

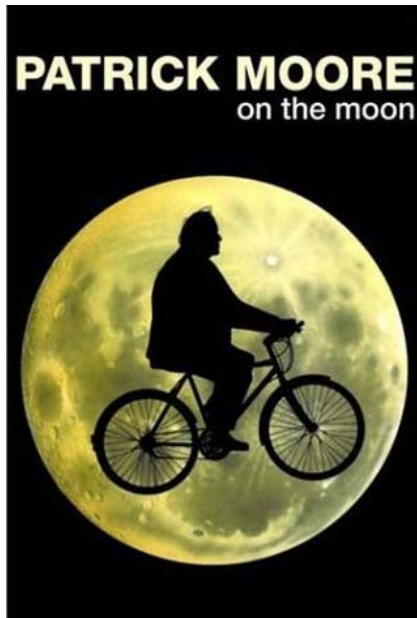


Patrick Moore on the Moon

by Sir Patrick Moore

Cassell, 2006. ISBN 1-84403-536-0. Pp 239, £14.99 (pbk)

As the title suggests this book is about the Earth's nearest neighbour, the Moon. It is a revised edition of Sir Patrick's *Guide to the Moon* first published in 1977. The only part of the original book that has been retained relates to the Moon's movement. The book contains eighteen chapters and covers such things as myths and legends, the origin of the Moon, the Moon in the solar system, features and craters, structure of the Moon, search for ice and much more.



There are also eight appendices with much additional information. This includes descriptions of the surface with maps, details of lunar features, information on successful lunar missions and details of lunar eclipses. Unfortunately lunar eclipses are only listed until 2008. Listings for further years would have been of benefit.

The book is illustrated with both colour and black and white photographs. A number of the photographs were

taken through telescopes by amateurs including the author, and others are from the Apollo era.

There is more than enough in the book to encourage its readers to go out and observe the Moon and to start to identify many of its main features. Written in an entertaining and easy to read style the book has a lot to offer both the layperson and amateur astronomer alike.

Sir Patrick's first guide to the Moon was published more than fifty years ago and he has been studying the Moon for over seventy years. Imperial units are used throughout the book. The addition of equivalent metric units would have been useful. I am not sure that the image on the cover of the book was the wisest choice but people will have their own views on that.

The book is informative and an entertaining read as well as being a good source of reference. It will sit well on the bookshelves of both lunar observers and those who have a casual interest and just want to find out more about the Moon.

Ron Johnson

Ron Johnson is Chief Planning Engineer with a construction company and has enjoyed observing and imaging objects in the solar system for many years, despite light polluted skies.

Sir Patrick Moore is the undisputed expert on the stars and planets. His first "Guide to the Moon" was published more than fifty years ago, and reprinted many times; amid all the excitement of inter-planetary exploration and the rush to journey into space, Sir Patrick has never lost his fascination with our nearest heavenly body. This book explores his intimate knowledge of the Moon's surface structure, its origins, its place in the general scheme of the Universe and its close relationship with Earth. What was once remote and mysterious is now almost conquered territory, our kno