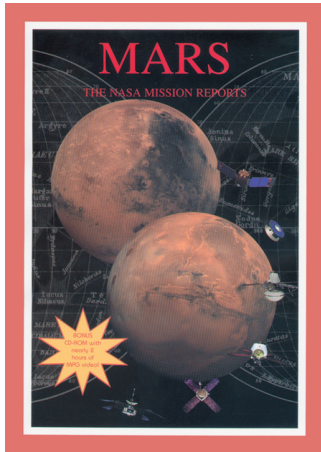


Book review in June 2004 issue of

# PLANETARIAN

JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PLANETARIUM SOCIETY



## Mars, The NASA Mission Reports, Vol. 1

compiled by Robert Godwin, Apogee Books  
Box 62034 Burlington, Ontario, Canada  
<http://www.cgpublishing.com>, 2000, ISBN  
1-896522-62-9. 432 pages plus CD-ROM for  
Mac/Windows, US\$23.95

Review by John Mosley, Griffith Observa-  
tory, Los Angeles, California, USA

Apogee books specializes in detailed chronicles of the space age. They assemble NASA material and other material that is in public domain into rather dense books with minimal typography and design, but with loads of information in print and on accompanying CD or DVD. These are amazing resources.

This month I quickly review two of their many offerings, one about Apollo 11 and the other about Mars, as samples.

Spirit and Opportunity and the accompanying orbiters are the latest of a fleet of spacecraft - some successful and some not - to attempt to explore the Red Planet. This book documents the Mars program from Mariner 4 in 1964 through Mars Global Surveyor in 1998.

The book is based on official NASA press

releases, mission reports and other documents, and it contains an enormous amount of archival information. One could read it, I suppose, from beginning to end, but it is really a reference volume. It covers Mariner 4, Mariners 6 and 7, Mariner 9, Viking 1 and 2, Mars Observer, Mars Pathfinder, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Climate Orbiter, and Mars Polar Lander. Like others in the series, it is densely packed with text, tables, photographs, diagrams, etc, and it includes two sections of color photographs. It's as much as most people will want to know about the US program to explore Mars.

The book and CD-ROM  
is a whole library on decades  
of Mars exploration.  
It's a real bargain.

The book is accompanied by a CD-ROM that contains hundreds of photographs and two hours of mpeg videos tht run with Internet Explorer or a similar web browser and a Quick Time viewer. the videos include Planet Mars, 19 Minutes to Earth, and Mars - The Search Begins. Many, many images come from each mission. Some are in color and a few are very high-resolution. One section shows areas that suggest evidence of recent liquid water on Mars.

The CD-ROM also contains eight books (text plus illustrations): The Difficult Road to Mars - Mars Exploration in the Soviet Union, Viking - Mission to Mars, Viking Orbiter Views of Mars, On Mars 1958-1978 (the first 20 years of Mars exploration), EMPIRE (early von Braun studies and others) and more. What a collection!

The book and CD-ROM is a whole library on decodes of Mars exploration. It's a real bargain.



An Imprint Of  
Collector's Guide Publishing Inc  
[www.cgpublishing.com](http://www.cgpublishing.com)  
905 637 5737