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The Life and Work of Bruno Touschek

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The life and works of the great Austrian physicist Bruno Touschek will be illustrated, using various historical documents, including movies and photographs, and the recollections of his friends and collaborators. Bruno Touschek was born and educated in Vienna until his first University year, moved to Germany during the war, obtained his PhD in Glasgow and spent his most productive physics years in Italy, at the University of Rome, and in Frascati where he contributed to the development of matter-antimatter accelerators. In 1960, he was the proponent and prime mover in the construction of the first electron-positron accelerator in the world, named AdA, from Anello di Accumulazione (storage ring in Italian).

Following AdA's successful operation in Frascati first, and then in Orsay, Touschek proposed a second and bigger machine, also in Frascati, named ADONE and, at the end of his life in 1977, went to CERN, in Geneva, to participate to the ongoing studies for the Large Electron Positron (LEP) collider, which was to be about 500 hundred times more powerful than the first machine he had proposed. He never relinquished his Austrian citizenship and at the end, when he was quite ill, he went back to Austria, and died in Igls in May 1978.

Montag, 13. Juni 2005, 17:30 Uhr
(ab 17:00 Uhr Kaffee)

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