

**Związek chemiczny – historyczny rozwój pojęcia**

**Chemical Compound. The historical development of the notion**

SUMMARY

Although in Aristotle's writing a definition of chemical compound can be found, in the Antiquity and the Middle Ages all substances were considered to be composed of four simple substances: Fire, Air, Water and Earth. Homogeneous and heterogeneous substances were discerned; the notion of chemical compound was thus unnecessary. It was formed step by step in 17th and 18th centuries, but, as it is demonstrated in the article, even Lavoisier did not realise what the difference between solution and chemical compound actually was. Such differentiation can be found in the handbooks of A. de Fourcroy, and principally in the article of Louis Joseph Proust published in 1799. In the 19th century, stoichiometric compounds based on the laws of constant and multiple proportions were mainly recognized, but the development of the coordination chemistry at the end of that century inclines us to conclude that what a chemical compound is Aristotle already knew, Lavoisier was not quite aware, and today we have difficulties in deciding to regard coordination compounds as a homogeneous or as a conglomerate of particular compounds.

**Analecta – Studia i Materiały z Dziejów Nauki**  
**[Analecta – Studies and Materials on the History of Science]**  
**XI, 2002, 1-2, 299-311**