that the magnetic fields of neutron stars are generated by rotation, that a double pulsar consists of two pulsars, etc., etc.

The book was written with the aim to be helpful particularly for amateur astronomers. I doubt, however, whether it will fulfil this role.

*The Astronomical Institute*  
*at Wroclaw*  

T. Jarzebowsk


It is nice to find an introductory book to astronomy intended for a vast audience being written in French, and in which the emphasis has definitely been put on the text, and not on the illustrations. The latter are ‘only’ black and white or halftones, although undoubtedly interesting, i.e. generally adding something to the descriptions.

The book is written by an astrophysicist: it therefore is accurate, not full of the speculations one finds sometimes. All the themes are placed in their historical and cultural context, which makes *L’Astronomie et son histoire* very appealing and easy to read. The boxes describing facts or astronomers are excellent and contain a human flavor (and humour) that make them a reward as one proceeds through the various chapters.

One may of course find that some sections on the history of astronomy or on its modern aspects are too long or too short according to personal taste or background: it is to be said, however, that the physics of the phenomena are well described. No special background is needed to appreciate R. J. Roy’s book where the reader discovers the universe from the elementary particles all the way to the superclusters of galaxies.

The biggest drawback to this book is its price (at least the one I saw in Belgium): this is indeed sad because *L’Astronomie et son histoire* deserves being read by a large French-speaking public (and hopefully others as well).

*Astrophysical Institute*  
*of the University of Liège*  

J. P. Swings


For elementary courses in astronomy, Pasachoff not only provided us with his 'Astronomy, From The Earth To The Universe', but also with an accompanying Teacher's Guide. This is a nice little book with a wealth of information on course outlines, audiovisual aids, film notes and transcripts, teaching methods, laboratory exercises and sample examinations. Like the book it goes with, it is simple and straightforward, requiring hardly any knowledge of mathematics, as it is meant for general introductory courses.

*The Astronomical Institute*  
*at Utrecht*  

K. A. van der Hucht


For this already well-known book, the first edition of which appeared in May 1981, more words of praise seem to be superfluous. The new edition retains the same style but gives a newer picture of the Solar System at the epoch of June 1982: different items are treated in 20 chapters by altogether 21 specialists.

The main differences between the two editions are the inclusion of the findings from the Voyager-2 encounter with Saturn. About 20 illustrations have been replaced, including the first colour pictures of