



## The modern Moon – a personal view

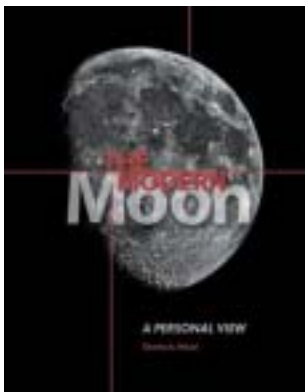
by Charles A. Wood

Sky Publishing Corporation, 2003.  
ISBN 0-933346-99-9, Pp xix+209.  
\$49.50 (hbk).

This book explains the details of the Moon and the formation of the features we can see. The author holds degrees in astronomy and geophysics with a PhD in planetary geology, and has had 200 papers published on the Earth, Moon and planets; he also writes the monthly Moon observers' guide for *Sky & Telescope*.

The book starts with a catalogue of people who have contributed to lunar observation over the years, dating back to Galileo as the first telescopic observer of the Moon through to today's professional observers incorporating data from NASA.

The author first explains the Moon's phases over the month and what can be observed as the light increases, together with the effect of the terminator. He then



goes into detail about the surface features such as the large dark areas called maria and oceans, which were caused by lava flows, and how over time they have changed, together with information about the impact craters and the fallout (ejecta). This is backed up with lots of diagrams, drawings and pictures to further help your understanding.

The rest of the book is divided into 18 sections of the Moon, based on geological features and impact craters, rather than a standard grid system. The author describes in detail the structure and composition of each section. The majority of the information used on how a particular feature has been formed is based on fact, but he has included an occasional theory of his own.

Overall I found the book easy to read and understand. The idea of 'modern' is reflected in the way the author has approached his subject and presented it in small easy chunks with lots of diagrams, drawings and pictures to enhance the descriptions and text. This would be a good book for someone just starting lunar observation.

**Hazel Collett**

*Hazel is Public Relations Officer for York Astronomical Society, and runs astronomy workshops at her local library. Her main interests are solar observing and deep sky objects.*

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