

Subject:Historical Error on <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/rutherfords-legacy--the-birth-of-nuclear-physics-in-manchester/>

Date:Tue, 26 Jun 2018 00:00:02 -0700

From:Steven B. Krivit <steven@newenergytimes.com>

To:m.schroder@manchester.ac.uk

CC:sean.freeman@manchester.ac.uk

Professor Martin Schröder
Vice-President and Dean for the Faculty of Science and Engineering
University of Manchester

Dear Dean Schröder,

There is a historical error on this page: <http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/news/rutherfords-legacy--the-birth-of-nuclear-physics-in-manchester/>

Sean Freeman, Professor of Nuclear Physics, School of Physics & Astronomy, is quoted as a primary source. However, I would not say that the error is any fault of Freeman's. The error has existed for nearly 70 years and it is deeply embedded, not only on the Internet but in most (but not all) textbooks.

Most scholars have incorrectly attributed the first man-made nuclear transmutation to Rutherford, however, the credit belongs to Patrick Blackett, a research fellow working under Rutherford.

In 2016, I published a forensic historical examination of the research in my book Lost History. In 2017, I communicated my findings to the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of History and Heritage Resources; the American Institute of Physics, Center for History of Physics; the Imperial College London, Physics Department (Home to Blackett's laboratory); and the Cambridge University, Physics Department (Home to Rutherford's laboratory). Each organization has now completed its own independent analysis, concurred, and corrected their Web sites. Here are the respective urls:

<https://www.osti.gov/opennet/manhattan-project-history/Events/1890s-1939/exploring.htm> (U.S. Department of Energy)

<http://history.aip.org/history/exhibits/rutherford/sections/atop-physics-wave.html>

<http://www.imperial.ac.uk/physics/about/departments/history/> (Click on Nobel Prize Winners)

http://www.cambridgephysics.org/cockcroftwalton/cockcroftwalton2_1.htm

To help you recognize the validity of my information, I am also enclosing letters of acknowledgement from AIP, Cambridge University, and Imperial College. I am also directly acknowledged on the DOE and AIP Web sites.

I hope that you and Prof. Freeman find this information helpful. I hope to hear from you soon.

Thank you,

Steven

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