Einsteintürm (Einstein Tower)

Lance Nizami

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Einsteintürm
(Einstein Tower)

by Lance Nizami

An old college campus, tree-shaded in Potsdam
A campus of tall red-brick buildings and small ones
To one side, a land-point stands over a woodland,
A fine deer-filled woodland

A green land-point, table-flat, grass cut quite closely,
A tower there, Art Nouveau, five stories tall;
Smooth concrete, time-whitened, natural, seamless—
No edges; quite seamless

A dome on the topside for sky observation
The stories of concrete, a tube for the light-rays
In the basement: equipment to photograph starlight,
The glorious starlight

A five-story tower to test complex theory
Waiting for rarest eclipse of the sun
Built here to test the wild thoughts of a genius,
A questioning genius

What to say, now, of that Art Nouveau tower
The genius long dead, the tower now quiet
Glowing so gently soft white in the sunshine,
The fusion-made sunshine

Waiting for genius to open its doors once again