

With this background in mind it is possible to see exactly where the various classes of variables are placed in such diagrams. That in turn enables us to obtain some idea of whether they do in fact mark stages of transition.

It has been impossible to deal more than superficially with variable stars. But I have attempted to tell you something of their nature and to indicate their importance. I hope I have also conveyed to you something too of the reasons that make them such a fascinating study to amateur and professional alike. Locked within them are the secrets of stellar evolution for they are the fossils of the heavens from which we can extract information that will cast light on a star's history if we can but read the clues aright.

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