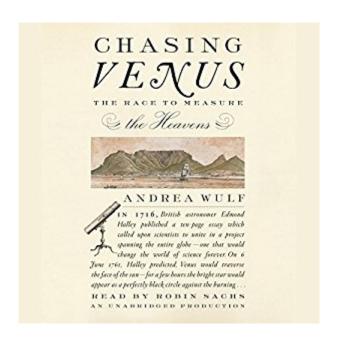
# The book was found

# Chasing Venus: The Race To Measure The Heavens





## **Synopsis**

The author of the highly acclaimed Founding Gardeners now gives us an enlightening chronicle of the first truly international scientific endeavor - the 18th century quest to observe the transit of Venus and measure the solar system. On June 6, 1761, the world paused to observe a momentous occasion: the first transit of Venus between the earth and the sun in more than a century. Through that observation, astronomers could calculate the size of the solar system - but only if they could compile data from many different points of the globe, all recorded during the short period of the transit. Overcoming incredible odds and political strife, astronomers from Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Sweden, and the American colonies set up observatories in remote corners of the world, only to have their efforts thwarted by unpredictable weather and warring armies. Fortunately, transits of Venus occur in pairs: eight years later, the scientists would have another opportunity to succeed. Chasing Venus brings to life the personalities of the 18th century astronomers who embarked upon this complex and essential scientific venture, painting a vivid portrait of the collaborations, the rivalries, and the volatile international politics that hindered them at every turn. In the end, what they accomplished would change our conception of the universe and would forever alter the nature of scientific research.

## **Book Information**

**Audible Audio Edition** 

Listening Length: 8 hours and 12 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Random House Audio

Audible.com Release Date: May 1, 2012

Language: English

ASIN: B007Z95S06

Best Sellers Rank: #63 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Science > Astronomy #1152

in Books > History > World > Expeditions & Discoveries #2336 in Books > Science & Math >

Astronomy & Space Science > Astronomy

### Customer Reviews

As most reviewers have pointed out, this book was meticulously researched, but that may also be its downfall. Ultimately, it reads like a well-executed term paper, or maybe a PhD dissertation. It does indeed provide accounts of the major expeditions mounted to time the transits of 1761 and

1769, but these accounts lie flat on the page as a list of factual details and descriptions of events. I read Richard Holmes' "The Age of Wonder" a few months before this book, and his account of Joseph Banks in Tahiti is engaging and riveting, bringing to life the collision of cultures that occurred, the personalities of those involved, and weaving it all into a page-turning story. The contrast was clear in this book's coverage of James Cook's expedition to bring Banks to the South Seas, where the facts are recounted without really bringing the characters to life in my mind. The book also chooses odd, sometimes single-word, quotations from the source material (which is all referenced in the extensive notes). A typical example is on page 159: "The weather was glorious and Le Gentil rejoiced in the beauty of the mirrored surface of the water which, he wrote in his journal, was as smooth as a 'lake'." After a nice summary of the scene in the author's words, do we need to know that "lake" was the exact term used by Le Gentil? I couldn't help but think, either give us a whole sentence or phrase from Le Gentil's journal or simply reference the whole sentence as a paraphrase. The book is littered with these one- or two-word quotes that seem to be a replacement for footnotes rather than adding authenticity to the material. Finally, I'm not sure the author is completely comfortable explaining the astronomy involved.

#### Download to continue reading...

Chasing Venus: The Race to Measure the Heavens Marte Y Venus En El Dormitorio (Mars and Venus in the Home) Measure Twice, Cut Once: Simple Steps to Measure, Scale, Draw and Make the Perfect Cut-Every Time. (Popular Woodworking) Measure for Measure (Arden Shakespeare: Second Series) Measure for Measure (Arkangel Shakespeare) Chasing Cheetahs: The Race to Save Africa's Fastest Cat (Scientists in the Field Series) Anatomy of the Heavens: God's Message in the Stars The Seer Expanded Edition: The Prophetic Power of Visions, Dreams, and Open Heavens The Three Heavens: Angels, Demons and What Lies Ahead Hiring the Heavens: A Practical Guide to Developing Working Relationships with the Spirits of Creation Mapping the Heavens: The Radical Scientific Ideas That Reveal the Cosmos Hell in the Heavens: Ill-Fated 8th Air Force Bomb Group Missions Hell from the Heavens: The Epic Story of the USS Laffey and World War Il's Greatest Kamikaze Attack Decoding the Heavens A Saving Science: Capturing the Heavens in Carolingian Manuscripts Taking Back Astronomy: The Heavens Declare Creation Under the Heavens The Kurious Kid Presents: Race Cars: Awesome Amazing Spectacular Facts & Photos of Race Care The Great Race: The Amazing Round-the-World Auto Race of 1908 Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance (Signs of Race)

#### **Dmca**