

BOOK REVIEW

Reta Beebe: *Jupiter – The Giant Planet*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington 1994, vi + 250 pp., ISBN 1-56098-417-1, hardcover \$29.95.

Named after the supreme god of the Romans, Jupiter is by far the largest of all planets and its system of sixteen satellites is impressive.

Reviewing the history of discoveries about Jupiter, the author divided the complex jovian system into three logical units: the atmosphere and interior of the planet, the satellites and ring system, and the magnetic field. In each part a brief review of the history and current state of knowledge are presented. The author discusses also models of the jovian interior, the differences between its satellites (or moons) and the equatorial rings of debris. Considered a substellar companion to the sun, Jupiter is thought to have no solid surface below the visible clouds. In the last part the speculation on what we may learn about the whole jovian system from the Galileo Mission and from the collision with Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 in July 1994, is given.

The author, Reta Beebe, is professor of astronomy at New Mexico State University. She served on the Voyager team from 1977 through 1990 and was a member of the team utilizing the Hubble Space Telescope to observe the 1994 collision of Comet SL9 and Jupiter.

The text is enhanced by a large number of illustrations and unique photographs obtained from space, mostly by Voyager probes and Hubble Space Telescope. Eminently readable, this book is very suitable not only as a text for undergraduate or postgraduate courses in planetology but for a wide range of readers fascinated by planetary geology. It can be also used by Earth and space scientists and planetary geologists. We believe that *Jupiter – the giant planet* will be an valuable addition to all astronomical libraries.

*Astronomical Institute
Charles University Prague
Czech Republic*

Marck Wolf