

Klaus Hentschel:

# The Einstein-Tower: An Intertexture of Dynamic Construction, Relativity Theory, and Astronomy

(translated by Ann M. Hentschel; German original: 1992)

Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1997. ISBN: 0-8047-2824-0. Price: \$45.

The various interwoven descriptive levels forming the fabric of this book include the following biographical and cognitive aspects and institutional and disciplinary histories:

The **biography** of the protagonist Freundlich (origin, family, religion, education, employment).

His **interaction** with his academic teachers (particularly Felix Klein), co-workers (von Klüber, von Brunn, Brück, von der Pahlen, Grotrian, Unsöld) and students (e.g., Batten), patrons (Einstein, Planck) and opponents in the scientific community (Struve, von Seeliger, Ludendorff).

A survey of his **scientific work**, focussing on his attempts to verify the general theory of relativity through observation.

Freundlich's **political position** within the Berlin scientific research environment.

A **cross-border comparison of astrophysics**, particularly with American observatories.

The tower telescope as a piece of **architecture** (technical specifications, architectonic layout and design, stylistic designation and comparison with other structures of the time) together with

## **Economic and sociopsychological components**

(motives behind and arguments for its construction, financing issues also in connection with the interwar inflation).

A comparison of the **reception** of the Einstein Tower and relativity theory: portentous symbols of modernity or bizarre outgrowths of a 'degenerate' culture?

**Research results** generated by Freundlich and his colleagues at the Einstein Tower, also set against the tower's original purpose.

The **National Socialist rise to power** and its impact on the *Einstein Institut*: Ludendorff's revenge, Freundlich's exile and subsequent fate.

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Stanford University Press,  
Stanford, CA 94305-2235  
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email: [ukcustserve@cup.cam.ac.uk](mailto:ukcustserve@cup.cam.ac.uk)