

A portrait of Albert Boehringer

A company founder at an early age

Albert Boehringer was born on 11 August 1861 in Stuttgart in southern Germany. He studied chemistry in Munich and as a young man founded his own company. On 31 July 1885, he acquired a small tartaric acid factory in the Rhineland town of Ingelheim. The factory produced and sold tartar and other tartaric acid salts. In honour of his father, Christoph Heinrich Boehringer, Albert Boehringer in 1893 named his company C. H. Boehringer Sohn (CHBS).

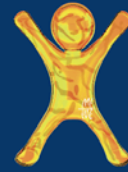
First steps as an entrepreneur

- In 1893, the first corporate logo was officially registered and in 1895 the first patent was taken out for a new process for producing baking powder.
- Seeking new business areas, CHBS in 1905 starts to extract alkaloids, such as morphine, cocaine and codeine. The substances are sold to pharmacies and the pharmaceutical industry. Already at this time they are also exported.
- Laudanon[®], based on six opium alkaloids, in 1912 becomes CHBS's first pharmaceutical preparation.

A pioneer with entrepreneurial vision

Albert Boehringer has a good sense for innovations and their potential. During an attempt in 1893 to produce citric acid, lactic acid is found floating in the fermentation vessel. Albert Boehringer sees a great opportunity in this error: the industrial production process for lactic acid using bacteria in 1895 replaces laborious, small-scale production in pharmacies and makes the company a pioneer in the industrial use of biotechnological processes.





Furthermore, Albert Boehringer recognises the merit of securing external expertise for the company. The best example is the cooperation with Heinrich Wieland, later to win the Nobel Prize for Chemistry, and his brother, the pharmacologist Hermann Wieland, both cousins of Albert Boehringer. In response to a suggestion from Heinrich Wieland, the first scientific department is established in Ingelheim in 1917.

Albert Boehringer's contribution to the chemical industry is publicly acknowledged and appreciated. On his 50th birthday he is awarded the title of Councillor of Commerce.

Socially aware, fair and thrifty

Albert Boehringer runs his company with thrift typical of his family's home region of Swabia and with a sense for hard work and fairness. At the factory gate he personally checks now and again whether employees are coming to work punctually and makes no distinction between senior managers and workers.

Social care for his employees is also something dear to Albert Boehringer. In 1902, he establishes a company health insurance scheme. From 1910, every employee is given a 14-day paid annual holiday with subsidised travel costs, depending on the length of time they have been with the company. The company owner also sets great value on these holidays really being used for relaxation. So employees have to send a postcard to Albert Boehringer from their holiday location.

Albert Boehringer dies in Ingelheim on 11 March 1939 at the age of 78. His sons Albert and Ernst Boehringer as well as his son-in-law Julius Liebrecht take over the management of CHBS.

