The Cambridge Star Atlas

The Cambridge Star Atlas covers the entire sky, both northern and southern latitudes, in an attractive format that is suitable for beginners and experienced astronomical observers. It contains maps of the Moon, a series of seasonal sky maps and a small eight-page atlas showing all of the Messier objects, which also serves as an index to the main Atlas charts; a detailed atlas of the whole sky, arranged in 20 overlapping full-color charts. The charts show stars down to magnitude 6.5, together with about 900 non-stellar objects, such as clusters and galaxies, which can be seen with binoculars or a small telescope. Information about these objects can be found in the tables that accompany the charts.

WIL TIRION is the world's foremost designer of astronomical maps. For this fourth edition he has devised improved versions of all the charts, and the text and star data have been completely revised based on the latest information. Clear, authoritative and easy to use, *The Cambridge Star Atlas* is an ideal reference atlas for sky watchers everywhere.

THE CAMBRIDGE STAR ATLAS

FOURTH EDITION

WIL TIRION

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge/9780521173636

First published 1991
Second edition 1996
Reprinted 1998, 1999
Third edition 2001
Reprinted 2004
Reprinted with correction 2005
Reprinted 2007
Fourth edition 2011
4th printing 2014

Printed in the United Kingdom by the CPI Group Ltd, Croydon CR0 4YY

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication data

Tirion, Wil, 1943–
Cambridge star atlas / Wil Tirion. – 4th ed.
p. cm.
Includes bibliographical references.
ISBN 978-0-521-17363-6
1. Stars – Atlases. I. Title.
QB65.T537 2000
523.8'022'3–dc21 00–059909

ISBN 978-0-521-17363-6 Paperback

CONTENTS

Chapters

Tables

PREFACE

Anyone who looks up at the starry sky at night and wonders how to find their way among all those stars will need some kind of sky-guide or atlas, but these must meet very different needs. The casual stargazer will first want to learn what can be seen with the unaided eye: the names of the stars, the constellations and where or when to look for Orion, the Great Bear, or Andromeda. The more advanced observer, with access to a good pair of binoculars or a small telescope, wants to know more: where is the Whirlpool Galaxy, the North America Nebula, or the globular cluster M13?

In 1991 – now twenty years ago – the first edition of *The Cambridge Star Atlas* (originally titled *Cambridge Star Atlas 2000.0)* was published, offering help for both. This twentieth-anniversary edition of *The Cambridge Star Atlas* includes a series of eight seasonal sky maps, designed to be of use for almost anywhere on Earth, and a series of twenty detailed star charts, covering the whole heavens, with all stars visible to the naked eye under good circumstances. These twenty star charts also show a wealth of star clusters, nebulae, and galaxies. Some of these can be seen without optical aids, but for most a small or average-size telescope is needed. Accompanying the charts are tables offering accurate positions and more details of these objects, as well as information about interesting double and variable stars. For this fourth edition all the existing maps have been restyled to give them a more modern appearance.

Preceding the main star charts, you will find a new chapter focusing on the Messier objects; a table and a series of eight star maps (four double-page maps) on which all the Messier objects are plotted on a background showing stars down to magnitude 5.5. These maps also serve as an index to the main star charts.

Probably the most satisfying sight for a beginner using a pair of binoculars or a small telescope is the Moon. As before, *The Cambridge Star Atlas* starts with the Moon, showing the most important features on its surface. Since the Moon is our neighbor in space, and because it is usually the first thing we notice in the night sky, the Moon maps are placed at the beginning, where they belong. The third edition's vector-drawn Moon map has been replaced by more 'realistic' Moon maps, while for observers using a telescope with a star diagonal, a mirror-reversed version has been added on a second spread.

At the end of the atlas you will find a series of six all-sky maps, showing the sky in a special projection, centered on the Galactic Equator. They show the distribution of stars, open and globular clusters, planetary and diffuse nebulae, and galaxies, in relation to our own Milky Way. Finally, a new table lists all of the stars plotted on the main star charts now known to be host to exoplanets.

I do hope you will enjoy this new edition of *The Cambridge Star Atlas.*

Happy stargazing!

Wil Tirion