

The evolutionary scenario is essentially H. N. Russell's 'Giant and Dwarf Theory' (stars condense, heat up, move across the H-R diagram from right to left as giants, then descend diagonally down the main sequence to end as red dwarfs and, eventually, dark stars, though a few are allowed to reheat and become white dwarfs. All the stars and indeed all cosmic objects are averred to be made of the same substances, though the only entity mentioned as being dominated by hydrogen is the solar corona.

No credits are given for the rather nice photographs and drawings, which are therefore probably the author's own. His Milky Way is roughly that of Shapley, a disc with the Solar System far from the centre, but the disc is made of star clusters (we live in the local one), and our Galactic core has been largely denuded in forming stars that now occupy the spiral arms. That is, his picture of galaxy evolution endorses the vocabulary of 'early' (elliptical) and 'late' (spiral) types, just as his picture of stellar evolution endorses 'early' and 'late' spectral types. The Milky Way indeed has a flock of globular clusters above and below its plane (so does the Andromeda nebula), though they are not concentrated toward the centre and do not extend as far out as the edge of the disc.

In a bit of healthy scepticism, Steavenson suggests that it may not be true that other galaxies are much smaller than the Milky Way (indeed, modernized distance scales have taken care of that, as well as of the time-scale problem). His Milky Way rotates, at about 200 miles per second where we are (yes, miles, also inches, light years, and so forth), yielding a mass of about 100 000 million suns.

According to the received wisdom of 2023, Dr. Steave is very sound on the nearby (indeed he mentions two asteroids that come closer than Eros, though they were found in 1932 and did not yet have orbits as he wrote) and remarkably both accepting and sceptical of 1933 views of "the boundless universe." The parts we want to rewrite come in the middle!

Perhaps also odd by our standards are the author's choices of which astronomers to mention by name — Copernicus, Kepler, Tycho, Newton, William Herschel, and Galileo (in that order) — and none of his immediate predecessors or contemporaries, or looming successors. This probably saved him from making enemies — as indeed reflected in his election to the presidency of both the BAA and the RAS.

In summary, a lovely 90-minute read with two bonus pieces of paper (you would be surprised at the prices for nightgowns in 1971!) and a mysterious former owner. — VIRGINIA TRIMBLE.

Here and There

ALSO THE INVENTOR OF A TIME MACHINE

October 7: Death of Thomas Frederick Furber. Born in England in 1955 he was an Australian government surveyor of New South Wales; observed the Transit of Venus in 1882 from Lord Howe Island; FRAS 1896. — *The Observatory*, **143**, 283, 2023. [For which the Editors are guilty.]