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PLANETARY ATLASES

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Two kinds of planetary map atlases are in production. Atlases of the first kind, produced as NASA Special Publications, contain reduced-scale versions of maps in hard-bound books with dimensions of 11 X 14 inches. These new atlases are intended (1) to provide concise but comprehensive references to the geography of the planets needed by planetary scientists and others and (2) to allow inexpensive access to the planetary map dataset without requiring acquisition and examination of tens or hundreds of full-size map sheets. Two such atlases have been published (Batson et al., 1979, 1984) and a third is in press (Batson and Inge, eds.). We have begun work on an Atlas of the Satellites of the Outer Planets.

The second kind of atlas is a popular or semi-technical version designed for commercial publication and distribution. The first edition, titled "The Atlas of the Solar System," by Greeley and Batson, is nearly ready for publication. New funding and contracting constraints now make it unlikely that the atlas can be published in the format originally planned. We are currently exploring the possibility of publishing the maps (which have already been prepared) through the USGS, as a series of folios in the I-map series. The maps are global views of each solid-surface body of the Solar System. Each map shows airbrushed relief, albedo, and, where available, topography. A set of simplified geologic maps is also included. All of the maps are on equal-area projections. Scales are 1:40,000,000 for the Earth and Venus; 1:2,000,000 for the Saturnian satellites Mimas and Enceladus and the Uranian satellite Miranda; 1:100,000 for the Martian satellites, Phobos and Deimos; and 1:10,000,000 for all other bodies.

REFERENCES

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