Translation into English: Chapter 2 - Catalogue of Errors for Both Theories of Relativity

from the German documentation of G.O. Mueller

"On the Absolute Magnitude of the Special Theory of Relativity - A Documentary Thought Experiment on 95 Years of Criticism (1908-2003) with Proof of 3789 Critical Works" - Text Version 2.1 - June 2004 http://www.ekkehard-friebe.de/kap2.pdf

Translator: Rothwell Bronrowan

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A: Ether / Error No. 5

With his STR, Albert Einstein is said to have "abolished" the ether in 1905

This claim is verifiably incorrect. In 1905 Albert Einstein only claims (p. 892), "the introduction of a "light ether" will thus prove to be superfluous". Elsewhere he mentions that the ether is not to be found in his formulae. Abolition in the sense of declaring its non-existence, as is always suggested, cannot be justified by a failure to take account of it.

This claim rests on the insinuation, that things that Einstein doesn't mention do not exist. It could appeal to neo-positivism and to logical empiricism. The claim therefore lies on the former general line of the theory. - The mention that the ether is not contained in the formulae is irrelevant. It never comes in the formulae as a measured quantity, but first in the interpretations of the measurements. The Lorentz ether theory and Einstein's STR serve as an example: the mathematics employed in both theories is identical, yet it allows both interpretations. The measurements of the interferometer experiments relate only to displacements of the interference bands and these stand for running-time differences.

The theory is almost fixated on negative statements and claims of non-existence as the foundations of its edifice. Its constructors appear to have no idea of the problems associated with this. Most of the theoretical errors can be traced back to these foundations.