

## References

Title: In Search of El Dorado: John Dalton and the Origins of the Atomic Theory.

Authors: [Rocke, Alan J.](#)

Source: [Social Research](#); Spring2005, Vol. 72 Issue 1, p125-158, 34p

Abstract: This article examines how John Dalton formulated his atomic theory of matter. Dalton's work called forth a vigorous international research program that has a continuous history from the present--nanoscience long before the word became vogue. Almost from the start, that program utterly transformed the science; moreover, it was atomistic theory that enabled chemistry, two generations after Dalton, to become the earliest example of a well-developed science-based theory acquiring the practical power to transform the world of technology and commerce. Dalton knew that water consists of 87.5 percent oxygen and 12.5 percent hydrogen by weight, that is exactly seven times as much as oxygen as hydrogen. If one assumes, with Dalton, that an invisibly small water molecule consists of an atom of hydrogen united to an atom of oxygen, every oxygen atom must weigh seven times as much as every hydrogen atom, for under these circumstances it is obvious that the weight ratio of the atoms must match the composition of the compound. In contrast to Dalton, Humphry Davy and Jacob Berzelius assumed (in 1812 and 1814, respectively) that the formula for water was H<sub>2</sub>O rather than Dalton's HO.

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Title: [Find More Like This](#) *J. J. Thomson: The Discovery of the Electron and the Chemists.*

Authors: [Chayut, Michael](#)

Source: [Annals of Science](#); Nov91, Vol. 48 Issue 6, p527, 18p, 1bw

Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: [CHEMISTRY](#)  
[ELECTRONS](#)

People: [THOMSON, J. J.](#)

Abstract: This article examines the origins and development of *J. J.* Thomson's chemical thought, and the reception of his theories by chemists. Thomson's interest in chemical combination and atomic theories of matter dates from his formative schooldays at Owens College, Manchester. The themes constituted a persistent leitmotif in the development of Thomson's style of thought, which provided a powerful stimulus which enabled him to enunciate the concept of *electrons* as fundamental particles. Thomson's influence on chemists during the years 1903 to 1923 reflects the richness and fertility of his chemical thought. He influenced the absorption of the Victorian physical tradition by American chemists, thus adding a mechanistic, picture-embedded style to theoretical chemistry. Thomson's Style of thought resonated with the needs of American chemists, but was ignored in Germany.

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