



Ronald E. Hatcher
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*"Starlight Detectives: How Astronomers,
Inventors, and Eccentrics Discovered the Modern
Universe."*

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ABSTRACT:

During the late 1800s, a cadre of amateur and professional astronomers turned away from astronomy's tradition-bound study of celestial navigation and making of star charts. Instead, they brought two promising new technologies — the camera and the spectroscope — into the observatory, imaging never-before-seen cosmic landscapes and revealing the physical nature of stars, nebulae, and the universe. Through their innovative work, these long-ago "Starlight Detectives" helped transform astronomy into the powerful engine of discovery that it is today.

BIOGRAPHY:

Alan Hirshfeld, Professor of Physics at UMass Dartmouth and an Associate of the Harvard College Observatory, is the author of *Parallax: The Race to Measure the Cosmos*, *The Electric Life of Michael Faraday*, *Eureka Man: The Life and Legacy of Archimedes*, and *Starlight Detectives: How Astronomers, Inventors, and Eccentrics Discovered the Modern Universe*. He is a regular book reviewer for the *Wall Street Journal* and writes and lectures on science history and discovery.