



◀ **AURORAS IN STEREO** Named for the icy Canadian lake near Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, where most of its images were taken, *Prelude Lake* by Bryan Rich White (Nitescapes 3-D, 2008, \$64.95) is a lavish book containing 72 stereo image pairs of auroras plus two more of Comet Hale-Bopp. You view them with an included plastic “fuser,” whose molded lenses perform almost as well as the glass ones of an antique stereoscope. Through the magic of stereo, you perceive the relative distances of evergreen trees, occasionally punctuated with a cabin’s glow or a ghostly human form, all drawing your eyes to a remote and majestic tapestry of auroral curtains and stars. And to enhance the experience, you can play the hauntingly ethereal music CD *Century Seasons*, by Jonn Serrie, that is included with the book.

— Reviewed by Roger W. Sinnott

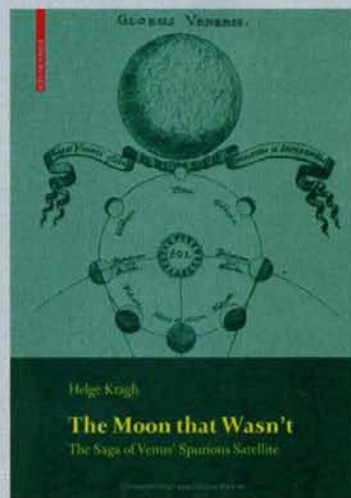
**Prelude Lake**

By Bryan Rich White  
Nitescapes 3-D, 2008  
www.astro-photo.com

▶ **NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T** When is an observation an aberration? That's the intriguing question posed in *The Moon that Wasn't: Saga of Venus' Spurious Satellite* by Helge Kragh (Birkhäuser, 2008, \$59.95). This scrupulously researched and heavily footnoted treatise documents the history of Venus's non-existent natural satellite, from its dubious discovery to its ultimate disappearance. In telling the story, the book reminds us that while astronomy endeavors to create a complete description of the universe by building theory upon observational record, scientists — even great scientists — are fallible. *The Moon that Wasn't* provides a fascinating tale of astronomy during the age of visual astronomy. But it's also a reminder that sometimes we shouldn't trust what's in front of our eyes.

— Reviewed by Timothy Lyster

**The Moon that Wasn't:  
The Saga of Venus' Spurious Satellite**  
by Helge Kragh  
Birkhäuser, 2008



◀ **COMPACT APO** Explore Scientific rolls out a series of premium refractors, starting with the 80-mm f/6 Air-Spaced Triplet ED Apochromatic Refractor (\$799). The objective incorporates one element of Hoya extra-low-dispersion FCD1 glass to reduce false color, and each surface is treated with an enhanced multilayer coating to reduce reflections. The objective cell is user-adjustable, should you ever need to collimate the optics yourself. Each scope features a dual-speed, 2-inch Crayford-style focuser with 10-to-1 speed reduction, and a universal mounting plate that is compatible with Vixen-style dovetail mounts. An 8x50 erect-image finder with illuminated reticle, and a 2-inch dielectric mirror diagonal with a 1¼-inch adapter are included with the base package.

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