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Book Review: Finding the Big Bang

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Finding the big bang



ed. by P. James E. Peebles, Lyman A. Page Jr., and R. Bruce Partridge Cambridge, 2009

571p, 9780521519823 \$80.00

LC Call Number: [QB991](#)

The discovery of creation's fossil remnant, the so-called big bang, ranks among the most important scientific discoveries of all time. Probably more books have been written about it than any other topic in astronomy. *Finding the Big Bang* stands out as a new benchmark. It is not a mass market descriptive story, nor is it a technical treatise. It is a compendium of mostly first-person accounts of how a faint radio static emanating from all over the sky came to be recognized as the afterglow of the birth of the universe. The editors have purposefully limited these accounts to scientists who were most active in the 1960s and 1970s, when the first evidence was being collected and early theories were being discussed and disputed. The vignettes are frequently autobiographical and occasionally technical, though one can skim right over the latter without losing the thread of the story at all. Most stories are contributions from key players in the field; other accounts, from scientists on the margins of cosmology, provide a useful outside perspective. The level of the book is mostly aimed at the professional scientist or science historian, but any aficionado of cosmology will greatly enjoy this work.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals/practitioners.

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

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

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

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