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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 --

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### 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.

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