



To See The Unseen A History of Planetary Radar Astronomy The NASA History Series

By National Aeronautics and Space Administration

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. 326 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.7in. The past 50 years have brought forward a unique capability to research and expand scientific knowledge of the Solar System through the use of radar to conduct planetary astronomy. This technology involves the aiming of a carefully controlled radio signal at a planet (or some other Solar System target, such as a planetary satellite, an asteroid, or a ring system), detecting its echo, and analyzing the information that the echo carries. This capability has contributed to the scientific knowledge of the Solar System in two fundamental ways. Most directly, planetary radars can produce images of target surfaces otherwise hidden from sight and can furnish other kinds of information about target surface features. Radar also can provide highly accurate measurements of a targets rotational and orbital motions. Such measurements are obviously invaluable for the navigation of Solar System exploratory spacecraft, a principal activity of NASA since its inception in 1958. Andrew J. Butrica has written a comprehensive and illuminating history of this little-understood but surprisingly significant scientific activity. Quite rigorous and systematic in its methodology, To See the Unseen explores the...



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