

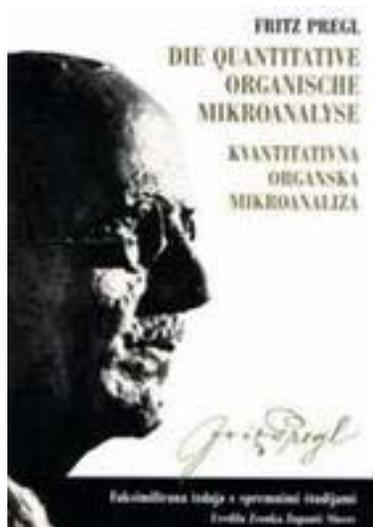
## FRITZ PREGL

September 3, 1869 - December 13, 1930

Place of Birth: Ljubljana, Slovenia (at the time Laibach, Austria)

*1923 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry*

*for his invention of the method of micro-analysis of organic substances.*



### **Fritz Pregl - Die Qualitative Organische Mikroanalyse**

Original Title: **FRITZ PREGL: DIE QUANTITATIVE ORGANISCHE MIKROANALYSE / KVANTITATIVNA ORGANSKA MIKROANALIZA/ QUANTITATIVE ORGANIC MICROANALYSIS**  
**Faksimilized Edition with Accompanying Papers**

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## Foreword by Editor

### On Reissuing the Nobel Prize-winner's Book

Every profession endeavours to preserve its own traditions, to cast light on its own development and the personalities who have paved its way. When preparing the anniversaries of eminent personalities and reviving their achievements, we regularly encounter a lack of older sources. The special nature of the content, and the consequent small print runs, impel us towards republication. The first edition of the book by the Nobel prize-winner for chemistry, Fritz Pregl (1869–1930), entitled *Quantitative organische Mikroanalyse* (Quantitative Organic Microanalysis), dating from 1917, has for long been unavailable. Since it presents highly important innovations in quantitative organic microanalysis, we have decided to reissue the work. On account of the historical value of the text, we have not translated it into Slovene. In the accompanying Slovene-English studies, Pregl's work and biography are presented. The book is intended for Slovene and foreign experts, and also for the lay public.

The reissue is dedicated to this great doctor and biochemist of Slovene origin in commemoration of the 135th anniversary of his birth and the 80th anniversary of his receipt of the prize. Pregl's life path ran between his native Ljubljana and the Austrian city of Graz, to which he was attached throughout his work. During his working years, both cities belonged to the same crown – the Habsburg monarchy. The University of Graz offered him the opportunity to expand the greatness of his spirit to the full: through his outstanding discoveries, he has enriched all humankind.

Pregl's contribution to the development of quantitative organic microanalysis led to understanding of the elemental composition of organic substances, primarily of those which are present in the human body in minimal quantities. The understanding of the composition of hormones, enzymes, bile acids and other substances made possible their laboratory synthesis and introduction into medicine. This, for example, enabled the preparation of synthetic insulin for the prevention and treatment of diabetes, and also antibiotics such as penicillin, streptomycin and others, which through their exceptional efficacy became for the chemotherapeutical choice of treatment for bacterial diseases. The medical achievements following Pregl's method were further accompanied by numerous chemical approaches for studying the mass, elemental composition and structure of organic compounds, which had been available only in minimal quantities (a few milligrams).

It is our wish that the younger generations may be stimulated by Pregl's work towards realising their far-reaching ambitions. May this enable them to cross the border to the seemingly unattainable, and join in creating conditions for a better future for mankind in timeless and boundless science.

**Zvonka Zupanič Slavec**, Editor, Faculty of Medicine in Ljubljana, Institute for the History of Medicine

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