Gienah is not named but Algorab is; Ras Alhague in Ophiuchus is named but its counterpart, Ras Algethi, in Hercules is not. The Pegasus "map" on page 13 includes seven of the brightest stars of Andromeda – virtually the whole constellation – as if it were part of Pegasus. Although the dots for the stars vary considerably in size, presumably according to magnitude, there is nowhere in the booklet any indication as to what the different sizes indicate: is the smallest dot intended to show a fifth or an eighth magnitude star? A novice observer might use only this booklet to find M 42, but it is difficult to conceive how he would succeed in "starhopping" from the bright stars of Andromeda to M 76 in Perseus, as he is directed to do, or from the stars of Corvus to M 83 in Hydra, or even from the bright stars of the Big Dipper to M 106 or to M 81 and M 82.

On the chart at the end of the book, the section listing "Popular Names" for 20 of the Messier objects could be very helpful for beginners, but the column under the heading "V" (which is explained below as meaning "Visibility Indices"), without a full explanation about what this means, is totally useless for the person likely to be using this booklet. Also, some of the Messier objects are probably fainter than indicated in the "magnitude" column; M 76 is not as bright as eleventh magnitude. In addition, most recent Messier lists (including the OBSERVER'S HANDBOOK since 1980) have listed M 102 as equated with NGC 5856 and not the same as M 101; the chart still equates these two Messier objects.

Any amateur astronomers who expect that with this booklet it will be easier than with their star atlases to locate Messier objects are bound to be disappointed. If they are so new to observing that they do not yet have an atlas, they would be advised to forget about this pamphlet, add a few dollars to its cost and buy a good-quality star atlas. Only a future revision with numerous corrections and additions could hope to make this "guide" a worthwhile observing aid.

LEO ENRIGHT

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Advances in Photoelectric Photometry by Russell M. Genet and R.C. Wolpert. Price U.S. $23.95 post paid.

This is a superb book. It should be purchased by every serious amateur astronomer. It will inspire you, and will get you to make even more serious contributions toward our understanding of the universe. Backyard photoelectric photometry is, and will continue to be, an area where low-cost equipment, on small telescopes, can be used to make professional-quality observations of high value. This book will help you contribute to this effort!

I don't know why I was picked to review this book, but it made me think. I was

an amateur in the 1950s in Edmonton, along with someone called Franklin Loehde (what *does* become of these people?), and I did my Ph.D. thesis with a 16″ (excuse me, 40-cm) telescope (see Stephen Shervais Jr.'s study, in this book, of the contribution of small-telescope data to the *Astronomical Journal*), and my present university has no telescope larger than 9″.5 (now packed away, since we lost our observatory building), so I guess that qualifies me!

Space Telescope (the headquarters of which are on my campus) will have a University of Wisconsin High-Speed Photometer. The amateur need fear this no more than he or she need be concerned about any other large professional observatory. The professionals *can't* beat the amateurs at photoelectric photometry, because there just aren't enough of them, and because their telescopes are too big.

In their introduction, Wolpert and Genet complain, rightly, that in this world "a more positive attitude toward instrumentation is needed". The Field committee's report on *Astronomy and Astrophysics for the 1980s* included the recommendation, from the Panel on Organization, Education, and Personnel, that "the training of astronomers include the acquisition of skills in such specialized areas as electronics, electroöptical devices, mechanical systems, computer software, and systems engineering ... there is a perception that astronomers who develop advanced astronomical instrumentation are sometimes not adequately rewarded with respect to promotion and tenure. The Panel recommends that astronomy departments take care to eliminate any such inequity". This recommendation was supported by the Field committee, as was, incidentally, the recommendation that "research astronomers make efforts to increase communication with these [e.g. amateurs] additional members of the astronomical community, who contribute so much to the general health of the field." I might add that having been in a Physics department for sixteen years, I have become accustomed to calling people "theorists or experimentalists", and the word "observer" is strange to my tongue!

A most important injunction, in this book, to the amateur scientist, is from Douglas Hall, who warns that you must not spend too much time perfecting your equipment. Get out there and observe! The bottom line is large amounts of published accurate data on interesting objects! This book will help you get there. My only complaint is that the type is so small. Perhaps that won't bother the young amateur!

Other books are planned in this series. Information may be obtained, and the present book may be ordered, by writing to The Fairborn Observatory, 1247 Folk Road, Fairborn, Ohio 45324.

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