

Unusual Retract-Republish Case in the Journal "Vacuum"

Recently, the 5GH Team uncovered an unusual Retract-Republished case in the journal "Vacuum".

	Retracted Article	Republished Article
Title	Influence of C ₂ H ₂ /N ₂ flow ratio on the microstructure, mechanical properties, and electrochemical behavior of TiCN composite coatings	Influence of C ₂ H ₂ /N ₂ flow ratio on the microstructure, mechanical properties, and electrochemical behavior of TiCN composite coatings
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DOI	10.1016/j.vacuum.2023.112056	10.1016/j.vacuum.2023.112349
Journal	Vacuum	Vacuum
Submitted	2023-03-09	2023-04-17
Accepted	2023-03-26	2023-06-21
Published	2023-03-28	2023-07-15
Retracted	2023-07-21	

A group of authors from Shanghai Institute of Technology (上海应用技术大学) retracted their article [1] and republished it as the article [2] in the SAME journal "Vacuum", with SAME title and SAME content.

There are several abnormalities in this Retract-Republish case:

(1) The publication process for the article [1] was unusual. According to the record on the journal's website, the article [1] was submitted on March 9th, 2023. But the following review and revise process took extremely short time, the the authors submitted the revised version of article [1] to the journal on March 25th, 2023, 16 days after their original submission. The article [1] was accepted a day latter, and it was online on March 28th, 2023, 19 days after the original submission.

(2) The retraction to the article [1] was unusual. According to the Retraction Notice [3], the article [1] was retracted at the request of the authors. But the reason for the retraction seemed to be nonsense. The Retraction Notice reads:"the corresponding authors found a mistake which consisted in the publication of wrong SEM images (Fig. 2) in the manuscript", which was not reasonable to retract an article. Further, the republication of the article [2] was earlier to the retraction of the article [1], and this was not a standard procedure in academic publishing.

The 5GH Team address that this unusual procedure does not necessarily imply that the authors engaged in academic misconduct. Indeed, the journal/publisher bears the responsibility.

[1] 10.1016/j.vacuum.2023.112056

[2] 10.1016/j.vacuum.2023.112349

[3] 10.1016/j.vacuum.2023.112376

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