

"Physics Collection"

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Books are often considered a diversionary or leisure activity for most people. They are something one often enjoys as a momentary, and often needed, escape from reality, by allowing a reader to enter a different, fictional, world in which virtually anything is possible. Yet, with books, one may also seek an ultimate knowledge of the world, that is, the true physical world in which we all reside. It is this latter idea which has served as the impetus for my book collection which I began to amass several years ago.

The world is a highly improbable, yet fascinating place. Everywhere one looks, the beautiful milieu in which we live and take part, is dynamic and ever-changing. I cannot help but be amazed and captivated by its wonder. It is for that reason that I began to study physics. As a child, my father would often tell me stories about the nature of light, gravity, and other seemingly trivial facets of the world which, in fact, intrigued him. The stories which I remember most all seem to revolve around the work and amazing discoveries of Albert Einstein. Though my father never actually studied any of Einstein's theories, he was captivated about what he did hear and come across and parlayed that interest unto me at a young age. He, as I do now, marveled at the way one man could come to know such a large piece of the physical underpinnings of the universe. The fact that one could actually model the true manner in which the universe works through elegant mathematical formulations, has made me forever enamored of the subject (in fact, in fifth grade, I even won the local "When I Grow Up" speech contest with a speech about my desire to emulate Albert Einstein).

It is because of this intense interest that in high school I first began collecting books about physics, in order to actually learn more about the subject. My meager 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 actual scope of modern physics and I began to buy all of the books that I came across. While I was in high school, I focused mainly on popular or introductory books, such as those by Paul Davies, but as time progressed, and I learned the requisite mathematics, I started to buy and read more technical books whenever I had the opportunity. To this day, one of my favorite activities is walking through the physics section of a local bookstore to see the new books that have recently arrived.

The adoration I have obtained for Physics, has been a true blessing. Ultimately, I would like nothing more than to share my thirst for the subject with others by joining academia and teaching at a university somewhere. Just to see someone else, perhaps, share in a bit of the wonderment with which I view the world would be a truly gratifying and rewarding experience, as I am sure it was for my father.