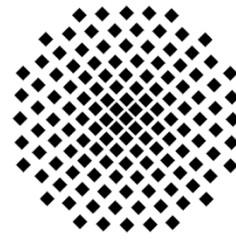


Stuttgarter Physikalisches Kolloquium

Fachbereich Physik, Universität Stuttgart
Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung
Max-Planck-Institut für Intelligente Systeme

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16:15 Uhr

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Universität Stuttgart, Pfaffenwaldring 57, 70569 Stuttgart-Vaihingen

Gastgeber: Martin Dressel, Universität Stuttgart, Telefon: 0711 - 685-64946

The material culture of early telescopes: A look at, and through, the most iconic scientific instrument

Marvin Bolt

Corning Museum of Glass

Abstract

Even though the telescope is typically associated with astronomical topics, its earliest (and most frequent) application was for terrestrial observing. Its portrayal in paintings and allusions in literature connected it to topics of broad interest: diplomacy, theological disputes, social customs, sensory limitations, colonialization, and more. Drawing on 25 years of hands-on examinations of the world's oldest surviving telescopes, I will draw viewers into a few fascinating stories in which we look at, and through, these amazing tools. Looking through these instruments tells us about the cosmos; looking at them tells us about ourselves. Doing both enlarges our universe.