The High Firmament: a Survey of Astronomy in English Literature

Interest in extrasolar worlds is not new. From the late 17th century until the end of the 19th, almost all educated people believed that the stars are suns surrounded by inhabited planets—a belief that was expressed not in science fiction, but in serious speculation, both scientific and religious, as well as in poetry. Only during the first half of the 20th century was it thought that life-bearing extrasolar planets are rare. This is not a science book—rather, it belongs to the category known as History of Ideas. First published by Atheneum in 1974, it tells the story of the rise, fall, and eventual renewal of widespread conviction that we are not alone in the universe. In this updated edition the chapters dealing with modern views have been revised to reflect the progress science has made during the past 40 years, including the actual detection of planets orbiting other stars. More poetry from past centuries, source notes, and an extensive bibliography have been added to this edition. In addition it contains a new Afterword, "Confronting the Universe in the Twenty-First Century," discussing the relevance of past upheavals in human thought to an understanding of the hiatus in space exploration that has followed the Apollo moon landings. "The only short and acceptable summary and analysis of the five Renaissance occult sciences. - Times Literary Supplement "The . . . usefulness of this book for students of Renaissance literature and culture will not soon be ended." - Virginia Quarterly Review "The absence of contaminating traces either of condescension or of credulosity give us this absorbing volume a special authority and place on the shelves of any reader or any library where the history of modern thoughts is relevant." - Scientific American "A remarkable summary and analysis of the five systems of esoteric science so influential in the Renaissance." - M ilton Quarterly "A magnificent job of tying together a vast number of diverse sources into a unified whole, . . . engrossing in its entirety." - The Sciences

The only short and acceptable summary and analysis of the five Renaissance occult sciences. - Times Literary Supplement "The . . . usefulness of this book for students of Renaissance literature and culture will not soon be ended." - Virginia Quarterly Review "The absence of contaminating traces either of condescension or of credulosity give us this absorbing volume a special authority and place on the shelves of any reader or any library where the history of modern thoughts is relevant." - Scientific American "A remarkable summary and analysis of the five systems of esoteric science so influential in the Renaissance." - Milton Quarterly "A magnificent job of tying together a vast number of diverse sources into a unified whole, . . . engrossing in its entirety." - The Sciences In this imaginative and provocative book, Purdy draws upon the work of such writers as Kurt Vonnegut, Vladimir Nabokov, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Günter Grass, Samuel Becket, and Eugene Ionesco to suggest ways in which novelists explore the unknown. His ingenious consideration of Henry James in conjunction with these novelists, as well as with science fiction and detective fiction writers and with mid-century scientific discoveries and advances—black holes, hydrogen bombs, space travel—offers rich, new insights into James's work and into the twentieth-century view of humanity's place in the world. For a general audience interested in solving mysteries in art, history, and literature using the methods of science, 'forensic astronomy' is a thrilling new field of exploration. Astronomical calculations are the basis of the studies, which have the advantage of bringing to readers both evocative images and a better understanding of the skies. Weather facts, volcano studies, topography, tides, historical letters and diaries, famous paintings, military records, and the friendly assistance of experts in related fields add variety, depth, and interest to the work. The chosen topics are selected for their wide public recognition and intrigue, involving artists such as Vincent van Gogh, Claude Monet, Edward Munch, and Ansel Adams; historical events such as the Battle of Marathon, the death of Julius Caesar, the American Revolution, and World War II; and literary authors such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Joyce, and Mary Shelley. This book sets out to answer these mysteries indicated with the means and expertise of astronomy, opening the door to a richer experience of human culture and its relationship with nature. Each subject is carefully analyzed. As an example using the study of sky paintings by Vincent van Gogh, the analytical method would include: - computer calculations of historical skies above France in the 19th century - finding and quoting the clues found in translations of original letters by Van Gogh - making site visits to France to determine the precise locations when Van Gogh set up his easel and what celestial objects are depicted. For each historical event influenced by astronomy, there would be a different kind of mystery to be solved. As an example: - How can the phase of the Moon and time of moonrise help to explain a turning point of the American Civil War - the fatal wounding of Stonewall Jackson at Chancellorsville in 1863? For each literary reference to astronomy, it was determined which celestial objects were being described and making an argument that the author is describing an actual event. For example, what was the date of the moonlit scene when Mary Shelley first had the idea for her novel "Frankenstein?" These and more fun riddles will enchant and delight the fan of art and astronomy. Highly readable account of meteors,
especially the spectacular Leonid showers, due in mid-November. The History of Science Fiction traces the origin and development of science fiction from Ancient Greece up to the present day. The author is both an academic literary critic and acclaimed creative writer of the genre. Written in lively, accessible prose it is specifically designed to bridge the worlds of academic criticism and SF fandom. In this title, first published in 1984, Peter M Arons argues that in late Victorian Britain a group of novelists and essayists quite consciously sought and found ideas in post-Darwinian biology that were susceptible to imaginative transformation. The period between 1860 and 1900 was a time of great confusion in biology; the natural selection hypothesis was in retreat before its acute critics, and no extension of evolutionary theory to human affairs was too bizarre to attract its quota of enthusiasts. Writers capitalised on this prevailing uncertainty and used it to their own artistic or polemic ends. A fascinating and interdisciplinary title, this reissue will interest students of late Victorian literature, as well as historians of biological theory between The Origin of Species and Mendel. This volume, the ninth in the series of The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne, presents newly edited critical texts of 25 love lyrics. Based on an exhaustive study of the manuscripts and printed editions in which these poems have appeared, Volume 4.2 details the genealogical history of each poem, accompanied by a thorough prose discussion, as well as a General Textual Introduction of the Songs and Sonnets collectively. The volume also presents a comprehensive digest of the commentary on these Songs and Sonnets from Donne's time through 1999. Arranged chronologically within sections, the material for each poem is organized under various headings that complement the volume's companions, Volume 4.1 and Volume 4.3. An illuminating survey of the impact of technical modes of production on the creation of meaning in diverse media, first published in 1990, this title provides a compendium of useful information for any reader of Donne to have at hand: crucial biographical material, historical contextualisation, and details about his life's work. The intention throughout is to enhance understanding and appreciation, without being exhaustive. The major portion of the volume, in both importance and size, is 'A Donne Dictionary'. Its entries are arranged alphabetically: they identify, describe and explain the most influential persons in Donne's life and works, as well as places, characters, allusions, ideas, concepts, individual words, phrases and literary terms that are relevant to a rounded appreciation of his poetry and prose. A Jonne Donne Companion will be of most use to general readers and students of English poetry and Anglican theology. Endorsements: Dr. Montgomery's latest book is one that every serious reader interested in clear Christian thinking should have on a table near her most comfortable reading chair. It is filled with a wide variety of bite-sized essays that are absolutely delightful -- knowledgeable, fun, witty, and unexpected. If you have never read the work of J. W. Montgomery before, you are in for a treat. This is a book that brings together his best writing from the past with his latest essays. It's a Christian feast of ideas that celebrates our Lord and His unfailing Word. --Craig J. Hazen, Ph.D., Director, MA Program in Christian Apologetics, Biola University. What makes J. W. Montgomery tick? What has driven him over a massively productive career to such wide-ranging interests as computers and Chemnitz, legal theory and apologetics, human rights and Christology, Dawkins and Duchamp? The answer is clear: the gospel of Jesus Christ and its defense, articulation, and application to the real world in which the Word became flesh, died, and rose again as the Savior. Many of our best confessional-era theologians, both Lutheran and Reformed, were "Renaissance men," but that's rarely the case today. Dr. Montgomery is a glaring exception and this book is a wonderful display of that full scope of his remarkable insights. While being an ardent defender of the Lutheran confession, he is far from parochial. Even in places where one might disagree, the clarity, logic, and relentless rigor of his arguments will kindle fires in hearths that we didn't even know we had and make us better advocates for the gospel. --Dr. Michael Horton, J. Gresham Machen Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics, Westminster Seminary California. "About the Contributor(s): John Warwick Montgomery is Professor Emeritus of Law and Humanities, University of Bedfordshire, England, Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy and Christian Thought, Patrick Henry College (Virginia, U.S.A.), and Director, International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism and Human Rights (Strasbourg, France). He holds ten earned degrees besides a Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Chicago, the Doctorat d'Université from Strasbourg, France, and the LL.M. and L.L.D. from the University of Cardiff, Wales/UK. A frequent contributor to Christianity Today. Dr. Montgomery has been honored by inclusion in Who's Who in America, Who's Who in France, and The Dictionary of International Biography. He is the author of some thirty books in the areas of theology, philosophy, and church history. He pleads cases before the European Court of Human Rights and has received the Patriarch's Medal of the Romanian Orthodox Church for his efforts in behalf of religious liberty. He is an ordained Lutheran pastor. Websites: , . German science fiction offers a most interesting contribution to the history and criticism of science fiction. William B. Fischer examines two writers, Kurd Lasswitz and Hans Dominik. He concludes that German science fiction is in distinct contrast to the "normative" tradition of modern Anglo-American science fiction and to many other literary traditions as well. His book demonstrates vividly the social relevance and enduring cultural vitality of science fiction. First published in 1995, this title provides the reader with a compendium of useful information for any reader of George Herbert to have at hand. It includes key biographical information, situates the poetry in its historical and cultural context, and, where appropriate, explains theological concepts and traditions which have a direct bearing on the verse. The aim throughout is to enhance understanding and appreciation, without being exhaustive. A George Herbert Companion will be of most use to general readers and undergraduate students coming to this poetry for the first time, and will interest students of Anglican Caroline theology and hymnology. This book is the definitive critical history of science fiction. The 2006 first edition of this work traced the development of the genre from Ancient Greece and the European Reformation through to the end of the 20th century. This new 2nd edition has been revised thoroughly and is very significantly expanded. A new all-new final chapter discusses 21st-
century science fiction, and there is new material in every chapter: a wealth of new readings and original research. The
author’s groundbreaking thesis that science fiction is born out of the 17th-century Reformation is here bolstered with a
wide range of new supporting material and many hundreds of 17th- and 18th-century science fiction texts, some of which
have never been discussed before. The account of 19th-century science fiction has been expanded, and the various
chapters tracing the twentieth-century bring in more writing by women, and science fiction in other media including
cinema, TV, comics, fan-culture and other modes.Thomas Hobbes's influential political treatise, Leviathan, was first
published in 1651. Many scholars have since credited him with a mechanistic outlook towards human nature that
established the basis of modern Western political philosophy from the perspective of social contract theory. In The
Platonic Leviathan, Leon Harold Craig weaves together philosophy, political science, and literature to offer a radical re-
interpretation of Hobbes's most famous work. Though Craig begins and concludes his analysis with discussions of
Herman Melville's Moby-Dick and includes an essay on Joseph Conrad's Heart of Darkness, the bulk of his two-part
commentary centres on Leviathan. Part One shows the overt principles of Hobbes's political prescription to be untenable,
and strongly suggests that Hobbes himself did not subscribe to these rules, using them only as tools to further his
philosophical goals. In Part Two, Craig displays the underlying Platonicism of Hobbes's thinking. Sure to be controversial,
The Platonic Leviathan may nonetheless re-orient the future direction of Hobbes scholarship.
This collection of short stories focuses on the Scottish civil war of 1644-45, in which the Marquis of Montrose led his royalist forces in a series of
stunning victories against the odds before his final defeat at Philiphaugh. Each of Hogg's five tales centres on one of the
five major battles of Montrose's brilliant but ultimately futile campaign. Each tale is utterly different from the others in
genre and tone, but taken together they build up a composite picture of what it was like to experience the 'anarchy and
confusion' of the time at first hand.In this, the first book-length study of astronomy in Hardy's writing, historian of
science and literary scholar Pamela Gossin brings the analytical tools of both disciplines to bear as she offers unexpected
and sophisticated readings of seven novels that enrich Darwinian and feminist perspectives on his work, extend formalist
evaluations of his achievement as a writer, and provide fresh interpretations of enigmatic passages and scenes. In an
elegantly crafted introduction, Gossin draws together the shared critical values and methods of literary studies and the
history of science to articulate a hybrid model of scholarly interpretation and analysis that promotes cross-disciplinary
compassion and understanding within the current contention of the science/culture wars. She then situates Hardy's own
deply interdisciplinary knowledge of astronomy and cosmology within both literary and scientific traditions, from the
ancient world through the Victorian era. Gossin offers insightful new assessments of A Pair of Blue Eyes, Far from the
Madding Crowd, The Return of the Native, Two on a Tower, The Woodlanders, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, and Jude the
Obscure, arguing that Hardy's personal synthesis of ancient and modern astronomy with mythopoetic and scientific
cosmologies enabled him to write as a literary cosmologist for the post-Darwinian world. The profound new myths that
comprise Hardy's novel universe can be read as a sustained set of literary thought-experiments by which he critiques the
possibilities, limitations, and dangers of living out the storylines that such imaginative cosmologies project for his time -
and ours. First published in 1998, this title provides for the reader of the renowned metaphysical poet and politician a
valuable reference and resource volume. It is a compendium of useful information for any reader of Andrew Marvell,
including crucial biographical material, historical contextualisation, and details about his life's work. The intention
throughout is to enhance understanding and appreciation, without being exhaustive. The major portion of the volume, in
both importance and size, is 'A M arvell Dictionary'. Its entries are arranged alphabetically: they identify, describe and
explain the most influential persons in Marvell's life and works, as well as places, characters, allusions, ideas, concepts,
individual words, phrases and literary terms that are relevant to a rounded appreciation of his poetry and prose. A n
Andrew Marvell Companion will prove invaluable for all students of English poetry and seventeenth-century political
history. Several decades have elapsed since the publication of any similar book in the German language. The lack of such
a book has been felt keenly by all friends of astronomy. In our space age, astronomical knowledge arouses public interest
more and more. Practical observation at the telescope depends more than anything else on such knowledge. The
educational value of such a training is undisputed. On the other hand, the work of the amateur astronomer can also
contribute essentially to the work of the professionals. It is from these points of view that this handbook aims to help with
versatile advice. At the same time, the book intends to show the wide range of applied astronomy, as it presents itself to the
friend of the stars; in mathematical-physical fields, in precision mechanics and optics, and last but not least in the area of
social relations. Beyond the circle of amateur astronomers the book is addressed to lecturers, teachers, students and
pupils. It wishes to serve them as a guide to "astronomical experiments", which we suggest should be performed in
primary and secondary schools, specialist colleges, and extramural courses. This Encyclopedia traces the history of the
oldest science from the ancient world to the space age in over 300 entries by leading experts. Explores the relationship
between narrative and the production of meaning across a range of Renaissance discourses. With unprecedented current
coverage of the profound changes in the nature and practice of science in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe, this
comprehensive reference work addresses the individuals, ideas, and institutions that defined culture in the age when the
modern perception of nature, of the universe, and of our place in it is said to have emerged. Covering the historiography
of the period, discussions of the Scientific Revolution's impact on its contemporaneous disciplines, and in-depth analyses
of the importance of historical context to major developments in the sciences, The Encyclopedia of the Scientific
Revolution is an indispensable resource for students and researchers in the history and philosophy of science. In The
Ashgate Research Companion to Thomas Hardy, some of the most prominent Hardy specialists working today offer an
overview of Hardy scholarship and suggest new directions in Hardy studies. The contributors cover virtually every area relevant to Hardy's fiction and poetry, including philosophy, palaeontology, biography, science, film, popular culture, beliefs, gender, music, masculinity, tragedy, topography, psychology, metaphysics, illustration, bibliographical studies and contemporary response. While several collections have surveyed the Hardy landscape, no previous volume has been composed especially for scholars and advanced graduate students. This companion is specially designed to aid original research on Hardy and serve as the critical basis for Hardy studies in the new millennium. Among the features are a comprehensive bibliography that includes not only works in English but, in acknowledgment of Hardy's expansion in popularity around the world, also works in languages other than English. In this updated second edition renowned amateur comet-searcher David H. Levy expands on his work about the intricate relationship between the night sky and the works of English Literature. This revised and expanded text includes new sections on Alfred Lord Tennyson and Gerald Manley Hopkins (both amateur astronomers), extending the time period analyzed in the first edition from early modern literature to encompass the Victorian age. Although the sky enters into much of literature through the ages, British authors offer an especially fertile connection to the heavens, and Levy links the works of seminal authors from Shakespeare on to specific celestial events and scientific advances. From the impact of comets and supernovae to eclipses, Levy's ultimate goal in this book is to inspire his readers to do the same thing as their ancestors did so long ago—look up and appreciate the stars. His insights in this revised book spread farther and wider than ever before in this learned and enchanting tour of the skies. This is the first in-depth study in English of the international debate that developed between 1750 and 1900 concerning the question of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligent life. Taking a history of ideas approach, the author describes the controversies that arose over this question and reveals the great extent to which this issue influenced astronomical, philosophical, and religious thought. Professor Crowe shows that the majority of the leading astronomers of the last two centuries participated in this debate and he analyzes how their views interacted with new developments such as Newtonian mechanics, stellar astronomy, Darwinian theory, and astrophysics. This fascinating and critical history shows that the longstanding and widespread belief in extraterrestrial life has for centuries acted to alter major areas of our intellectual life. The Philological Quarterly's annual bibliographies of modern studies in English neoclassical literature, published originally from 1961 to 1970, are reproduced in two volumes. Readers will find the same features that distinguished earlier compilations in the series: inclusive listing of significant works published in each year (including sections on the historical and cultural background as well as literature), authoritative reviews of important works, critical comments, and a full index that is in itself an indispensable reference tool. Originally published in 1972. The Princeton Legacy Library uses the latest print-on-demand technology to again make available previously out-of-print books from the distinguished backlist of Princeton University Press. These editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions. The goal of the Princeton Legacy Library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by Princeton University Press since its founding in 1905. The Starry Sky Within is an innovative study of the previously unexplored connections between nineteenth-century astronomy and British literature. Nineteenth-century astronomers revealed a cosmos of celestial systems in which nothing was at rest. The sky, consequently, no longer seemed a dome containing the human world, but a staggeringly mobile world extending far beyond the scope of human vision. Henchman shows that the reconceptualization of the skies gave novelists new spaces in which to get outside the limitations of individual perspectives. Arguing against the idea that literary point of view can ever be either singular, stationary, or stable, Henchman reveals new links between nineteenth-century astronomy and Victorian novels by Eliot, Dickens, and Hardy. Inspired by wheeling celestial bodies in constantly changing relation to each other, these writers create literary worlds that are characterized by multiple centers of consciousness, perpetual motion, and criss-crossing points of view. A survey of the interaction between science and Anglo-American literature from the late medieval period to the 20th century, examining how authors, thinkers, and philosophers have viewed science in literary texts, and used science as a window to the future. * Gives clear explanations of scientific ideas ranging from medieval cosmology to modern concepts in astronomy * Organizes the material in chronological order with a chronology and bibliographic essay accompanying each chapter * Traces intertribal trade relations of the Iroquois and the impact Europeans had on this in the seventeenth century. William Shakespeare lived at a remarkable time—a period we now recognize as the first phase of the Scientific Revolution. New ideas were transforming Western thought, the medieval was giving way to the modern, and the work of a few key figures hinted at the brave new world to come: the methodical and rational Galileo, the skeptical Montaigne, and— as Falk convincingly argues—Shakespeare, who observed human nature just as intently as the astronomers who studied the night sky. In The Science of Shakespeare, we meet a colorful cast of Renaissance thinkers, including Thomas Digges, who published the first English account of the "new astronomy" and lived in the same neighborhood as Shakespeare; Thomas Harriot—"England's Galileo"—who aimed a telescope at the night sky months ahead of his Italian counterpart; and Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, whose observatory-castle stood within sight of Elsinore, chosen by Shakespeare as the setting for Hamlet—and whose family crest happened to include the names "Rosencrans" and "Gildenstern." And then there's Galileo himself: As Falk shows, his telescopic observations may have influenced one of Shakespeare's final works. Dan Falk's The Science of Shakespeare explores the connections between the famous playwright and the beginnings of the Scientific Revolution—and how, together, they changed the world forever. Astronomy is not just a subject unto itself. We all look at the sky, and it has always been a fertile source of guidance and inspiration in art, music, and literature. This book explores the sky's appearances in music and art, but focuses most on the sky's enormous presence in early
modern English literature. The author concentrates on William Shakespeare, whose references to the sky far exceed the combined total of all his contemporaries. Venturing into the historical context of these references, the book teaches about the Supernovae of 1572 and 1604, the abundant comets of this period, eclipses, astrology and its relation to the night sky at the time, and the early years of the telescope and how the literature of the time relates to it. This book promises to open doors between two great fields of study by inspiring readers to look for their own connections between astronomy and literature, and by helping them to enjoy the night sky itself more completely. The reconfiguration and relinquishing of one's conviction in a world system long held to be finite required for many in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries a compromise in one's beliefs and the biblical authority on which he or she had relied - and this did not come without serious and complex challenges. Advances in astronomy, such as the theories of Copernicus, the development of the telescope, and Galileo's discoveries and descriptions of the moon sparked intense debate in Early Modern literary discourse. The essays in this collection demonstrate that this discourse not only stimulated international discussion about lunar voyages and otherworldly habitation, but it also developed a political context in which these new discoveries and theories could correspond metaphorically to New World exploration and colonization, to socio-political unrest, and even to kingship and regicide. Astronomy fascinated Herman Melville and provided an important and recurring theme in all his writing. He was inspired by uranography, stellar lore, ancient philosophical notions about the nature of the universe, and discoveries and speculations in contemporary astronomy. In Herman Melville: Stargazer Brett Zimmerman investigates Melville's knowledge and literary uses of astronomy, especially within the thematic contexts of Mardi, Clarel, and Billy Budd. Shakespeare's famous play, Hamlet, has been the subject of more scholarly analysis and criticism than any other work of literature in human history. For all of its generally acknowledged virtues, however, it has also been treated as problematic in a raft of ways. In Philosophy and the Puzzles of Hamlet, Leon Craig explains that the most oft-cited problems and criticisms are actually solvable puzzles. Through a close reading of the philosophical problems presented in Hamlet, Craig attempts to provide solutions to these puzzles. The posing of puzzles, some more conspicuous, others less so, is fundamental to Shakespeare's philosophical method and purpose. That is, he has crafted his plays, and Hamlet in particular, so as to stimulate philosophical activity in the "judicious" (as distinct from the "unskillful") readers. By virtue of showing what so many critics treat as faults or flaws are actually intended to be interpretive challenges, Craig aims to raise appreciation for the overall coherence of Hamlet: that there is more logical rigor to its plot and psychological plausibility to its characterizations than is generally granted, even by its professed admirers. Philosophy and the Puzzles of Hamlet endeavors to make clear why Hamlet, as a work of reason, is far better than is generally recognized, and proves its author to be, not simply the premier poet and playwright he is already universally acknowledged to be, but a philosopher in his own right.

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