

It is true in spades that ongoing sociological issues, conflicts between individuals and institutions, bloated egos, and hidden personal agendas often dwarf the technical problems and challenges attendant to designing and building giant telescopes of the future and their instrumentation. McCray has captured the reality of such passion and emotion beautifully, although I hesitate to place too much literal validity on some of his comments about the nascence of Kitt Peak National Observatory and some reported issues between Leo Goldberg and Jesse Greenstein. Goldberg had passed away long before McCray began the research for his book; Greenstein, on the other hand, was well along in years and was not interviewed.

The development of segmented, thin-meniscus-shell, and spin-cast primary mirrors followed splintered, often bitterly contested pathways, but a happy outcome has materialized nonetheless because the world now enjoys a growing number of scientifically productive giant telescopes of all three styles, each possessing useful characteristics and capabilities. McCray provides a partial list, and the interested reader will also enjoy René Racine's 2004 article, "The Historical Growth of

Telescope Aperture," published in the *Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific*, volume 116.

Some proposals for future giant telescopes and instruments seem impractical and farfetched, but there is good reason to believe that Jerry Nelson's segmented-mirror technology will serve as the foundation for a 30-m telescope, while Roger Angel's spin-cast borosilicate, honeycomb primary mirrors will themselves become the seven "segments" in a strongly competing 20-m telescope. Both projects are well into realistic planning stages, supported by adaptive optics and other marvels promised by 21st-century technology. Thus a bright future is sure to follow if funding goals can be achieved. Meanwhile, McCray is well poised to pen an exciting companion volume in the coming decades.

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