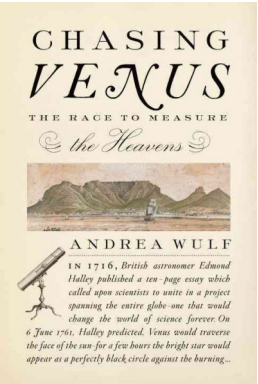
# Chasing Venus : the race to measure the heavens

## The Transit of Venus--Books

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Tonight if you are lucky and the sky doesn't cloud up, you will be able to observe one of astronomy's rare celestial events, the transit of Venus. But be careful, and don't look directly at the sun without using safe viewing glasses or lenses. If you don't own those, you can attend one of the free events listed below. If you miss tonight's transit, alas, you won't catch another in your lifetime because the next one won't occur until 2117.

I've been reading about the transit of Venus and how an earlier one in the 18th century really expanded our knowledge of the solar system. It also was the earliest example of a large and cooperative international scientific expedition.

We have two new books that report on this scientific quest. Andrea Wulf's *Chasing Venus: the Race to Measure the Heavens* reports on the work and incredible adventures that were undertaken by scientists worldwide in trying to observe and make measurements for the transit that occurred on June 6, 1761. In an age when it took several months for a letter to cross the oceans and a few more months for a response, a scientist in England organized this great scientific undertaking. In remote corners of the world, scientists from Britain, Russia, India, Germany, the **Read more »**

For the Love of Reading Information, Answers & Reviews Chasing Venus : the race to measure the heavens Science The day the world discovered the sun : an extraordinary story of scientific adventure and the race to track the transit of Venus

Posted by Dory L. on Jun 5, 2012 Dory L.'s blog Add new comment