

Alternate Uses

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Because the letters A and U stand for gold in the periodic table, why not discuss some alternatives to using or thinking of gold as an element? Lift your heads up, brothers and sisters, off the microscope and take a look outside of the chem lab! Gold is a precious and beautiful element! Who is to say that in another 700 years, the current scientific concept of "element" might be obsolete? After all Thomas Kuhn wrote a book called *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. In it, he describes the cataclysmic changes that occur in science. They are not gradual, he states. The sheer beauty of gold may one day again come to supersede its alchemist value.

As a scientist, I feel the physical sciences have seen their day. They have degenerated into technology and receded backwards into alchemy, destroying the integrity of the natural world. Lets us, please, leave gold in its natural condition which has become a standard for beauty and value all throughout the world. Reductionism destroys life itself. Just compare a beautiful centuries old gold chalice to the concept of gold as an element, scraped and cut like a slice of meat by the butchers known as alchemists (who were - and still are - the unsuccessful mercenary and non-scientific). The real scientists and artists turned gold into beauty, readily appreciable by human beings. Alchemy treats gold like any other element, caustic or otherwise, and just tries to make money off of it. Alchemists are carpetbaggers and vice versa. They are selling gold as snake oil.