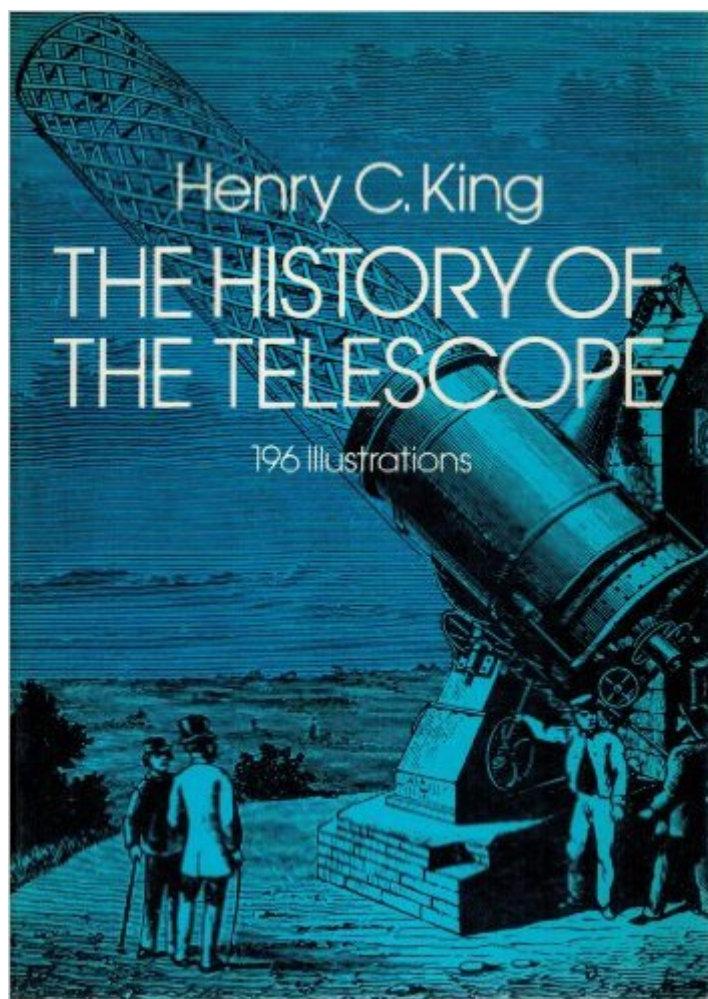


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# The History Of The Telescope



## Synopsis

"This book is one that I can heartily recommend." — Sir Harold Spencer Jones, F. R. S., formerly Astronomer Royal

A model of comprehensive scholarship, *The History of the Telescope* relates not only the stories of early inventors and astronomers but also the rarely recorded details of the instruments themselves and their makers. This remarkable chronicle covers many fields, including professional and amateur astronomy, optics, glass and lens technology, and the craft of the precision instrument.

Author Henry C. King bases his accounts primarily on first-hand sources — the letters, memoirs, papers, and treatises of the men who worked with telescopes. The great intellects (Roger Bacon, Galileo, Newton) and innovators (Tycho Brahe, Huygens, Hooke, Sir William Herschel) receive their due, along with lesser-known craftsmen and amateurs: the seventeenth-century Italian telescope makers Campani and Divini; the great London instrument artists Graham, Dolland, and Ramsden; and the experimenters Foucault and Brashear, whose contributions to mirror manufacture remain fundamental to all levels of astronomical endeavor. The modern-day successors of these men and their achievements bring this history to its conclusion in the mid-twentieth century, with profiles of the instruments still in use today.

A prime resource on the evolution of the telescope, this volume is magnificently illustrated with nearly 200 portraits, diagrams, and photographs.

## Book Information

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Dover Pubns; Reprint Edition edition (June 1979)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486238938

ISBN-13: 978-0486238937

Product Dimensions: 9.1 x 6.4 x 1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #873,556 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in Books > Science & Math >

Astronomy & Space Science > Telescopes #1452 in Books > Science & Math > Experiments,

Instruments & Measurement #5805 in Books > Science & Math > Technology

## Customer Reviews

After 50 years, this still probably packs more historical fact in one place than any other book on the history of telescopes. But it's also dry reading. Great for the serious amateur, but not for the casual

reader. If you're looking for an entertaining historical account, that includes the politics and personalities behind the telescopes in addition to the dryer facts, try Fred Watson's new book, *Stargazer: The Life and Times of the Telescope*.

This is a case where the title pretty much says it all. This is a reprint of Henry C. King's classic, originally published in 1955. The time span covers pretty much the beginnings of visual astronomy through the Mount Palomar 200" Hale telescope. A particularly interesting era is the 18th century, with many notable advances made in glass manufacture and beginning of very large reflecting telescopes in the hands of Sir William Herschel. As the author moves into the 19th century, the names of Joseph Fraunhofer and Alvan Clark take center stage. The invention of many other auxiliary astronomical instruments are also included in this fine work. There aren't many other works for comparison, so --- 5 stars!

A Dover reprint of a classic book on the history of telescopes, up to around 1950. Inexpensive, and well-worth having on your bookshelf if you're an amateur astronomer/telescope user.

I was looking for a book with good pictures. This was not it. Pictures in it are really bad. As far as the writing and the information in it, I couldn't comment on that.

Item was delivered on-time and as described.

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