

- (5) J. Scudder, *The Milky Way Smells of Rum and Raspberries ... and Other Amazing Cosmic Facts* (Icon Books), 2023.
- (6) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **145**, 65, 2025.
- (7) G. Lavender, *The Short History of the Universe: A Pocket Guide to the History, Structure, Theories & Building Blocks of the Cosmos* (Laurence King), 2022.
- (8) P. Helbig, *The Observatory*, **145**, 77, 2025.

OBITUARY NOTICE

Helmut Arthur Abt (1925–2024)

One of the most prolific astronomical spectroscopic observers of the last century, Helmut Abt passed away peacefully on 2024 November 22 at the ripe old age of 99. Born in Germany, Helmut arrived in the United States as a child and went on to be awarded the first PhD in astrophysics at Caltech in 1952. Known for his work on metallic-line stars, I first met him at a workshop in Tucson in 1969 dedicated to Am and Ap stars. Later I was to encounter his many papers on radial velocities, binary stars, and other stellar topics, so many of which were invaluable in much of my work. But his herculean observational work was accompanied by his long stint as Managing Editor of the *Astrophysical Journal* and its *Supplement* series and his work with the American Astronomical Society and the Kitt Peak National Observatory. His autobiography is presented in *A Stellar Life*, which was reviewed in these pages by Virginia Trimble (**142**, 13, 2022). A truly stellar astronomer indeed. — DAVID STICKLAND.

[A more substantial obituary can be found at <https://baas.aas.org/pub/2024io23/release/I>]