

# The Star Trek Compendium

*Allan Asherman*

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#1600015 in Books Star Trek Books Pocket Books 1989-07-01PDF # 1 .70 x 8.60 x 10.90l, 1.10 #File Name: 067168440X182 pages | File size: 41.Mb

**Allan Asherman : The Star Trek Compendium** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Star Trek Compendium:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A comparison to the first edition, and the ConcordanceBy F. J. PRISCOFirst there was David Gerrold's WORLD OF STAR TREK, which mostly told behind-the-scenes stories, but also included a list of the original episodes in broadcast order. The only details included (besides authorship) were the guest stars and character names. Then there was the CONCORDANCE, compiled by Bjo Trimble. Episodes were listed in broadcast order from the original series and the animated series, each with a full-page synopsis and a list of actors the characters they played (even stunt doubles!). Also featured several pages of fan art, and -- best of all -- a 140 page lexicon of roles, writers, props plot details. The COMPENDIUM covered the same ground with more depth a production perspective. Previously unseen photos were included. Information was presented chronologically, including early development the pilots, and episodes were correspondingly listed in production order. Each episode received a small synopsis before delving into background info: critical story evaluation, technical details, guest star histories, script changes, filming locations. Finally, ten pages were devoted to the 1979 movie, concluding on a hopeful note for more. This "Revised And Updated" Compendium is both more and less than the original edition, as it covers more material (all TOS episodes, all animated episodes, all six TOS movies), but does it in ten less pages. This owes partly to a tighter (and better-organized) layout, but also to cuts: the introductory sections are drastically reduced, as are the pages devoted to the first film [from ten pages to three]. The comments on the individual episodes were also

rewritten, compressed by a paragraph or so and eliminating dates for scripts filming. The animated episodes contain even less: characters and a short synopsis, three or four episodes per page. Other additions include a couple pages for the unrealized second Star Trek of 1976, and two alphabetical indices: one of the episodes (sort of an after-the-fact table of contents), and another of all the characters (so that one may look up Lt. Palmer, or which episodes include Sulu). Film entries are like those of the episodes, and refreshingly just as critical; Asherman acknowledges the failure of THE FINAL FRONTIER, and also can say why it failed. As a side note, the Revised Compendium changed photos from those used in the first edition. While I miss seeing Majel Barrett made up as a Vulcan or the overhead view of the Enterprise from "The Cage", the replacement photos are just as good. CONCLUSION: better-organized and more updated, the Revised Compendium reasonably supersedes the first edition, although the first edition has more info on the first movie and the development phase. The Concordance is still the best reference for the animated episodes and cast info. Both are recommended.

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. The Compendium Reviewed By Morris Sullivan

When I found this book on .com, I was actually looking for a book on the Star Trek Animated Series from the 1970's, specifically an episode guide of the animated series. When I first came across the Star Trek Compendium, I glanced at it, then moved on. When I was unable to find anything on the Star Trek Animated Series, I went back to take a closer look at The Star Trek Compendium. That's when I discovered that it contained a section on the animated series along with an episode guide. I was already sold. I consider myself something of a Trekker, but not rabidly so. I've read my share of magazine articles on Star Trek, but just scanning through The Star Trek Compendium (copyright 1989, 1993), I still managed to learn quite a bit about the original series and how it came to be. After TWO pilot episodes, NBC gave the go-ahead for the series, and the rest is history. Yet there is quite a bit of history to be had in Allan Asherman's book that details the development process that went into Star Trek. With plenty of black white photos throughout the volume, the episode synopses are long and informative. Asherman gives the names of the characters in each episode, but disappointingly omits the names of the actors portraying those characters. However, all is not lost in this department since said actors are listed in the back of the book in an Index Of Principals (actors) which includes their character's name, and episode number in which they appeared. There is a page devoted to the syndication of the original series, and a page devoted to the Star Trek Animated Series followed by a full episode guide for it. The synopses for these episodes are noticeably shorter, but then these episodes are only a half-hour long. Since the animated episodes were written by many of the writers of the original series' episodes, the animated series is held in high regard. Asherman goes on to describe the Star Trek feature films all the way through Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country, with full synopses along with background info, and photos. He finishes the tome with an index of episode titles in alphabetical order for the original series as well as the animated series, along with the aforementioned Index Of Principals. An interesting and informative book that I'm proud to own.

Morris Sullivan

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I am so glad that they are still in print.

By Jo B. I had one many years ago had lost it. I am so glad that they are still in print. This is a great guide to follow along with the series. It came quick it was in good condition.

Here is the essential fans' guidebook to the Star Trek universe--including material from Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country. This compendium features a complete show-by-show guide to the original series as well as the movies and animated shows, including plot summaries, fascinating behind-the-scenes information, and credits. 125 photos.

From the Publisher The Star Trek Compendium is the primary source for information about the original series of Star Trek, with an episode-by-episode guide to each of its three seasons (including the 22 animated episodes and the first six films) and production credits, fully indexed by character names and episode titles for quick reference.