

Of course, in a book of this length, it would be a surprise if there were no mistakes at all, but they are mostly harmless: in addition to typos and linguistic errors typical of Italian speakers — though the translation is on the whole good — sometimes unimportant (for this narrative) details are wrong, *e.g.*, Max Born emigrated to the UK, not as stated to the USA, the ESO headquarters were first briefly in Hamburg before Geneva and then Garching (only the last two are mentioned), and sometimes relatively common myths are repeated, *e.g.*, that Einstein was led to Special Relativity *via* the Michelson–Morley experiment. Some matters of style and so on could have benefitted from better proof-reading, but other things, such as mis-spelled names, would need a proof reader familiar with the well-over-one-thousand names mentioned in the book (though different spellings of the same name should have been easy enough to spot). The author seems to be very well informed, so I was surprised that he thinks that there is more than just a shadow of a doubt on Eddington’s interpretation of the famous 1919 eclipse-expedition results, as that long-standing myth has been convincingly debunked<sup>1,2</sup>. The back-cover description states that “[a] rich bibliography has also been added in the appendix”, but there is no appendix at all. (The citations, though, contain full bibliographic information, including titles, issue numbers, and first and last page numbers.\*)

However, in comparison to the treasure-trove of information contained in this tome, my complaints are minor. It is both a good introduction to the history of astronomy for someone who knows little or nothing about that field, but also an enjoyable read for those who know considerably more. Probably everyone would learn many new interesting things, and it is also valuable for its many citations to the primary literature, including the sources of quotations, of topics mentioned in the text. — PHILLIP HELBIG.

### References

- (1) D. Kennefick, *No Shadow of a Doubt: The 1919 Eclipse that Confirmed Einstein’s Theory of Relativity* (Princeton University Press), 2019.
- (2) D. W. Hughes, *The Observatory*, **139**, 245, 2019.
- (3) G. E. Christianson, *Edwin Hubble, Mariner of the Nebulae* (Farrar Straus & Giroux), 1995.
- (4) D. J. Stickland, *The Observatory*, **117**, 325, 1997.

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### Here and There

#### DANGEROUSLY OUT OF FOCUS

The Cassegrain focus — effectively the lens — of the Subaru telescope atop the Mauna Kea volcano in Hawaii — *New Scientist*, 2023 January 23, p. 31.

\*As a reference to Hubble’s enormous ego, Capaccioli cites the definitive biography<sup>3</sup> (reviewed by our long-standing Editor<sup>4</sup>) and explicitly “pp. 1–420” (*i.e.*, the entire book).