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978-0-521-77979-1 - The Heavens on Fire: The Great Leonid Meteor Storms

Mark Littmann

Frontmatter

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The Heavens on Fire

The Great Leonid Meteor Storms

The years 1998, 1999, and 2000 offer the last chance people on Earth will have for a century to see the most spectacular of all meteor showers, the Leonids. In 1966, when they last filled the sky in great numbers, observers reported 40 every second. When this storm blazed in 1833, two widely separated observers described the sight as “the heavens on fire.”

With the returning Leonids now reaching their peak of activity, *The Heavens on Fire* tells the story of meteors, and especially the Leonids, whose terrifying beauty established meteor science. Mark Littmann traces the history and mythology of meteors, profiles the fascinating figures whose discoveries advanced the field, and explores how meteors have changed the course of life on Earth. His book offers advice on how and where to make the best of the 1998, 1999, and 2000 return of the Leonids.

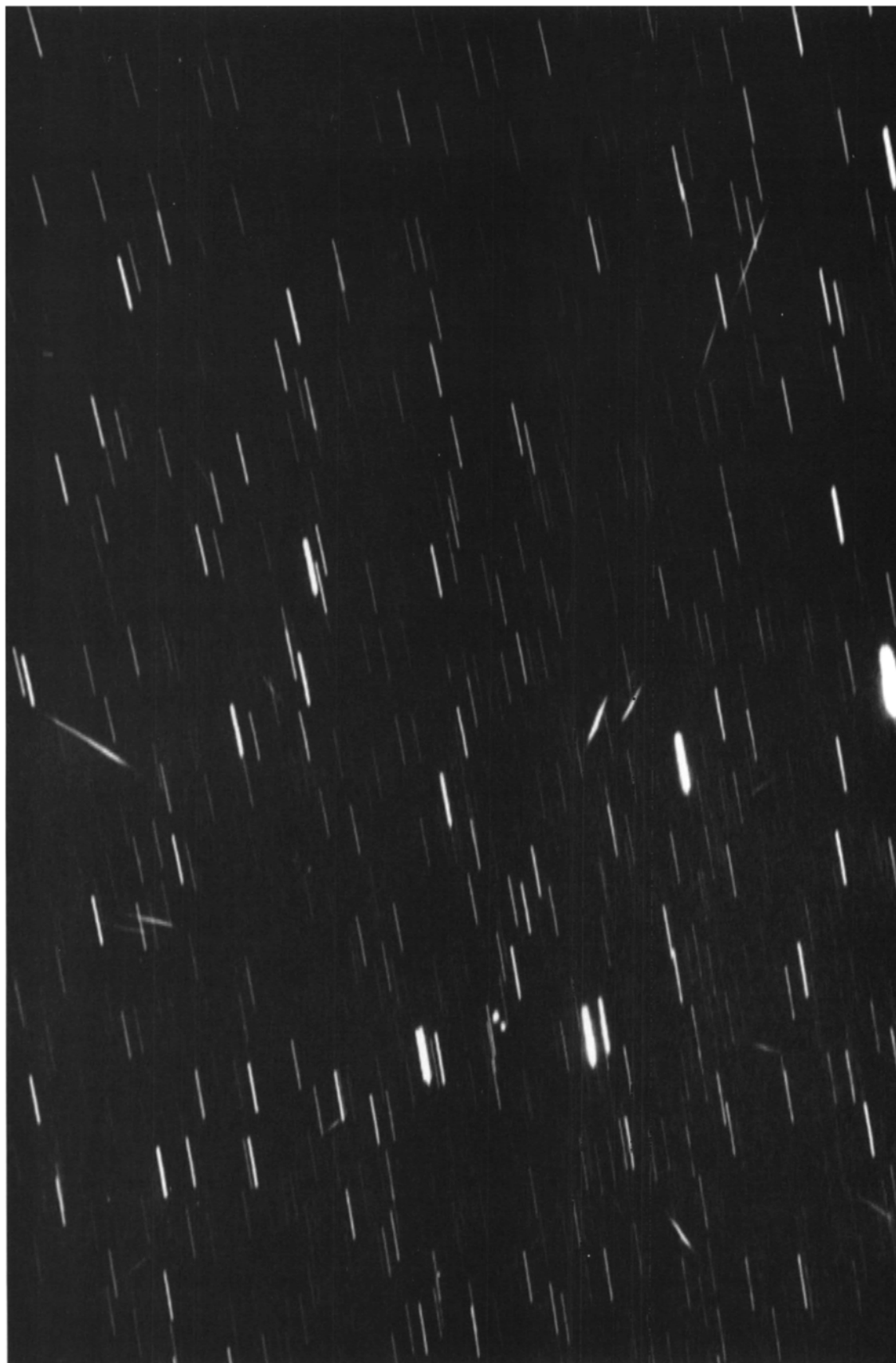
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For Peggy, Beth, and Owen
with love

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