

Paperback Re-issue

Volume 4 of *The General History of Astronomy* concerns the birth of modern astrophysics in the nineteenth century, the growth of astronomical institutions to around 1920, and the development of instrumentation. The volume commences in the 1850s, with the first astronomical applications of photography and spectral analysis. It closes in the 1950s, before the explosive growth made possible by new electronic devices and computers.

In Part A there are eleven chapters, written by an international panel of eighteen authors. The topics covered in the birth of astrophysics include: the origins of astrophysics, the development of photography, variable stars and stellar evolution, and the H-R diagram. The chapter on observatories includes Greenwich, Paris, Pulkovo, Harvard College, US Naval, Lick and Potsdam. There are separate chapters on large telescopes (especially Yerkes, Mt Wilson and Palomar) and instrumentation, astronomy in the southern hemisphere, and early radio astronomy.

A most important feature of this series, which will cover all of the history of astronomy, is that it is written for a much wider readership than historians. Leading experts in astronomy and the history of science have prepared the text for a general audience. The prime motivation is to present a synthesis for the non-specialist of the development of astronomy from the earliest times. The entire history of astronomy has never been considered so generally at this depth. Each book in the series is illustrated and has a bibliography and comprehensive index.

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