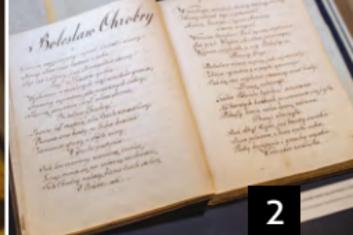






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# Museum

The Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum in Warsaw is located at the place of birth of the two-time Nobel Prize winner.

The Museum is situated in an eighteenth century tenement building where Maria's mother ran a private school for girls. It is the only biographical museum of this Nobel Prize winner in the world.

The permanent exhibition is composed of a substantial collection of Maria Skłodowska-Curie's, and also her family's, original notebooks and letters, with photographs, documents and personal research equipment. The exhibits include sculptures by well-known Polish artists. A section of the exhibition is arranged to resemble the Paris laboratory of Mr and Mrs Curie, where you can also see measuring instruments designed by Pierre Curie. A part of the exhibition commemorates Nobel Prize winners with postage stamps, medals and bank notes.

The Museum acquires collections, organises periodic exhibitions, lectures, authors' meetings, events and also undertakes publishing activities.

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1. Władysław Skłodowski's gold pocket watch.
  2. Bronisława Skłodowska's notebook with "Historic Songs" by Julian Ursyn Niemcewicz.
  3. Freta Street, end of the 19th century.
  4. Sculpted images of Maria and Pierre Curie by Zofia Wolska.



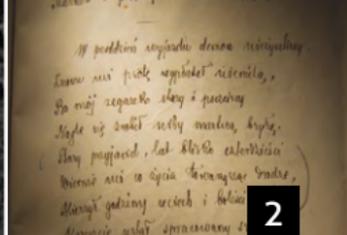
# Exhibits

The museum holds a substantial collection of memorabilia connected to the Nobel Prize winner, which is presented in permanent and temporary exhibitions.

Among the personal objects belonging to Maria Skłodowska-Curie assembled in the Museum, particular attention should be given to a leather handbag, offered to the Nobel Prize winner in 1921 by the Polish Women's Alliance of America. Members of the association also donated one thousand dollars to the scientist for the Radiology Laboratory in Warsaw.

The Museum also exhibits archive material and family memorabilia, such as Władysław Skłodowski's pocket watch, or the notebook containing his poetry. Also to be found in the collections is the notebook belonging to the scholar's mother, Marianna Bronisława, with handwritten historic songs "Śpiewy historyczne" by J. U. Niemcewicz – some kind of historical patriotic primer, from the period when this part of Poland was under the Russian Partition.

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1. Photograph with the Nobel Prize winner's autograph given to Elsie Mead, 1921.
  2. Leather handbag, 1921.
  3. Maria and Helena Skłodowska, 1888.
  4. Figurine, gift from the President of the United States Herbert Hoover, 1929.



# Biography

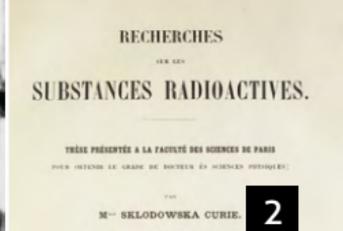
Maria Skłodowska was born on 7th November 1867 in Warsaw as the youngest child of the Skłodowski family.

Her parents, Marianna Bronisława née Boguska and Władysław Skłodowski, were teachers at a private girls' school at 16 Freta Street. Little Maria learned to read when she was four years old; she graduated from gymnasium with a gold medal. She continued her studies at the 'Flying University'. This was underground education organised in private homes. In 1886–1889, Maria Skłodowska worked as a governess with the Żórawski family in Szczuki. She sent the money she earned to her sister Bronia who was studying medicine in Paris. In 1890, Maria returned to Warsaw where, in the laboratory of the Museum of Industry and Agriculture, she mastered the basics of chemical analysis.

1. Photo of Maria and Pierre with Irène on a garden bench, 1904.
2. Part of Władysław Skłodowski's notebook.
3. Part of Władysław Skłodowski's library.
4. Maria Skłodowska-Curie's family tree.



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# Discovery

In 1898, Maria and Pierre Curie discovered two new chemical elements which they named polonium and radium.

In 1891, 24-year-old Maria Skłodowska travelled to Paris, at the invitation of Bronia, to study physics and mathematics. There she met her future husband, the well-known physicist Pierre Curie. Six years later, their daughter Irène was born. In 1903, Maria was awarded a doctorate in physics, and, after research on the phenomenon of radiation conducted jointly with Pierre, she received a Nobel Prize in physics. The Curie couple began the Curie therapy, a method of treating tumours with radiation. In 1904, Maria gave birth to her second daughter Ève.

Two years later, on 19th April, Pierre Curie died in an accident. After her husband's death, Maria continued her scientific activity. She conducted research on radiation, for which in 1911 she was again awarded the Nobel Prize, this time in chemistry.

1. Maria and Pierre at work, 1903.
2. Title page of Maria's dissertation, 1904.
3. Model of Maria and Pierre's laboratory, 1974.
4. Nobel Prize Diploma, 1903.



# Activity

Maria Skłodowska-Curie became a professor as the first woman in the history of the Sorbonne.

Due to her academic efforts, the Radium Institute was formed in Paris. During World War I, Maria organised a mobile radiology service for hospitals at the fronts in France and Belgium. She trained personnel on how to use the X-ray equipment; she also conducted X-ray examinations, laying the foundations of contemporary radiology.

Two visits to the United States enabled scientist to obtain one gram of radium for the needs of the Radium Institute in Paris in 1921 and funds for the purchase of subsequent gram for the Radium Institute in Warsaw in 1929. The ceremonial opening of this institute was performed by the Nobel Prize winner on 29th May 1932.

Maria Skłodowska-Curie died of leukaemia on 4th July 1934 in a sanatorium in France. She was buried in the Curie family grave in Sceaux. In 1995, Maria and Pierre Curie's remains were ceremonially transferred to the Pantheon in Paris.

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1. Maria with her daughter Irène in a field hospital in Hoogstade in Belgium, 1915.
  2. X-ray lamp, 1914.
  3. Laboratory apparatus constructed by Pierre Curie.



# #TimeForMaria

The Maria Skłodowska-Curie Museum is a cultural institution of the City of Warsaw co-organized by the Polish Chemical Society. It carries out educational and cultural projects related to the Nobel Laureate and her family.

The Museum tells the story of Maria Skłodowska-Curie and her family in many ways. These include producing the monodrama "In the rays. Entirely unknown letters of Maria Skłodowska-Curie", based on Artur Pałyga's drama. The play is presented in the exhibition space. Through its efforts, the Museum has published broader recollections of Helena Skłodowska-Szalay, Maria's sister, entitled "Memories of Maria Skłodowska-Curie" (2019) and reminiscences of Nobel's daughter, "Marie Curie, my mother" by Irène Joliot-Curie (2020). The Museum has participated in the International Museum Nights for many years, organising chemical demonstrations and workshops. It is a patron of activities dedicated to scholars and other women of science and culture. It maintains contact with the family of Maria Skłodowska-Curie and arranges meetings with their participation. The Museum also organises the sale of books and souvenirs connected with the scientist.

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1. Walentyna Sizonenko as Maria Curie in a spectacle "In the rays. Entirely unknown letters of Maria Skłodowska-Curie".
  2. Museum shop.
  3. Permanent exhibition.
  4. Photo stand-in of the wedding photograph of Maria and Pierre Curie.



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## OPENING AND CLOSING HOURS

Tuesday – Sunday: 10.00 – 18.00

Last entry: 30 minutes before closing time.

