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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction -- Why collect into one volume the discoveries of elements that have been shown to be erroneous or have been forgotten? -- How "an element" became a "chemical element" -- Is there any order to the discoveries of the elements? -- The development of the Periodic Table -- PART I: Before 1789: early errors and early elements -- Prologue to Part I -- 1. The beginning of a long series of scientific blunders : Terra Nobilis ; Siderum and Hydrosiderum ; Synneium or Australium ; The element that breathes ; The birth of homeopathy -- 2. The elements hidden by alternative names : Metallum Problematicum or Tellurium ;

Ochroite or Cerium ; Ceresium or Palladium ; Erythronium,
Panchromium, or Vanadium --

PART II: 1789-1869: from Lavoisier to Mendeleev: The first errors at
the dawn of the concept of the chemical element -- Prologue to Part II
-- 1. Analytical methodology from Lavoisier to Mendeleev ; Blowpipe
analysis ; Qualitative and quantitative analysis ; Electrolysis ; Emission
spectroscopy -- 2. The elements of the Kingdom of Naples : Ruprecht
and Tondi: two metallurgists without metals ; Playing bingo with five
elements ; The extraction procedure of the new metals ; Right or
wrong, was Tondi the victim of a sworn enemy? ; The elements that
replaced those of Tondi ; Possible present-day interpretations ;
Revolution offers a second career possibility -- 3. Austrium: One
element, two elements, three elements, and finally, zero elements : The
first fleeting attempt to name an element Austrium ; Austrium: a
posthumous element ; The "Austrian element" of a Czech chemist ; A
third "split" for Bohuslav Brauner --
4. The return of the Olympians: Silene, Aridium, Saturnum, Pelopium,
Danium, Neptunium, and Plutonium ; Silene ; Aridium ; Saturnum ;
Pelopium ; Danium ; Neptunium ; Plutonium -- 5. the unfortunate
affair of a student of Kant: A career soldier, but a chemist by passion :
Niccolanum ; The road from oblivion -- 6. André-Marie Ampère burst
onto the chemistry scene : "Photore" -- 7. Cadmium: "Bone of
contention" among chemical elements : A related discovery increases
the confusion: Vestium -- 8. A fireproof family of chemists : Chemistry
as the common denominator ; The most improbable of the chemical
elements -- 9. A bridge of false hopes between divinity and false
elements : Crodonium ; Wodanium ; False elements exchanged for
another false element ; Ptene ; Donarium --
10. Gahnium, Polonium, and Pluranium : Gahnium ; Polinium an
Pluranium -- 11. Aberdonia and the "sweet" map of oblivion : Donium ;
Treenium ; The discovery of an already known element? ; The sweet
epilogue leaves a bitter taste in the mouth -- 12. The brief parentheses
of four misleading elements : The fleeting existenc of Thalium ; The
meteoric appearance and disappearance of Comesium ; The mysterious
nature of Ouralium ; The brief history of Idunium -- 13. Two imaginary
elements: Sulphurium and Sulfenium : Sulphurium ; The ancient
modernity of Sulfenium -- 14. The astronomers "left in the dark" :
"Light" as a means of chemical investigation ; A new family of elements
from an old family of astronomers ; Neptunium is tempting to a lot of
people ; Conclusion --

15. Bythium and Δ : Two elements that arose (and vanished) via
electrolysis -- 16. The ghosts of unnamed elements : 1799: the
element of Fernandez ; 1852: the element of Friedrich August Genth ;
1852: the element of Carl Anton Hjalmar Sjögren ; 1861: the elements
of brothers August and Friedrich Wilhelm Dupré ; 1862: the element of
Charles Fredrick Chandler ; 1864: the elements of William Nylander and
Carl Bischoff ; 1869: the element of Oscar Loew ; 1878: the elements of
William Balthasar Garland ; 1883: the element of Theodor Eduard Wilm ;
1897: the elements of Gethen G. Boucher and F. Ruddock ; 1904: the
Radium foil of George Frederick Kunz ; 1908: the element of Clare de
Breton Evans ; 1913: the element of H.C. Holtz --

PART III: 1869-1913: From the periodic table to Moseley's law: Rips and
tears in Mendeleev's net -- Prologue to Part III -- 1. The forerunners of
Celtium and Hafnium: Ostranium, Norium, Jargoniam, Nigrium,
Euxenium, Asium, and Oceanium -- 2. The discoveries of the rare
earths approach their end: Philippium, Element X, Decipium ;
Mosandrium, Rogerium, and Columbium : Philippium and Element X ;
Mosandrium ; Decipium and the complexity of Didymium ; Rogerium

and Columbium ; Conclusion -- 3. Lavoesium and Davyium: The rise and fall of two metals with illustrious names : The discovery of Lavoesium ; A residue of work on Platinum: Davyium ; Lavoesium falls into oblivion ; Davyium's long agony ; Conclusion --

4. The complex events surrounding two "Scandinavian" metals: Norwegium and Wasium : The announcement of the discovery of Norwegium ; Norwegium ; A second claimant ; The "launching" of Wasium ; The "shipwreck" of Wasium ; The epilogue of Norwegium -- 5. Verbiium: An element from the centre of the Earth -- 6. The curious case of the triple discovery of Actinium : The first announcement of the discovery of Actinium ; Confessions of a violinist ; Did the search for Neoactinium really delay the discovery of Francium ; A cold shower at the end of a career -- 7. The improbable elements of a country gentleman -- 8. A bridge between the protochemistry of the Pharaohs and the Arab world: Masrium --

9. The demon hidden in the rare earths : Provincial America suits the great physicist just fine ; The son of a Protestant pastor discovers a demon ; The tragic conclusion -- 10. Dim lights and dark shadows around "Lucium" : Preview of the discovery ; The discovery of the first "patented" element ; The interventions of Crookes, Fresenius, and Shapleigh ; Who was manipulating Lucium's strings from behind the scenes? -- 11. In the beginning there was Didymium...and then chaos among the rare earths : Didymium: an awkward lodger in the f-family ; The splitting of Didymium: Praeseodidymium and Neodidymium ; A "colorful" war: Glaucodidymium OR Glaucodymium ; Claude-Henri Gorceix and Bohuslav Brauner intervene in the chaos --

12. Sir William Ramsay: The most "noble" of chemists : The first discoveries ; A wrong track ; Anomalous Argon: the element that would not fit ; A pause in research ; Radioactivity and the discovery of Niton ; A harvest of laurels at the conclusion of his career ; Postscript: Krypton II -- 13. Confederate and Union stars in the Periodic Table : Introduction ; Carolinium (and Berzelium) ; Conclusion -- 14. Two elements from the depths of provincial Americana -- 15. The early successes of the young Urbain : Bauxium ; From Monium to Victorium and in pursuit of Ionium and Incognitum ; The Element E or X ; The meta elements ; The elements of Paul Emile (François) Lecoq de Boisbaudran and of Eugène-Anatole Demarçay ; The Terbium-I, Terbium-II, and Terbium-III of Welsbach -- 16. The setting of the element of the "Rising Sun" -- 17. The times have changed: from Canadium to Quebecium : Who is Pierre Demers? --

PART IV: 1914-1939: From nuclear classification to the first accelerators: Chemists' paradise lost... (and physicists' paradise regained) -- Prologue to Part IV -- 1. From the eclipse of Aldebaranium and Cassiopeium to the priority conflict between Celtium and Hafnium : A collective history: the rare earths ; The lights of Paris hide the stars ; Celtium ; Neo-Celtium ; Celtium doesn't have a leg to stand on -- 2. From the presumed inert elements to those lost in the Dead Sea : The atomic theory of James Moir and the Subelements X and Zoikon ; The harmonization of the elements and the inert elements ; From England to Prague on the trail of element number 75 ; On the banks of the Dead Sea: the first investigations for the identification of element 87 ; Alkalinium ; Alkalinium's epilogue --

3. A success "transmuted" into failure : Brevium ; Lisonium and Lisottonium ; Radio-Brevium and the missed discovery of nuclear fission ; Brevium's last gasp -- 4. From Pleochroic Haloes to the birth of the Earth : The origins of the Irish physicist ; Radioactivity makes dating of the Earth possible ; Hibernium: an elusive element -- 5. If anyone has a sheep, Wolfram will eat it : The neighbors of Molybdenum and

Tungsten -- 6. When it comes to new discoveries, the more you err, you end up erring more -- 7. The radioactive element of the hot springs -- 8. Moseleyum: The twofold attempt to honor a hero -- 9. The inorganic evolution of element 61: Florentium, Illinium, Cyclonium and finally Promethium : Florentium, the metal of the Florentines ; The Americans discover Illinium ; Integrity comes with a price tag ; Florentium ends up in court ; Cyclonium ; The retraction of the discovery of Florentium ; Conclusion ; Epilogue --

10. Masurium: An X-Ray mystery : The discovery of Rhenium and Masurium ; No more mention of Masurium ; Panormium and Trinacrium ; The ignored and underrated "Chemikerin" and her fission hypothesis ; Declining years: sympathy for Nazism -- 11. The twilight of the naturally occurring elements: Moldavium, Sequanium, and Dor ; Eka-Caesium: from Russia to Moldavia, through Virginia ; A digression on X-Ray wavelength: Precision, Unitis, and conversion factors ; Eka-Rhenium: Cum Caesar in Galliam Venit, Alterius Factionis Principes Erant Haedul Alterius Sequani... ; Alabamine and Virginium ; Eka-Iodine assumes the fanciful names of Dor ; Conclusion --

12. A cocktail of chemistry and espionage: Helvetium, Anglo-Helvetium, and a pair of Indian elements : Rajendralal De and his twin elements: Gourium and Dakin ; Walter Minder and Helvetium ; Alice Leigh-Smith and Anglo-Helvetium ; C.W. Martin and the "elusive" parentheses of Leptine ; Academic conflicts with Hulubei, Paneth, and Karlik ; Conclusion -- 13. Is failure a severe master? : Eline ; Verium --

PART V: 939-present: beyond uranium, to the stars -- Prologue to Part V -- 1. The obsession of physicists with the frontier: The case of Ausonium and Hesperium, Littorium and Mussolinium -- 2. Finis Materiae ; The island of nuclear stability ; Unfortunate episodes in the attribution of the names of the elements between 101 and 109 ; From atoms to the stars -- 3. The search for primordial superheavy elements: Between scientific rigor and atomic fantasy -- 4. Names, names, and names again: From A to Zunzenium : The elements from Neptunium to Mendeleevium seen from both sides of the Iron Curtain ; The step longer than its leg: Nobelium ; Chaos surrounds Lawrencium, Rutherfordium, Dubnium, and Seaborgium -- 5. Do we have to live with fantasy? Hawkingium and Zunzenium -- 6. Naming the last five arrivals in the great "family of the Transuranium elements" --

PART VI: No place for them in the Periodic Table: Bizarre elements -- 1. Inorganic evolution: From proto-elements to extinct elements : A step backward: prime matter, Andronia, and Thelyke ; Pantogen ; Prityle ; Other theories of chemical evolution ; The asteroid elements ; The painful finale -- 2. Dazzling traces of false suns : The mirage of the source of stellar energy ; The curious appearance of Kosmium and Neokosmium -- 3. From the nonexistent elements of Mendeleev to the puzzle of the existence of the Ether : Coronium and its aftermath ; The Geo coronium hypothesis ; Etherium: elementary gas or subatomic particle? -- 4. Anodium and Cathodium -- 5. The exotic Damarium -- 6. Subtle is the air: The case of Asterium -- 7. Clairvoyance as a means of investigating some "occult elements" : A clairvoyant investigates the structure of new and old atoms and their position in the Periodic Table ; The last years of the three clairvoyants --

8. William Harkins's Element Zero: Neutronium : A place in the Periodic Table for the element without a nuclear charge ; From the nuclear "alphabet" to the hypothesis of Neutronium ; William Draper Harkins: a versatile and obstinate chemist --

PART VII: Modern alchemy: the dream to transmute the elements has always been with us -- Prologue to Part VII: Alchemy then and now -- 1. Misadventures in radiochemistry : Radiochemistry: a child of both

physics and chemistry ; Willy Marckwald makes his mark: the Polonium controversy ; William Ramsay "out of his element" ; Tellurium X -- 2. Some like it "cold" -- 3. Is cold fusion hot again? -- Epilogue -- Postscript -- Appendix: Chronological finder's guide for the lost elements.

Sommario/riassunto

Throughout its formation, the periodic table has seen false entries, good-faith errors, retractions, and dead ends; in fact, there have been more elemental 'discoveries' that have proven false than there are current elements on the table. This book collects the most notable of these instances, stretching from the nineteenth century to the present. The book tells the story of how scientists have come to understand elements, by discussing the failed theories and false discoveries that shaped the path of scientific progress.
