Telescopes from the Ground Up

Three images of the Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) (and companion galaxy)

Hand-drawn by William Parsons, third Earl of Rosse, 1845

Image taken at Kitt Peak National Observatory, near Tucson, Arizona, 2000

Image credit: T.A. Rector and Monica Ramirez/NOAO/AURA/NSF

Image taken by the Hubble Space Telescope, 2005

Image credit: NASA, ESA, S. Beckwith (STScI), and the Hubble Heritage Team (STScI/AURA)