

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Wöhler, Friedrich

1800 - 1882

DEGREE: MD

DATE: 1823

PLACE: Heidelberg

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Gmelin, L.

discovered aluminum, beryllium, and yttrium; synthesized urea from ammonium cyanate and thereby showed that organic and inorganic chemistry were related -- this discovery also introduced the concept of intramolecular rearrangement of atoms; with Liebig, formulated compound-radical theory; discovered hydroquinones, calcium carbide, and the chemical relationship between C and Si; invented industrial method for obtaining nickel and cobalt from their ores.

FOOTNOTE: Wöhler was a medical student at Heidelberg where Gmelin was the Professor of Chemistry. Gmelin persuaded Wöhler to study chemistry and sent him to Berzelius' laboratories to learn the subject in depth.

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