

How about the Harvard Books on Astronomy:

- Dimitroff and Baker, TELESCOPES AND ACCESSORIES
- Whipple, EARTH, MOON, AND PLANETS
- Menzel, FLYING SAUCERS
- Campbell and Jacchia, THE STORY OF VARIABLE STARS
- Goldberg and Aller, ATOMS, STARS, AND NEBULAE
- Bok and Bok, THE MILKY WAY
- Shapley, GALAXIES
- Payne-Gaposchkin, STARS IN THE MAKING
- Menzel, OUR SUN

Or some of the publications of the Sky Publishing Corporation:

- SKY SETS, I and II
- Becvar, etc., ATLAS OF THE HEAVENS
- Thompson, MAKING YOUR OWN TELESCOPE
- Mattersdorf, INSIGHT INTO ASTRONOMY
- SPLENDORS OF THE SKY
- MOON SETS
- MAPPA COELESTIS NOVA

Or some of the much in demand text books:

- Aller, ASTROPHYSICS
- Kennon, ASTRONOMY
- Moulton, AN INTRODUCTION TO CELESTIAL MECHANICS
- Russell, Dugan, and Stewart, ASTRONOMY, Vols. I and II

Or other popular books:

- Davidson, FROM ATOMS TO STARS
- Fisher-Lockwood, ASTRONOMY
- Kelly-Dachille, TARGET: EARTH
- Mayall and Mayall, SKYSHOOTING--HUNTING THE STARS WITH YOUR CAMERA
- Pickering, THE STARS ARE YOURS
- Stetson, SUNSPOTS IN ACTION
- Wright, PALOMAR, THE WORLD'S LARGEST TELESCOPE

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STAR DUST
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DECEMBER CALENDAR

Dec. 5 "THE HUMAN BODY IN SPACE," with motion pictures, Dr. I. M. Levitt, Director of the Fels Planetarium. Commerce Auditorium, 8:15 p. m.

Tuesday and Friday, 7-10 p. m. Telescope Making Class, Roosevelt High School, Room 319, 13th and Upshur Sts.; N. W. Miss Irene Warthen, Instructor. Telephone LO 5-1237. Miss Warthen is present on Tuesdays. Note: No classes will be held during the Christmas holidays.

"THE HUMAN BODY IN SPACE," Dr. Levitt's December lecture, will involve discussion of many fascinating questions such as these: Will men be able to overcome the dangers that lie in wait for them above the atmosphere? How will they react to speeds of over 25,000 miles an hour? What will they do when their blood turns as heavy as molten iron? When they are showered with dangerous cosmic rays? When gravity no longer exists for them?

Dr. Levitt is a well known astronomer and popular science writer. He is the author of a syndicated newspaper science column, has made appearances on radio since 1937 and has done over 250 television shows, including a recent series on the scientific aspects of space travel. Dr. Levitt has a talent for making science easy to understand so make a date for Saturday, December 5th, and find out what men will face when they take off in the first space ship to venture into the limitless ocean of space.

--Benjamin Adelman

Note: January meeting will not be until the second Saturday in the month.

NOV 30 1953

PREVIEW OF THE MODEL B SPITZ PLANETARIUM in Philadelphia during the last week in October was attended by Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Wright, Miss Mabel Sterns, and Mrs. Ernest Eden Morris, Sr. Model B is the first major Spitz Planetarium. It is to be installed at the Centro Municipal De Divulgacion Cientifica, Montevideo, Uruguay. This planetarium differs in many respects from earlier types. Planets are shown as starlike points of light and not as telescopic pictures, so that their identity can be deduced from position and motion rather than by an artificial label placed upon them. The star images themselves actually vary in brightness rather than merely in size. The brightest stars appear to be almost exactly the same size as the faintest ones shown, 5.8 magnitude. The overall effect is of a sky which is much more natural than that of older types of planetariums. Some stars are colored. Twelve projectors provide a diffuse band following the contours of the Milky Way. In this instrument, built for Montevideo, the Southern Cross is seen not only as it appears today, but as it might have been seen twenty thousand years ago, or as it will be seen twenty thousand years in the future.

OBSERVATIONAL DATA

Mercury is a morning star in the early part of December, appearing low in the southeast just before sunrise. It is at greatest western elongation on the first; at this time it is 20 degrees from the sun. Venus is a morning star this month seen very low in the southeast just before sunrise. Mars is in Virgo, visible in the southeast for some hours before sunrise. It can be distinguished from Saturn by means of its red color. Jupiter is well placed in December. Rising about sunset, it dominates the sky all night. Saturn is a morning star in Virgo east of Spica. It may be seen in the southeast for a few hours before sunrise. The date of maximum intensity for the Geminid Meteor shower is December 12. This shower averages 30 meteors per hour.

--A. L. White

TELESCOPES FOR SALE - Mr. L. W. Holland, Route 1, Box 26, Annandale, Virginia, has the following three telescopes for sale: 1) A 3-inch Bardow refractor, with mount, tripod, diagonal, and two eyepieces for \$150. This is a fine instrument of \$300. value. 2) A 6-inch reflector, with sturdy mount, for \$60. The mirror is of good quality, ground in the optical shop of the Washington Navy Yard. 3) A SKYSCOPE, good as new, for \$15.00.

Mr. Holland has just purchased a 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ " refractor and no longer needs these other telescopes.

TRANSIT OF MERCURY on November 14 was observed by NCA'ers at the Naval Observatory directly through the 5" and by reflection through a 15". About 75 people signed the guest register.

LUNAR OCCULTATIONS FOR DECEMBER

Date	Star	Mag.	Age of Moon		E. S. T.
			days		
12-12	231 B Aqas.	6.8	6.5		6:08.1 P. M.
12-13	19 Pisc.	5.3	7.7		11:15.0 P. M.
12-16	26 Arie.	6.1	10.7		11:08.9 P. M.

Note: All stars are occulted on the dark limb.

--A. L. White

BUY YOUR BOOKS AT A DISCOUNT

Would you like to buy your scientific books at a 10 percent discount? Then place your orders through the Astronomical League. It is very simple. Just fill in on an order blank or sheet of paper the name of the book, author, publisher; list price of the book, name of your society, and your name and address. Send it with a check or money order made payable to the Astronomical League Book Service in the amount of the list price less 10% discount to Grace C. Scholz, 110 Schuyler Road, Silver Spring, Maryland.

The League handles the order from there, and the book is mailed directly to you by the publisher. Orders will be accepted for books in the field of astronomy or an allied scientific field, published in the United States. The following are suggestions: