

Portraits of astronomers

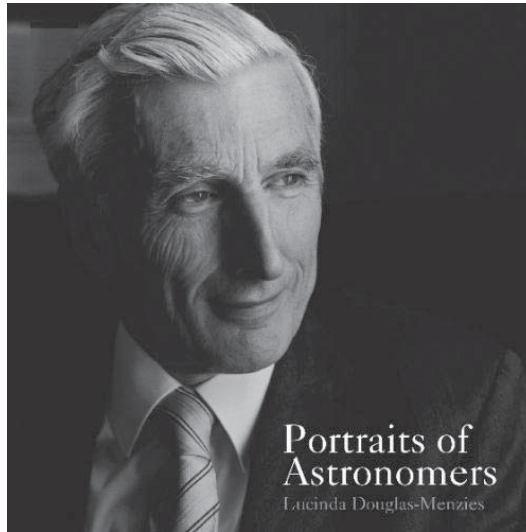
by **Lucinda Douglas–Menzies**

(Introduction by Alison Boyle, Curator, Astronomy & Modern Physics, The Science Museum)

Cambridge University Press, 2009. ISBN 978-0-9561390-0-9. £12.50, large-format pbk.

This Science Museum publication is a collection of 38 photographic portraits of famous astronomers (including some well-known amateurs), each of whom has written a short description about how and why they were inspired to study astronomy. The book accompanies a touring exhibition during International Year of Astronomy 2009. Most of the subjects will be well known to amateur astronomers but their individual motivations may not and these make fascinating reading. The idea for the collection was born when the author read an article about Sir Patrick Moore and wrote to him to ask if he would agree to her taking his photograph. With his help, as she herself had no knowledge of astronomy, she gradually sought out the others and this delightful book is the result.

Her black and white photographs capture well the character and personality of



her sitters and wherever possible she has chosen backgrounds related to their individual areas of interest.

Lucinda is an eminent photographer who has used her skill to excellent effect in this fascinating collection. I would recommend this book as a suitable Christmas present for any keen astronomer.

Ann Davies

BAA Council member Ann Davies is Sales & Promotions organiser and Journal Advertising manager for the BAA. She was a founder member of Newbury Astronomical Society.