

## A Note from the Editor

It's a funny thing when a boy grows up and finds himself taking part in one of his father's greatest adventures. When I discovered that my father was writing a book, I was instantly excited about it. I was pleased that after all of his scribbling on napkins at dinner time, he was finally going to organize his ideas in a complete body of text. Of course, I had no idea that the product of his thoughts would be as profound as this book, Orbits Explained, which you are about to enjoy.

My father is neither a mathematician nor an astronomer by profession. His intuitive understanding of physics and orbits comes mostly from his avid reading of scientific books and other such publications. Probably the most influential of all writers and intellectuals to my father is Richard Feynman, a late pioneer of quantum mechanics and astrophysics. Although my father draws insight from many sources throughout this text, you will notice his frequent allusions to Feynman and the publication, Feynman's Lost Lecture, written by David and Judith Goodstein.

Editing this book has been a deeply rewarding experience for me in many ways. Firstly, I have enjoyed a closeness with the text, which I feel is extremely effective in its friendly and educational nature. Secondly, I have developed a sense of pride in my father's work, because like you, the reader, I was previously unaware of most of the ingenuities presented in the text. And thirdly, I have hoped that by editing the text, I will have inspired my father not to give up the difficult task of corresponding with different publishers to ensure the bright future of this tremendous accomplishment.

The Hododyne is a magnificent device. Even after reading the complete text, I am still dazzled by its birthing in my father's mind. Was the discovery sudden, or was it a product of years of careful trigonometry with trial and error? Yes, the years of napkin scribble did seem to have a central theme, and I had sensed that the Hododyne looked familiar to me when I saw it in this book, but I am still puzzled by its conception. Even a close reading of the text leaves a bleak understanding of the development of the Hododyne. I suppose it is a secret left best to the author, my father.

This book is meant to appeal to a general audience. Even those with the most modest of mathematical backgrounds should find the arguments in the text to be accessible and informative. I am proud of my father's accomplishment, and I entreat you to take your time with the text and enjoy a leisurely excavation of some of the dark secrets of outer space.

J.M.  
12/05

*For pops.*