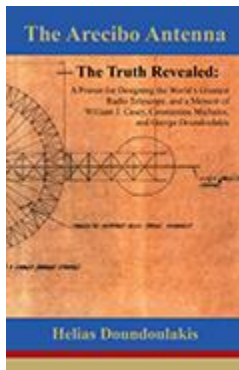


THE US Review of Books



The Arcibo Antenna
by Helias Doundoulakis
Xlibris

book review by Mihir Shah

"But life is far too short for self-policing and restraint, especially when telling my truth will not hurt anyone."

At the center of this text is a rarely talked about radio telescope that is credited with discovering groundbreaking findings like extrasolar planets and the two pulsar bits in a binary orbit that proved Einstein's theory that gravitational waves existed. Lying only nine miles from the town of Arecibo in Puerto Rico, the Arecibo Antenna, also known as the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center, is layered with its own origin secrets. Doundoulakis' mission is to bring the facts to the forefront and present a series of evidence exhibits that would systematically create a conclusive argument for his

brother, the late George Doundoulakis, a former American soldier and physicist, as the true genius behind the antenna's inception.

The book is centered around the controversy with Cornell faculty, chiefly professors William E. Gordon and Thomas Gold. These "inventors" of the telescope that had its ears to the cosmos for over half a century made no mention of George. Perhaps what makes the text more intriguing is that it reads less like a research paper and more like a fluid narrative that addresses the basics of Arecibo's original design with letters, diagrams, drawings, and poignant questions that, beyond a shadow of a doubt, establish patent infringement on the part of Cornell University.

What gets lost, at times, is that the book is neither a witchhunt nor a claim to fame. On the contrary, it is an ode to brotherly love, a heartwarming and authentic text that is exceedingly successful in bringing the telescope back into the limelight and demonstrating the instrumental role played by the author's brother in the advent of the Arecibo Antenna.

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