



# Einstein: A Hundred Years of Relativity

By Andrew Robinson

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## Einstein: A Hundred Years of Relativity By Andrew Robinson

"The eternal mystery of the world is its comprehensibility ... The fact that it is comprehensible is a miracle."

--Albert Einstein, 1936

Albert Einstein's universal appeal is only partially explained by his brilliant work in physics, as Andrew Robinson demonstrates in this authoritative, accessible, and richly illustrated biography. The main narrative is enriched by twelve essays by well-known scientists, scholars, and artists, including three Nobel Laureates. The book presents clearly the beautiful simplicity at the heart of Einstein's greatest discoveries, and explains how his ideas have continued to influence scientific developments such as lasers, the theory of the big bang, and "theories of everything." Einstein's life and activities outside of science are also considered, including his encounters with famous contemporaries such as Chaplin, Roosevelt, and Tagore, his love of music, and his troubled family life. The book recognizes that Einstein's striking originality was expressed in many ways, from his political and humanitarian campaigns against nuclear weapons, anti-Semitism, McCarthyism, and social injustices, to his unconventional personal appearance.

Published in association with the Albert Einstein Archives at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the book draws on this exceptional resource of Einstein's private papers and personal photographs.

This new edition, published to recognize the centenary of the publication of Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, includes an important new afterword by Diana Kormos Buchwald, the director of the Einstein Papers Project at the California Institute of Technology.

The contributors are Philip Anderson, Arthur C. Clarke, I. Bernard Cohen, Freeman Dyson, Philip Glass, Stephen Hawking, Max Jammer, Diana Kormos Buchwald, João Magueijo, Joseph Rotblat, Robert Schulmann, and Steven Weinberg.

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### Editorial Review

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A centennial celebration of Einstein's 1905 special relativity paper "Zur Elektrodynamik bewegter Korper," this album has assets that qualify it as a public-library imperative. Visually, it not only showcases photographs ranging from the youthful, sartorially dapper Einstein to the elder, sweater-clad sage of Princeton, it also displays manuscripts rarely shown to a general audience, including one of the few examples of  $E=mc^2$  in Einstein's hand. Textwise, its contributors include physicists quite as famous as Einstein, if not possessing his iconic eminence: Freeman Dyson, Stephen Hawking, Steven Weinberg, and the late Joseph Rotblat. The observations of the first three about Einstein-as-physicist (Rotblat writes about Einstein's opposition to nuclear weapons) constitute another enhancement in this work's popular value, for each expresses puzzlement about Einstein's scientific career after the observational proof of general relativity in 1919 transformed him into a global celebrity. While active in science, Einstein's subsequent devotion to unified field theory diverged from the research mainstream. Linked by Robinson's able biographical synopsis, this work's elements will have long-lasting usefulness as a gateway to Einstein. *Gilbert Taylor*

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#### Review

"A peerless introduction to the man, his life, and his scientific theories. . . . [T]his is by far the best book about Einstein that I have ever come across."--**Patrick Moore, BBC Sky at Night magazine**

"Most appealing. . . . [C]ontains material on all aspects of Einstein's scientific work and private life . . . It is filled with a myriad of familiar and not-so-familiar images."--**Physics World**

"Einstein's life was full of paradoxes, and this lovely coffee table book, with essays by Stephen Hawking, Philip Anderson, Steven Weinberg and others, reveals them all."--**New Scientist**

"A thoroughly grounded biography of Einstein. This book appeals to anyone interested in the universe, science or physics. This is one of the best books on Einstein to be found."--**School Librarian**

"Andrew Robinson's main biographical narrative is enhanced by 12 essays by eminent scientists, scholars and artists that put Einstein's life and work in perspective."--**Bill Condie, Cosmos Magazine**

"The commentaries are excellent, extremely helpful, and a very welcome addition to the literature on Einstein's theories of relativity. . . . With its plentiful photographs and iconic, whimsical images, Robinson's work has great aesthetic appeal. The book offers a general introduction to Einstein in which his scientific achievements and his vivid personality are clearly conveyed. . . . A fitting tribute to the man and his work, on the 100th anniversary of Einstein's general theory of relativity."--**Metascience**

#### About the Author

**Andrew Robinson** is the author of more than two dozen books, including *The Story of Measurement*, *Genius: A Very Short Introduction*, and biographies of Jean-François Champollion (*Cracking the Egyptian Code*), Michael Ventris (*The Man Who Deciphered Linear B*), and Thomas Young (*The Last Man Who Knew Everything*). He writes for many newspapers and magazines and is a former literary editor of the *Times Higher Education Supplement*. **The Albert Einstein Archives:** According to the terms of Albert Einstein's will, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem is the last depository of his personal papers and holds the copyright to his literary estate. Today this unique collection forms the Albert Einstein Archives, the world's foremost

such resource. Its goal is to preserve, restore, and expand its holdings, enhance accessibility to the material, administer Einstein's literary estate, and increase public awareness of the scientific achievements, political activities, and moral and humane values of Albert Einstein.

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#### **Peggy Elmore:**

Einstein: A Hundred Years of Relativity can be one of your beginner books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into delight arrangement in writing Einstein: A Hundred Years of Relativity nevertheless doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm

resource details that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into fresh stage of crucial thinking.

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