

### 32. 科学者セシリア・ペインの学生時代(2)：構造理解

Cecilia Payne was born in Wendover, England, in 1900. Her father died when she was four, but her mother Emma saw that she had a gifted child who wanted to be a scientist.

Emma enrolled her daughter in St Paul's School for Girls in London,

which was well equipped to teach science. She thrived there and,

as Payne later wrote in her autobiography, she would sneak up to the science lab

for “a little worship service of my own, adoring the chemical elements.”

Her advanced science education began in 1919 when she entered the University of Cambridge on a scholarship. There, she studied botany, her first love, as well as physics and chemistry

— despite the fact that at the time, the university did not offer degrees to women.

At Cambridge, as the only woman in class, she found herself being humiliated.

University regulations at the time required that she sit in the front row.

As she relates in her autobiography, “At every lecture Professor Rutherford

would gaze at me pointedly ... and would begin in his loud voice: ‘Ladies and gentlemen.’

All the boys regularly greeted this remark with loud applause and stamping with their feet

... at every lecture I wished I could sink into the earth.”

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