

story became widely known. As Maddox describes it in an epilogue, entitled "Life after Death," what started as an embarrassment for Nathan Pusey, then president of Harvard University (whose press decided not to publish Watson's account, which went on to become a bestseller), served as a wake-up call for those who knew and respected Franklin's contributions to the discovery of the double helix. Today, on the 50th anniversary of this discovery, it is generally accepted that her now-famous x-ray-diffraction photograph number 51 played a critical part in the Watson-Crick discovery.

Those who are familiar with the Nobel-prize trio and other dramatis personae, such as John Bernal, William Cochran, Carolyn Cohen, Isidore Fankuchen, John Finch, David Harker, Kenneth Holmes, Aaron Klug, Anthony North, Linus Pauling, Max Pertuz, John Randall, Anne and David Sayre, and Vladimir Vand, will not be able to put down parts two and three of Maddox's biography. The most interesting aspect of the story, however, is her account of Franklin's earlier years.

Franklin was born in 1920 into an upper-middle-class banking family, which "stood high in Anglo-Jewry" — part of the establishment to be sure, yet never fully English. She developed as an outsider. Early on, she declared herself a scientist (and, by implication, not a banker). Having been referred to as "alarmingly clever," she went up to Cambridge in 1938, where she found an institution that first admitted women in 1869 but would not grant them the degree of B.A. Two years after she received her Ph.D. in 1946 for internationally recognized research on coal, Franklin's undergraduate degree was awarded retroactively.

Franklin's happiest times both professionally and personally were spent on the Continent. Her first research post took her to Paris, where she worked productively in the somewhat bohemian laboratory of Jacques Mering on the Left Bank, studying coal with x-rays. Socially, she became "un-Englished" (as D.H. Lawrence would say), feeling more at home in Paris than London. Franklin hiked and climbed extensively in the Alps, pursuing a passion that she had first indulged in Norway. Returning to the gloom and rationing of postwar London in 1950, she was once again thrown into a male-dominated scientific enclave for which she had no sympathy and little respect. Her professional relationship with Wilkins broke down immediately. The light at the end of the tunnel proved to be leadership of her own research team at Birkbeck College, where

she shone x-rays on the other genetic material, RNA, realizing some of her enormous scientific potential.

Maddox's biography sensitively chronicles Franklin's short, often unhappy life, putting the double-helix story into a rich, understandable human context. Far from being a tragic figure, Franklin emerges as a cultured scientist who was committed to excellence. As a structural biologist, I wish I had met Rosalind Franklin.

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CORRECTION

Magnesium Sulfate for Preeclampsia (January 23, 2003;348:275-6). On page 276, the figure legend should have read "Autopsy Specimen from a 40-Year-Old Woman with Severe Preeclampsia and Acute Intraparenchymal and Intraventricular Hemorrhage" rather than "Autopsy Specimen from a 40-Year-Old Woman with Severe Preeclampsia and Subarachnoid Hemorrhage," as printed.

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Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and phone number of a contact person or department. We regret we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal's Web site (<http://www.nejm.org/meetings>). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

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A course entitled "The Fifth Biannual Difficult Problems in Hand Surgery Course" will be offered in Naples, Fla., May 2 and 3.

Contact Cleveland Clinic, 6101 Pine Ridge Rd., Naples, FL 34119; or call (877) 675-7223, ext. 4180 (national) or (239) 348-4180 (Florida); or fax (239) 348-4287; or e-mail antonut@ccf.org.

AO NORTH AMERICA CRANIOMAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON COURSE

The course will be offered in Seattle, May 17 and 18; in Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 2 and 3; in Philadelphia, Oct. 11 and 12; and in Cleveland, Nov. 22 and 23.

Contact AO North America, CME Office, 1690 Russell Rd., Paoli, PA 19301; or call (800) 769-1391.

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