

Neutron Stars

A Nobel Prize scandal

Alfred Nobel
(1833 – 1896)



Alfred Nobel

A Swedish chemist, engineer
and inventor

Owned Bofors: an iron and steel
producer; a major manufacturer of
cannon and other armaments

Alfred Nobel

Held 355 different Patents

His most famous invention being
dynamite

Explosion of 3 September 1864
killed his younger brother

Alfred Nobel

He gained proficiency in six languages: Swedish, French, Russian, English, German and Italian

1887 Alfred read his own
obituary!

“Dr. Alfred Nobel, who became
rich by finding ways to kill more
people faster than ever before,
died yesterday”

1895, at the Swedish-Norwegian Club in Paris, Nobel signed his last will and testament and set aside the bulk of his estate to establish the Nobel Prizes, to be awarded annually without distinction of nationality.

\$US 250 million

Nobel Prizes

- Literature
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Peace
- Economics
- Physiology & Medicine

Nobel laid down strict rules:

No more than three people should share a prize

Prize winners, Laureates, should be living at the time of the award

Nobel Prizes

- Literature
- Physics
- Chemistry
- Peace
- Economics
- Physiology & Medicine
- What about Mathematics?

Mullard Radio Telescope
Cambridge
July 1967

Dame Dr. Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell
DBE, FRS, FRAS

Jocelyn
Bell





FILE HERALD ARCHIVE/SSRU/GETTY

One pulse per second

Sidereal time (23hr 56min)

"Little Green Man 1" (LGM-1)

A Pulsar

A Rotating Neutron Star

BBC FOUR

Nobel Prize for Physics 1974

Antony Hewish

Martin Ryle

Nobel Prize for Physics 1974

Citation:

"for their pioneering research in radio astrophysics: Ryle for his observations and inventions, in particular of the aperture synthesis technique, and Hewish for his decisive role in the discovery of pulsars"

The proverbial hit the fan

Many scientists expressed shock

Fred Hoyle led the charge

Accused Hewish of theft

Hewish prepared to sue

The English law of libel

Truth is no defence

Post Script

In 2019, Jocelyn Bell Burnell

was awarded

The Breakthrough Prize

**Dame Dr. Susan Jocelyn Bell Burnell
DBE, FRS, FRAS**



The Breakthrough Prize

- Worth 3 million US dollars
- She donated all of it to the Institute of Physics to
- "open doors to physics for people from every walk of life"

The End

The Real End