

# Foreword

*The Golden Age of Theoretical Physics* brings together 37 articles, which I gave as lectures at many universities in the USA, Western Europe, Japan, and India. The first essay reproduced here, ‘Albert Einstein’s “First” Paper,’ was discovered by me and brought to light for the first time; the rest of the essays deal with the quantum and relativity theories, their extensions and applications, and cover the period essentially from 1900 to 1940, the veritable golden age when the foundations of most of the fundamental aspects of 20th-century physics were laid. The last essay, entitled ‘The Dream of Leonardo da Vinci,’ was presented as my inaugural lecture as UNESCO–Sir Julian Huxley Distinguished Professor of Physics and the History of Science in Paris, France, and Trieste, Italy, and deals with the history of man’s changing vision of the universe. A number of these essays were originally published as reports or articles over many years in journals or edited books of collected articles, while the revised and enlarged versions of others have been published in *The Historical Development of Quantum Theory* with Helmut Rechenberg, whose intense, profound, and decisive collaboration and contribution I gratefully acknowledge, and to whom this work on selected essays is dedicated with affection, high esteem, and gratitude.

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*Jagdish Mehra*