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**Pierwszy komunikat o odkryciu polonu zredagowany i własnoręcznie napisany
przez Marię Skłodowską-Curie**

**The first statement about discovery of Polonium formulated and written
in Maria Skłodowska-Curie's own hand**

SUMMARY

AIM: Analyzing and duplicating a genuine hand-written French text of the first statement about discovery of polonium presented to Academy of France on July 18, 1898, which was written with few corrections in Maria Skłodowska-Curie's own hand, together with its exact translation into Polish.

RESULTS: In a manuscript one cannot find any corrections written in own hand of Piotr Curie, who was mentioned as the first author of the statement. The authoress – Maria Skłodowska-Curie – set her name to the statement as the second signatory in the following form: “Mme (previously, in a crossed out version: “Madame”) S. Curie”. In her signature the authoress placed a letter “S” as an initial of her maiden name Skłodowska (and not as an initial of the name). The statement was published in the columns of *Comptes Rendus de l'Academie Française*. Previously, in the statement, which was issued by the same periodical, the authoress presented her surname in a version: “Mme Skłodowska-Curie”. So, she was anxious to insist on the fact that both of the statements came from one person. A way of setting the name to the discussed statement caused that some authors describing the discovery of polonium mistakenly considered a letter “S” to be an abbreviation of the name.

CONCLUSION: Formulating and writing in Maria Skłodowska-Curie's own hand the first statement about the discovery of the first radioactive element – polonium – confirms some authors' opinion, and particularly Polish ones', saying that a credit for a discovery of a new type of chemical elements – radioactive elements – should be primarily given to Polish scientist Maria Skłodowska-Curie, and not to her husband – Piotr Curie – who was a famous French physicist.

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