

Contents

1	Presenting the Milky Way	1
	The Milky Way · Telescopic Views · Photographic Appearance · Our Milky Way: A Model · Tools and Terminology	
2	The Data of Observation	31
	Stellar Brightnesses · Photoelectric Photometry · Stellar Colors · Standard Sequences of Stellar Magnitudes · Distances and Parallaxes · Absolute Magnitude · Spectral Classification · Proper Motions · Radial Velocities · Coöperation in Research	
3	The Sun's Nearest Neighbors	63
	The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram · The Luminosity Function	
4	Reaching Out—The System Takes Shape	81
	Our Distant Neighbors · Galactic Clusters · Associations and Aggregates · Pulsating Stars · The System of Globular Clusters · Population Characteristics of Globular Clusters · The Nucleus of Our Galaxy	
5	The Whirling Galaxy	119
	The Sun's Motion Around the Galactic Center · The Stars of High Velocity · Solar Motion and Star Streaming · Galactic Rotation	

6	The Interstellar Gas	135
	Diffuse Bright Nebulae • Interstellar Absorption Lines • Cloud Structure and Galactic Structure	
7	Dark Nebulae and Cosmic Dust	163
	Reflection Nebulae • Dark Nebulae • Ratio of Gas to Dust • The Cosmic Dust • Interstellar Polarization	
8	Radio Astronomy and the Milky Way	193
	Continuous Background Radiation from the Galaxy • Discrete Radio Sources • The 21-Centimeter Line of Neutral Hydrogen	
9	The Spiral Structure of the Galaxy	229
	Outline of Our Galaxy • Properties of Spiral Galaxies • Spiral Structure of Our Galaxy: Optical Evidence • Spiral Structure of Our Galaxy: 21-Centimeter Evidence • Further Evidence	
10	Our Changing Galaxy	249
	Large-Scale Changes • When Stars Meet • Evolution of Star Clusters • The Expanding Universe and the Cosmic Time Scale • Star Birth and Evolution • Looking Ahead	
	Index	265

