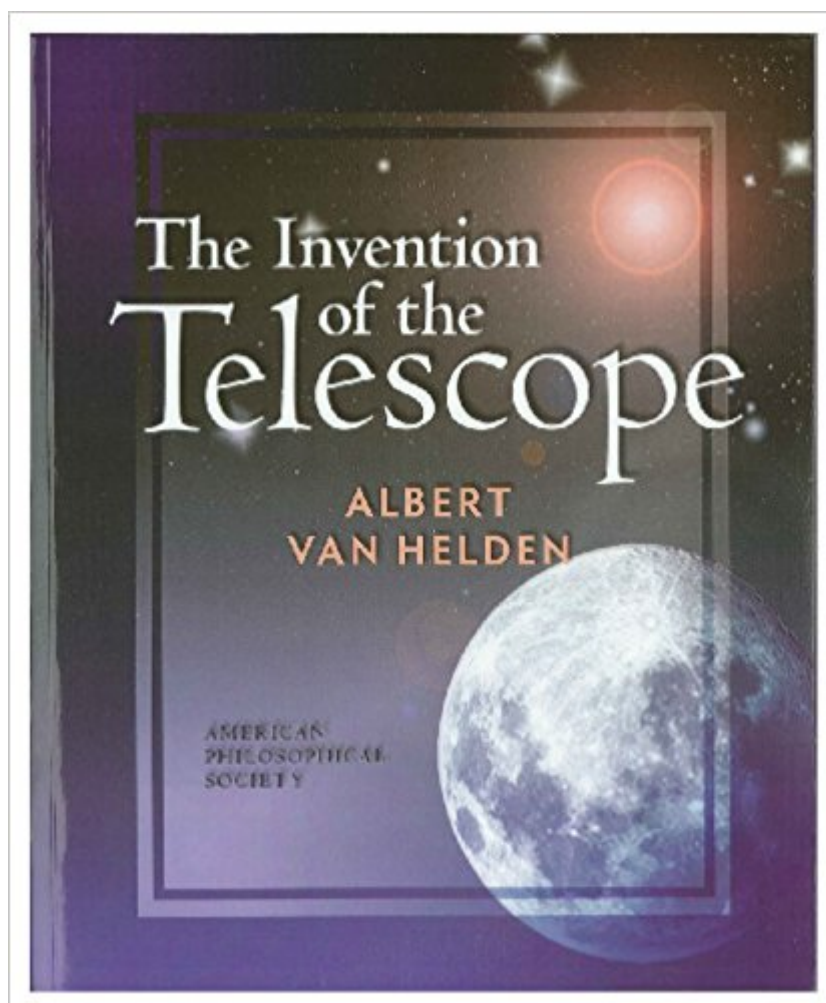


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# The Invention Of The Telescope (2008 Reprint)



## Synopsis

Ours is an age of science and technology, based on precision instruments. The first such device to strengthen our feeble human senses in our striving to comprehend the strange and elusive universe around us was the telescope. Cornelis de Waard, in his *De uitvinding der verrekijkers* (The Hague, 1906), had uncovered many new documents bearing on the genesis of the telescope. Van Helden began this project as a translation of de Waard's study. However, Van Helden decided that the profession and de Waard's memory would be better served by a collection and translation of all the relevant primary sources named in his study. Contents of this volume: Intro.; The Background; Between Porta and Lipperhey, 1589-1608; and Documents. Illus. Reprint.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is the sort of book that I find very hard to rate. It is a 1977 paper reprinted in 2008 for the 400th anniversary of the telescope. The author found and, as needed, translated many documents relevant to the invention of the telescope. From these he weaves the early history of the device. The paper itself is only about 23 pages long, but there are another 36 pages of sources in the original and in translation. A true treasure trove of history! The paper suggests that the telescope was developed when it was because lenses of the needed strength had become available. But this paper preceded Rolf Willach's monograph, *The Long Route to the Invention of the Telescope* (Transactions of the American Philosophical Society), also reprinted in 2008. Willach shows that the key invention was actually the aperture mask, an argument van Helden embraces in his introduction to this reprint of his paper. So this is a wonderful source for the original documents that trace the

origin of the telescope. As such, it is an important work, but one of interest to relatively few people. Unless you are already deeply immersed in the history of the telescope you probably don't need this book

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