

# **Herbert Walther, scientist extraordinaire**

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Herbert Walther, a dear friend and colleague, died two years ago after a valiant battle with cancer. His contributions to all aspects of AMO science have been nothing short of extraordinary. They cover an amazing range of activities from spectacular scientific contributions to the teaching and mentoring of outstanding students, and from science politics and management to the active promotion of international scientific exchange . . . not to mention his legendary Gastfreundschaft, and Margot's wonderful dinners. Every single one of these activities would easily have been a full-time job for most of us, but Herbert did it all superlatively and with extraordinary energy, dedication and grace. The talk will attempt the impossible task of highlighting in a few minutes the key milestones of this extraordinary career, and the route that led from a childhood in war-torn Germany to building the premier quantum optics institution in the world.