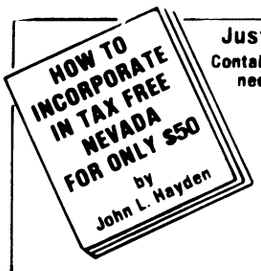

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The Most Up-to-Date Reference to the Worlds Around You

The New Solar System

edited by
J. Kelly Beatty
Brian O'Leary
Andrew Chaikin

Sky Publishing Corporation and Cambridge University Press have just completed a major new book that synthesizes our current knowledge of the solar system. We are fortunate in having among our authors many eminent and articulate researchers, whose contributions bring together the most recent findings about the Sun, planets, satellites, and that which lies between.

The text of this new book is generously supported by hundreds of full-color and black-and-white illustrations, and its lucid, informative writing should attract readers of all backgrounds.

The Voyager 1 encounter with Saturn (November, 1980) culminated two decades of solar system exploration that has been particularly intensive in recent years. Phenomenal progress in planetary science, together with the regrettable hiatus in new programs expected in the near future, make *The New Solar System* a timely reference that should remain current for many years.

Since 1975, our understanding of the worlds around us has grown explosively thanks to the Viking mission to Mars, Pioneer 11's sweep by Saturn, the armada of Pioneer and Venera probes to Venus, and a pair of spectacular visits to Jupiter and its satellites by Voyager spacecraft. This new publication also includes the first Voyager encounter with Saturn, thus completing our volume just as the first great wave of planetary exploration draws to a close. Less visible but no less significant have been recent investigations of the Sun, Moon, asteroids, magnetospheres, and planetary ring systems. Only now can scientists begin to make meaningful comparisons of the geology and dynamic atmospheres of the worlds around us.

The results add up to an increasingly coherent understanding of the chemical and thermal history of the solar system, the accretion and fragmentation of its members, and the changing planetary surfaces.

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