

Those astronomers crazy about the skies, or the story of the observation of double stars

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Abstract

Those astronomers crazy about the skies are people who have dedicated their lives, often their fortunes, to the research and study of double stars, enigmatic star systems that like to play hide and seek while dancing a mysterious waltz. Many efforts have been made to collect the wonderful golden harvest that celestial fields provide. Starting with Sir William Herschel, organist and brilliant astronomer who documented their orbital motions, the Struve clan who undertook the first census, the Anglican priest who discovered authentic celestial jewels and all the way to current international research teams using the greatest telescopes, they all searched with the same passion. They all went beyond the mere spectacle of the eternity of these pairs, seeking the Philosopher's Stone, the secret of stellar alchemy and the means to break down the wall that imprisons our knowledge. This book is the Spanish translation of the original French text written by Paul Couteau, one of the foremost authorities on the subject. No one better than him to immerse us into the knowledge of these objects, both scientifically and historically. Despite the 25 years since its publication, the text has not lost relevance. The story never dies and the attraction that still elicits has been one of the reasons to provide readers with this Spanish translation. In addition, we have included a chapter written by Josefina F. Ling. This version, published by the Department of Publications and Scientific Communications at the University of Santiago de Compostela and partially funded by the Spanish Society of Astronomy, has an initial print of 500 copies.