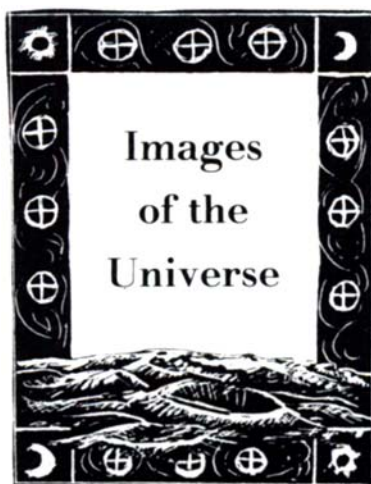


Astronomy is a science where the amateur and the professional interact constructively. This book is a testament to that relationship. *Images of the Universe* includes articles written by sixteen leading amateur and professional astronomers. They provide a lively and up-to-date view of our surroundings in space. The solar system, stars and galaxies all come under close scrutiny. Answers are provided to questions that have puzzled people throughout the ages, such as how and when was the universe created? Modern cosmology is discussed by Martin Rees and the first one second of the universe is put under the microscope by Paul Davies. Colin Ronan looks back on advances that astronomers have made in the last hundred years. Patrick Moore and David Hughes write on the outer planets, and comets and meteors respectively. Jacqueline Mitton examines the stars, the birth place of the elements. Heather Couper and Nigel Henbest turn their attention to the Milky Way, the hazy band of light that is the end-on view of our Galaxy; and Malcolm Longair looks beyond this and into the deep sky.

A good picture is the goal of most astronomers, whether it be beamed back to Earth by way of sophisticated and expensive technology, shot with a camera or simply drawn. In this book a special emphasis is placed on images of our universe produced by both amateurs and professionals.

This book will appeal to anyone interested in present-day knowledge of our surroundings in space. An awareness of our position in space may help the reader, but no specialist knowledge is essential.

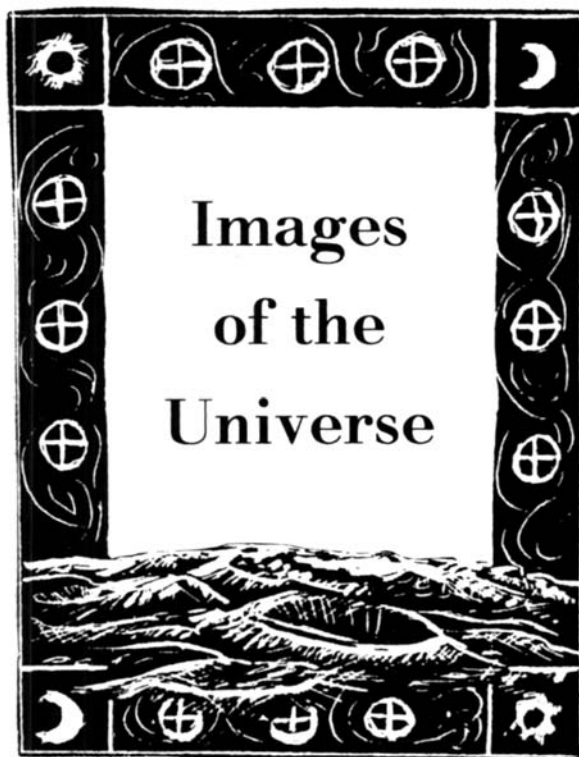
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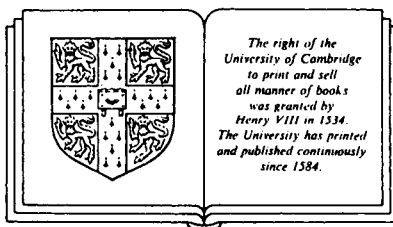
A century ago the leading astronomers in the United Kingdom combined to form the British Astronomical Association. British astronomers have now joined together to produce this volume in celebration of the founding of the BAA in 1890.

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EDITED BY

Carole Stott



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Foreword

It is a pleasure to write a Foreword to this interesting and informative book, and particularly so in view of its being a tribute to a body that I greatly admire: the British Astronomical Association. The fact that the royalties will go towards promoting astronomy under the auspices of the BAA is an added bonus, and one with which I fully agree as I endeavour to improve the financial climate for the subject we all love.

The early history of the BAA makes fascinating reading, as those familiar with the 1890 edition of the *English Mechanic and World of Science* will know. There, one reads of the problems of the BAA's predecessor, the Liverpool Astronomical Society, and of the activities of such authors as E. Walter Maunder and William Huggins, and the Reverend T. E. Espin, the latter moving to a parish not far from Durham where he established a fine reputation in a variety of fields. One also notices that E. E. Baley, Deputy Chief Cashier of the Bank of England was nominated as a scrutineer for the elections for the Council. There is food for thought here!

Turning to the role of amateurs in contemporary astronomy, this is considerable in so many ways. Planetary science could not do without them – for studies of comets, meteor streams and meteorites, and other observations, too. Equally important is the network of talented people eager and willing to disseminate the results of the professionals both in the UK and abroad. In this the BAA plays a most important part. The interaction of the amateur and the professional in astronomy is probably stronger than in any other science and to the benefit of both, and citizens as a whole.

I know that the authors of these articles have gained much pleasure from writing them; may the readers gain even more, and may their number be astronomical!

Professor Arnold Wolfendale, FRS
Astronomer Royal