

PREFACE

The Cone Nebula

Radiation from hot, young stars (located beyond the top of the image) has slowly eroded the nebula over millions of years. Ultraviolet light heats the edges of the dark cloud, releasing gas into the relatively empty region of surrounding space.

The long-term wellbeing and cultural development of humanity depend on scientific research and technological development. The communication of scientific discoveries and information about scientists and their work to the public are vital components of the scientific process. However, the competition for attention in today's mass-media market is fierce.

This book takes a closer look at what may be the world's most successful scientific project. The fifteenth anniversary of Hubble's launch, which took place on the 24th April 1990, presented the ideal opportunity for a spectacular project to seize the attention of the public. The story of a journey through space and time revealed by the telescope is told in a way that we hope will appeal especially to the younger generation. It will be their enthusiasm that powers the future of the scientific endeavour.

We should like to thank Stefania Varano, Stuart Clark and Anne Rhodes who all worked on the film manuscript that laid the foundation for important parts of this book. Unless otherwise noted, the images in this book were taken by the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope and should be credited to NASA, ESA and the individual scientists (see www.spacetelescope.org for the exact details).

Lars Lindberg Christensen and Bob Fosbury

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Hubble

15 Years of Discovery

Lindberg Christensen, L.; Fosbury, R.A.

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