

## BOOK REVIEW

*NASA's Voyager Missions Exploring the Outer Solar System and Beyond* by Ben Evans with Dave M. Harland, Springer-Praxis, 2004.

This book is for an un-initiated but 'moon-struck' reader who wants to learn about NASA's Voyager missions, their origins, their launchings in 1977 & 1979 and their encounters with Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune and the numerous satellites and rings. Finally, a glimpse of what lies in the future at NASA and beyond the solar system.

It is good reading material for a student of astronomy and astronautics who wants to learn how the space agencies work and what has been achieved by this 'pair' of planetary probes in cruising around the outer fringes of our solar system for more than 25 years, with the technology of the 70s: many more 'moons' than we had imagined, Jupiter is not the only planet with the 'spot' and Saturn is not the only one with the 'rings'...

This book is obviously based on large amount of material from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and therefore a little 'tainted' by the JPL version of the story of how the Voyager missions were initiated. 'Beyond the Moon' (Smithsonian, 2000) by R.S. Kraemer, the then Director of Planetary Programs at NASA Headquarters, gives another perspective of the period 1971–1978. They should be read together to get a balanced view of how the Voyagers started the voyage.

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