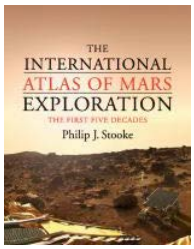
2012

Book Review: The International Atlas of Mars Exploration: The First Five Decades: v.1: 1953 to 2003

T. D. Oswalt
Florida Institute of Technology, oswaltt1@erau.edu

The international atlas of Mars exploration: the first five decades : v.1: 1953 to 2003



Stooke, Philip J. Cambridge, 2012

359p, 0521765536 $140.00, 9780521765534 $140.00
LC Call Number: G1000

This is the golden age for Mars exploration. Stooke (Univ. of Western Ontario), a cartographer and imaging expert, has sifted through thousands of historical documents, images, and cartographic data from the world's space agencies to assemble the single most comprehensive visual atlas of the Red Planet available--at least to the general public. Here readers will find, chronologically laid out, the history of Mars exploration from roughly 1953 to 2003. Each mission is presented in story form, richly illustrated with carefully selected maps and annotated black-and-white images. The activities conducted by each flyby, orbiter, or lander are presented in convenient chronological tables. Landing sites and the routes explored by various surface rovers are mapped in exquisite detail. Ground-based and Hubble Space Telescope studies of Mars, as well as spacecraft investigations of its moons, Phobos and Deimos, are also included. The atlas even documents missions that were planned but never launched. A final section details current plans for human visits to Mars. This is without question the definitive reference work on Mars exploration. It is a must for anyone interested in the planet--from laypersons to practicing planetary scientists. If Mars had its own family scrapbook, this would be it. This reviewer can hardly wait for volume 2.

Summing Up: Essential. Lower-level undergraduates and above; general readers.

Reviewer: T. D. Oswalt, Florida Institute of Technology
Recommendation: Essential
Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates, Graduate Students, Researchers/Faculty, Professionals/Practitioners
Interdisciplinary Subjects:
Subject: Reference - Science & Technology