Johann Rudolph Glauber Encyclopedia Article

Johann Rudolph Glauber

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Johann Rudolph Glauber

1604-1670

German chemist who founded industrial chemistry. His *Furni novi philosophici* (1649) offered detailed descriptions of new furnaces, laboratory equipment, and experimental techniques. Glauber pioneered the synthesis of mineral acids and salts (Glauber's "salt" is sodium sulfate); produced benzene and phenol by coal distillation; and derived acetone and acetates from wood distillation. *Dass Teutschlands-Wohlfahrt* (1661) promoted the economic advancement of Germany with recipes for beer and wine concentrates, use of chemical fertilizers, and suggestions for chemical weaponry. The *Pharmacopoea spagyrica* (1668) advocated chemical medicines as substitutes for herbal treatments.