Franz Ulrich Theodosius Aepinus Encyclopedia Article

Franz Ulrich Theodosius Aepinus

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Franz Ulrich Theodosius Aepinus

1724-1802

German scholar who produced the first detailed treatise on electricity and magnetism based on the principle of action-at-a-distance. Aepinus' research on the thermoelectric properties of tourmaline led him to consider the similarities between electric and magnetic effects. This insight was developed with great originality in his masterwork *Tentamen theoriae electricitatis et magnetismi* (1759). The *Tentamen* provided a model for applying mathematics to electric and magnetic phenomena and remained influential until the mid-nineteenth century.