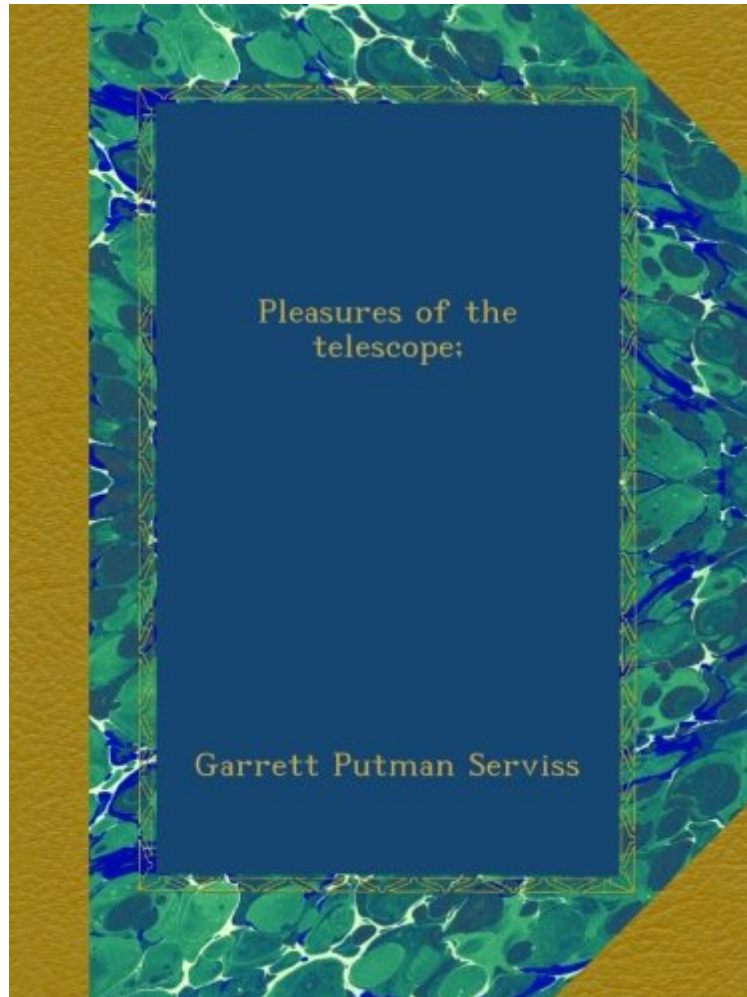


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Pleasures of the telescope;

Garrett Putman Serviss

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Garrett Putman Serviss : Pleasures of the telescope; before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pleasures of the telescope;;

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. WARNING: TERRIBLE REPRODUCTION! By William D. Fusfield I ordered the reproduction of this classic telescope observing book. What they sent me was truly laughable!! A total rip-off!! It had several missing pages. All of the numerous diagrams were unreadable, and several pages of maps, absolutely crucial to using the book, did not reproduce at all!! And then they had the gall to include a page at the front saying something like "We're sorry about all the reproduction problems, but old and rare books are extremely difficult to reproduce correctly." Funny, my old and trusted copy of this book photocopied just fine, when I finally decided to take the time to do it by hand, rather than rely upon the clowns who put this garbage edition out! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A classic By jdown I'm a bit puzzled by reviewers of this book who criticize it, especially

the Kindle version, because it lacks star charts or illustrations. *Pleasures of the Telescope: An Illustrated Guide for Amateur Astronomers and a Popular Description of the Chief Wonders of the Heavens for General Readers* was written in 1901. In the intervening 115 years, many dozens of amateur astronomy guides have been written, nearly all of which have star maps, etc that would be better than any published in 1901. Then why read *Pleasures of the Telescope*? I enjoy the elegant writing style of that era. Writers of even astronomy books in those days had a talent for writing and could turn a good phrase. Who can fail to smile at such passages as, If we do not gaze at [the great Nebula in Orion] long and wistfully, and return to it many times with unflagging interest, we may be certain that there is not the making of an astronomer in us. Or this: On a still evening in the early summer, when the moon is absent and the quiet that the earth enjoys seems an influence descending from the brooding stars, the spectacle of this sun cluster in Hercules [M13], viewed with a telescope of not less than five-inches aperture, captivates the mind of the most uncontentative observer. You won't find such charming passages as these in O'Meara or French! The other reason to read *Pleasures of the Telescope* is historical. From an observational viewpoint, a great deal was known then of the surface of the moon, of Jupiter and even Saturn, but not much about Mars or Venus. Beyond the solar system, the amateur astronomer of the day could observe many hundreds of double stars much of the book is devoted to a description of these. But you will not find the word 'galaxy' in *Pleasures of the Telescope*. When Serviss penned this book, the discoveries that led to our current understanding of the age size of the universe, its population of billions of galaxies, lay decades in the future. In 1901, the starry nights must have seemed far more mysterious than today. Serviss implies this sense of wonder when he says of the globular cluster M4: Yet there is a certain attraction in these far-away glimpses of starry swarms, for they give us some perception of the awful profundity of space.

This book was originally published prior to 1923, and represents a reproduction of an important historical work, maintaining the same format as the original work. While some publishers have opted to apply OCR (optical character recognition) technology to the process, we believe this leads to sub-optimal results (frequent typographical errors, strange characters and confusing formatting) and does not adequately preserve the historical character of the original artifact. We believe this work is culturally important in its original archival form. While we strive to adequately clean and digitally enhance the original work, there are occasionally instances where imperfections such as blurred or missing pages, poor pictures or errant marks may have been introduced due to either the quality of the original work or the scanning process itself. Despite these occasional imperfections, we have brought it back into print as part of our ongoing global book preservation commitment, providing customers with access to the best possible historical reprints. We appreciate your understanding of these occasional imperfections, and sincerely hope you enjoy seeing the book in a format as close as possible to that intended by the original publisher.