

Dear Josephine

Hamburg, DESY, 3.6.2010

I am at DESY. After quite some while I decided to attend another H1 Collaboration meeting. Many people ask for you and send wishes and think of you, Martina, Nelly, Des, Vladimir Shekelyan. DESY today and yesterday looks sunny, green. At the entry of DESY the building, in which the guest office had been, a renovation is now ongoing to make the building 'energy economic', a process which for the Oliver Lodge seems light years away. It is a good feeling to come here and be welcome by many friends. Even those, who in former times were less pleasant to deal with..., are now relaxed, smiling and even joking. People can be a very strange kind of species. Good of course that old battles can also be overcome. Apart from looking nice, much changes at DESY. I was told that at the panel, which discussed DESY's past and future at the 50 years anniversary, no one made any convincing statement about the future of particle physics here. While DESY owes almost all of its innovation and prestige to DORIS, PETRA, HERA they now believe one may just move to synchrotron radiation physics while the former management, lead by Albrecht, got the future of our field so very wrong. Thus the good feelings are mixed with strange ones here. Dosch, the new director, is building a new personal empire – a grand office where the library still is, which moves down to 1d, while he leaves the particle physics directors at the old place of the directorate. Thus here will be "light" in a likely mundane office and there will be "darkness". This goes hand in hand with another round of strategic discussions about the future of particle physics ...

Apart from these, not so new developments, Hamburg now is beautiful. Yesterday evening we went for dinner to Teufelsbrueck, on the boat on the Elbe. The sun was slowly setting down, sailing boats and container ships passed by. When we went out, it was dark and suddenly fireworks across the river took place for 10 minutes. You will imagine how beautiful this looked. It reminded me on the famous boats tour, which we made to celebrate John's 50th birthday on the barkasse. The difference was that yesterday no one was singing to the Queen.

Hamburg near the Elbchaussee is rich, white villa's, green parks. I realised another time that normally we have just been sitting in the lab and probably missed many of such moments. However, these probably are then so impressive because we rarely allow ourselves doing such things. While I was out to the Elbe, Uta was at CERN and after a talk delivered to ATLAS she went with Peter for a walk over the wine yards near to CERN.

Being at Germany is always particularly interesting now. The country looks rich. But when you walk by chance on a Fahrradweg, as I did yesterday, it happens that a German cyclist will insist on his right to be on it while an English cyclist would most probably have made a small move to avoid touching me. On Saturday "Lena", a 19 years superstar since 3 months., has won the European song contest.. She was celebrated like a national hero, but had only sung a short Lied. She comes across as totally "unverbraucht", funny, good looking, young, but she is far from being able to sing, which did not matter so much. Here she came but a day later the president of the Federal Republic stepped down. Thus all attention moved away from her. It is amazing, the memory of media and society

shrinks with time in time. The news rush in and out and people, mankind?, has more and more problems to follow mentally and intellectually what it does to the world. In the US, who recalls the Obama hype a year ago, or 1.5 years. Now my friends from near Washington are extremely concerned that the Tea party, a sort of loud assembly of the likes of Sarah Palin, will win many seats in coming elections this fall. Stability is what this world needs. The President of Germany apparently did not share this feeling. The starlet Lena is not to be blamed for anything. It is the youth, which has the right to be different, how would things change otherwise.

These are some impressions, which come to mind while sitting in Seminarroom 4 and listening to a talk by Eckhard Elsen describing recent work by Andy Mehta.

Josephine, you know well that we often think of you, talk about you. We are not used to praying but atheists have similar ways of looking for hope and sending wishes from their heart. I am sure Uta joins these wishes, yours Max

Below a few pictures DESY this morning, which I took for you and fireworks over the Elbe last evening.





