



THE HISTORY OF THE ATOMIC ERA, RADIOLOGY, AND ATOMIC ENERGY IN PHILATELY



A few weeks after Röntgen's discovery Henri Poincare (1854-1912) made the suggestion that it would be worthwhile to investigate whether or not rays similar to those emitted by an x-ray tube could be produced by known fluorescent substances.

In 1896 the French physicist Antoine Henri Becquerel (1852-1908), during his teaching appointment as professor of physics discovered that a compound of uranium placed on an unexposed photographic plate left an image when the plate was developed.

And here begins the story of Marie Curie -- née Marie Sklodowska -- (1867-1934), who was born in Warsaw, left home in 1891, and registered at the Sorbonne in Paris to study physics. Endowed with an immense natural gift for research, she, like many other scientists, was inspired and fascinated by Röntgen's triumph, and later by Becquerel's interesting discovery. Thus Marie Sklodowska undertook the laborious task of testing all the known elements for the radioactive properties already found to exist in uranium.