

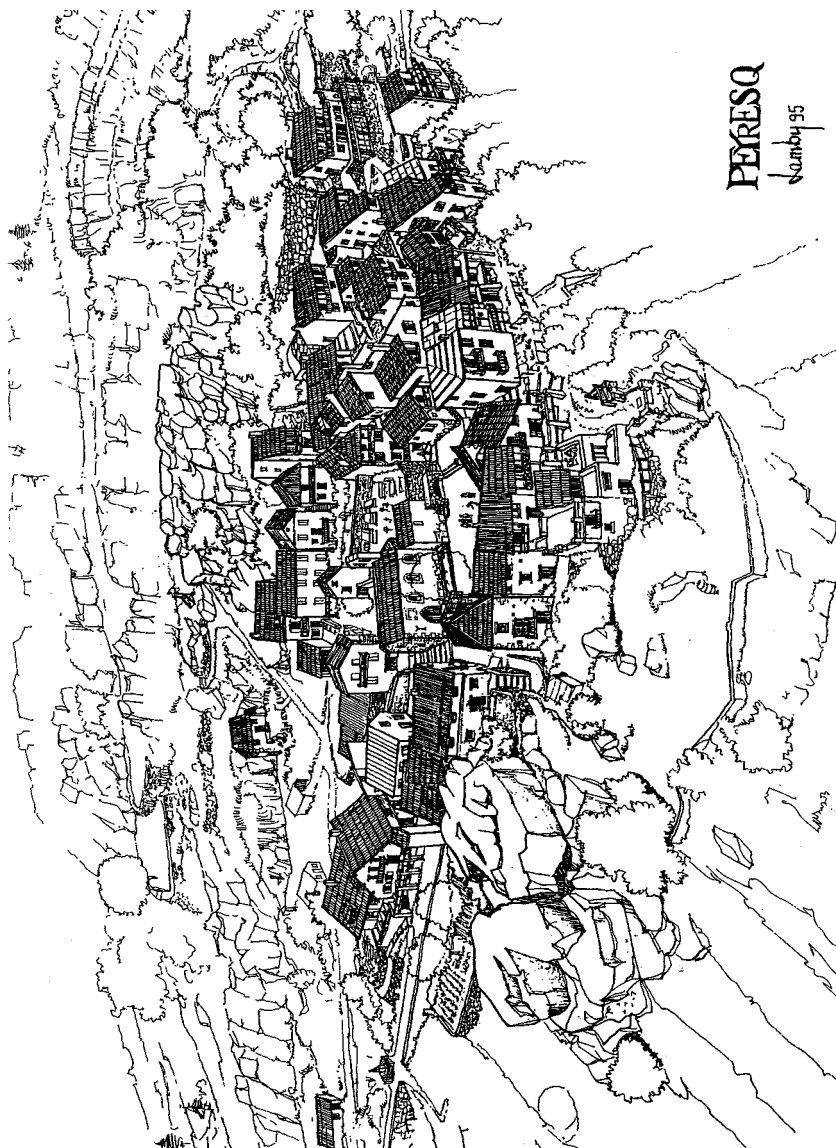
Preface

The workshop Peyresq Physics 9 was devoted to “*Micro and Macro Structures of Spacetime*.” It was held from June 19 to June 25, 2004 in Peyresq, Alpes de Haute Provence, France. This workshop was the eighth of a series of annual meetings which brings together physicists active in different areas of theoretical physics.

Peyresq is a medieval 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.

The Workshop was financed by the Fondation Peyresq, Foyer d’Humanisme, the Fondation Nicolas Claude Fabri de Peyresq, and OLAM (Fondation pour la Recherche Fondamentale, Brussels). We would like to thank all these institutions for their help and financial support. We thank Daniel Arteaga for his assistance in the preparation of these proceedings. We also extend our warm appreciation to Madame Mady Smets without whom none of this work could have come to light.

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