

# Preface

This encyclopedia is designed to give an up-to-date picture of the universe for amateur astronomers and others who are interested in astronomy in this latter part of the twentieth century. Every aspect of the subject is discussed and illustrated in a way which can be understood by a reader with no scientific training. What is more, this second edition of what appeared originally as the *Encyclopedia of Astronomy* also contains some additional material to assist the amateur observer – hence its change in title.

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