Glimpsing the fly in the Cathedral

Marking the centennial of the first description of the atomic nucleus by Ernest Rutherford

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Rutherford in 1910

Source: N. Feather Lord Rutherford
‘... a completely new idea had come in, which was going to make things quite different ...’

- James Chadwick
Geiger (left) and Rutherford, probably in 1909, with an ancestor of the Geiger counter.

Source: AS Eve Rutherford
Ernest Marsden, from a laboratory group photograph of 1913

Source: AS Eve
‘Why not let him see if any alpha particles can be scattered through a large angle?’
- Rutherford
Marsden's apparatus

Source: A Romer The Restless Atom
It was as if ‘you fired a fifteen-inch shell at a piece of tissue paper and it came back and hit you’.

- Rutherford
The Rutherford home in Manchester.

Source: Dr N Todd
‘One day Rutherford, obviously in the best of spirits, came into my room and told me he now knew what the atom looked like.’

- Geiger
Arthur Eve - ‘You are a lucky man, Rutherford. Always on the crest of a wave.’

Rutherford - ‘Well, I made the wave, didn’t I?’