

Book review : *Beyond Pluto*

by John Davies

University Of Cambridge (2001) ISBN 0 521 80019 6 pp 227 (followed by 4 pages of index)

John Davies is an astronomer at the Astronomy Technology Centre, Edinburgh. His work is focussed on solar system research.

This book offers a very sound introduction to the study of the remote edges of the solar system. This region offers the chance of finding primordial material left over from the formation of the solar system about 4,500 million years ago. It is also a region where we might one day observe the processes of planetesimal formation and planetary accretion in action, and thus be able to validate our models of planet formation.

Davies offers a very good précis of how research on the Kuiper Belt has developed over time. His descriptions of the technologies and methods used, along with his summaries of the science results are both clear and concise. The use of illustrations is reasonable, if perhaps a bit sparse.

In terms of bringing this subject area to the attention of non-professionals, this is an important book. I heartily recommend it to anyone interested in the evolution of the solar system.

Lee Russell

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