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Book Review: The Telescope: Its History, Technology, and Future

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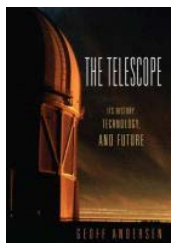
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The telescope : its history, technology, and future



Andersen, Geoff. Princeton, 2007

248p, 0691129797 \$29.95, 9780691129792 \$29.95

LC Call Number: [QB88](#)

Andersen's title suggests that this is one of many how-to books about telescopes--not so! His focus is the history of the telescope--the invention that helped spark the Renaissance. In this book, readers also will find discussions of many related topics, including the dark-adapted human eye, how the different kinds of telescopes work, optical limitations such as aberration and atmospheric turbulence, instruments such as spectrographs and photometers, interferometry, factors to consider when building one's own observatory, etc. Also in the book are excellent chapters on the Hubble Space Telescope and infrared telescopes, as well as recent advances in telescope technology such as active and adaptive optics, spin cast mirrors, and the like. But wait, there's more! Telescopes are used for things other than astronomy. Later chapters cover laser communications, LIDAR, remote sensing, and reconnaissance (spying). The final chapter is devoted to future telescopes, most notably the 30-100 meter behemoths expected to become operational in the next decade. Andersen spins an engaging story that can be easily read in one afternoon by any layperson. It is well worth a space on any science buff's shelf.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels, General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Two-Year Technical Program Students, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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