

“ How the Laser Came to Be...”

Séminaire général du Département de Physique de l'École Polytechnique

This illustrated talk will look back at some of the more important physical ideas and people involved in these early developments of masers and lasers, including Einstein's suggestion of downward transitions in 1916-17; the emergence of additional physical understanding and especially of the quantum theory in the 1920s; the development of magnetic resonance physics and optical pumping concepts in the 1930s; and the massive advances in electronic technologies brought about by World War II in the 1940s. These advances then led to the "Maser Era" of the 1950s; the dramatic emergence of the "Laser Era" with Maiman's demonstration of the first ruby laser in May 1960; and the resulting explosion of laser technologies that continues even today.



Anthony E. Siegman
*McMurtry Professor of Engineering
Emeritus Stanford University,
Stanford, California USA*

Lundi 20 avril 2009

ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
Amphithéâtre Arago
17 h 00

***Après le séminaire du Professeur A. E. Siegman
une réception sera donnée dans le Salon d'honneur
de l'École Polytechnique***