

HALL & HEROULT

Aluminium is a very young metal. While very expensively produced in small quantities prior to 1886, the modern day mass aluminium industry started in that year with the work of two men, one French, Paul Heroult, and one American, Charles Hall.

Working independently, on two different continents, in 1886 they both discovered that the electrolysis of aluminium oxide, dissolved in molten cryolite, produced aluminium metal. Hall went on to be a founder of Alcoa and Heroult went on to be a founder of Pechiney, two of the giants of the global aluminium industry.

They were both born in 1863 and they both died in 1914.



Charles Hall



Paul Heroult