



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 43
Harriet Brooks





Harriet Brooks (1876-1933)

Nuclear Physicist

As one of the first, she studied the nature of radioactive elements. After graduating from *McGill University in Montreal* in 1898, she earned her Master's degree in Physics in 1902.



She studied radioactive decay processes:

How can a new element form from unstable atoms?

She achieved this by being the first to prove that radioactive substances emit gaseous products — the first indication of the transformation of one element into another.

Before her research, there was no atomic model;
her work contributed to a fundamental understanding of atomic structure.



Like many female scientists of her time, she ended her research career upon her marriage in 1907, after having worked with both Ernest Rutherford and the Curies.

After a long battle with leukemia, she died in 1933.

She was often discriminated against because of her gender, but today she is recognized as a pioneer for women in physics and has been honored by the Canadian government as a 'Person of National Historic Significance'.





„Ich denke, es ist eine Pflicht, die ich meinem Beruf und meinem Geschlecht schulde, zu zeigen, dass eine Frau das Recht hat, ihre intellektuelle Entwicklung fortzusetzen und ihre berufliche Freiheit auch nach der Heirat zu behalten.“

"I think it is a duty I owe to my profession and to my sex to show that a woman has the right to continue her intellectual development and to retain her freedom of occupation after marriage."

