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Sky at Night

THE WORLD'S FIRST ASTRONOMY
MAGAZINE AND CD PACKAGE

Deep Space: The NASA Mission Reports



Edited by Robert Godwin
and Steve Whitfield

Apogee Books

£22.95

431 pages and a DVD Paperback
Detailed information gleaned from
the press kits that accompanied
NASA's deep space missions.

Whenever NASA launches a deep space mission to the outer Solar System, it prepares an extensive press kit. These contain detailed information about the launch, the trajectory, the target, the people involved and the scientific purpose of the project. They helped journalists to write their articles and reports, and now they are available to everyone as an encyclopaedic collection of facts about everything from the Pioneer missions to Cassini and beyond.

The terrestrial planets are not included, but the Deep Space 1 mission to the asteroid 9969 Braille and the Stardust mission to comet Wild 2 are.

“...it will bring
hours of pleasure to
planetary mission enthusiasts
or historians of
space exploration.”

There are also some briefer facts on future missions, looking as far ahead as the massive nuclear-powered Jupiter Icy Moons Orbiter that may or may not set off around 2015.

The book literally reproduces the original handouts with no new or connecting material, so rather than an end-to-end read it is an archive to dip in to. As such, it will bring hours of pleasure to planetary mission enthusiasts or historians of space exploration.

There is nothing here about the missions' outcomes, but if you want to know what the spacecraft weighed or who managed the communications team, this is the book for you. There is also a 16-page colour section and a DVD containing colour documents and animations of the missions in flight.

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of Physics at Oxford University*



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