

There is something for everyone in this book: "The Art of Finding the Right Graph," "Inertia of a Broomstick," "N Rays," "Slidesmanship," "Gulliver's Computer," even physics terms made easy:

CALCULUS OF RESIDUES.....How to clean a bathtub.  
 COMA.....Italian for "Multi-toothed device for arranging one's hair."  
 FLUX.....Past participle of the verb to flex.  
 HARMONIC FUNCTION.....A concert.  
 MARGINAL RAY.....A ray of doubtful origin.  
 HUMBUG.....Noisy wiretap.  
 PARADOX.....Two Ph. D.'s.  
 STATISTICAL CORRELATION.....36-22-35.

All in all, A Random Walk in Science is a veritable smorgasbord of intellectual lightheartedness. Weber's time and effort to collect such an anthology is to be applauded. When the next one is published around 2076, say, I will eagerly read it to see if the wit of the next 100 years will differ much from the past.

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#### BOOK REVIEW

##### THE STARS BELONG TO EVERYONE

Helen Sawyer Hogg, Doubleday & Co. New York 274pp, Ill. \$12.50.

The author is one of Canada's most famous astronomers and a former president of the AAVSO. She has written over a hundred scientific papers, but this is her first book. It is the result of 30 years of lecturing and 25 years of writing a weekly column for a major newspaper in Canada. Although not intended as a textbook on astronomy, it does answer many questions that people ask about what is in the heavens. It is more a book to explain celestial happenings, and covers a wide range of astronomical knowledge.

One of its most delightful attributes is the weaving of events and historical material among scientific facts, such as the gigantic volcanic explosion of Krakatoa in 1883, and its effect on our atmosphere; the disappearing moon as noted by Hevelius during the eclipse of 25 April 1642, the year after the eruption of Vesuvius; and the dramatic and frustrating adventures of Abbé Le Gentil during his 11-year voyage to the Indian Ocean to observe both transits of Venus in 1761 and 1769.

The book is written in a pleasant manner, and is easy reading. I can heartily recommend it to anyone.

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