

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Star Atlas of Reference Stars and Nonstellar Objects

Prepared by the Staff of the SAO, with an introduction by Joseph Ashbrook, editor, Sky and Telescope.

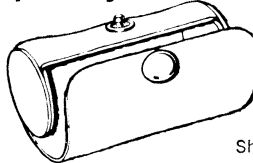
The heart of this Atlas consists of 152 loose charts, boxed for handling convenience, each measuring 11 by 14 inches, which graphically pinpoint the coordinates of over a quarter of a million stars (virtually all those as bright as visual magnitude 9.0 in both the northern and southern hemispheres), along with various kinds of nonstellar objects. This vast project was begun in 1957, and another undertaking of this kind is not planned before the year 2000. Moreover, the Atlas represents the most accurate stellar charting ever accomplished, and will prove indispensable to professional astronomers working with star positions or identifications, while the graphic simplicity of the charts brings them into the range of the serious amateur. **\$18.50**

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LETTERS

to the editor

Oceans of space

As a polluter of the oceans, nature is still ahead of man. For example, during the International Indian Ocean Expedition, Russian and British oceanographers spotted a patch of dead fish in the Indian Ocean twice the size of Portugal, with over 30 million metric tons of protein. Humans could hardly be blamed for this. . . . The devastating poisonous red tides mentioned in your article, "Rumblings From the Deep" (SN: 9/13, p. 213), are more a function of sea temperature than man's tampering with nature.

The ocean, in our opinion, can absorb and purify the wastes generated by man if these wastes are properly diluted. There are more than 10 billion cubic feet of ocean water available for each individual on earth. Unfortunately, a puddle like Lake Erie does not have enough water for proper dilution of the effluents presently flowing into it. A dilution factor of 200 to 1 is usually considered adequate to allow natural chemical and biological processes to purify sewage. Offshore/Sea Development Corp. is developing large diameter subaqueous pipe systems that could take sewage and heated effluents far enough out into the ocean where, rather than harm marine life, the effluents could actually contribute to the growth of beneficial species.

Cyrus Adler, President
Offshore/Sea Development Corp.
New York, N.Y.

The picture on page 130 of SCIENCE NEWS for Aug. 16 was from "The Telescope Handbook and Star Atlas" by Neale E. Howard © 1967 by Neale E. Howard. Reproduced by permission of the publisher, Thomas Y. Crowell Co.

SCIENCE NEWS

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Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$7.50; 2 yrs., \$13.50; 3 yrs., \$19.50. Special trial offer: 39 weeks, \$3.97. Single copy, 25 cents. \$1.00 per year for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip codes.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Established as Science News Letter® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation. UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

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