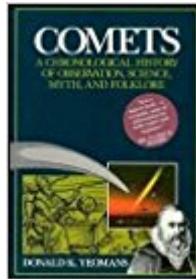


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Comets: A Chronological History Of Observation, Science, Myth, And Folklore



Synopsis

The diminutive size of cometary bodies is in no way proportional to their scientific importance. Theorists suggest that comets played a major role in the development of the Earth and subsequent collisions of comets may have wiped out various life forms, allowing only the most adaptable to develop further. In short, the study of comets is important from a historical perspective, scientifically compelling and, at the same time, entertaining. In this authoritative book, the development of cometary ideas is traced from antiquity through the actual fly-by of Halley by international spacecraft in 1986. The focus is on the cometary theories that were evident in each era. Included are many colorful anecdotes and information about culture and important personalities throughout history. Also contains an exhaustive catalog of all comet apparitions through the year 1700.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

VERY complete, at least up to the date of publication anyhow! I think the author, Donald Yeomans is currently director of the JPL near earth object program. I have seen him on many TV interviews about space and the potential for an asteroid induced apocalypse .I really enjoyed the book and found it highly topical because I am excited to observe Comet C-2011 L4 Panstarrs in the western sky after sundown as soon as the weather around Seattle allows. Off topic, but our weather here totally sucks for astronomy. Yes Virginia, it really does rain a LOT in Seattle.

In my book, "Astronomical Symbols on Ancient and Medieval Coins", I devote an entire chapter to comets that were depicted on medieval coinage as signs of divine right to sovereignty. Several other chapters also refer to the use of cometary symbols on coins as a part of in-depth discussions of various sovereigns. I have a Ph.D. in astronomy with my thesis dealing with long period cometary orbits. As part of my numismatic research, I supplemented my own knowledge with that of several other sources, and found Yeomans' book to be especially valuable. I highly recommend this book to all who are interested in reading about historical comets. Marshall Faintich

Comets were first discovered way back in the time of such scientific scholars like Aristotle and Ptolemy. The book Comets was written by Donald K. Yeomans. In the book he tells you the history on comets and how they have been and are being discovered in space. He also describes the different views of the scientists of the time on comets. An example of a wacky thought of comets was by Aristotle as he thought that comets had something to do with meteorology. The author also describes how comets impacted societies and time periods. Such as how Newton viewed the comets of 1607, 1618, 1652, 1664 and 1665. He tied this info into his theory of a heliocentric universe. This book tells you facts on comets also like how Halley's Comet returns roughly about every 70 years. I didn't really enjoy this book because of the fact I am not a big reader and it is basically a book of facts. The book on comets is really a giant fact book compiled for studies. I would recommend this book if you were going to do any type of project or paper on comets but I would not recommend it for the casual reader.

Worked just like on TV!

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