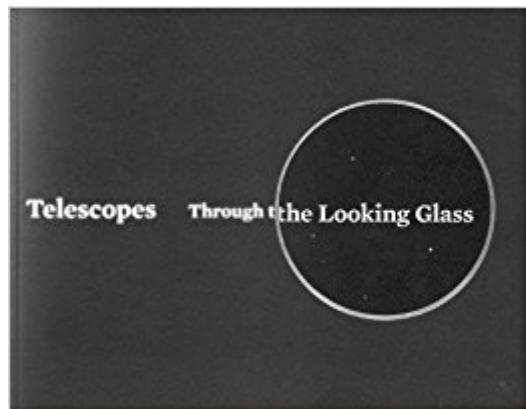


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Telescopes: Through The Looking Glass



Synopsis

Through the Looking Glass celebrates the telescope's 400th anniversary.

Book Information

Paperback: 238 pages

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Customer Reviews

Marvin Bolt is Associate Curator of the History of Astronomy Department at Chicago's Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum. He has a Ph.D. in Intellectual History and History & Philosophy of Science from the University of Notre Dame, where he concurrently holds the position of visiting scholar. In addition to working on the Adler's catalogue of optical instruments and publishing his dissertation on Sir John Herschel, he continues to research the social context of 19th century astronomy. He is a member of the History of Science Society and the William Herschel Society.

This is the book from an exhibition at the Adler Planetarium. Although it follows the history of the development of the telescope, at least through the nineteenth century, it is more a book on the art of the telescope than the science of the telescope. Even the section on the development of the telescope is more about people and impressive-looking instruments than about the technical evolution of the telescope. Which is not a bad thing. I enjoyed the book and am glad I bought it. But the potential buyer should understand what this book is, and what it isn't. If you enjoy admiring the craft and artistry of old telescopes, jump on it. On the other hand, if you want an easy to read introduction more focused on the broad development of telescope rather than examples in an exhibit, consider The Telescope: A Short History. Although I generally liked the layout with the

picture of the item from the exhibition on the right, faced on the left with the text about the item, one gimmick put me off a little. The chapter headings and numbers are printed to look out of focus, although becoming less so as the book progresses. Too cute by half.

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