

Insider's Guide to the Galaxy - September 14, 2021 – Books!
By Chris Vaughan

Canadian content in red text

Out of print books are green text (use RASC Forum, AstroBuySell, AbeBooks, etc.)

Chris' Very First Astronomy Books

"Find the Constellations (1962)", H.A. Rey

"Constellations: Concise Guide in Colour (1969)", Josef Klepesta and Antonin Rukl

Kids Astronomy and Space Books

"Astronomy for Kids (2018)", Bruce Betts

[Emily Lakdawalla's Recommended Space Books for Kids, 2019](#)

"My First Book of Planets: All About the Solar System for Kids (2020)", Bruce Betts

"Find the Constellations (2016)", H. A. Rey

- By Curious George author, very engaging, updated

["50 Things To See With A Telescope - Kids: A Constellation Focused Approach \(2017\), John A. Read](#)

- Highlights best targets, geared to kids, inexpensive

Indigenous Astronomy

"Ojibwe Sky Star Map - Constellation Guidebook: An Introduction to Ojibwe Star Knowledge (2014)", Annette Sharon Lee, William Peter Wilson, Jeffrey Tibbetts, Carl Gawboy

- Small book, compliments Stellarium Sky Culture, Ojibwe expressions

Moon

["Atlas of the Moon \(1996\)", Antonin Rukl and Thomas Rackham](#)

- Classic painted maps, 76 labeled charts, E-W strips, binoculars orientation, not telescope, rare

"The Cambridge Photographic Moon Atlas (2012)", Alan Chu and Wolfgang Paech

- Beautiful coffee-table, 69 regions N to S by phase, alternate illuminations for targets

"50 Things to See on the Moon: A first-time stargazer's guide (2019)", John A. Read

- Moon's highlights, all ages, easy, inexpensive

Observing – Star Atlases

"The Cambridge Double Star Atlas (2009)", Bruce McAvoy & Wil Tirion

- Spiral bound, large!, 30 two-page charts 40° x 4h, E to W strips, stars to mag 7.6, DSOs, DS

"Sky & Telescope's Pocket Sky Atlas", Roger W. Sinnott

- Spiral bound, tablet sized, 80 charts 40° x 3h, N to S strips, stars to mag 7.6, DSOs

"Uranometria 2000.0 vol.1,2 (1987-91)", Wil Tirion, Barry Rappaport, George Lovi

- Two volumes of 250 charts 13° x 1h, stars to mag 9.5, no stick figures, 2012 all-sky edition

Observing – What to Look at

["110 Things to See With a Telescope: The World's Most Famous Stargazing List \(2021\)", John A. Read and Chris Vaughan](#)

- Inexpensive, Messiers by season & W to E, finder charts with telrad, logging space, intro to astronomy pages,

“Turn Left at Orion: A Hundred Night Sky Objects to See in a Small Telescope - and How to Find Them (Fourth Edition, 2011)”, Guy Consolmagno and Dan M. Davis

- Spiral bound, big pages, organized by season, best targets but not all of them, sketches

“Objects in the Heavens (6th Edition, 2020)”, Peter Birren

- Small, organized by constellations, lists best targets of all types (DS, Carbon, asterisms, DSOs)

The Night sky Observer’s Guide, Vols 1, 2”, Kepple & Sanner

- Big! Organized by constellation, notable stars, DS, DSOs, sketches & photos, finder charts, descriptions through range of apertures

“Deep Sky Wonders (2011)”, Sue French

- Organized by season and constellation, columns from Sky & Tel, coffee table worthy, loads of information on many target types, charts and astro-images

Observing - Reference Books

"The Complete Guide to the Herschel Objects (2011)", Mark Bratton

- Organized by constellation, then NGC/IC, visual description of each DSO, photos of many, excellent history of Herschels, Canadian!

“Deep-Sky Companions: The Messier Objects (2nd Edition, 2014)”, Stephen James O'Meara

- Excellent for post-observing follow-up, organized by Mnnn, astrophysics, visual appearance, how to find, finder charts and images, history of Messier

“Deep-Sky Companions: The Caldwell Objects (2nd Edition, 2016)”, Stephen James O'Meara

- Excellent for post-observing follow-up, organized by Cnnn, astrophysics, visual appearance, how to find, finder charts and images

“Deep-Sky Companions: Hidden Treasures (2007)”, Stephen James O'Meara

- Excellent for post-observing follow-up, organized by SJO, astrophysics, visual appearance, how to find, finder charts and images, Caroline Herschel bio

“Deep-Sky Companions: The Secret Deep (2011)”, Stephen James O'Meara

- Excellent for post-observing follow-up, organized by SJO, astrophysics, visual appearance, how to find, finder charts and images, Caroline Herschel bio

“Observing Handbook and Catalogue of Deep-Sky Objects”, Christian Luginbuhl, Brian Skiff

- Organized by constellation, eyepiece descriptions of each NGC/IC, sketches!

General Astronomy

"NightWatch: A Practical Guide to Viewing the Universe (2006)", Terence Dickinson and Timothy Ferris

- Spiral bound, geared to beginners, very broad content, sky tours

"The Backyard Astronomer's Guide (4th Ed, 2021)", Terence Dickinson and Alan Dyer

- Encyclopedic, up to date models & pricing, what to see, how to see, tours, astrophotography

“A Peterson Field Guide to Stars and Planets (4th Edition, 1999), Jay M. Pasachoff

- Small format, lots of information, sky charts, almanac-type content

“Bad Astronomy: Misconceptions and Misuses Revealed, from Astrology to the Moon Landing "Hoax (2002)”, Philip C. Plait

- Essays on many topics, including misconceptions

"The Sun's Heartbeat: And Other Stories from the Life of the Star That Powers Our Planet (2011)", Bob Berman

- Solar physics

RASC Publications <https://www.rasc.ca/rasc-publications>

Observers Handbook

"2021 Night Sky Almanac: A Month-by-Month Guide to North America's Skies from the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada (2020)", Nicole Mortillaro

"Beginners Observing Guide (6th edition)", Leo Enright

Cosmology and Physics

"The End of Everything, Astronomically Speaking (2020)", Katie Mack

Space Exploration

"Chasing New Horizons: Inside the Epic First Mission to Pluto (2018)", Alan Stern and David Grinspoon

"A Man on the Moon (2007)", Andrew Chaikin

"Amazing Stories of the Space Age: True Tales of Nazis in Orbit, Soldiers on the Moon, Orphaned Martian Robots, and Other Fascinating Accounts from the Annals of Spaceflight (2017)", Rod Pyle

Astronomical History and Biographies

"Longitude: The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time (2007)", Dava Sobel

"The Glass Universe: How the Ladies of the Harvard Observatory Took the Measure of the Stars (2017)", Dava Sobel

"Starlight Nights: The Adventures of a Star-Gazer (2013)", Leslie C. Peltier

Science

"Imagined Life: A Speculative Scientific Journey among the Exoplanets in Search of Intelligent Aliens, Ice Creatures, and Supergravity Animals (2019)", by James Trefil and Michael Summers

"Archaeology from Space: How the Future Shapes Our Past (2019)", Sarah Parcak

"Short History of Nearly Everything (2004)", Bill Bryson

Online Books (PDF)

https://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/online_books.html

<https://www.nasa.gov/connect/ebooks/index.html>