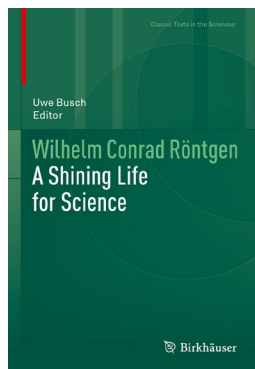


Book shelf

Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen: A Shining Life for Science

Busch

REVIEW INFO



Publisher:
Springer

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£109.99 / eBook £87.50

RAD Magazine price:
£87.99 / eBook £70.00*

REVIEW

Book reviewed by Dr Arpan K Banerjee, chair of the International Society for the History of Radiology (ISHRAD).

The life of Röntgen has been chronicled in previous biographies, including the classic biography by Otto Glasser in 1933 and more recently by Gerd Rosenbusch and Annemarie de Knecht-van Eekelen in 2019.

In this new biography originally published in German in 2020, director of the Deutsches Röntgen-Museum, Germany, Dr Uwe Busch, along with other scientific contributors, has produced a new and important contribution to the literature on Röntgen. In addition to describing his life the book is illustrated by an excellent collection of old photographs from the museum collection. A unique and valuable aspect of this biography is the detailed analysis of Röntgen's many scientific contributions in addition to his discovery of x-rays, which seems to have eclipsed his other considerable scientific achievements.

Röntgen was born in Lennep, Germany, and spent part of his early childhood in Holland. His mother was Dutch. He was not a brilliant student in his early days. He started off studying engineering and switched to physics only after the influence and help of his mentor Professor Kundt, whom he followed to Strasbourg. In 1869, he obtained a PhD for his thesis A study on gases. He was appointed a professor of physics in Würzburg in 1888 and on November 8, 1895, he made his famous discovery of x-rays, which was to change his life forever. The discovery and experiments are described in some detail with excellent illustrations. The description of his continued research into x-rays for the next 20 years is well chronicled.

In addition, his further researches are not given short shrift as in many biographies and are described in considerable depth. Röntgen's contributions to the field of material sciences, crystallography and structural analysis are often eclipsed by the discovery of x-rays, which is, of course, an

review continues ...

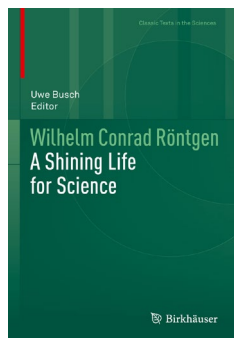
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Book shelf

Essential Tuberculosis

Migliori, Raviglione

REVIEW INFO



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REVIEW

... review continued

important legacy. But it is important to remember his other contributions that confirm he was a brilliant experimental scientist and a meticulous investigator whose work opened up further fields of inquiry for physicists, material scientists, engineers and other future researchers in the natural sciences.

The book has a detailed list of his publications and many lectures and achievements, all of which make very interesting reading. Key dates in his life are also included. In addition the chapter on special places discusses his birthplace, the Röntgen museum and, of course, the Röntgen Memorial in Würzburg where his lab has been preserved and can be visited by all.

Röntgen was the first recipient of the Nobel Prize in physics in 1901. He had no children. He was a keen photographer and liked holidaying in the mountains. Sadly, near the end of his life he almost became bankrupt due to poor investments.

This new biography is an important and well researched contribution to the literature on Röntgen and will appeal not only to radiologists, allied professionals and medical/science historians but also to other scientists who have benefited from his legacy.

Dr Banerjee helped with the translation of the book from German to English.

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