

MENDELEEV'S GIFT TO EDUCATION (AND TO ME)

Sir Poliakoff M.

School of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, UK, NG7 2RD
www.periodicvideos.com; www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/photo-electro
martyn.poliakoff@nottingham.ac.uk

2019 has been declared the International Year of the Periodic Table in celebration of the 150th anniversary of Dmitri Mendeleev's first publication of his Periodic Table.¹ The purpose of this lecture is to demonstrate that Mendeleev's genius was to create something that anyone can use as a highly flexible framework for expressing their chemical ideas. I shall do this by giving examples of a whole variety of periodic tables ranging from one of the oldest surviving examples of periodic table intended to be shown in a lecture theatre² to the periodic table recently devised specifically by the European Chemical Society (EuChemS) for the IYPT, highlighting some of the elements which are becoming scarce.³ I shall also highlight how the Periodic Table has impacted my own career and research, as well as mentioning our own contribution to the debate about designs of the periodic table.⁴

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References:

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2. <https://news.st-andrews.ac.uk/archive/worlds-oldest-periodic-table-chart-found-in-st-andrews/> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfC4OGbbHLc> accessed 24th March 2019.
3. <https://www.euchems.eu/euchems-periodic-table/> accessed 24th March 2019.
4. Poliakoff M.; Makin A. D. J.; Tang S. L. Y.; Poliakoff E. Nature Chem. 2019, 11, doi.org/10.1038/s41557-019-0253-6.