



From Caveman to Chemist

Circumstances and Achievements

What was the connection between early chemistry and magic? What was the logic that made alchemists think they could make gold out of lead? Why were gases not recognized until the 17th century? Why did it take 49 years before Avogadro's hypothesis was accepted?

In *From Caveman to Chemist*, author Hugh Salzberg traces the oddities of chemistry, examining cultural and political influences on the ideas of chemists. He follows the evolution of chemistry from the Stone Age beginnings of ceramics and metallurgy, through the rise and decline of alchemy, to the culmination of classical chemistry in the late 19th century.

Chapters 1 through 9 lead from prehistoric technology, through ancient and medieval science to the study of chemicals and reactions that resulted in the 16th century birth of scientific chemistry. Subsequent chapters focus on key chemists such as Sala, Boyle, Black, Lavoisier, Dalton, Berzelius, Laurent, and Arrhenius as they developed the ideas that led to classical chemistry and the concepts of molecules, chemical reactions, homology, valence, and molecular formulas and structures, among others.

Twenty topical illustrations enhance the text. Six timelines and two maps help readers understand the influences of early history on chemistry.

About the Author

Hugh W. Salzberg taught chemistry at the City University of New York for 35 years and offered courses in the history of chemistry over a period of 20 years. *From Caveman to Chemist* reflects his dual passions for chemistry and history and his profound admiration of the great minds that developed the ideas of chemistry.

Hugh W. Salzberg Editor

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Cover: Based on apohemoglobin β subunit—courtesy of Jane S. Richardson.

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