

Reply

Dear Dr Mould,

Thank you very much for your extremely interesting letter indicating that Maria Skłodowska-Curie is not only remembered in the Peoples' Republic of China, but she is also presented there as a role model for the young.

This, however, is not the only appearance of Maria in Chinese literature in the year 2000. The book *Brachytherapy Overview 2000* by Richard F. Mould, published for the III P.R. of China Brachytherapy Conference in September, 2000 (1) contains several fine photographs of her. Some of them are so rarely seen in print, that I allow myself to present them to the readers of *Nowotwory* (Fig. 1-3).

Moreover, the book starts with a beautiful dedication:

"Dedicated to the memory of Maria Skłodowska-Curie (1867-1934) whose discovery of radium in the 19th century, in 1898, led directly to the field of brachytherapy for the treatment of cancer. Photographs of Marie Curie

and her family are included within the pages of this book in order that they are not forgotten at the start of the 21st century in the age of computer controlled remote afterloading, artificially produced radionuclides, computer treatment planning, image based brachytherapy applications, conformality and optimisation techniques and the entire armamentarium of modern brachytherapy".

Dick, thank you.

Yours sincerely

Edward Towpik M.D., Ph.D.
Editor

References

1. Mould R.F. *Brachytherapy Overview 2000*. 3rd P.R. of China Brachytherapy Conference, September 2000, Fuzhou Provincial Cancer Hospital, Published by Nucletron Far East (HK) Ltd., Hong Kong.



Fig. 1. Cover of a Polish weekly published in Paris



Fig. 2. Marie Curie with her two daughters, Eve (left) and Irene (right).



Fig. 3. The laboratory of Marie and Pierre Curie in the rue l'Homond, Paris. The journal *Le Radium* was published by a commercial supplier of radium sources, Armet de Lisle