

AIP | Matters

A weekly publication of the American Institute of Physics

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Director's Matters

Guest column by Joe Anderson, Director, Niels Bohr Library and Archives

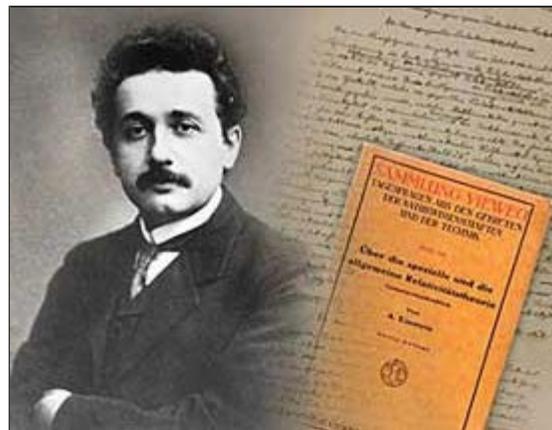


AIP launches centennial exhibit on the theory of general relativity

Albert Einstein remains the iconic figure of modern physics, and his name conjures up the complexities of science as well as its attraction for the public. On March 14—his 136th birthday—AIP History Programs launched a small [web exhibit](#) to celebrate the centennial of the publication of his theory of general relativity. The exhibit briefly traces the progression of the theory from Einstein's initial three publications in November 1915 through tests offered by Karl Schwarzschild, David Hilbert, Arthur Eddington, and others; to the revival of interest in general relativity after World War II; and to the results expected from new gravitational detectors like LIGO and eLISA.

The exhibit grew out of a joint project by AIP, the Einstein Papers Project at Caltech, and the Albert Einstein Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

[Read more.](#)



As early as 1912 Albert Einstein (1879-1955) worked on the theory of general relativity. In November 1915, he published three papers on the topic. They were the culmination of years of intense work. Soon thereafter he completed an overview of the theory.. Einstein photo: 1912. Photograph by J.F. Langhans, ETH Bibliothek. Einstein paper: Courtesy Albert Einstein Archives, The Hebrew Univ., Jerusalem. Sammlung Vieweg: 1917.

Physics Resources Matters

Setting the record straight

This month, Inside Science [ran an item](#) addressing recent science-news coverage suggesting that researchers had observed light acting like a particle and



a wave at the same time. This notion of wave-particle duality is intriguing to many in the general public.

However, Inside Science director Ben Stein pointed out in the item that a single photon of light cannot be observed as a pure wave and particle at the same time. Instead, the experiment simultaneously observed some photons acting like waves and others acting like particles. Inside Science obtained insights and perspectives directly from the original experimentalists themselves, as well as the University of Toronto physicist Aephraim Steinberg, another noted expert on this topic.

[Read more.](#)

Around AIP

"Big Bang" mentions *Physics Today*

In the [March 12 episode of *The Big Bang Theory*](#), Sheldon Cooper and Leonard Hofstadter quarrel over the fact that a popular science publication interviewed Sheldon about their joint research but only named Sheldon in the article. At the end of the episode, Sheldon discovers that *Physics Today*, however, got it right.



Coming Up

March 22-26

- The Optical Fiber Communication Conference and Exposition (Los Angeles, CA)

March 24

- Einstein Fellows meeting (College Park)

March 25

- Brown bag lunch talk by Teasel Muir-Harmony: "Astronaut Ambassadors: The Apollo 11 Goodwill Tour and the Role of Space Exploration in Science Diplomacy" (College Park)

March 26

- AIP Public Lecture. Charles Falco of the University of Arizona will present "The Science of Optics; The History of Art." A reception starts at 5:30 pm, and the talk starts at 6:30 pm. (College Park)

March 26-27

- AIP Board of Directors meeting (College Park)

April 8

- Birthday celebrations (College Park and Melville)

April 11-14

- APS April Meeting (Baltimore, MD)

April 16

- L.S. Trimble Science Heritage Lecture given by Lillian Hoddeson of the University of Illinois (College Park)

April 21

- ACP Art Reception introducing the next exhibit: "Flow" (College Park)

April 21-23

- STM Spring Conference (Washington, DC)

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