



## Photographic atlas of the Moon

by S. M. Chong, A. C. H. Lim & P. S. Ang

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(25x31.5 cm), £40.00 (hbk).

This photographic atlas of the Moon is suitable for people with small telescopes, who wish to start studying the topography of the lunar surface. When the subject is first attempted, it is difficult to identify the seas, numerous craters and other features of the Moon, due to the surface appearance continually changing under different illuminations during the cycle. There are occasions when even a relatively experienced observer can find it difficult to locate a particular feature.

This book attempts to overcome these difficulties by illustrating the appearance of the Moon through all its phases, which will greatly assist in identifying a particular crater, from the numerous features visible. The scale of the images means that a modest telescope will be able to be used successfully with reference to the illustrations. The image resolution is appropriate for the smaller telescope and means the observer is not swamped with detail that they would be unable to see. The illustrations could also be used to compare amateur images, either with photography or CCD, as a way of encouraging this method of recording details.

At the start of the atlas is a quick beginner's guide with helpful hints on how to

get best use of the illustrations. These are laid out in logical sequence, with the day number placed in a prominent position enabling quick identification of the phase. In addition to the full-size images there are tables identifying the prominent features for that part of the lunation. For each day there is a description of the main changes in appearance, and any particular points of interest.

An index with a short history of the identified features, together with links to other sources of information, forms an excellent reference for both those starting out and the more experienced observer.

A great number of images were taken and those published represent a consistent quality. This means there are no sudden changes of appearance throughout the atlas. There are supplementary images of some of the major features, which would enable a closer study to be undertaken and compared with what could be seen at the telescope.

The authors have produced a very well thought out and helpful addition to the many books published on the subject. This represents a good starting book, which when used with existing publications with high-resolution images, should form the basis of a successful understanding of lunar topography.

### Alan Wells

*Alan Wells is the Director of the Lunar Section of the BAA.*

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