

WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY HISTORY



DOROTHEA WALLICH
BORN 1657 DIED 1725

Carried out experiments with cobalt compounds and was the first to identify thermochromic (changing colour due to temperature) reactions of cobalt chloride.



JULIA LERMONTOVA
BORN 1846 DIED 1919

The first Russian woman to become a doctor in chemistry. Carried out research on the separation of the platinum group metals and in hydrocarbon chemistry.



MARGARET TODD
BORN 1859 DIED 1918

A doctor who suggested the term 'isotopes', from the Greek meaning 'at the same place', for atoms of the same element with different masses.



IDA FREUND
BORN 1863 DIED 1914

The first woman university chemistry lecturer in the UK. She published two chemistry textbooks, and was the first person to bake periodic table cupcakes.



ASTRID CLEVE VON EULER
BORN 1875 DIED 1968

Carried out research on ytterbium, determining the atomic weight and some of its properties. Also wrote a book on the element selenium for general readers.



HARRIET BROOKS
BORN 1876 DIED 1933

Working with Ernest Rutherford, Brooks identified and carried out experiments on a radioactive gas which was later confirmed as the element radon.



GERTRUD WOKER
BORN 1878 DIED 1968

Researched catalysis, plant chemistry, and the effects of various chemicals in the body. She also campaigned against the use of poison gas in war.



MAY SYBIL LESLIE
BORN 1887 DIED 1937

Worked with Marie Curie on extracting new elements from thorium, and later worked with Ernest Rutherford on the properties of thorium and actinium.



ELIZABETH RONA
BORN 1890 DIED 1981

A nuclear chemist recognised as an expert in polonium extraction. She also researched seawater radioactivity and techniques to date sea sediments.



ERIKA CREMER
BORN 1900 DIED 1996

Developed theory and instrumentation for the first gas chromatograph, used to separate different gases. Her work was not fully recognised until decades later.



YVETTE CAUCHOIS
BORN 1908 DIED 1999

Contributed to the discovery of astatine, identifying one of its isotopes, and used X-ray spectroscopy to study heavy elements and the actinides.



MARGUERITE PEREY
BORN 1909 DIED 1975

Discovered francium, the only element discovered solely by a woman. She championed stricter safety measures for chemists working with radiation.