

Nonetheless, this book is a stimulating, worthwhile read for either scientist or layman.

ROBERT H. MARCH  
*University of Wisconsin at Madison*

## book note

### Infinite Vistas: New Tools for Astronomy

Edited by James Cornell and John Carr.  
xvii + 302 pp. Scribner's, New York, 1985.  
\$18.95

The Hubble Space Telescope, whose launch into orbit has been delayed by the recent *Challenger* shuttle disaster, is only one of several important projects that will be extending the frontier of research in observational astronomy in the 1990s. *Infinite Vistas*, written for lay readers, includes contributions from eleven astronomers that range from discussions of techniques such as speckle imaging and the charge-coupled devices that have prolonged the life of an older generation of telescopes to new-technology telescopes, with effective diameters two and three times that of the mirror at Palomar Observatory, that will revolutionize ground-based astronomy. Another proposal has a globe-girdling radioastronomy system with an "antenna" equal to the diameter of the Earth. Projects that will take advantage of the ability to observe without the hindrances imposed by the Earth's atmosphere—limitations in resolution and in wavelength—include the Gamma Ray Observatory, the Advanced X-Ray Astrophysics Facility, an orbiting interferometric array of optical telescopes known as the Coherent Optical System of Modular Imaging Collectors, an Advanced Solar Observatory, the Space Infrared Telescope Facility, the Infrared Space Observatory and the Cosmic Background Explorer. Many of the exciting developments in astrophysics over the past quarter-century took place because astrophysical sources of radiation whose wavelength regions were formerly inaccessible from the ground could be studied in many cases with modest equipment above the atmosphere. This readable book encourages us to think that the view will be even better in future.

—PER H. ANDERSEN

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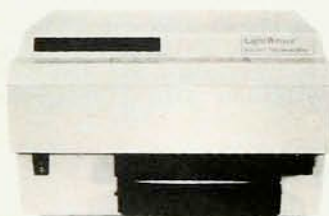
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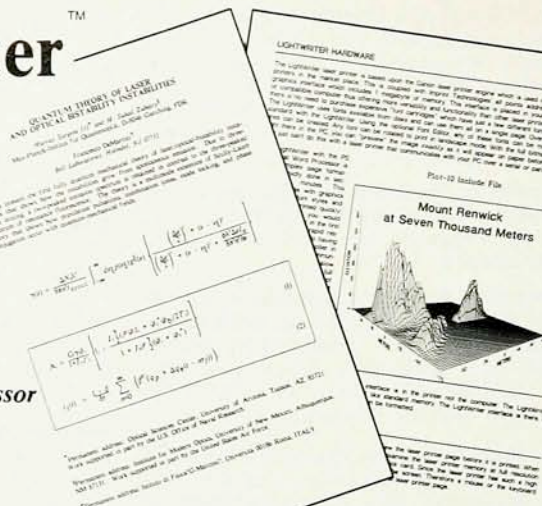
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