

The British Society for the History of Science
BSHS ANNUAL CONFERENCE
University of Exeter
14-17 July 2011

Session 4B

Friday, 15th July 11:00 – 13:00

Joseph Rotblat – a nuclear physicist in the public eye 1944-1957

Queen's, Seminar Room D

Organizer and Chair: Christopher Watson

British Pugwash

Joseph Rotblat

- Born Warsaw, 4 November 1908 (British citizen since 1946)
- Educated at the Free University of Poland and the University of Warsaw, Poland
- MA, Free University of Poland, 1932, Doctor of Physics, University of Warsaw, 1938
- PhD, University of Liverpool, 1950 DSc, University of London, 1953
- Hon DSc, University of Bradford, 1973 Dr *Honoris causa*, University of Moscow, 1988
Hon DSc, University of Liverpool, 1989
- Chairman, Cyclotron Panel of the UK Nuclear Physics Committee (planned and supervised building of cyclotrons for Harwell and Liverpool) 1946-50
- Co-founder of Atomic Scientists Association 1946; Executive Vice-President 1952-59
- Signatory of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto; chaired its press conference 1955
- Secretary-General of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs; organized numerous conferences of scientists; edited *Pugwash Newsletter* 1957-73
- Co-founder and member of governing board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 1966-71
- Chairman of the British Pugwash Group 1978-88
- President of the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs 1988-
- Nobel Peace Laureate, 1995
- Died 31 August 2005

Professional career

- Research Fellow of Radiological Laboratory of Scientific Society of Warsaw 1933-39
- Assistant Director of Atomic Physics Institute of Free University of Poland 1937-39
- Oliver Lodge Fellowship, University of Liverpool 1939
- Work on atom bomb, University of Liverpool and in Los Alamos 1939-44
- Lecturer and afterwards Senior Lecturer and then Director of Research in Department of Physics, Liverpool University 1940-49
- Professor of Physics in the University of London, at St.Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, becoming Chief Physicist & then Emeritus 1950-76

Over 300 publications, including 20 books, in the areas of Nuclear Physics, Medical Physics and Radiation Biology, Radiation Hazards and the Consequences of Nuclear War, Nuclear Power and Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Arms Control and Disarmament, The Pugwash Movement and the Social Responsibility of Scientists

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- How Józef Rotblat left Los Alamos
 - *Andrew Brown*
- Joseph Rotblat's return to Liverpool University, the Chadwicks and development of nuclear physics in the UK
 - *Martin Underwood*
- Sir Joseph Rotblat and the Atomic Train: an early nuclear awareness-raising exercise and its echoes today
 - *John Finney and Carol Naughton*
- Joseph Rotblat's involvement in the founding of the Pugwash movement
 - *Sandra Ionno Butcher and Kit Hill*