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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the MAR05 Meeting of the American Physical Society

Einstein and Lorentz (The Robert H. Dicke Lecture)

A.J. KOX, University of Amsterdam

Einstein and H.A. Lorentz were linked with close ties of friendship. Einstein called Lorentz a "living work of art" and Lorentz had deep admiration for Einstein's genius. In my talk I will further analyse the personal relationship between the two men. I will also discuss the historical relation between H.A. Lorentz's electron theory and special relativity, especially the question to what extent Lorentz can be considered a forerunner to Einstein.