

# Preface

In writing this book I have been helped by numerous colleagues who, knowing of my interest in anecdotes, have over the years passed many of them on to me. It is not possible to list all of these contributors since in many cases I do not even remember who told me what. There are however, a few individuals whose contributions were substantially more than just relating an anecdote to me.

Professor M. Razavy not only provided me with continuous encouragement, but also with numerous references to historical writings. His encyclopaedic knowledge has been a great help.

Professor H.S. Green, one of Max Born's last students, provided me with several anecdotes of Born and Dirac. As far as I know these have not appeared anywhere else.

During the early stages of writing this book I received moral support from Mary Mahoney-Robson, editor of the University of Alberta Press. I wish to express my appreciation for her encouragement and advice.

Finally, I am most indebted to Professor Edward W. Pitcher of the English Department of the University of Alberta who so generously gave of his time to review a substantial portion of an early draft of the manuscript. His comments have been invaluable in making this book flow somewhat more smoothly.

The various translations into English are, unless stated otherwise, my own. Except with the poetry, I have tried to maintain literal translations.

A. Z. Capri

Edmonton, Alberta.

April, 2007.