

# Would You Baptize An Extraterrestrial And Other Questions From The Astronomers In Box At Vatican Obs

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this richly illustrated book discusses the ways in which astronomy expanded after 1945 from a modest discipline to a robust and modern science it begins with an introduction to the state of astronomy in 1945 before recounting how in the following years initial observations were made in hitherto unexplored ranges of wavelengths such as x radiation infrared radiation and radio waves these led to the serendipitous discovery of more than a dozen new phenomena including quasars and neutron stars that each triggered a new area of research the book goes on to discuss how after 1985 the further systematic exploration of the earlier discoveries led to long term planning and the construction of new large telescopes on earth and in space key scientific highlights described in the text are the detection of exoplanets 1995 the unexpected discovery of the accelerated expansion of the universe 1999 a generally accepted model for the large scale properties of the universe 2003 and the  $\Lambda$ cdm theory 2005 that explains how the galaxies and stars of the present universe were formed from minute irregularities in the almost homogenous gas that filled the early universe all these major scientific achievements came at a price namely the need to introduce two new phenomena that are as yet unexplained by physics inflation and dark energy probably the deepest unsolved question has to be why did all of this start with a big bang

astronomy and astrophysics abstracts which has appeared in semi annual volumes since 1969 is devoted to the recording summarizing and indexing of astronomical publications throughout the world it is prepared under the auspices of the international astronomical union according to a resolution adopted at the 14th general assembly in 1970 astronomy and astrophysics abstracts aims to present a comprehensive documentation of literature in all fields of astronomy and astrophysics every effort will be made to ensure that the average time interval between the date of receipt of the original literature and publication of the abstracts will not exceed eight months this time interval is near to that achieved by monthly abstracting journals compared to which our system of accumulating abstracts for about six months offers the advantage of greater convenience for the user volume 31 contains literature published in 1982 and received before july 15 1982 some older literature which was received late and which is not recorded in earlier volumes is also included we acknowledge with thanks contributions to this volume by dr j bouska prague who surveyed journals and publications in czech and supplied us with abstracts in english

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