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B. Leibundgut

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Preface

The year 2005 featured the 100th anniversary of the ‘annus mirabilis’, the year in which Albert Einstein published three of his outstanding scientific papers. The Max-Planck Society with their institutes for extraterrestrische Physik (MPE) and Astrophysik (MPA) together with the Technische Universität München (TUM), the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and the European Southern Observatory (ESO) as well as the Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher Leopoldina, the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften and the Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften considered this an excellent opportunity for celebrating Einstein and his work by an International Conference on Relativistic Astrophysics and Cosmology – Einstein’s Legacy. The conference took place, on the premises of the TUM downtown Munich from November 7 to 11, 2005 with about 200 participants from 30 countries from all over the world. The scientific sessions were organised in 10 invited talks, 48 contributed talks and almost 90 posters on display in the Audimax of the TUM. The topics presented and discussed were focusing on cosmology, active galactic nuclei, clusters of galaxies, X-ray binaries and jets, gamma-ray bursts and gravity.

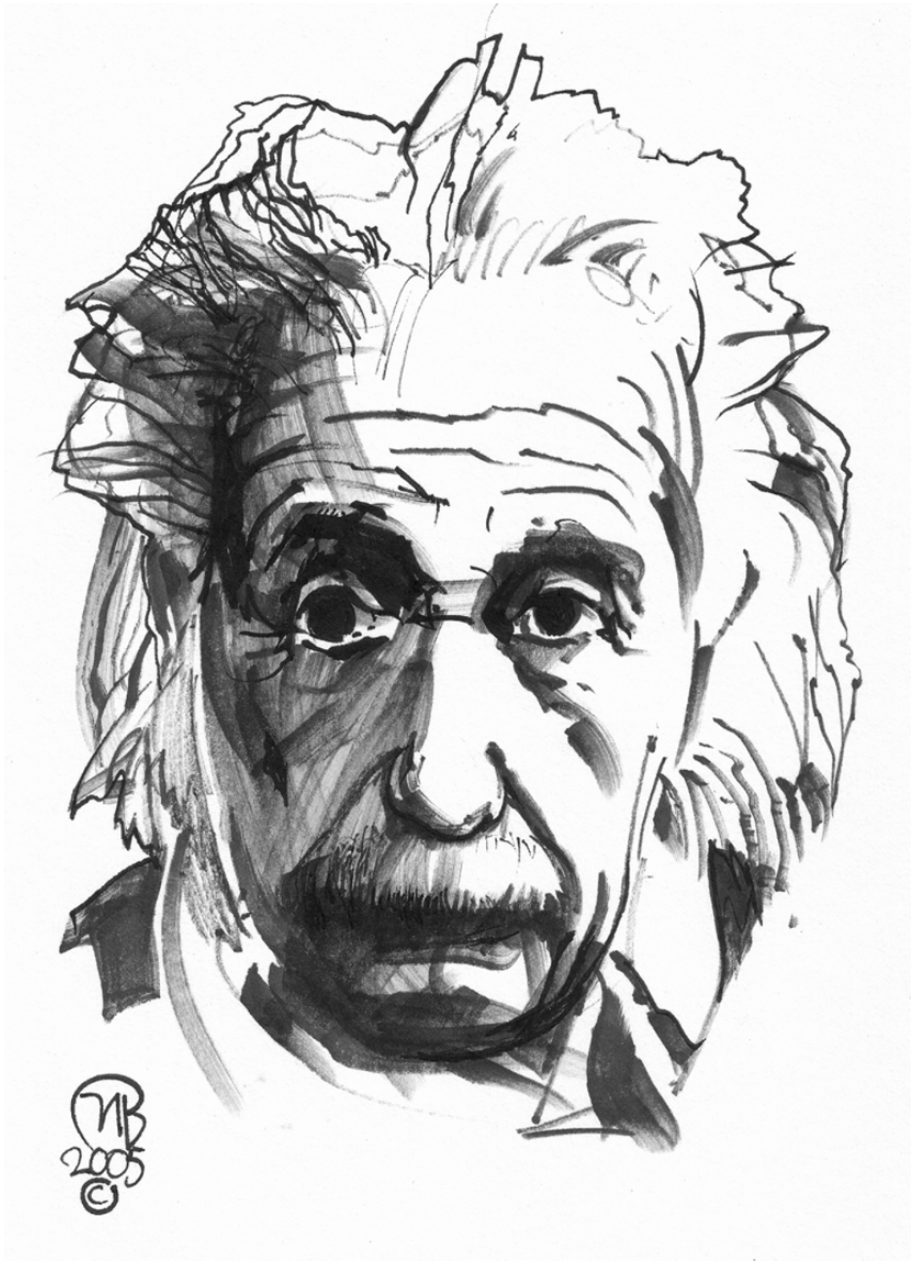
A scientific highlight was the well-attended public evening lecture on ‘Der relativistische Kosmos – und was Astrophysiker aus Einsteins Ideen gemacht haben’ held by Jürgen Ehlers in the Plenarsaal of the Bayerische Akademie der Wissenschaften on November 8. Another highlight, although more of the social kind, was the Conference Dinner at the MPE in Garching on November 10. Despite a brief shortage of beer, which broke out around 10 p.m., the spirits were high and still improved considerably after an emergency order of further beer, such that quite a number of attendees tried to delay the busses leave to the hotels in downtown Munich well after midnight.

From all of what has been brought to my attention I may conclude that the conference as seen by the participants was quite a success both scientifically and socially, and the weather was fine as well with lots of sunshine for the entire week. The conference organisation went smooth and efficient, thanks to the excellent support by the TUM administration, the teams of the Congress & Seminar Management (CSM) and

of the Milde-Marketing company, the MPE personnel and, last but not least, because of the tireless engagement and commitment of all members of the Local Organizing Committee. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all who made this conference an enjoyable event.

Garching, March 2007

Bernd Aschenbach



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