

Contents

<i>Preface to the second edition</i>	<i>page</i> vii
<i>Preface to the first edition</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgments to the first edition</i>	xiii
1 A glimpse into the life of Charles Messier	1
2 How to observe the Messier objects	17
3 The making of this book	31
4 The Messier objects	43
5 Some thoughts on Charles Messier	383
6 Twenty spectacular non-Messier objects	387
Appendix A	
Objects Messier could not find	397
Appendix B	
Why didn’t Messier include the Double Cluster in his catalogue?	398
Appendix C	
A quick guide to navigating the Coma–Virgo Cluster	401
Appendix D	
Messier marathons	402
<i>Image credits</i>	405
<i>Alternate name and object index</i>	407