

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Liebig on the 100 Reichsmark Banknote



**Justus von Liebig
(1803-1873)**

Naturalist Alexander von Humboldt steered Justus Liebig (1803–1873) from Gay-Lussac’s private Parisian laboratory (1822–1824) to a chemistry professorship at Giessen in central Germany (1824–1852). There Liebig founded the world’s first university-based research laboratory, unveiled chemical isomers, invented his “kali apparatus” (for combustion-based carbon analysis), theorized about chemical radicals, and edited the leading chemical journal. After pioneering nitrogen-based agricultural fertilizers in the late 1830s, Liebig published tomes on agricultural and physiological chemistry. As “*Freiherr* [Baron] von Liebig” by 1845 and “Munich Professor von Liebig” (1852–1873), he presided over the Bavarian Academy of Sciences and then mass produced nutritional meat extracts until his death. From 1935–1945, Liebig’s portrait (*above left*) graced the obverse of the 100 Reichsmark banknote. The academic forefather of nearly all of today’s professors of organic chemistry, Liebig is hailed by anesthesiologists as the third man to independently discover chloroform. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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