

## *"Physics Collection"*

Joshua Roebke

My collection of books, though quite modest with respect to most others, is unquestionably the material possession which I esteem the most. Over the past several years, I have slowly acquired each book that I could uncover concerning my favorite subject area, that is to say when I had sufficient funds. I am sure that I do not stand alone in this regard, for I know numerous people who are as enamored as I with a specific genre of books, but what has set me apart from most others is the subject with which I am so fascinated. While most people have chosen a typical classification of book with which to begin a collection, such as mystery novels and the like, I have chosen to collect books, and as far as I know I am the only person to do so outside of professionals, pertaining to the esoteric science of physics.

My infatuation with physics began at an early age, created by my father's fantastic stories of Black Holes and the men, such as Albert Einstein and Robert Oppenheimer, whose work had made them feasible. My father's tales of Albert Einstein, that of a boy who was unable to speak until the age of four and a man who could not even find a job except as a lowly patent clerk to the man who would later become the most revered scientific mind of the twentieth century, was especially captivating during my youth. I became forever mesmerized with physics, even though I did not even know a singular physics equation, and I was intent on becoming a professional physicist. In fifth grade, I even won the local "When I Grow Up" speech contest with a speech about my desire to emulate Albert Einstein, most likely because no one had ever heard of a child who wanted to become a physicist. Now that I have matured, my dream has persisted and I have utilized my book collection to facilitate my goal.

My humble collection, itself, began only few years ago when I decided to take the time to actually learn more about the subject that I loved so dearly. My collection began with what is the most popular of all books on physics, *A Brief History of Time* by Stephen Hawking. Upon reading this seminal work from the greatest of modern physicists, I was amazed by the expansive scope and extreme difficulty of modern physics, so I began to buy all of the books that I came across with which I could expand my general knowledge. I began by purchasing popular works of physics, especially non-mathematical books written by the prolific physicist-author Paul Davies, and then, beginning quite recently, I started to collect more technical literature when I felt I had the mathematical base to do so. My interest in physics, thus far, has not subsided now that I have acquired a book collection in an attempt to learn the field. Instead, I believe my adoration has grown and, I hope, to continue collecting books on the subject and, who knows, perhaps some day I shall obtain my goal of becoming the next Einstein.