Caroline Lucretia Herschel Encyclopedia Article

Caroline Lucretia Herschel

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1750-1848

German-English astronomer and first woman to discover a comet (1786). She discovered seven more comets and many nebulae. She was devoted to her brother William and submerged herself in his work, assisting in making instruments, taking observations, and preparing manuscripts for publication, leaving little time for her to make observations. She was awarded the Royal Astronomical Society's Gold Medal (1828) and was one of the first two women elected to honorary membership in the Society (1835).