

PROFESSOR PUGWASH

The Man Who Fought Nukes

Kit Hill

In a thousand years' time, if anyone is still around, historians will identify the twentieth century as the era when people not only killed off each other in larger numbers than ever before, but then discovered the means for destroying their entire civilization. Joseph Rotblat lived through almost all of that century and found himself, quite accidentally, at the very centre of this discovery, with all the huge responsibility that it involved.

Born in Poland, he lived through the terrible upheavals of the First World War. By the time he was thirty he had become a world-class physicist, finding himself working on some of the most exciting scientific developments of the century. With the onset of the Second World War, this led him to the centre of work, first in Britain and then the USA, on the nuclear bomb. When he learned that the justification for the project had secretly been changed, he resigned in protest and went on to lead a world-wide movement for abolishing nuclear weapons, eventually being awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for his work. Ever a warm, humane and congenial person, his remarkable story thus involves many aspects of the history, people, politics and science of the last hundred years.

Written to be read by people of all ages and with the science accessibly explained, this biographical sketch is a delightful introduction to one of the major figures of our times, whose centenary falls on 4 November 2008.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kit Hill was a scientific colleague and, later, close friend of Joseph Rotblat for forty-five years following 1960. Until retirement in 1994 he was at the Institute of Cancer Research and Royal Marsden Hospital, where he was, similarly to Rotblat at Bart's Hospital, Professor of Physics. From 1992 he was also Secretary of the British Group of the 'Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs', of which Rotblat was President, and so worked closely with him in that. Now living in Devon, he is married, with four children and six grandchildren. His previous publications include editorship of *Nuclear Energy: Promise or Peril*, 1999.

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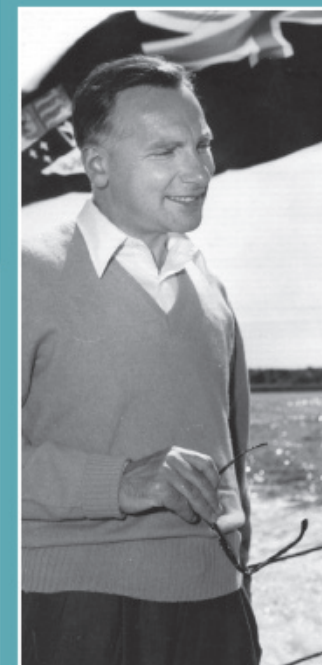
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THE MAN WHO FOUGHT NUKES

The Life of Sir Joseph Rotblat

KIT HILL

with a Foreword by
Lord Rees, Astronomer Royal, PRS



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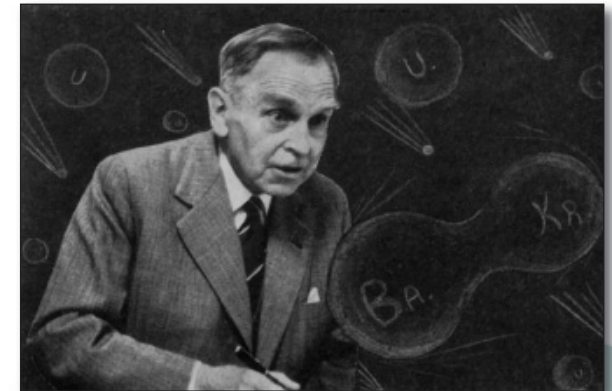


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Joseph Rotblat (on the right) after receiving the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize from the King of Norway. With him is Francesco Calogero who, as its Secretary-General, had received the share of the prize awarded to the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs.



Otto Hahn was one of the half-dozen physicists, including Rotblat, and also Otto Frisch and Liese Meitner, who between them discovered nuclear fission. Here he is pictured watching as a uranium nucleus is splitting apart to form two nuclei of barium (Ba) and Krypton (Kr), whilst other uranium nuclei and neutrons whizz around in the background.

The two youngest participants at Pugwash, Nova Scotia, in 1957 – Joseph Rotblat and Ruth Adams.



Sir Joseph Rotblat with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Drummond Bone at the opening of the Rotblat Lecture Theatre, University of Liverpool, 9 April 2003. Courtesy, University of Liverpool, Corporate Communications.

Example of a double page spread

