



Jupiter: Willian Sheehan and Thomas Hockey. **KOSMOS. Reaktion Books Ltd, May 2018. ISBN 978-1-7803-908-8. Hb 192 pp 100 ill. 60 colour. £25.**

This beautifully illustrated book ranges across the entire aspect of Jovian studies, from the naked eye observations of the ancient world through to the first telescopic discoveries of Galileo that revolutionised our knowledge of the planets to the systematic studies of the planet by predominantly amateur European observers in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Much of our understanding of Jupiter and indeed of the fundamental nature of the outer planets, has been based on detailed, systematic, observations of the Jovian atmosphere, particularly by observers in the British Astronomical Association. These observations are particularly well described and illustrated

and the treatment of this important aspect in our basic knowledge of Jupiter is a thread that runs through much of the book.

It wasn't until the second half of the twentieth century that professional planetary scientists took up the quest for a more scientific investigation of Jupiter and not until the 1970s, when the prospect of direct study with the Pioneer and Voyager fly-by missions to the outer planets became a reality, that studies of Jupiter intensified to the extent that we see them today. Now it is being scrutinized as never before as experts begin to build a comprehensive understanding of the origin, composition and structure of this giant world.

The final chapter offers practical advice on how amateur observers can study the planet for themselves. The book will therefore appeal to the historian, those with an interest in current professional research and to the practical astronomer; a tall order, but ably covered in this neat little volume.