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**Boundaries of the Universe.** *John S. Glasby.* Harvard University Press. 1971. 296 p. \$11.00.

This very readable and informative book might have been subtitled "Essays on exciting topics in present-day astronomy for the astronomically literate layman". These topics include (among others) the lunar surface and internal structure, stellar evolution, infrared sources, radio sources, interstellar molecules, quasars, pulsars, galaxies, cosmology and extraterrestrial life. Presuming that the reader is already familiar with such terms as parsec, spectral type, and molecule, each essay can be read by itself. Given the limitations of space and vocabulary, the author does a fine job in sketching the observed characteristics of the objects he is discussing, the implications with regard to their structure and evolution, and the successes and failures of currently competing theories (for example, regarding quasars).

This reviewer suggests that "Boundaries of the Universe" might be useful as a companion to a more standard introductory astronomy text in the teaching of introductory college courses in astronomy—particularly those in which most students are unlikely to be taking further course work in astronomy. Too often the standard text leaves the most lively topics to the last, whereas Mr. Glasby gets into them very quickly. The author's qualifications for undertaking the writing of this type of book are good: he is Director of the Variable Star Section of the British Astronomical Association, and Head of the Spectroscopic Section of Imperial Chemical Industries at Stevenson, Ayrshire, Scotland.

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