

Università degli Studi di Padova Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche

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The Women Behind the Periodic System

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Abstract

150 years after the first presentation of the Periodic System of the Chemical Elements the system remains an invaluable pedagogical tool in science and chemistry classrooms and lecture halls all over the world. Through textbooks and popular media one might get the impression that the Periodic System was created by one man, the Russian chemist Dmitri Mendeleev. In fact, there were precursors and co-discoverers, and many scientists contributed to the further development of the system, discovered new elements and acquired new knowledge about them. Among these scientists are many women. Who were these women, and what can their stories teach us about the nature of scientific work? In this seminar, Annette Lykknes will present some of these women, their contributions to our knowledge on elements and the Periodic System as well as their life-stories, career paths and strategic choices as women chemists or physicists.

> Prof. Michele Maggini Direttore del Dipartimento di Scienze Chimiche



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