

One of the most important works in modern science

Albert Einstein, *Die Grundlage der allgemeinen Relativitätstheorie*. Leipzig: Johann Ambrosius Barth, 1916. Offprint from *Annalen der Physik* (1916), vol. 49, no. 7 (pp. 769–822). 9 3/4 inches x 6 1/2 inches (248 x 165 mm), 69 pages.

This offprint of *The Foundations of the General Theory of Relativity* is considered the first edition of this important work. Einstein's "special" theory of relativity was published in 1905. This "general" theory of relativity applied relativistic concepts to gravity, and it replaced Newton's theory of gravitation. There are two postulates behind Einstein's theory: The first is that no matter how light propagates when standing still, it propagates the same way when moving; the second is that light is always moving at the same speed, no matter how fast the light-emitting object is moving. Quantum electrodynamics has expanded on Einstein's theory of General Relativity, but this 1916 paper remains fundamental. As Einstein himself wrote, "There is always a certain charm in tracing the evolution of theories in the original papers; often such study offers deeper insights into the subject matter than the systematic presentation of the final results, polished by the words of many contemporaries."

This copy from The Warnock Library retains the original printed brown wrappers, with Einstein's signature (dated 1947) on the title page.

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