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Nota di contenuto	Introduction: NASA's solar system exploration paradigm : the first fifty years and a look at the next fifty / James L. Green and Kristen J. Erickson -- Exploring the Solar System : who has done it, how, and why? / Peter Westwick -- Funding planetary science : history and political economy / Jason W. Callahan -- The politics of pure space science, the essential tension, human spaceflight's impact on scientific exploration / Roger Handberg -- Designing Mars sample return, from Viking to the Mars Science Laboratory / Erik M. Conway -- NASA, big science, and Mars exploration : critical decisions from Goldin to Bolden

/ W. Henry Lambright -- Survivor! (?) : the story of S. Mitis on the Moon / Linda Billings -- Killer asteroids : popular depictions and public policy influence / Laura Delgado Lopez -- Voyager : exploring through the public eye / Giny Cheong -- Europe's rendezvous with Titan : the European Space Agency's contribution to the Cassini-Huygens Mission to the Saturnian system / Arturo Russo -- Ranger : circumstances, events, legacy / James D. Burke and Harris M. Schurmeier -- Mariner 2 and the CSIRO Parkes Radio Telescope : 50 years of international collaboration / John Sarkissian -- International cooperation in solar system exploration : a transnational approach to the history of the International Solar Polar Mission and Ulysses / Petar Markovski.

Sommario/riassunto

"To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first successful planetary mission, Mariner 2 sent to Venus in 1962, the NASA History Program Office, the Division of Space History at the National Air and Space Museum, NASA's Science Mission Directorate, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory organized a symposium. "Solar System Exploration @ 50" was held in Washington, D.C., on 25-26 October 2012. The purpose of this symposium was to consider, over the more than 50-year history of the Space Age, what we have learned about the other bodies of the solar system and the processes by which we have learned it. Symposium organizers asked authors to address broad topics relating to the history of solar system exploration such as various flight projects, the development of space science disciplines, the relationship between robotic exploration and human spaceflight, the development of instruments and methodologies for scientific exploration, as well as the development of theories about planetary science, solar system origins and implications for other worlds. The papers in this volume provide a richly textured picture of important developments - and some colorful characters - in a half century of solar system exploration. A comprehensive history of the first 50 years of solar system exploration would fill many volumes. What readers will find in this volume is a collection of interesting stories about money, politics, human resources, commitment, competition and cooperation, and the "faster, better, cheaper" era of solar system exploration"--
