

Book review in March 2005 issue of

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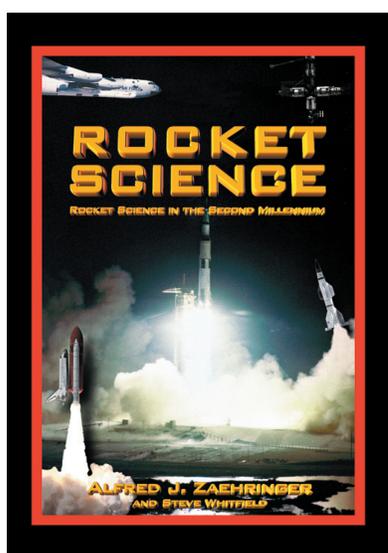
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Zaehringer, Alfred. **Rocket Science: rocket science in the second millennium**, by Alfred J. Zaehringer and Steve Whitfield. Apogee Books, 2004. 215p index ISBN 1894959094, \$20.95

What can one expect from a book titled *Rocket Science*? There is no such thing as rocket science and, indeed, there are no rocket scientists unless one believes that there are automotive scientists, locomotive scientists, and airplane scientists. To try to get more specific, this is not a book that can be categorized as a rocket engineering work; it could be characterized as a historical survey of rocket technology. It is very well and competently done; it is well illustrated with good black-and white and color photographs, and drawings and tables add much to the book. With all these very good graphic presentations, one wonders why a photograph of Theodore von Karman on page 25 looks like it has been defaced with a black marking pen. There are chapters on history, energetics, economics, government and industry, the space world, humans in space, and the future. Zaehringer who was at the Remagen Bridge in WW II when it was attacked by V-2 rockets, weaves his 60 years of experience in rocketry into the pages of this book, and he provides unique perspectives into the history and technology of rockets. This is a useful work for both aerospace engineering students and space historians. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels -- A. M. Strauss, *Vanderbilt University*



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