

GENEALOGY DATABASE ENTRY

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Pope, William Jackson

1870 - 1939

DEGREE: PhD

DATE: 1897

PLACE: City & Guilds of London Institute

TEACHER/RESEARCH ADVISOR: Armstrong

synthesized the first optically active compounds in which the asymmetric center was not carbon, but another atom such as nitrogen, sulfur, selenium, or tin; first to resolve an optically active C₁ compound: chloriodomethane sulfonic acid; overturned the idea that the presence of an atom attached to four different univalent atoms or radicals was necessary to render a compound optically active and instead proved that optical activity was a property of the molecule as a whole; established the broad principle that optically active compounds may possess any elements of geometrical symmetry excepting an inversion center or mirror plane; introduced the bromocamphor sulfonate anion as an agent for the resolution of optically active cations; prepared the first alkyl derivatives of gold and platinum; prepared the first coordination complexes of transition metals with triamines and tetramines.

FOOTNOTE: Armstrong forbade his students to take examinations, so Pope left school without a degree.

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4. *Dictionary of National Biography*; Smith, Elder & Co.: 1908-1986; 1931-1940, p716-717.
5. *Proc. Roy. Soc. London Ser. A* **1939**, 173, 297.
6. *Nature* **1939**, 144, 810-812.
7. *Nature* **1932**, 129, 571.
8. *Analyst* **1940**, 65, 258-262.
9. *British Chemists*; Findlay, A., and Mills, W. H., Eds.; The Chemical Society: 1947; p285-315.
10. *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1940**, 62, 1317-1318.