William and Lawrence Bragg: time for resurrection!

John Jenkin

La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia

One hundred years ago Lawrence Bragg discovered Bragg’s Law and solved the first crystal structures. He then collaborated with his father, William Bragg, to found the new science of X-ray crystallography. Within a few years, however, there was widespread confusion concerning the two men, Lawrence was denied full credit for his discoveries, and he has been criticised and denigrated, even now forty years after his death. This talk will outline the roles of father and son and strenuously refute the truth of these criticisms.