

## Library - Book Review

### **The 20-CM Schmidt-Cassegrain: A Practical Observing Guide**

Reviewed by: Francis Adamson

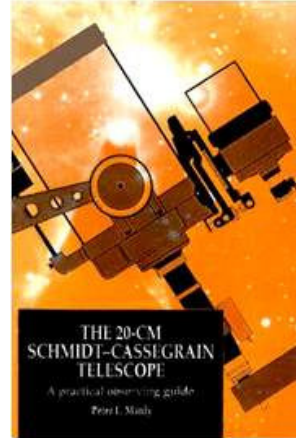
(Extracted From AAQ October 2002 Newsletter)

By Peter L Manly

Published by Cambridge University Press, 2002

The opportunity to review this book came at a very fortuitous time for me, in that I had just recently purchased a 20 cm Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope and after a short period of tripod experimentation I was in the process of installing the device on a permanent pier in an observatory. I had been "dewed out" on my last two nights. So I found the book a very refreshing read with many helpful hints to the unexperienced.

The introduction describes the book as a guide to the use of the most popular amateur telescope in the world, namely a 20 cm Schmidt-Cassegrain. In every sense I found this to be so.



Peter Manly takes the reader through every phase of the instrument's possible uses from lunar observation, through to the planets, double stars etc, and on to deep sky observation in easy steps, which a new user will readily appreciate.

Asteroid occultation's, variable star, comets, solar observations are all introduced to the reader in a competent progressive way, while also incorporating a degree of humour. Projects are discussed, as well as the use of photography, computers and CCD devices.

Undoubtedly, the techniques for using the later devices have progressed since the book was published, however the subject is well introduced.

Perhaps the most rewarding feature of the book is the manner in which the author honestly approaches each aspect of the instrument's use, which leaves the reader in no doubt as to the capabilities of these telescopes, but what is more important, the author leaves the reader with realistic expectations. In short, the limitations are clearly defined.

I found the book easy to read, so much so that I completed it in two (2) days of relaxed enjoyment, and have subsequently ordered a copy for my personal reference library.