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*Reference*

- (1) *Nature*, **47**, 582, 1893.

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REVIEWS

**Resolving the Rise and Fall of Star Formation in Galaxies**, edited by Tony Wong & Woong-Tae Kim (Cambridge University Press), 2023. Pp. 333, 25 × 18 cm. Price £98/\$130 (hardbound; ISBN 978 1 009 35295 6).

This volume is the proceedings of IAU Symposium 373, held in Busan in the Republic of Korea in 2022 August as part of the XXXI General Assembly. According to the preface there were 21 invited talks, 36 contributed talks, 78 e-posters, and 78 e-talks at the symposium. This has translated into 71 printed papers — many of them very interesting — split into five (somewhat overlapping) sections: ‘Scales of Star Formation: From Molecular Cores to Galaxies’ (19 contributions), ‘Sustaining Star Formation: Gas Conditions & Environment’ (also 19), ‘The Decline of Star Formation: Feedback, Fuel Shortage or Inefficiency’ (9), ‘The Rise and Fall of Star Formation Across Cosmic Time’ (14), and ‘Regulation of Star Formation and the Evolution of Galaxies’ (10). The organizers’ intention was to draw together work on the full range of scales, and they certainly achieved that, though it would be interesting to know exactly how much those participants primarily involved with large-scale surveys or cosmological simulations were able to take away from papers on, say, ultra-compact HII regions or hot molecular cores (and *vice versa* of course). A conference overview or summary would have been useful. A plus point of the volume is the wide geographical spread of institutions and individuals among the contributors, but a negative is that many of the results had already been published (in more detail) in journals prior to the meeting and more will have appeared by now. The latter point raises the wider question of the on-going value of such volumes. With journals moving towards on-line only, why does a conference have to have a printed book (apart from them being pleasant souvenirs for attendees)? Does anyone seek them out and search them for new work anymore, or simply check astro-ph? — STEVE PHILLIPPS.