



A Discovery of New Worlds

By de Fontenelle, Bernard. Behn, Aphra, Translator. Murdin, Paul, Foreword by.

Hesperus. 1 Paperback(s), 2012. soft. Book Condition: New. Born in 1657, Bernard de Fontenelle first achieved literary success with *Nouveaux Dialogues des Morts*, a brilliant series of philosophical debates between historical figures. But it was this book, published in France as *Entretiens sur la Pluralité des Mondes* in 1686, that would become one of the first major works of the Age of Enlightenment. In a series of conversations with a young marquise, an astronomer describes Copernicus's sun-centered universe and speculates on the possibility of life on other planets, while she questions and debates his views. Translated into English by Aphra Behn in 1688, it is remarkable both as a pioneering work of popular science written in colloquial French rather than in Latin and because it features a woman as an intelligent thinker. 123.

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