

Remarcable Dates and Place: One Hundred Years Ago

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Dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the birth of Schrödinger's wave mechanics

A century ago, wave quantum mechanics was born in Arosa, Switzerland [1]. Erwin Schrödinger was vacationing in this classic Swiss Alps town at Christmas 1925 when he made his breakthrough discovery of the wave equation.

One of the authors (SKS) of a recent article [2](see also [3]) was able to visit Arosa on December 28–29, exactly on the 100th anniversary of the birth of wave mechanics. I took a connecting train from Munich, Germany to Chur, Switzerland. From there — a commuter train into the mountains.



FIGURE 1. Dr. Herwig's sanatorium in Arosa.

My personal impressions are as follows: the sanatorium/resort [4](Fig. 1) has long ceased to exist due to the development of modern tuberculosis treatments. All that remains is a large “ski resort” with a huge number of vacationers during the

Christmas season, and many families with children of all ages. (They say that you must try hard to get on the ski lift! – The train in the mountain, from Chur to Arosa, was very crowded as well.)

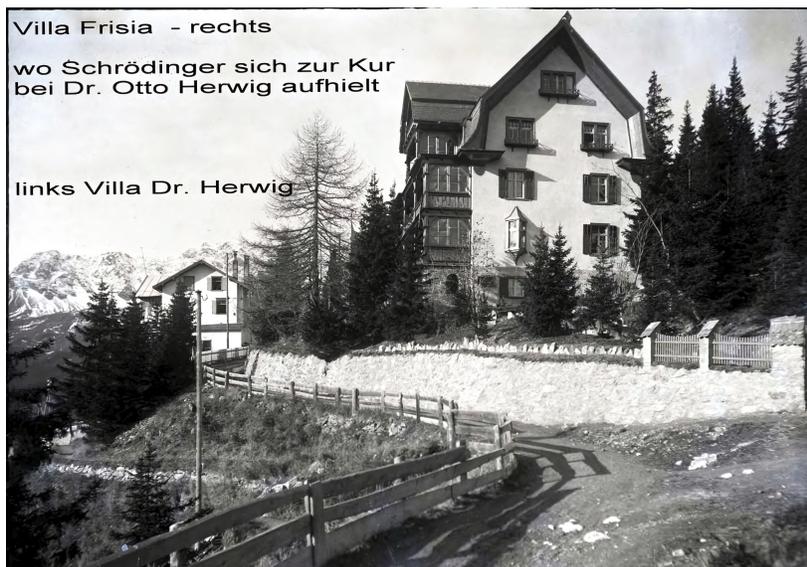


FIGURE 2. A postcard with the view of the Villa Frisia (right), where Schrödinger stayed, and the house of Dr. Otto Herwig (left).



FIGURE 3. The Villa Frisia of Dr. Herwig's sanatorium, Arosa (right), where it is believed wave mechanics was discovered during the Christmas holidays 1925–26.

The building itself, Villa Frisia, has remained virtually unchanged from old photographs (cf. Figs. 2–3 vs Figs. 4–5). Although there are many new buildings in the area, a large modern hotel has been built just down the mountainside. The following video makes a good impression:

<https://www.news.uzh.ch/en/articles/2017/Schroedinger.html>



FIGURE 4. Villa Frisia 29th December 2025.



FIGURE 5. Entrance to Villa Frisia 29th December 2025.

Indeed, Villa Frisia is presented here in its current form (please see my photos in Figs. 4–5 and Figs. 8–9). Although there are no horses anymore to serve as an “old taxi”, like in the video. There are modern cars all around, mostly small cars because the mountain roads are icy and narrow.

The mountains are truly magnificent – some photographs are included (Figs. 6–7)!

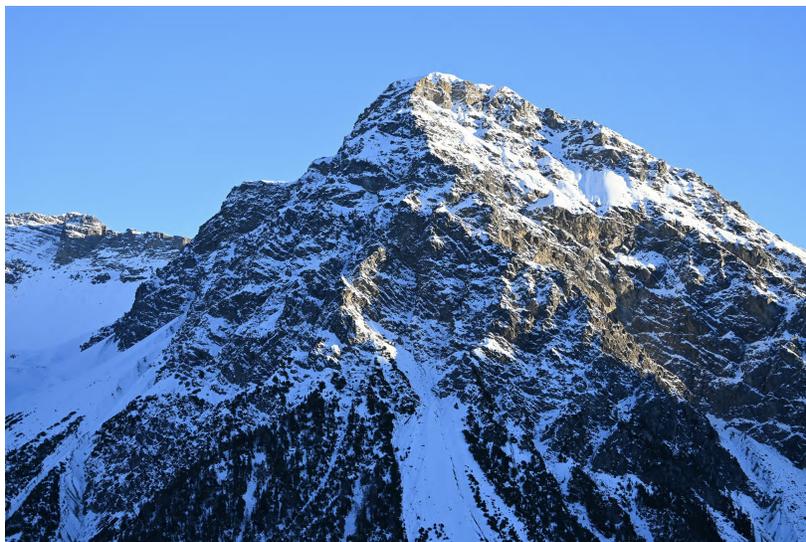


FIGURE 6. The Arosa Mountains 29th December 2025.



FIGURE 7. The Arosa Pines 29th December 2025.

The locals and tourists are very friendly, helpful and trying to explain (mostly in German) about the area; nonetheless, no one seemed to be aware about the connection with Schrödinger. Everyone is busy with their own affairs - “thus the glory of the world passes away!” (*Sic transit gloria mundi.*) But I feel like I’ve been to the holy “Mecca” of quantum physics!

PS. The United Nations General Assembly declared 2025 as the International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, under the leadership of UNESCO: <https://share.google/Xca8eEexkTXvqDZ4L>; related articles in Phys. Usp. are the following [5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10].

PPS. The Chemistry Platform of the Swiss Academy of Sciences has established the “Chemical Landmark” program to identify and highlight scientific and technological heritage in the field of chemistry within Switzerland: <https://scg.ch/scg-news/c126>



FIGURE 8. Sergei Suslov at Villa Frisia 29th December 2025.



FIGURE 9. Sergei Suslov at Villa Frisia 29th December 2025.

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