

Preface

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The workshop Peyresq Physics 3 devoted to recent developments in gravitation, cosmology, and quantum field theory was held from June 29 to July 3, 1998, in Peyresq, Alpes de Haute-Provence, France. This Workshop was the third of a series of annual meetings which bring together physicists active in different areas of theoretical physics.

Peyresq is a mediaeval Provençal village, situated 100 km from Nice at an altitude of 1528 m. The village was founded in the early 13th century. At the beginning of the 17th century there were around 50 houses and by 1851 the village counted 208 inhabitants distributed among 53 families. Like many other villages of Haute-Provence, it was almost completely deserted after the Second World War. During the 1950s the village was progressively entirely rebuilt in its original spirit and style by students of Belgian universities, mainly the Université Libre de Bruxelles, under the guidance of Mady and Toine Smets. The aim was to create a "Foyer d'Humanisme," an international humanistic center for cultural, artistic, and scientific pursuits.

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