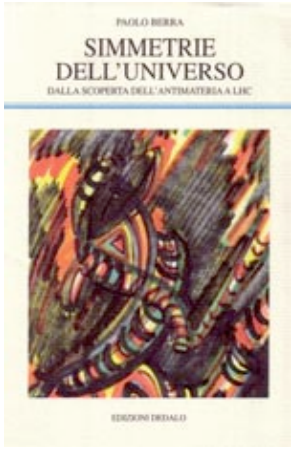
scholarship served with a light heart.

• *Tim Radford, science editor of the* Guardian *until 2005.*

Simmetrie dell'universo: Dalla scoperta dell'antimateria a LHC
By Paolo Berra
Edizioni Dedalo
Paperback: €16



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Dedalo (http://images.iop.org/objects/ccr/cern/53/6/30/CCbks5_06_13.jpg)

Paolo Berra is a nuclear engineer who worked for many years at CERN before going on to do an MBA at Harvard. His background and education are so diverse that it was difficult to know what to expect from his book for the general public about the symmetries of the universe. However, I think that the result of this "experiment" turns out to be a success.

The book starts with a general introduction to the physics of the 20th century: Paul Dirac, Erwin Schrödinger, Albert Einstein and the theories that revolutionized our vision of the universe. The author then goes on to talk about the Standard Model, Richard Feynman, symmetries, unification theories, black holes and other mysteries that the universe is still hiding from researchers. This journey through the history of science and its leading figures ends with part three of the book. The fourth and last part breaks with the narrative as the author focuses on the machines that are necessary to explore what he calls "Big Science".

I liked the first three parts a great deal. The language is clear and the logical links between various historical periods and scientific findings across the years are emphasized, making the reading particularly interesting. In addition, the author presents difficult theoretical topics in an accessible way that I really appreciated.

The fourth part is where I was expecting the most from the author, as I knew he had worked at CERN to develop machines to be used for hadron-therapy, the medical technique that uses particle accelerators to treat tumours. However, although he is clearly at ease with the topics (there are fewer references to other publications) and the quality of the writing remains high, I thought that he would have had much more to say. My curiosity is therefore not entirely satisfied – which should be interpreted as an invitation to the author to write a second book soon.

• *Antonella Del Rosso, CERN.*

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