



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 33

Erika Cremer



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Erika Cremer (1900-1966)

Physical Chemist

Although she was not allowed to attend a regular high school but only a special educational institution for women, she obtained her Abitur (university entrance qualification) in 1920 and went on to study chemistry, physics, and mathematics in Berlin.

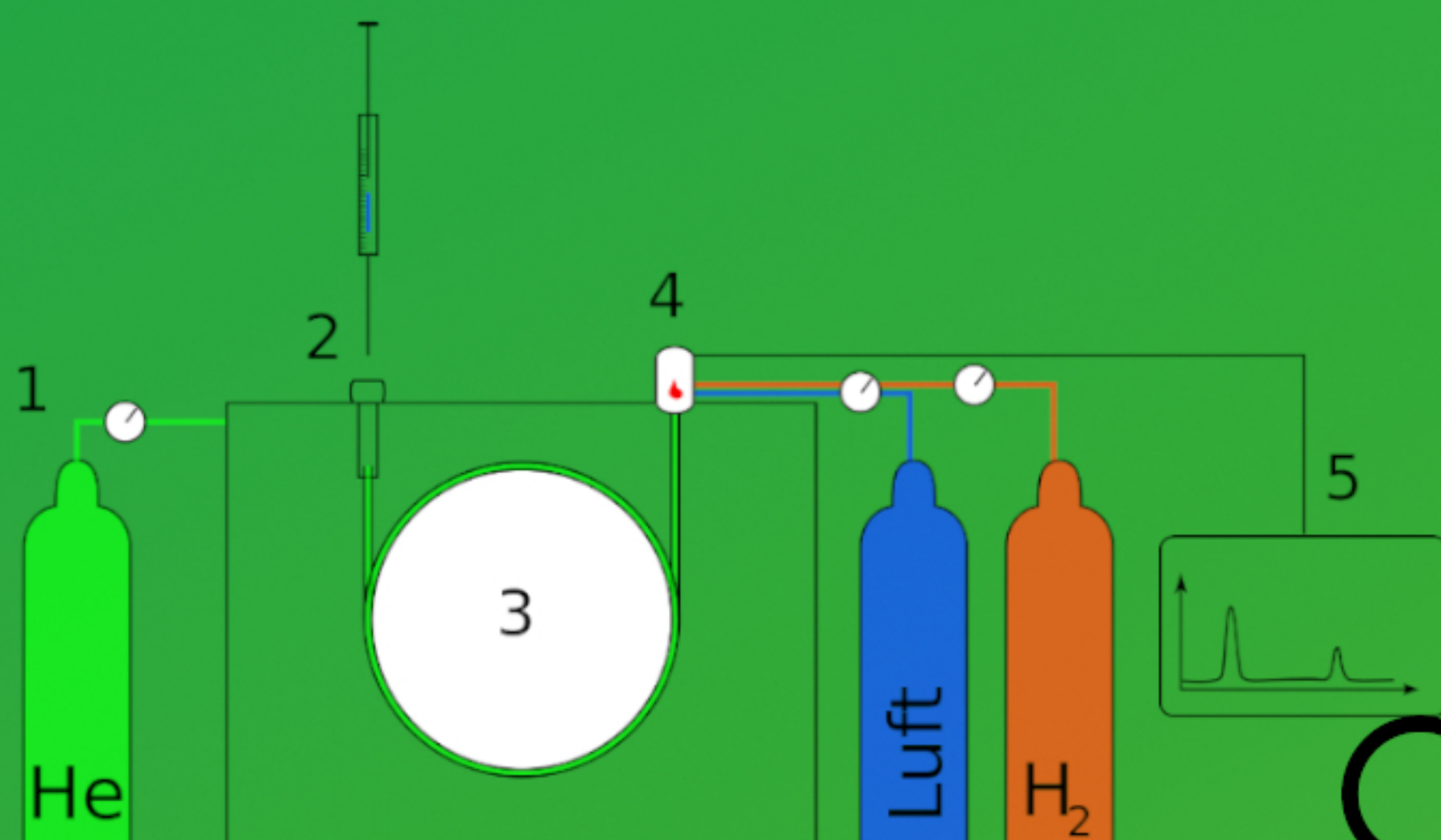
In 1927, she earned her doctorate with a dissertation on the chlorine oxyhydrogen reaction.



In 1938, she completed her habilitation – despite opposition from the dean. The *University of Innsbruck* was more open-minded toward women, which is why she accepted a position there in 1940.

In 1944, she developed the foundations of gas chromatography, a method for substance separation that is still in use today.

However, due to the war, her research could not be published at the time. After the war ended, she continued to develop the method further.



Although she had over 200 publications to her name, she was not appointed as an associate professor until 1951.

In 1959, she became a full professor and chair at the *University of Innsbruck* — the first woman to hold this position.

Due to these limitations and delays in her career, international networking among female researchers was especially important to her.

For example, in 1952, she spent a year as a guest scientist at *MIT* in the United States.





„Ich wollte nie eine Ausnahmefrau sein, sondern eine ganz normale Wissenschaftlerin.“

"I never wanted to be an exceptional woman, just a normal scientist."

