

Subject: Centenary of Transmutation
Date: Sun, 19 May 2019 09:04:59 -0700
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TO: Neil Todd, Organizer: Centenary of Transmutation

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University of Manchester
Member of the History of Physics Group, Institute of Physics

TO: Peter Rowlands, Organizer: Centenary of Transmutation

Honorary Teaching Fellow, University of Liverpool
Member of the History of Physics Group, Institute of Physics

TO: Michael Jewess

Member of the Royal Society of Chemistry Historical Group

CC: James Hopkins

Historian and Heritage Manager, The University of Manchester

CC: Martin Schröder

Vice-President and Dean, Professor of Chemistry, The University of Manchester

May 19, 2019

**SUBJECT: JOINT MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS HISTORY OF PHYSICS GROUP
AND THE RSC HISTORICAL GROUP, CENTENARY OF TRANSMUTATION**

<http://www.iop.org/activity/groups/subject/hp/>

<https://www.iopconferences.org/iop/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=831572&eventID=1333>

Dear Drs. Todd, Rowlands, and Jewess,

I apologize that I have not contacted you earlier, but I only learned about your Centenary of Transmutation colloquium a few days ago. I learned about it now because I have just been in contact with one of your speakers, John Campbell.

The *CERN Courier* just published an article written by Dr. Campbell. In this article, he wrote that Sir Ernest Rutherford made the discovery of the first artificial transmutation of one element to another. This discovery, clearly, is the reason for your symposium.

I regret to inform you that Rutherford did not make this discovery. I expect that you will find this news difficult to believe. Please keep reading.

The credit goes instead, to Patrick Blackett, a research fellow working in Rutherford's lab in Cambridge. He published this discovery in 1925.

I uncovered this historical inconsistency in 2014 while doing research for my book [Lost History](#). After *Lost History* published in 2016, I began an outreach program to inform the scientific and academic communities in an effort to correct the recorded history. Initially, I selected five prominent organizations that had high Web search-rank results with the error: the American Institute of Physics, Cambridge University, Imperial College, the Nobel Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Energy. I began the second round of outreach in 2018.

A few people had difficulty accepting and taking seriously the information I provided them. Not only is the inconsistency difficult to believe but, as I am well aware, I am not a person who is recognized as a science history scholar.

Most people I contacted, however, reserved their judgment until they took the time to independently examine the facts I provided to them.

I am pleased to say that in my effort to help the scientific community correct this long-standing error, the majority of institutions I've contacted have responded with concordance:

- On March 24, 2017, the Nobel Foundation removed the transmutation discovery credit from its Rutherford Web page.
- On July 14, 2017, Imperial College London corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On July 21, 2017, the American Institute of Physics corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On September 12, 2017, Cambridge University corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.

- On February 11, 2018, the U.S. Department of Energy corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On July 3, 2018, the Atomic Heritage Society corrected its Rutherford Web page in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On July 10, 2018, the University of Manchester began correcting its Web site. (One more detail remains to be corrected.)
- On July 11, 2018, Chemistry Views corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On July 14, 2018, the Oxford University Press corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On July 19, 2018, the Atomic Heritage Society corrected its Blackett Web page in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On July 19, 2018, the University of California, Santa Barbara published my correction of the historical facts.
- On August 24, 2018, Britannica.com corrected its "alpha particle" page in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On September 11, 2018, the U.K. Royal Society published my letter
- On September 28, 2018, the Institute of Physics Digital Education division corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.
- On October 23, 2018, the Royal Society of Chemistry corrected its Web site in full concordance with the historical facts.

I'd like to make it easy for you to confer with the people at these institutions with whom I have been in direct contact and who have worked proactively with me on this correction. After my signature block, I have provided their names and contact info.

I have just published a set of three articles that will explain the whole situation. I strongly recommend that you read them in sequence. These links will get you there:

#1 <http://news.newenergytimes.net/2019/05/14/the-worlds-first-successful-chemist-it-wasnt-rutherford/>

#2 <http://news.newenergytimes.net/2019/05/18/rutherfords-reluctant-role-in-nuclear-transmutation/>

#3 <http://news.newenergytimes.net/2019/05/19/the-nobel-foundations-retraction-of-the-rutherford-transmutation-claim/>

There is also another URL that will provide you with an archive of the "before" and "after" images of each institution's related Web pages:

<https://www.newenergytimes.com/v2/sr/Rutherford-Blackett/Rutherford-Blackett.shtml>

Proposal

I propose that you use the opportunity of your colloquium to inform the scientific community about the correction to this history. If there is any way I can assist, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards,

Steven

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