1. Record Nr. UNINA9910791299303321

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Titolo	The lost elements [[electronic resource]] : the Periodic Table's shadow side / / Marco Fontani, Mariagrazia Costa, and Mary Virginia Orna
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New York, NY : , : Oxford University Press, , [2015] ©2015
ISBN	9780199383368 0199383367 9780199383344 0-19-756296-5 0-19-938335-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (585 pages) ; : illustrations
Collana	Oxford scholarship online
Disciplina	546.8 546/.8
Soggetti	Chemical elements Chemical elements - History Periodic law - History Chemistry - Nomenclature - History Chemistry Elements químics Química - Nomenclatura - Història Taula periòdica (Química)
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
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, Dianium, Neptunium, and Plutonium ; Silene ; Aridium ; Saturnum ; Pelopium ; Dianium ; 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 [delta]: 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 Brereton 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

	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.