

# Klaus Hepp und Walter Hunziker : on the occasion of their sixtieth birthday

Autor(en): **Fröhlich, Jürg / Graf, Gian Michele**

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To

## **Klaus Hepp und Walter Hunziker**

on the occasion of their sixtieth birthday

The following issues of *Helvetica Physica Acta* contain articles dedicated to Klaus Hepp and Walter Hunziker. These articles are written by some of their many friends and admirers, colleagues and former students. Some but not nearly all of them are written accounts of lectures presented at the Hunziker-Hepp Fest at ETH, in September 1995. Quite a few colleagues and friends have been unable to contribute an article to these issues within the deadline that had to be set; but we are sure that they join us in dedicating them to Klaus and Walter as an admittedly somewhat inadequate symbol of our gratitude, respect and friendship.

Besides attempting to disseminate research results of high quality in a journal that has encountered some difficulties, in recent times – in spite of its distinguished tradition – the main intention underlying the publication of these special issues is to honour two scientists, who have made numerous significant and lasting contributions to mathematical and theoretical physics – and, in the case of Klaus Hepp, to the neurosciences. Two men are honoured, who have spent their best efforts to shape generations of undergraduate and graduate students of physics at ETH-Zürich, through their excellent and inspiring teaching, their openness for scientific discussions and for sharing their insights with their students and their younger friends and through their exemplary attitudes towards students and colleagues.

It is impossible to do justice to the significance of the contributions of Walter and Klaus to mathematical physics and to the international mathematical physics community in a few lines. Most readers will be aware of the profound results Klaus contributed to axiomatic quantum field theory, perturbative renormalization theory, scattering theory and the theory of physical systems with many degrees of freedom ranging from Laser physics to the foundations of quantum mechanics. Some may know him as an inspiring neuroscientist. Most readers will have had the pleasure of having studied one or another of Walter's many lasting contributions to non-relativistic quantum theory and of having admired and envied him for his unusual talent to discover simplicity beneath complicated phenomena or intricate arguments and to find extraordinarily clear and concise formulations of subtle insights and important results.

Walter and Klaus have contributed in major ways to keeping alive a strong tradition in mathematical physics at ETH and in Switzerland and setting very high standards for their followers.

Physics students at ETH and some of their younger colleagues, such as the under-

signed, have greatly enjoyed their beautifully clear and inspiring lectures and profited from their invaluable lecture notes. Their teaching is taking place on a very high level and serves as a model for many of us. Numerous diploma- and graduate students have received crucial guidance and support from them, and many of Walter's and Klaus' ideas have found their way into a diploma- or PhD thesis of one of their students.

The international scientific community has had the benefit of Walter's and Klaus' help and advice as editors of journals, members of advisory committees of conferences, or of executive committees of scientific organizations, or of various advisory boards. They have done more work in this area than many of us may realize. They have a preference for doing their job behind the scene and without making much noise or expecting much recognition.

The institute of theoretical physics, the physics department, the "Abteilung für Mathematik und Physik" of ETH, and ETH as a whole owe more to Walter and Klaus than can be described here. In their own, different ways, they have devoted substantial efforts and spent a lot of precious time and energy to making things work efficiently and smoothly at ETH, on smaller and larger scales. But only those who have profited from those efforts or have seen them at work can fully appreciate what we are talking about.

For those of us, who have the privilege of being their colleagues at the physics department of ETH, one of the truly outstanding contributions of Klaus and Walter to our every-day lives is, no doubt, their readiness to provide real help, advice and useful criticism, their friendliness and their ever lasting efforts to creating and maintaining an open, tolerant, sincere and pleasant atmosphere. They set very high standards of intellectual honesty and personal integrity that we shall always usefully have to try to live up to.

It is appropriate, at this place to thank the authorities of ETH-Zürich for their generous financial support of the Hunziker-Hepp Fest without which it could not have taken place. Those of us, who have participated in it, will most likely remember it with pleasure. It is at the origin of this Festschrift. The undersigned are deeply grateful to Mrs. A. Schultze for having taken care of all big and small, crucial and annoying details in organizing that event and making it a success, and for having helped us in editing these issues of *Helvetica Physica Acta*.

The editors, the authors of articles and many other friends of Walter and Klaus join us in thanking them for everything they have done for us and in wishing them many more years of creativity, of pleasure in science and in their personal lives, of good health and of happiness!

Jürg Fröhlich and Gian Michele Graf

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