

## BOOK REVIEW

Billy P. Glass, *Introduction to Planetary Geology*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge–London–New York–New Rochelle–Melbourne–Sydney; 469 pages; 1982; Price £18.00.

The space research of the last decade has contributed substantially to our understanding of the solar system, in particular of its planets and satellites. The reviewed book summarizes what is known about the nature, origin and geologic evolution of the planetary bodies.

Methods and principles of planetary exploration are presented in Chapter 2 and our knowledge of the Earth is summarized briefly in Chapter 3. The following chapters (4–11) take the reader from the closest and familiar bodies to the most distant and least known ones: (4) Meteorites and Extraterrestrial Dust, (5) Impact Craters, (6) Tektites, (7) The Moon, (8) Mars, (9) Mercury and Venus, (10) Asteroids and Comets, (11) The Outer Planets and Their Satellites. Chapter (12) Comparative Planetology, summarizes our knowledge of the planetary bodies and makes generalizations of predictive value. The author uses every opportunity to compare one planet with another. The last Chapter 13 – Origin of the Solar System, compares different and often rival theories of the origin of the solar system and stresses those generally accepted by many scientists today.

The reviewed book is an introductory textbook to planetary geology, with the geological jargon reduced to minimum. It represents a thorough account from a geologist's standpoint of planetary atmospheres, surfaces and interiors. The account is based on findings of all the major landings and deep space missions: Apollo, Luna, Mariner, Pioneer, Venera, Viking and Voyager. Clearly written and complemented by many photographs and illustrations, the textbook will prove useful for students of geology, earth sciences, planetary sciences and astronomy.

*Astronomical Institute  
Ondřejov*

*Josip Kleczek*