

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Debye, Peter Joseph William

1884 - 1966

DEGREE: PhD (physics)

DATE: 1908

PLACE: Munich

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Sommerfeld

Nobel Prize in 1936 for his contributions to the study of molecular structures through his investigations of dipole moments and the diffraction of X-rays and electrons by gases and solids; recognized for his pioneering work by the designation of the Debye unit of polar moment; revolutionized the theory of the specific heats of solids, giving specific heat as a function of temperature by a formula which is the same for all solids (containing a constant dependent upon the solid called the Debye temperature); co-discovered the powder method for analyzing crystal structure; suggested that the deviation of electrolytes from the laws of ideal solutions is due to interionic attraction.

1. *American Chemists and Chemical Engineers*; Miles, W. D., Ed.; American Chemical Society: 1976; p114-115.
2. *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*; Charles Scribner's Sons: 1970-1990; vol. 3, p617-621.
3. *J. Chem. Ed.* **1968**, 45, 467-473.
4. *Yrbk. Am. Phil. Soc.* **1968**, 123-130.
5. Farber, E. *Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry 1901-1961*; rev. ed.; Abelard-Schuman: 1963; p147-151.