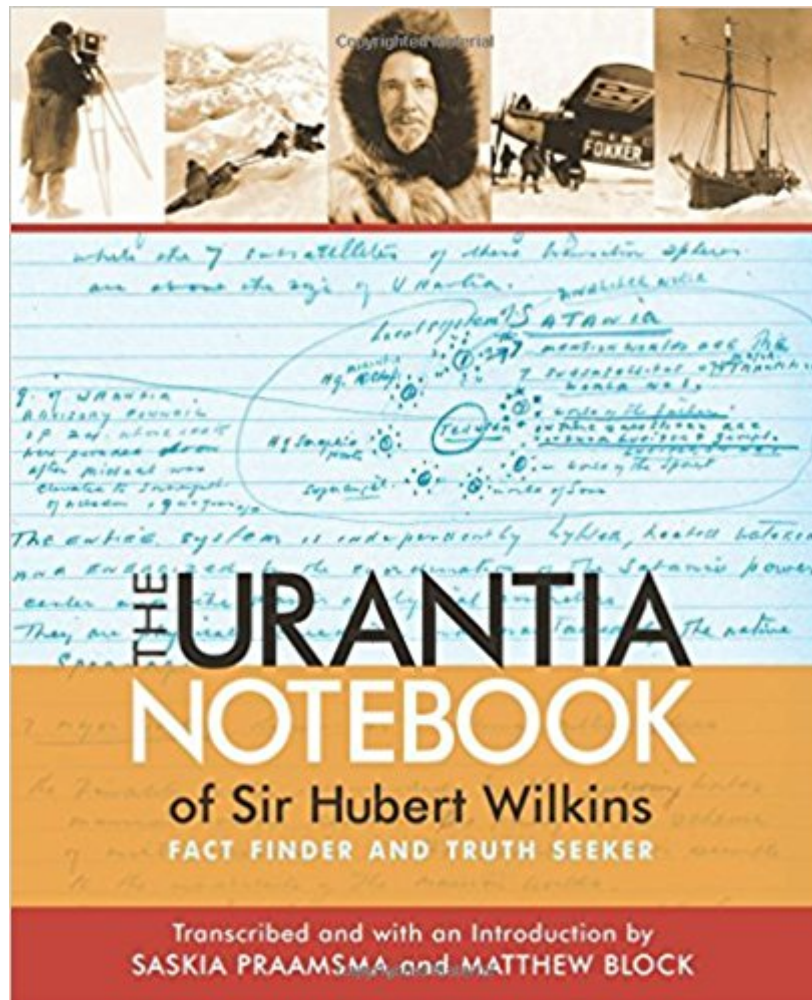




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The Urantia Notebook Of Sir Hubert Wilkins: Fact Finder And Truth Seeker



Synopsis

SIR HUBERT WILKINS (1888-1958) was an Australian adventurer who gained international renown for his pioneering flights in the Arctic and Antarctic. In 1942, after having shifted his sphere of activities from polar exploration to working for the United States Army and various government agencies, he was introduced to the Urantia revelation. This revelation consisted of thousands of pages of manuscript said to have been transmitted by superhuman beings through an anonymous man living in Chicago. The enormous text was in the custody of a Chicago physician, William S. Sadler, who formed a secret group, the Forum, to study it. Wilkins became a member on March 5, 1942. Enthralled by his initial readings, he pored over the manuscript during his periodic visits to Chicago. In 1945 he began to keep a notebook, into which he copied passages from the text that he found especially significant or inspiring. When the Urantia Book was finally published in 1955, Sir Hubert was able to retrieve the notebook, which until then had been stored at Dr. Sadler's residence in Chicago. It was rediscovered in 2014, and is now being made public. It is a unique remnant of a largely obscure period in the history of the Urantia Book and its readership. Sir Hubert Wilkins was certainly the first internationally known person to embrace the Urantia text as a major revelation to this planet. This notebook is a testament to Wilkins' devoted study of a book that answered his most vital questions and gave him a new lens through which to view his own adventurous life.

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Customer Reviews

Saskia Praamsma and Matthew Block are longtime Urantia Book readers who produce and distribute Urantia-related works via their company, Square Circles Publishing, and their websites: squarecircles.com, squarecirclespublishing.com, and urantiabooksources.com.

Sir Hubert Wilkins (1888-1958) was an Australian adventurer who led a fascinating and productive life. Primarily known for his explorations of the Arctic and Antarctic, he was also an ornithologist, pilot, soldier, geographer, photographer and a government agent. *The Urantia Notebook* of Sir Hubert Wilkins illuminates his little known activity as a spiritual seeker. A few of Wilkins' biographers have mentioned his interest in *The Urantia Book*, but they did not understand the depth of his involvement with the text. *The Urantia Book* is a 2,097-page revelation channeled from higher spiritual beings that visited earth between 1923-1942. Praamsma and Block, unlike previous biographers, had access to Wilkins' own papers and the diaries of his friends, Harold and Marta Sherman. These primary source documents along with their familiarity of *The Urantia Book* gave them an excellent foundation to write this book. The book contains a brief biography and transcriptions of Sir Hubert's voluminous Urantia Notebook. In the biography Praamsma and Block set up his remarkable life and weave his spiritual beliefs into his adventures. For example, Wilkins credited divine providence when numerous accidents (averted fatal plane crashes, airship fails, hot air balloon promotions gone very wrong where he survived freezing weather and a crash landing, arrests by countries at war, gunshot wounds, being marooned in the Arctic, living peacefully with cannibals, etc.) should have found him dead. They also shed light on his belief and practice of Extra-Sensory Perception (ESP). By sharing Wilkins' beliefs in the supernatural the authors help flush out his inner life. The largest part of the book is the transcriptions of his notes from his reading of the manuscripts of *The Urantia Book* before it was published. In 1942, his friend, Harold Sherman, introduced him to Dr. William Sadler, the steward of the Urantia papers in Chicago. Starting in April of that year Sherman began spending hours every day reading the Urantia papers and taking notes. In May, Wilkins wrote Sherman stating, "The whole thing is so immense and astounding that one is at a loss for words to describe it." He found reading the papers changed his attitude towards earth time and human life because of the incredible detail about the universe and life after death. Wilkins found the Urantia papers both inspiring and comforting. He loved learning about the cosmic organization of the universe. The transcriptions will appeal mainly to those familiar with *The Urantia Book*. Praamsma

and Block cleverly put the Notebook page in Wilkins's handwriting next to their transcribed text. They state that there is little new in the Notebook as Wilkins copied the Urantia pages verbatim. Praamsma correctly points out what is interesting about these notes is what Wilkins found important enough to write down. He was making his own personalized revelation since he wasn't sure the papers would ever be published. When "The Urantia Book" was published in 1955, Wilkins gave copies to his colleagues and friends telling them that the material was "revealed to us by visitors from the outer universes." By 1957, Wilkins had given 25 copies away and would spend the remaining year of his life studying and introducing the book to people. He came to the conclusion that the density of "The Urantia Book" would be difficult for most to understand. Wilkins opined that it would need a great deal of expounding to reach the multitudes. At the same time Wilkins felt the papers were more "absorbable" than any other theological tome. "The Urantia Book" remains relatively unknown. Little has been written about its history because the original stewards did not want to promote or draw attention to the book they wanted word of mouth dissemination. This attitude has largely continued to the present day. Wilkins's Urantia Notebook will help interested readers appreciate how one exceptional person found the teachings to be edifying. My main complaint about this book was that it so effectively perked my interest in Wilkins that I wanted a longer biography. Saskia Praamsma and Matthew Block have dedicated their lives to producing valuable original works on the history of "The Urantia Book." With their latest effort they give us an absorbing account of Wilkins' interest in a revelation that changed his life.

Some 45 years ago, I began reading The Urantia Book, a 2,097 page tome published in 1955. A self-described epochal revelation, its author(s) do a masterful job of integrating science, philosophy, and religion. The text has answered my many questions about the nature of God, the universe, and the individual role that each of us plays within its grand, cosmic scheme. Naturally, I have wanted to share its revelatory insights with others, and have encouraged many to buy and read it over the decades. However, given its 1.1 millions words of text; the fact that much of it requires a college level education to read and comprehend; its mysterious origins, questions about authorship, etc., it's not an easy sell. Enter Sir Hubert Wilkins, a highly accomplished scientist, explorer, adventurer, and wartime spy whose enthusiastic acceptance of The Urantia Book provides a good name to drop when recommendations about fellow readers arise. (I could provide an

impressive list of famous musicians and entertainers, living and deceased, who have embraced the book, but that would be a bit off-topic.) While he is best known for his pioneering flights over the Arctic and Antarctic, he brought that same spirit of exploration and discovery to his quest for spiritual understanding. Sir Hubert was introduced to The Urantia papers in 1942 by Harold Sherman, his co-author of the book *Thoughts Through Space*, which recounts a series of experiments in ESP and telepathy they conducted, inspired by Wilkins's attempt to locate the missing Russian aviator Sigismund Levanevsky who, with five other crew members, had disappeared on a test flight from Russia to Alaska. Wilkins quickly became an avid supporter of the Urantia papers, and one of the first (if not the first) people to fund its publication, some thirteen years later. The Urantia Notebook of Sir Hubert Wilkins contains facsimiles of Wilkins's neat, handwritten notes and the authors' transcriptions, which have the added benefit of making them more easily searchable. Given the long, long period that preceded the publication of The Urantia Book (some forty years in the making), there were legitimate doubts about whether it would ever escape its confinement in a Chicago brownstone, where its 196 papers could only be read on site. Individuals were permitted to take notes but not to take them out of the building until after publication. Had the book never been published, thanks to Wilkins's notebook (as well as his friends Harold and Martha Sherman's "Diaries"), the world would still have a pretty good idea of the remarkable contents of The Urantia Book. The pages that Wilkins copied show his embrace of the perennial questions of science, philosophy and religion, as well as a keen interest in the many multi-dimensional orders of beings with whom we share the universe, and this planet. In Sir Hubert, I have found a kindred spirit. His exploits, recounted in a concise and informative manner in The Urantia Notebook of Sir Hubert Wilkins, provide me with yet another avenue for introducing The Urantia Book to a broader slice of humanity.

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