
PREFACE

Since there are three serious problems for the authors of college texts at this time: first the problem of keeping up to date in an age when the data and their interpretations are changing with every new issue of *TIME* or *SCIENCE*; second, the rising cost for printing a book that will be of no use to a student after a few years and third, the price of a book printed in a country with a very high exchange rate, for example like the Philippine pesos and the American dollar, this little text on astronomy for use in college had to be written.

The author chose to follow the outline of a course that he has given for twenty-five years, starting at Harvard where he did graduate work and continuing at Georgetown University until returning to the Philippines. Readers may feel that some phases of practical and positional astronomy have been glossed over hurriedly. This has been done in all courses of descriptive astronomy since the Space Age shoved them out of the way to make room for new aspects of practical astronomy and new findings that require space for description.

In addition the whole picture of the Universe has come into a sharper focus with details the student wants to hear about because they appear in every type of popular periodical. Most news writers and commentators are familiar with Pulsars, Black Holes, Quasars and Quarks as they are with the intricacies of economics and world politics.

This book has been prepared so that it can be rewritten in the near future rather than revised. It has two companions, one a manual of laboratory exercises and problem assignments to go with this text and any other text; and the other a teacher's manual that contains solutions to the problems and assignments with references for additional reading or consul-