

**BINARY AND MULTIPLE STARS AS  
TRACERS OF STELLAR EVOLUTION**

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*edited by*

ZDENĚK KOPAL

*Dept. of Astronomy, The University, Manchester, U.K.*

and

JÜRGEN RAHE

*Dr.-Reimis-Sternwarte, Astronomisches Institut der Universität Erlangen,  
Nürnberg, F.R.G.*

Since the mid-1950's, when the *evolutionary paradox* of binary stars was first pointed out, the problem of accounting for their peculiar behaviour has been something challenging the world's top astronomers. This book, containing the proceedings of the 69th IAU Colloquium, concentrates on the problem of *Binary and Multiple Stars as Tracers of Stellar Evolution*. The evolutionary trends of single stars in their post-Main Sequence stage are discussed as a background to an attempt to trace the evolution of components in the binary systems, supported by a survey of observed characteristics of wide binaries.

Also discussed are photometry and spectroscopy of close binaries, with special attention devoted to *contact binaries* of W UMa-type. The last section is dedicated to binary systems at the extreme end of stellar evolution and, in particular, to the enigmatic object, SS433 which, in recent years, has generated more excitement in double-star astronomy than any other type of system.

*Audience*

The book will be valuable for astronomers and astrophysicists interested in stellar evolution.



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