



## Preface

From its very inception, this book was intended as an easy-to-follow introduction to sketching celestial objects. Every chapter presents several step-by-step tutorials with detailed sequential photographs and text. I believe it also reflects some of the wide diversity of media and techniques used to render astronomical objects. Bringing together four talented sketch artists was an expression of my desire that it sample the work of a community of astronomical sketchers, rather than being a compendium of an individual's sketches. Each co-author has a unique mastery of the media and brings a wealth of knowledge with a strong desire to share tips and techniques with the novice. Astronomical sketching is not only a powerful means for recording your visual observations—it is an exciting, personal relationship with the cosmos, a path of discovery, challenge, and experimentation. It is our fervent hope that you follow that path.

—Richard Handy



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