

The Story of Helium and the Birth of Astrophysics (Paperback)

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Reviews

It is an amazing publication which i actually have at any time go through. It really is writter in easy words and phrases rather than hard to understand. Its been developed in an extremely easy way which is merely following i finished reading through this pdf in which actually changed me, affect the way i think. (Garry Lind)

THE STORY OF HELIUM AND THE BIRTH OF ASTROPHYSICS (PAPERBACK)



Springer-Verlag New York Inc., United States, 2012. Paperback. Condition: New. 2013 ed.. Language: English . Brand New Book. What if one of the most thrilling stories in the history of science turned out to be wrong? Can urban legends creep into the hallowed grounds of scientific history? As incredible as it may sound, the story of one of the most important elements in modern times - helium - has been often misrepresented in books, encyclopedias, and online sources, despite the fact that archival materials tell a different story. Open the entry for Helium in any encyclopaedia and you will read a false story that has been repeated over the years. `Encyclopaedia Britannica , for example, says that helium was discovered by the French astronomer Pierre Janssen while observing a total solar eclipse from India in 1868. Apparently he noticed something new in the spectrum of the sun, which he thought was the signature of an undiscovered element. The truth is that Janssen never saw any sign of a new element during his observations in India. His reports and letters do not mention any such claim. Other sources would have you believe that helium was jointly discovered by Janssen and Norman Lockyer, a British scientist, and that their discovery letters reached Paris the same day, one sent from India, and the other from England. Again, the truth is completely different. Two letters from Lockyer and Janssen did reach Paris the same day in 1868, but their letters did not mention any new element. What they had discovered was a new way of observing the Sun without a solar eclipse. This would ultimately lead to the discovery of helium, in which Lockyer would play a prominent role, but not Janssen. At the same time, Norman Robert Pogson, a disgruntled British astronomer stationed...

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