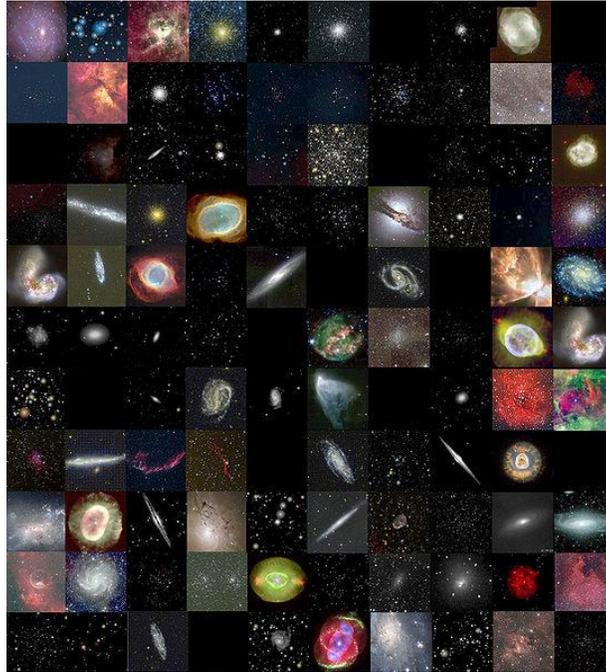


CFAS CALDWELL OBSERVING CERTIFICATE



While Charles Messier made a catalogue of faint fuzzy objects to be avoided when searching for comets, Sir Patrick Caldwell-Moore has made a catalogue of beautiful and interesting objects you should, literally, go out of your way to observe. Two of the obvious objects were never even given NGC designations. A letter from Sir Patrick (below) explains why and how he created the list at his home in Selsey, England, surrounded by his personal observatories.

A Letter from Sir Patrick Moore

SIR PATRICK MOORE CBE DSc (Hon) FRAS

Farthings
West Street
Selsey
England

The idea of the Caldwell Catalogue came to me one night, after I had been observing the Moon (my own subject) and had looked casually at the Perseus Sword-Handle. This has no Messier number. (Messier catalogued nebulae as 'objects to avoid' during his comet searches, and in any case limited himself to the northern part of the sky.) There are many Messier clubs. Why not draw up a catalogue of bright nebular objects omitted by Messier?

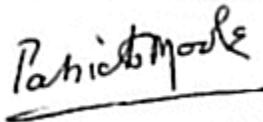
I did so - and more or less on the spur of the moment, sent it off to *Sky and Telescope*. To my surprise it caught on, and by now everyone seems to use the Caldwell numbers. I could not use M numbers, because Messier and Moore begin with M - but my proper name is hyphenated (Caldwell-Moore), so I used C.

All the Caldwell objects are within range of modest equipment. They are arranged in declinations, so that to survey them all means some travel - but that is not a problem nowadays.

Why not try a Caldwell competition? This is not a difficult matter - and here is the list; try it and see how many of the C objects you can locate. I wonder who will be the first observer to win a Caldwell Certificate?

I wish you luck, and clear skies!

PATRICK MOORE

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

To qualify for the CFAS award you must observe at least 70 of the Caldwell objects. Just record your observations on the CFAS Caldwell Certificate Log. When complete turn in to the CFAS Observing Chairman. You will be presented with a CFAS Caldwell observing certificate at the next CFAS general meeting. Since all CFAS members are also AL members, you will qualify for the Astronomy League Caldwell observing certificate also. Go to this link for information: <http://www.astroleague.org/al/obsclubs/caldwell/cldwl.html>