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Book Review: Fred Hoyle's Universe

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Fred Hoyle's universe



Gregory, Jane. Oxford, 2005

406p, 0198507917 \$29.95

LC Call Number: [QB36](#)

This is the definitive biography of Fred Hoyle, irascible icon of 20th-century astrophysics and one of the most popular public purveyors of astronomy during his career. Hoyle made many important and lasting contributions to nearly every part of astronomy, from the accretion processes by which stars initially form from the interstellar medium, to the way they process and return enriched material to space. He is equally well known for his mistakes (Steady State Universe) and controversial claims (germs from space). It was Hoyle who coined the term "big bang" for an expanding universe of finite age. Scoffing that it was "like a party girl jumping out of a cake--undignified," he spent most of two decades trying to disprove it. *Fred Hoyle's Universe*, which grew out of Gregory's doctoral dissertation, has been thoroughly researched and footnoted. It is clearly a labor of love. Astronomy buffs will enjoy this hard-to-put-down account of Hoyle's life and all the first-person accounts from fellow founders of modern astrophysics. Historians will also find it a trove of vignettes about life in the UK circa WW II.

Summing Up: Essential. All levels.

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

Recommendation: Essential

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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