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Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore,
São Paulo, Delhi, Dubai, Tokyo

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108005715

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2009

This edition first published 1934
This digitally printed version 2009

ISBN 978-1-108-00571-5

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THROUGH SPACE & TIME

BY

SIR JAMES JEANS

M.A., D.Sc., Sc.D.,

LL.D., F.R.S.

BASED ON THE
ROYAL INSTITUTION LECTURES
CHRISTMAS 1933

CAMBRIDGE
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS

1934

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-00571-5 - Through Space and Time
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[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town, Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi

Cambridge University Press
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 8RU, UK

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9780521740319

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First published 1934
This digitally printed version 2008

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

ISBN 978-0-521-74031-9 paperback

PREFACE

Every year for more than a century, the Royal Institution has invited some man of science to deliver a course of lectures at Christmastide in a style “adapted to a juvenile auditory”. In practice, this rather quaint phrase means that the lecturer will be confronted with an eager and critical audience, ranging in respect of age from under eight to over eighty, and in respect of scientific knowledge from the aforesaid child under eight to staid professors of science and venerable Fellows of the Royal Society, each of whom will expect the lecturer to say something that will interest him.

The present book contains the substance of what I said when I was honoured with an invitation of this kind for the Christmas season 1933–4, fortified in places with what I have said on other slightly more serious occasions, both at the Royal Institution and elsewhere.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge many courtesies and return thanks for much valuable help. I am indebted to Sir T. L. Heath for permission to borrow largely from his *Greek Astronomy* and other books; to many Institutions, Publishers and private individuals for the loan of negatives, prints, blocks, etc., and permission to reproduce these in my book—detailed acknowledgment is made in the List of Illustrations. Finally, I have

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Preface

to thank Sir Thomas Heath and my sister, Gertrude Jeans, for help in reading the proofs, and the staff of the Cambridge University Press for their usual careful help in producing the book.

J. H. JEANS

Dorking
August 1934

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