

BOOK REVIEWS

Observing and Cataloguing Nebulae and Star Clusters. From Herschel to Dreyer's New General Catalogue, by Wolfgang Steinicke (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2010), pp. 648, 359 illustrations. ISBN 978-0-521-19267-5 (hard cover), 248 x 192 mm, £90.00.

This is the slightly revised English edition of W. Steinicke's German thesis, reviewed in *JAH*² 12(3), p. 255 (2009). With the text arranged in two columns, and the use of a slightly larger font size, this fundamental investigation of the prehistory, genesis and content of Dreyer's *New General Catalogue* makes a much more agreeable read than the German print-on-demand book. With 359 figures, among them many portraits of nowadays little-known astronomers and contemporary sketches of objects, 238 tables and 1628 references, this will remain the standard reference work in the field. An appendix gives a timeline of major events, from Messier's 1781 catalogue up to Dreyer's and Bigourdan's studies in the early twentieth century. This is followed by a long table with technical data on telescopes employed for nebular work, arranged by site. The final 28 pages contain indexes of names, sites, objects and subjects. The numerous citations, kept in their original language in the German edition, are now all translated into English, but scholars can always turn to the properly-referenced original sources.

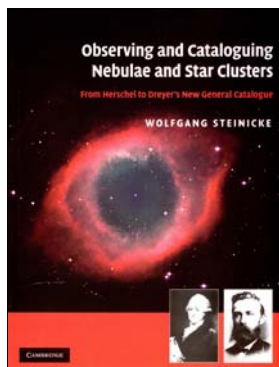
With this labour of love, Steinicke has provided an invaluable service to historians of astronomy and deep sky observers.

Professor Hilmar W. Duerbeck

History of Astronomy in Finland 1828 - 1918, by Raimo Lehti and Tapio Markkanen (Sastamala, Societas Scientiarum Fennica, 2010), pp. 269, 40 b&w and 38 colour figures, ISBN 978-951-653-379-0 (soft cover), 150 x 235 mm, €28.

This book is part of the series *The History of Learning and Science in Finland 1828 - 1918*, and represents the first major account on this topic written in English.

The reader should not take the above time interval too seriously: the first 100 pages describe learning in the Middle Ages, Maupertuis' degree measurement in the eighteenth century, the rise of the Abo Academy, the



installation of an observatory there and the appointment of Friedrich Argelander as its Director. The infamous Abo (Turku) town fire of 1827 put an end to these activities. The decision to build a new university in Helsinki, and the close collaboration of Argelander with its architect, Carl Ludwig Engel, led to the construction of a new observatory, finished in 1834, which would be a model for other ones like Pulkovo.

The next 100 pages trace the activities of the Helsinki Observatory Directors Argelander, Lundahl, Woldstedt, Lindelöf, and the more famous Adalbert Krueger and Anders Donner, who were responsible for the Finnish share of the *Astronomische Gesellschaft* and *Carte du Ciel* sky surveys. Special chapters are dedicated to Hugo Gylden and Karl Frithiof Sundman, two specialists in celestial mechanics. The final two dozen pages trace the history of Finnish astronomy to the present. Memberships in the European Space Agency (1985) and the European Southern Observatory (2004), as well as the joint project of a Nordic Optical Telescope (NOT) on the Canary Islands are modern examples of the international collaboration that has always influenced the course of Finnish astronomy.

This book is highly recommended as a concise overview of the important astronomical contributions made by Finland.

Professor Hilmar W. Duerbeck

Centre for Astronomy, James Cook University

Astronomie in Nürnberg, edited by Gudrun Wolfschmidt (Tredition Science, Hamburg 2010), pp. 388, many color and b&w illustrations), ISBN 978-3-86850-609-9), 175 x 227 mm, €49.90.

This book includes 14 papers given at a conference held in Nuremberg in early 2005, commemorating the 500th anniversary of Bernhard Walther's death, and the 300th of that of Georg Christian Eimmart.

The first third of this book contains an overview paper by the editor, focussing on the instruments (including globes and atlases) used and built by Nuremberg artisans and astronomers from about AD 1450 to 1850. The next two papers deal with Johannes Regiomontanus and Bernhard Walther: Uta Lindgren investigates the impact of Regiomontanus' ephemerides on the discovery of America, and Richard Kremer elucidates the question of whether Walther was not only an excellent observer but also a theoretician who intended to use the observations for an improvement of planetary

