50 years ago

1950

- *P Harteck* and *V Falting* discover tritium (^3H or ^3T) in atmospheric hydrogen
- *Franz Hein* edits his book on chemical coordination theory
- *Wilhelm Klemm* studies on demi metals and meta metals and on anomalous valencies
- *Christopher Kelk Ingold*, *E.D. (Ted) Hughes* and *D R Goddard* study the chemistry of crystalline nitronium salts and the kinetics and mechanism of the nitration of aromatic compounds
- *O Schmitz-Dumont* studies complex chemical reactions in water and in liquid ammonia
- *Georg Masing* edits his book on metallic knowledge
- *U Hofmann* and *G Ohlerich* study the surface of carbon
- *Hans Landolt* and *Richard Börnstein* edit their 5th edition of "Physikalisch-Chemische Tabellen"