

PREFACE

The year 2007 marked not only the centenary of Imperial College London but also the 50th anniversary of the late Abdus Salam's arrival at the College. Accordingly, a conference entitled "Salam+50" and organized by the Theoretical Physics Group, was held at Imperial College on July 7, 2007.

We were fortunate that many distinguished guests were able to attend and pay their respects to the great man. Their contributions recorded in these Proceedings are divided into three sections, designed to reflect the three dimensions of Salam's character: I. Salam the Scientist, II. Salam the Humanitarian and III. Salam the Man.

Section I begins with a welcoming address by the Rector of Imperial College, Sir Richard Sykes and this followed by recollections of Salam's contributions to Physics by Nobel Laureate Gerard 't Hooft, and Salam's former colleagues at Imperial Tom Kibble and Chris Isham (whose contribution formed the after-dinner speech). Also at the conference Kelly Stelle read out an English translation of an obituary of Salam written in Arabic by the late Yuval Ne-eman shortly before his own death. He had specifically requested Kelly that it be read at any future celebration of Salam at Imperial.

Section II includes discussions of Salam's involvement with Pakistan by Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, the UK Pakistani High Commissioner, and with the International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) by Faheem Hussain, formerly its Head of External Relations. The Director of the ICTP, K. R. Sreenivasan, was unfortunately unable to travel to London but kindly provided his personal account of Salam which is also included in this section.

No-one knew Salam better than his family and we were delighted that many of them were able to attend and that three of them were able to speak: his son Ahmad Salam, his daughter Aziza Rahman and his grandson Saif Rahman. Their recollections are presented in Section III along with those of Gordon Fraser whose biography of Salam is shortly to be published. Salam's spiritual life is recorded by Mirza Masroor Ahmad, Head of the Worldwide Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Finally there is the speech of Dr. Mirza Ahmad, President of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association UK, who kindly presented the Abdus Salam Imperial College Physics Graduate Prize to David Weir.

I would like to add my personal thanks to all the speakers for making the conference such a success, to Dr. Louise Johnson for her help and advice, to my

fellow organizers Tom Kibble, Chris Isham, Kelly Stelle and Arttu Rajantie, to our secretary Graziela De Nadai-Sowrey, to Tariq Hayat for his assistance, and to Sir Peter Knight FRS, Principal of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, and Donal Bradley, Head of the Physics Department, for their support. Financial assistance from the Science and Technology Facilities Council is gratefully acknowledged.

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