

Ernst Otto Fischer



Ernst Otto Fischer was born in Solln, near Munich, on November 10, 1918; Following a t period of "work service" and shortly before the end of a two years' compulsory military service, the Second World War broke out. He served in Poland, France and Russia. During a period of study leave, towards the end of 1941, he began the study of chemistry at the Technical University of Munich. Following the end of the War, he was released by the

Americans in the autumn of 1945 and resumed his studies, graduating in 1949 after the reopening of the Technical College in 1946. He became a scientific assistant to Professor Walter Hieber in the Inorganic Chemistry Department, and did research on his doctoral thesis, "The Mechanisms of Carbon Monoxide Reactions of Nickel II Salts in the Presence of Dithionites and Sulfoxylates". In 1952, he received a PhD and continued at the college doing a university teaching thesis on "The Metal Complexes of Cyclopentadienes and Indenes". In 1955 and 1956, he was appointed a lecturer at the Technical College and spent some months in the United States in 1957. In same year, he was appointed Professor at the University of Munich. He was appointed Senior Professor at the University of Munich in 1959. Five years later, he took the Chair of Inorganic Chemistry at the Technical College of Munich, which had been vacated by Professor Hieber.

He did research in the transition metal and organo-metallic chemistry, particularly those on metallic complexes of cyclopentadienes and indenes, metal-p-complexes of six-ringed aromatics, mono-, di- and oligo-olefins and most recently metalcarbonyl carbene and carbyne complexes. In the 1960s, his group discovered a metal alkylidene and alkylidyne complexes, which are known as Fischer carbenes and Fischer-carbynes.

In 1957 he was awarded the Chemistry Prize by the Göttingen Academy of Sciences. Two years later, The Society of German Chemists awarded him the Alfred Stock Memorial Prize and he was elected a member of the Mathematics/Natural Science section of the Bavarian Academy of Sciences. In 1969, he was appointed a member of the German Academy of Scientists Leopoldina. Three years later, he was given an honorary doctorate by the Faculty of Chemistry and Pharmacy of the University of Munich. In 1973, he and Geoffrey Wilkinson shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their pioneering work, performed independently, on the chemistry of the organometallic, so called sandwich compounds.

He gave lectures in the United States, Australia, Venezuela, Brazil, Israel and Lebanon, as well as numerous European countries, including the former Soviet Union. In 1969 he was the Firestone Lecturer at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, in 1971 Visiting Professor at the University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, Two years later, he was the Arthur D. Little Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, and Visiting Distinguished Lecturer at the University of Rochester, Rochester, NY.

Ernst Otto Fischer died on July 23, 2007.

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/chemistry/laureates/1973/fischer-autobio.html
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Otto_Fischer