

Abstrakt „Lamb Lecture“

One hundred years of light quanta

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The year 2005 marked the one hundredth birthday of the light quantum. In this Lamb Lecture I will tell you a few things about its century long biography. Of course we have had light quanta on earth for eons, in fact ever since the good Lord said “let there be quantum electrodynamics” – which is a modern translation, of course, from the biblical Aramaic. So in this talk I’ll try to tell you what quantum optics is about, but there will hardly be enough time to tell you of the many new directions in which it has led us. Several of those are directions that we would scarcely have anticipated as all of this work started.