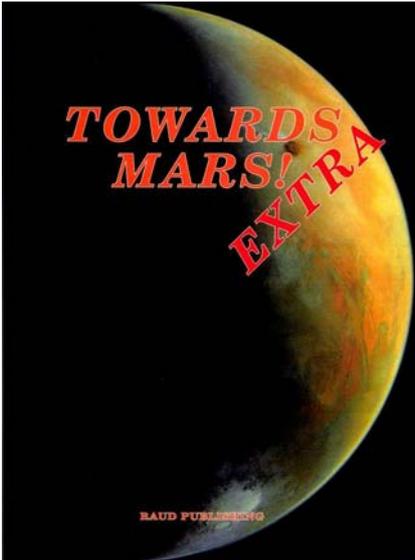


Towards Mars! Extra

by R. Pellinen & P. Raudsepp
(Eds)

Oy Raud Publishing (Helsinki, Finland), 2006. ISBN 952-9689-18-7. Pp 168, hbk.



An earlier Mars book by the Oy Raud publishing house (*Towards Mars!*) was favourably reviewed in this *Journal* in 2003 June. Since then, several further spacecraft have visited the Red Planet: their degree of success has varied widely, but together they have greatly advanced our knowledge in a few short years. Above all, the work of ESA's *Mars Express*, and of the NASA Rovers *Spirit* and *Opportunity*, is highlighted in this new book which serves as a companion to the earlier volume and contains a great deal of data within its covers.

It is attractively produced, excellent use being made of the large format. The writing (by 17 authors including Colin Pillinger and Fred Taylor from the UK) is uniformly good, and like its predecessor the book has a distinctly European flavour. It is useful to have a detailed summary of the instrumentation each Mars mission has carried: such details are hard to find elsewhere. *Towards Mars! Extra* fittingly concludes with a chapter that reviews past, present and future exploration, and includes a summary of the missions to be launched up till 2015. Highly recommended to BAA members.

Richard McKim

Richard McKim directs the BAA Mars Section, and has reported the Association's observations of Mars in the Journal since the opposition of 1980.