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Book Review: Moore on Mercury: The Planet and the Missions

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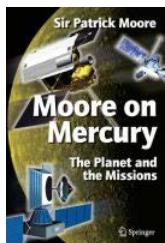
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Moore on Mercury : the planet and the missions



Moore, Patrick. Springer, 2006

139p, 1846282578 \$29.95, 9781846282577 \$29.95

LC Call Number: [TL799](#)

Because it is never very far from the sun in our sky, Mercury is one of the least studied planets, by amateurs or professionals. Astronomer Moore's compact book (a little more than 100 pages of text) provides a concise summary of some of Mercury's unique properties, but it is far from a definitive reference. The first few chapters provide some historical background and are not specific to Mercury. Chapters on the possibility of life on Mercury, building a base on the planet, and what the sky would look like to a visitor standing on its surface are interesting, but scientifically irrelevant. Chapters 9-11 are the heart of the book. What we know about Mercury comes mostly from the *Mariner 10* spacecraft flyby in the 1970s. The book summarizes that mission and offers a mini-atlas of the planet's surface and a short prospectus for the Mercury Messenger mission on its way now. This material would have been a good stand-alone chapter about Mercury in a survey book on the solar system. If a thumbnail sketch of Mercury is all that is needed, this is it.

Summing Up: Optional. General readers; lower-division undergraduates; two-year technical program students.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Optional

Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Two-Year Technical Program Students

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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