



"Liberty, Labor, and Duty": Dmitrii Mendeleev, chemist and economist

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Dmitry Ivanovich Mendeleev (1834–1907) lived a long life filled with events, great insights, and heartbreaking disappointments. His life comprised that time in the world and Russian history when social-political, economical, cultural, and scientific circumstances dramatically changed. In his birth year, there were still alive J. Dalton (1766–1844) and J. Berzelius (1779–1848), by the time of Mendeleev's death, P. and M. Curie and A. Becquerel received the Nobel Prize (1903) for the investigation of radioactivity, A. Einstein had already written his famous paper «On the electrodynamics of moving bodies» (1905) where he formulated the fundamentals of the special theory of relativity.

Mendeleev's works embrace the widest spectrum of topics from aerostatics and the calculation of the optimal profile of the ice-breaker body-plan to his interpretation of tariff and theory of balance oscillation, not to speak about his numerous chemical, physicochemical, and chemical-technological studies. The second feature of Mendeleev's scientific style was aiming at the most difficult, global problems of science. For him as a natural philosopher, it was not arriving at a target that held prime importance, but seeing as much as possible on the road to the target.

Conférence présentée le :

LUNDI 5 MARS 2007 À 17H30

Université de Genève – Bâtiment Sciences II

Auditoire J.-C. de Marignac (A300)

30, quai Ernest-Ansermet, Genève

LA CONFÉRENCE EST PUBLIQUE