



## **“Women in their Element”: New Book On Women’s Contributions to the Development of the Periodic System and to New Knowledge about the Elements**

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**Topic:**The Periodic System, Chemical Elements, Women Scientists, Nature of Science in Science Teaching, Trends in Women’s History of the Periodic System

### **Abstract:**

Although many historical accounts on the Periodic System have appeared, few deal with women’s contributions. In a forthcoming edited volume, *Women in their Elements: Selected Women’s Contributions to the Periodic System* (ed. Lykknes and Van Tiggelen, World Scientific, 2019), we offer 38 illustrated chapters on women and their contributions to the building and understanding of the Periodic System and of the Elements themselves.

Instead of presenting new (and old) stories of heroines in science, the book intends to shed light on the multifaced character of the work on the chemical elements and their periodic relationships. We believe that these stories of female input will contribute to the understanding of the nature of science, of collaboration as opposed to the traditional depiction of the lone genius.

In this paper we will present the overall idea of the book, some trends in the history of women’s contributions to the elements and the Periodic System from the early modern time up until today, and what lessons can be learnt about the nature of science from such case studies.