

Foreword

Albert Ingalls was first to give amateur telescope making wide exposure in the United States through his articles in *Scientific American*. Growing more enamored with the craft himself—and seeing a rising interest in his readers—Ingalls began to collect and publish material for the amateur telescope maker in book form. From a very thin book titled *Amateur Telescope Making*, published in 1926, *Scientific American* supported Ingalls in an effort that was to culminate in 1953 with three massive volumes—*Amateur Telescope Making I, II and III*—which have come to enjoy an almost scriptural status among telescope makers.

The hobby enjoyed increased momentum in the 1940s and 1950s. By then, articles and information on telescope makers and telescope making had 20 years in which to pique the interest of the more adventurous members of astronomical societies all over the world. And why not? It had been clearly demonstrated that with supplies readily available in every hardware store, and many home workshops, telescopes could be crafted that would rival many of the best professionally made instruments of the day.

In 1947, Allyn J. Thompson published *Making Your Own Telescope*. This little book, while not as ambitious and broad as the *ATM* series, placed in the hands of its readers a thorough but succinct description of what it takes to build a fine first telescope. It first appeared in serial form beginning with the November 1944 issue of *Sky & Telescope* magazine, which throughout its history has been eager to cover this facet of amateur astronomy and in which to this day ground-breaking articles frequently appear. In fact, my interest was spurred when I first came across John Gregory's classic article on the design and construction of the Cassegrainian-Maksutov in *S&T's* March 1957 issue.

That same year saw Jean Texereau's *How to Make a Telescope* make its first appearance in the English language, and it has since come to be recognized as *the* book on telescope mirror making. Neale Howard's *Standard Handbook for Telescope Making* made its debut in 1959 and Sam Brown's *All About Telescopes*—now in its 14th printing—hit the streets in 1967. And who could have done more than Richard Berry with the 14-year run of his publication, *Telescope Making* magazine?

More recently, Willmann-Bell, which has published a number of new *ATM* books, has also begun updating some of these classics. They have revamped the venerable *ATM* series—arranging articles in a more logical fashion—and have turned Allan Mackintosh's *Maksutov Circulars* into *Advanced Telescope Making Techniques, Vols. 1 and 2*. And fortunately for amateur telescope makers, the list

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now includes a new title, *The Best of Amateur Telescope Making Journal*, a body of work that consumed most of my spare time for the past 10 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge those who helped *ATMJ* get started and provided valuable counsel along the way. First and foremost among these are longtime friends: Dick Buchroeder, John Gregory, Harrie Rutten, Martin van Venrooij, Diane Lucas, and the late Robert E. Cox. All of whom, with the exception of Bob, were Associate Editors.

Also offering valuable assistance was Australian ATM and optics technician, Roger Davis. For his efforts to solicit articles and promote *ATMJ* “down under,” Roger was asked to become an Associate Editor in 1998.

In 1999, my daytime employer, Captain’s Nautical Supplies, lightened the administrative load on my shoulders by taking over *ATMJ* and hiring M. Barlow Pepin, who brought new ideas to the effort, solicited articles, and acted as managing editor during *ATMJ*’s last three years in publication.

I must also thank my wife Debbie and my children—Bill, Sean and Noelle. Their support was invaluable and their sacrifices for *ATMJ*, immeasurable.

Finally, I would like to thank the most critical component of any publication, those who supported *ATM Journal* with their articles. As I thumb through these two volumes, totaling more than 800 pages, I am truly impressed by the scope, depth, and quality of their contributions to the body of ATM literature, and pleased that I had the good fortune to be associated with their efforts.

Newspapers, journals and magazines are by their very nature transitory. Today’s hot publishing vehicle, the WEB, has yet to prove that content posted today will be there well into the future—already, elaborately constructed sites have many links that no longer work! I have no doubt about the staying power of the book and I am personally gratified that the collective efforts of the many people who created *ATMJ* will be available for a long, long time.

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