

Public Science:
Dibner Hall in the Huntington's
History of Science Program



The Huntington Library, Art Museum, and Botanical Gardens



San Marino, California (immediately south of Pasadena)

DIBNER HALL *of the* HISTORY OF SCIENCE

BEAUTIFUL SCIENCE

IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

astronomy

natural history

medicine

light

al history

BEAUTIFUL SCIENCE

Ideas that Changed the World

Have you ever wondered how the world has changed over time? The history of science is a story of discovery, innovation, and the ideas that have shaped our world. From the earliest civilizations to the modern age, scientists have explored the mysteries of the universe and the human body, leading to breakthroughs that have transformed our lives. This exhibition explores the history of science and the ideas that have changed the world.

It is often said that science is a journey, not a destination. The history of science is a story of discovery, innovation, and the ideas that have shaped our world. From the earliest civilizations to the modern age, scientists have explored the mysteries of the universe and the human body, leading to breakthroughs that have transformed our lives. This exhibition explores the history of science and the ideas that have changed the world.

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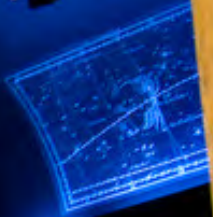
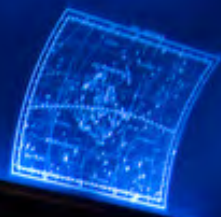
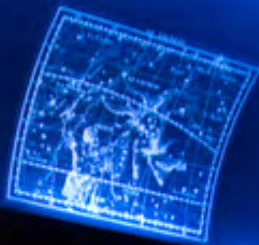
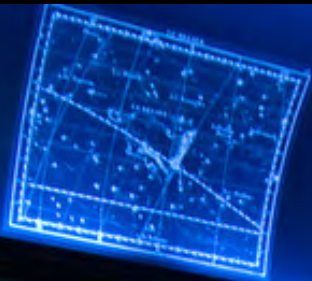
ROAN THOMAS (top right) was one of the foremost scientific historians and most widely-read authors of our time in the history of science and technology. Based at an illustrious university and the founder of the Society for the History of Technology, he was named a National Academy of Sciences member in the United States and a Foreign Honorary Member of the Royal Society in the United Kingdom. He was also a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. He was a frequent speaker at international scientific conferences and a frequent contributor to the history of science and technology.



ROAN THOMAS has had a long and illustrious career in the history of science and technology. He was a frequent speaker at international scientific conferences and a frequent contributor to the history of science and technology. He was a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Philosophical Society. He was also a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the Royal Society.

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location

The first historical record of the constellation of the scorpion is found in the Babylonian star catalogues. The first recorded use of the constellation of the scorpion is found in the Babylonian star catalogues. The first recorded use of the constellation of the scorpion is found in the Babylonian star catalogues.



SC is the star of the scorpion

The scorpion constellation



SC is the star of the scorpion

the naked eye

Astronomers using only the unaided eye (before and after the invention of the telescope) were intimately familiar with the night sky. Aided by the much darker skies of centuries past, they could locate and record changes such as supernovae and comets.

The development of all kinds of optical instruments, from the telescope to the microscope, has allowed us to see things that were previously invisible to the naked eye. This has led to many discoveries in astronomy, biology, and other fields.



**Astronomicum
Vesareium.**

288

Abbas.



Historicus, diuina gerens, sephitque perit,
 Hic sua cognoscet, si bona nosse uolent,
 Namque vetulans mirator tempora rebus
 Distribuet, verè dum canet historia,
 Ipse sacri praesens noctes sequate diebus

Dicet, & hinc ferie festa locare sua,
 Ipse paratur, timor mira cometae,
 Percipiet, nulli dicta vel acta prius,
 Sed caueant animis adfuit luote perulit,
 Hac etenim labes cernere veta nocte

11012



...videlicet. Ave
...planta dicitur
...hanc FERD
...a. i. i. q. t
...ere. h. i. i. i.
...Azam veris
...p. l. p. g. r. d.
...i. l. p. e. t. i. q. r.
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...ocum dema
...er. d. i. o. r. i. t. a. m.
...17. videlicet.

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...t. i. d. e. b. a. t.





Isaac Newton,
*Principia
mathematica*,
1687

This copy
owned and
annotated by
Newton and
Edmund Halley
(who paid for
the printing)

[32]

plicata ratione laterum Ad, Ae : Sed his areis proportionales semper sunt areæ ABD, ACE , & his lateribus latera AD, AE . Ergo & areæ ABD, ACE sunt ultimo in duplicata ratione laterum AD, AE . *Q. E. D.*

Lemma X.

1. siue vis illa determinata & immutabilis sit, siue eadem continue augetur vel continue diminuat a hinc Spatia, quæ corpus urgente quacumq; vi ^{fixa} regulari describit, sunt ipso motus initio in duplicata ratione temporum. [^]

Exponentur tempora per lineas AD, AE , & velocitates generatæ per ordinatas DB, EC , & spatia his velocitatibus descripta erunt ut areæ ABD, ACE his ordinatis descriptæ, hoc est ipso motus initio (per Lemma IX) in duplicata ratione temporum AD, AE . *Q. E. D.*

Corol. 1. Et hinc facile colligitur, quod corporum similes similibus figurarum partes temporibus proportionalibus describentium errores, qui viribus æqualibus in partibus istis ad corpora similiter applicatis generantur, & mensurantur a locis figurarum, ad quæ corpora temporibus iisdem proportionalibus absq; viribus istis pervenirent, sunt ut quadrata temporum in quibus generantur quam proxime.

Corol. 2. Errores autem qui viribus proportionalibus similiter applicatis generantur, sunt ut vires & quadrata temporum conjunctim.

Coroll. 3. Item intelligendum est de spatijs quibusvis quæ corpora

Lemma XI.

Subtensa evanesceus anguli contactus est ultimo in ratione duplicata subtensa arcus contermini.

Cas. 1. Sit arcus ille AB , tangens ejus AD , subtensa anguli contactus ad tangentem perpendicularis BD , subtensa arcus AB . Huic subtensæ AB & tangenti AD perpendiculares erigantur AG, BG , concurrentes in G ; dein accedant puncta D, B, G , ad puncta d, b, g , sitq; f intersecctio linearum BG, AG ultimo facta ubi puncta D, B accedunt usq; ad A . Manifestum est quod distantia

tia



A
CATALOGUE
OF
Chymicall Books.

In Three Parts.

In the *First* and *Second* Parts are contained such *Chymical Books* as have been written Originally, or Translated into *English*: With a large Account of their *Titles*, several *Editions* and *Volumes*.

LIKEWISE

In the *Third Part* is contained a Collection of such things published in the *Philosophical Transactions* of the *Royal Society* (for Ten Years together) as pertain to *Chymistry*, or the Study of *Nature by Art* in the *Animal*, *Vegetal*, and *Mineral Kingdoms*.

Collected by *Will. Cooper*, Bookseller, at the *Pelican* in *Little-Britain*, *London*.

London Printed in the Year, 1675.

The Second Part of the Catalogue

Hen. Gellibrand's *Discourse Mathematical on the Variation of the magnetical Needle; together with its admirable Diminution lately discovered.* London 1635. 4°.

Joh. Bapt. Van Helmont's *Dehramenta Catarrhi, or the incongruities, impossibilities and absurdities committed under the vulgar opinion of Defluations; with Dr. Charleton's Paraphrase upon the same.* Lond. 1650. 4°.

J. H. his *Treatise of the great Antidote of Van Helmont, Paracelsus and Crolius, by them called Elixir Proprietatis, being the greatest Cordial and only Medicine in the World, effectually taking away the seeds of all Diseases; with its preparation, and the way to volatize the Salt of Tartar.* London 1667. 4°.

The *History of Jewels, and of the principal riches of the East and West; with fair Discoveries conducing to the knowledge of the Universe.* Lond. 1671. 8°.

J. C. Holland's *Animal work.* Vide Paracelsus.

J. C. Holland's *History of most Manual Arts, their Progress and Improvement of the Arts and examples.* Lond.

J. C. Holland's *Register for the Air.*

J. C. Holland's *Table of Attaining a*

J. C. Holland's *His*

of Chymical Books.

— His *Iatomathematica, Physical Mathematicks, or Mathematical Physicks.* Vide Williams.

Hortolanus his *Commentary upon the Smaragdine Table of Hermes.* Vide Bacon.

Rob. Hooke his *Micrographia, or some Physiological descriptions of Minute Bodies made by magnifying Glasses; with Observations and Inquiries thereinto.* 1665. fol.

Will. Hughes his *Treatise of the American Physitian of the Roots, Plants, Trees, Shrubs, Fruit, Herbs, &c. growing in the English Plantations in America, &c. whereunto is added a Discourse of the Cacao Nut-tree, and the use of its Fruit, with all the ways of making Chocolate.* Lond. 1672. 12°.

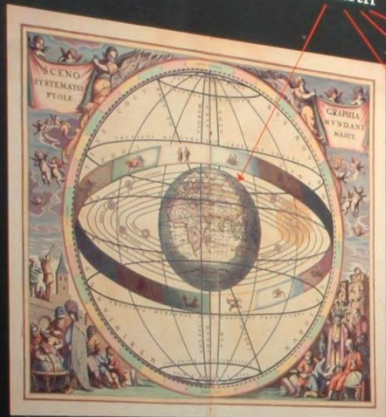
Nath. Highmore's *History of Generation, examining the several opinions of divers Authors, relating of the manner of Generation, as well in Plants as Animals; with a Discourse of the cure of Wounds by Sympathy, known by the name of Sir Gilbert Talbot's Powder.* Lond. 1651. 8°.

Sam. Hartlib his *Chymical, Medicinal and Chirurgical Addresses, In nine Treatises, viz. 1. Whether the Urim and Thummim were given in the Mount, or perfected by Art. 2. Sir Geo. Ripley's Epistle to King Edward the Fourth unfounded. 3. Gab. Plattes Caveat for Alchymists. 4. A Conference concerning the Philosophers stone. 5. An Invitation to a free and generous Communication of Secrets and Receipts in Physick. 6. Whether or no each several Disease hath a particular Remedy. 7. A new and easie Method of Chirurgery for the curing of all fresh Wounds, or other hurts. 8. A Discourse about the Essence or*

Existence

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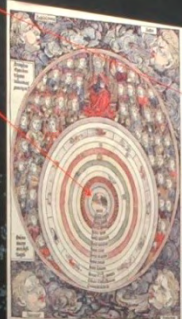
Earth



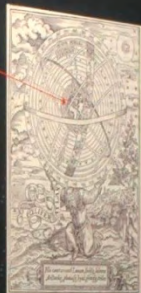
1542 Nicolaus Copernicus
De revolutionibus orbium coelestium
liber primus



1609 Galileo Galilei
Sidereus Nuncius



1632 Johannes Kepler
De revolutionibus orbium coelestium
liber tertius



1687 Isaac Newton
Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica

Sun



1687 Isaac Newton
Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica



1687 Isaac Newton
Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica



1687 Isaac Newton
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1687 Isaac Newton
Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica

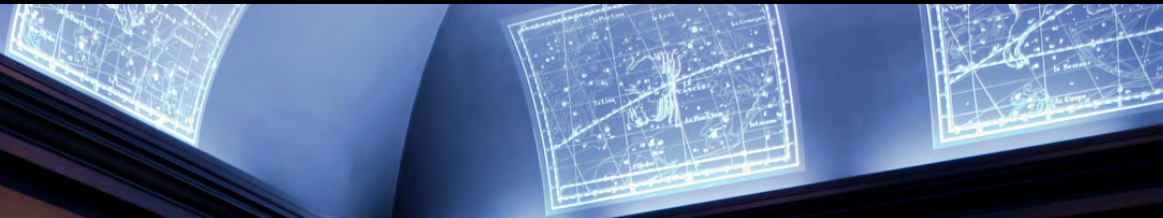
EARTH is the center of the universe

This intuitive idea was the foundation for early work in astronomy, with Ptolemy's model of rotating spheres dominating for hundreds of years.

SUN is the center of the universe

Copernicus launched this view with his 1543 revolution in age. It would take the work of many including Kepler, Galileo and Newton to confirm it.





EARTH is the center of the universe

This intuitive idea was the foundation for early work in astronomy, with Ptolemy's model of rotating spheres dominating for hundreds of years.



SUN is the center of the universe

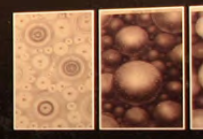
Copernicus' model of our world is fundamental to modern astronomy, but it took a while of more scientific study and debate to replace it.



Our solar system

Earth and our solar system are within the Milky Way galaxy

Our solar system, including Earth, is just one of billions of stars and planets in the Milky Way galaxy, which is just one of billions of galaxies in the universe.



The Milky Way is just one of countless galaxies

Our solar system, including Earth, is just one of billions of stars and planets in the Milky Way galaxy, which is just one of billions of galaxies in the universe.





the telescope

As it has accentuated the breathtaking qualities of the night sky, the telescope has also allowed for greater accuracy in astronomical tasks. What looks like dust to the naked eye resolves into individual stars under magnification.

astronomy

The sky above—central and seemingly serene, yet intricate and mysterious—has proved both serene and curious for as long as people have gazed. As we have developed new tools and new models, our understanding of the nature of the heavens and our place in them has grown more accurate.

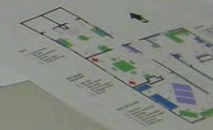




recycled
paper

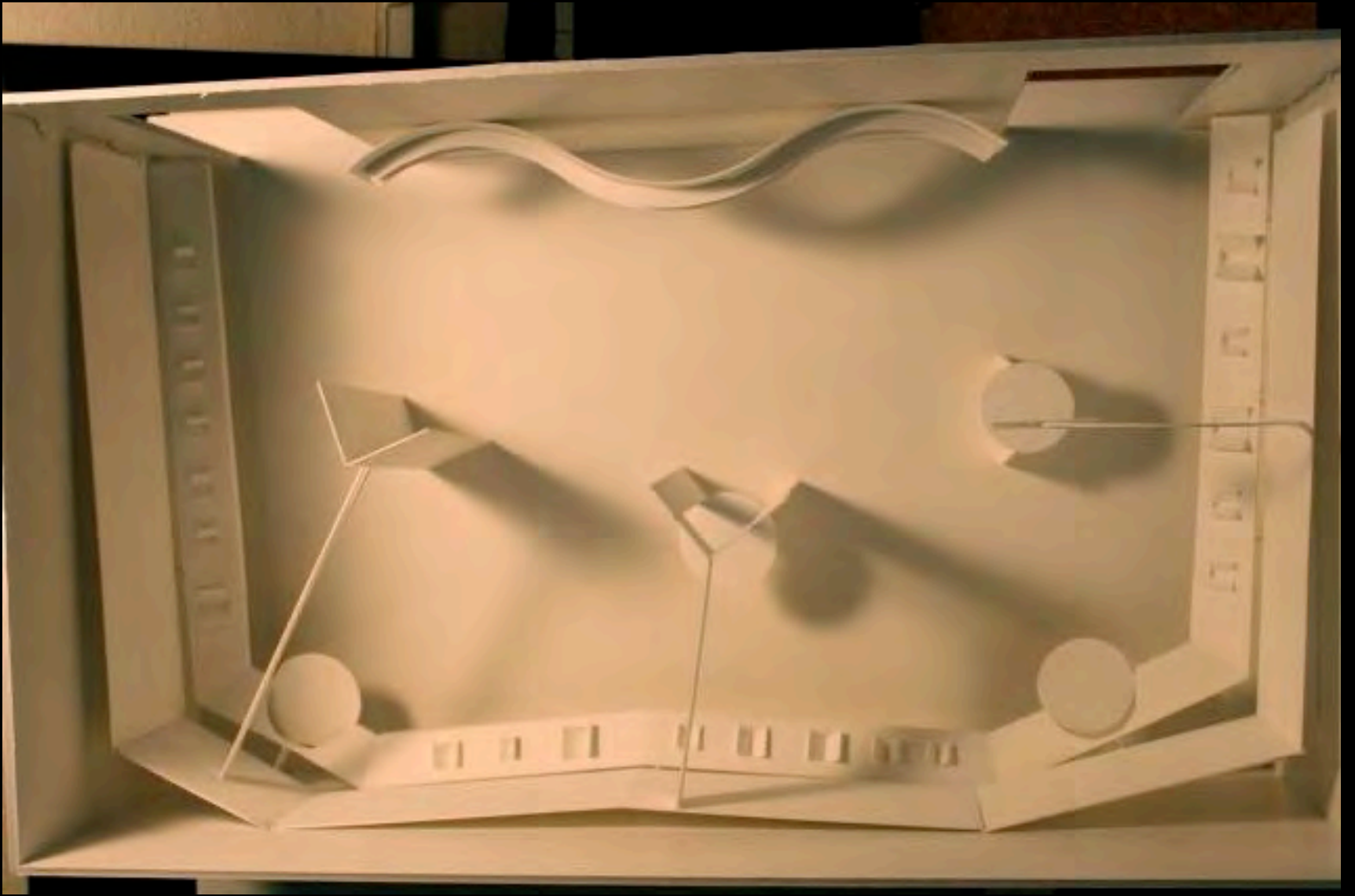


R



Perrita House
Kitchen
with Images
February 2009

3/18/09
2/18/09









Bern Dibner



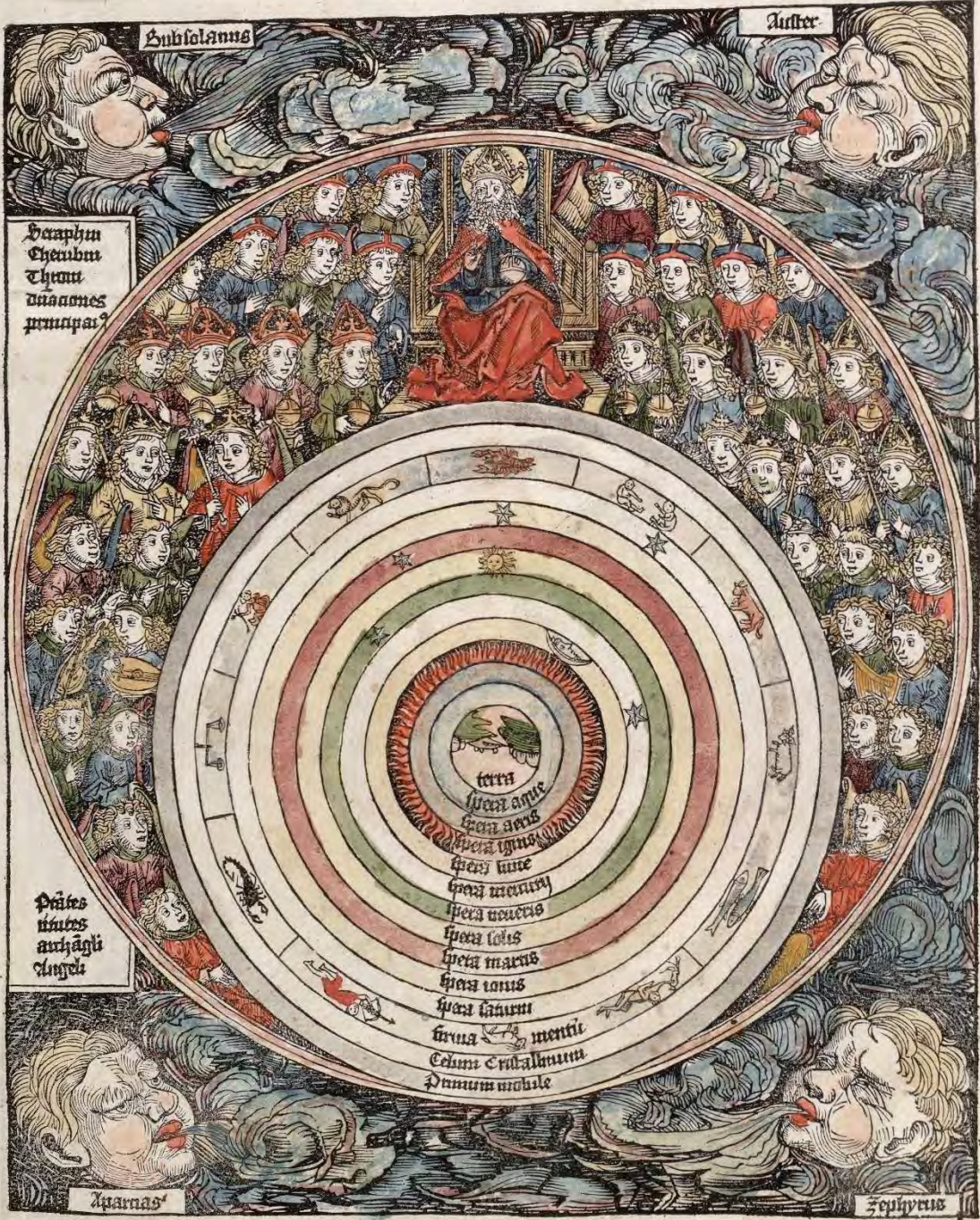
Fran and David Dibner

Subsolanus

Auster

Hexaphu
Cherubim
Throni
diacones
principes

Præses
iudices
archidiaconi
Angeli



terra
 aqua
 aer
 ignis
 luna
 mercurius
 venus
 solis
 mars
 iouis
 saturni
 firmamentum
 Cælum crystallinum
 Primum mobile

Aquas

Fephyrus

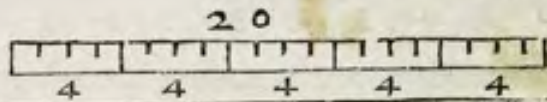
VERSO DOVE

DONDE

PARTE VERSO
IL POLO

DONDE

VERSO DOVE



1 y

Stella de la prima grandezza.



Stella de la seconda grandezza.



Stella de la terza grandezza.



Stella de la quarta grandezza.



Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543)

De revolutionibus orbis coelestium (On the revolution of heavenly bodies)

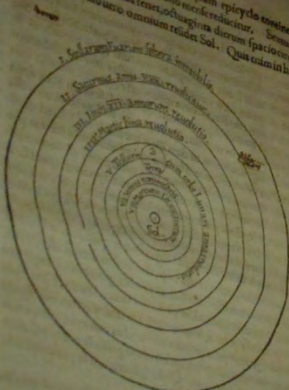
Basel, Switzerland, 1566 (2nd edition)

Edwin Hubble's copy

In 1543, the publication of Copernicus' *De revolutionibus* demoted Earth from its privileged position as the center of the universe. Increasingly accurate mathematical and descriptive tools allowed Copernicus to establish what many astronomers had suspected for centuries: Earth was not the static, unmoving center of things, but one of a series of planets revolving around the Sun.

The work was declared heretical by the Roman Catholic Church and placed on the Index of Prohibited Books in 1616. Catholics were permitted to read it, however, once censors marked out the prohibited passages, as they did in this copy.

NICOLAI COPERNICI
De Revolutionibus Orbis Coelestium
liber primus
In quo demonstratur quomodo terra non sit centrum mundi
sed unum orbium coelestium. Quomodo etiam demonstratur
quomodo terra non sit centrum orbium coelestium
sed unum orbium coelestium. Quomodo etiam demonstratur
quomodo terra non sit centrum orbium coelestium
sed unum orbium coelestium.



pulcherrimo templo lampadem hanc in alio od meliori loco
necesse, quam unde totum simul possit illuminare. Si quidem
insuper quidam laterem simul possit illuminare. Si quidem
cave. Triemgulus utilibidem Deum, Soporibus Electra ionense
omnia. Ita profecto tanquam in folio regali Sol ensidens circum
agrum gubernat Astrorum familiam. Tethus quoque minime
frustra lunari ministerio sed ut Aristoteles de animalibus
maxime Luna cum terra cognatione habet. Quod ipse inter
sive terra, & insuperque autem parte. Invenimus igitur sub

REVOLUTIONUM
liber secundus
In quo demonstratur quomodo terra non sit centrum mundi
sed unum orbium coelestium. Quomodo etiam demonstratur
quomodo terra non sit centrum orbium coelestium
sed unum orbium coelestium. Quomodo etiam demonstratur
quomodo terra non sit centrum orbium coelestium
sed unum orbium coelestium.

De Hypotesibus
Cap. I
Unum igitur mobilium terrae totantia errantium
dum consistant testimonio, iam ipsam motum in se
etiam exponemus, quatenus apparentia per ipsum
quam hypothesis demonstrant, quem triplicem omnino oportet
ut admittere. Primum quem dicitur in geographia a Graecis vocari
nisi noscitur aequitatem, prout in diversis mundis fieri putat
solum in oram uterque, prout in diversis mundis fieri putat
tur, reponebat in circulo describendo, quem nonnulli
quidem dicitur, imitatus figuratissimum Graecorum, quod

Ans

Zürich, 14. X. 13.

Hoch geehrter Herr Kollege!

Ihre einfache theoretische Überlegung macht die Annahme plausibel, dass Lichtstrahlen in einem Gravitationsfeld eine Deviation erfahren.



An Sonnenraude müsste diese Ablenkung $0.84''$ betragen und wie $\frac{1}{2}$ abnehmen (Richtung vom Sonnenmittelpunkt).



$0.84''$

Es wäre deshalb von grösster Interesse, bis zu wie grosser Sonnennähe helle Fixsterne bei Anwendung der stärksten Vergrösserungen (ohne Sonnenfinsternis) gesehen werden können.

MONMONT WILSON
ARCHIVES
OBSERVATORY

Auf den Rat meines Kollegen, H. Maurer Prof. Maurer bitte ich Sie deshalb, mir mitzutheilen, was Sie nach Ihrer reichen Erfahrung in diesen Dingen für mit der heutigigen Mittelbar erreichbar halten.

Mit aller Hochachtung
Ihr ganz ergebener

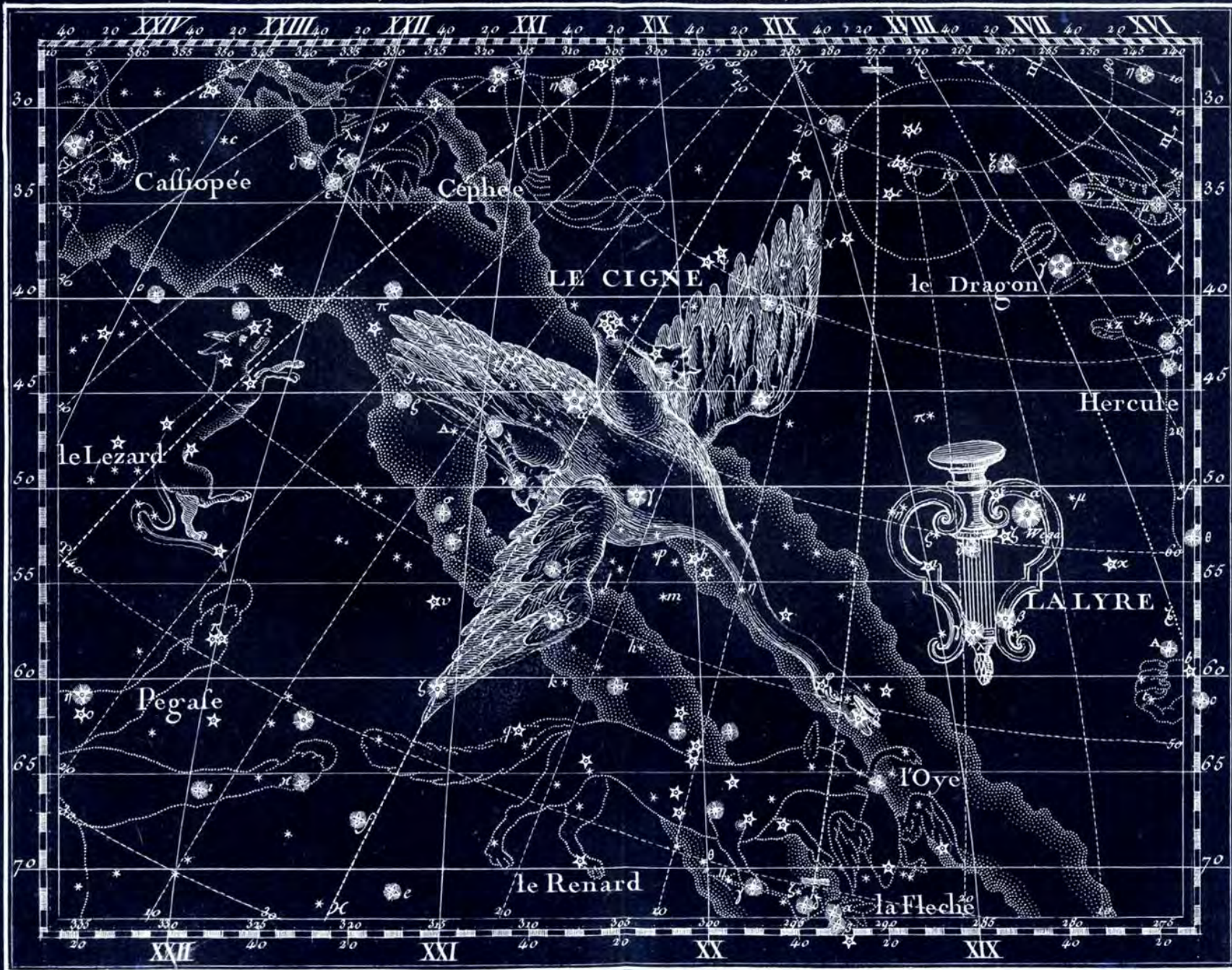
A. Einstein
Technische Hochschule
Zürich.

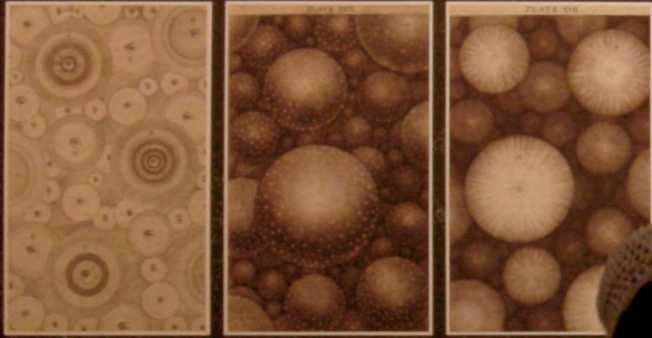
Dear Sir,

Many thanks for a friendly reply to Mr. Professor Dr. Einstein, Mhonorable College of the Polytechnical School.

14. X. 13

Yours truly
Maurer





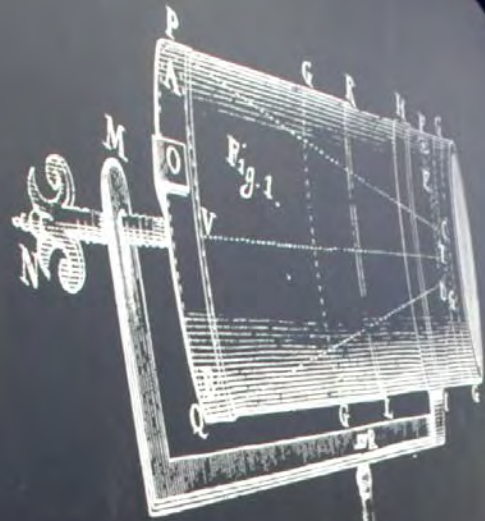
The Milky Way is just one of countless galaxies

Einstein and Hubble contributed to new understandings of just how vast a place the universe is, with billions of planets orbiting billions of stars.



the telescope

As it has accentuated the breathtaking beauty of the sky, the telescope has also allowed for greater accuracy in astronomical tasks. What looks like dust to the naked eye resolves into individual stars under magnification.

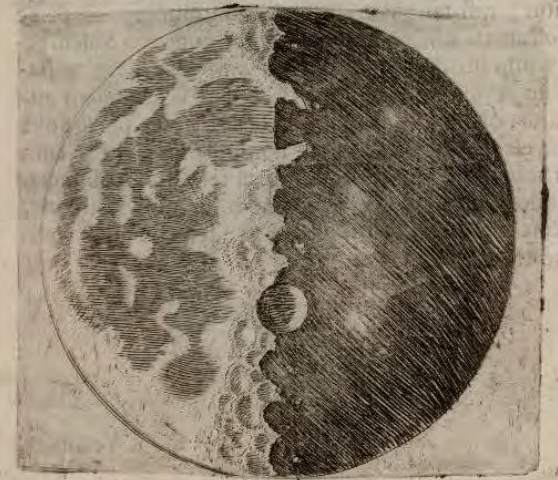


astronomy



Galileo's telescope (1609)





Sidereus nuncius
(“The starry messenger”)

Galileo Galilei

1610

Galileo's little book, privately printed in an edition of a mere sixty copies in 1606, is now extremely rare.

LE OPERAZIONI
DEL COMPASSO
GEOMETRICO.
ET MILITARE.

DI
GALILEO GALILEI
NOBIL FIORENTINO
LETTOR DELLE MATEMATICHE
nello Studio di Padoua.

Dedicato
AL SERENISS. PRINCIPE DI TOSCANA
D. COSIMO MEDICI.



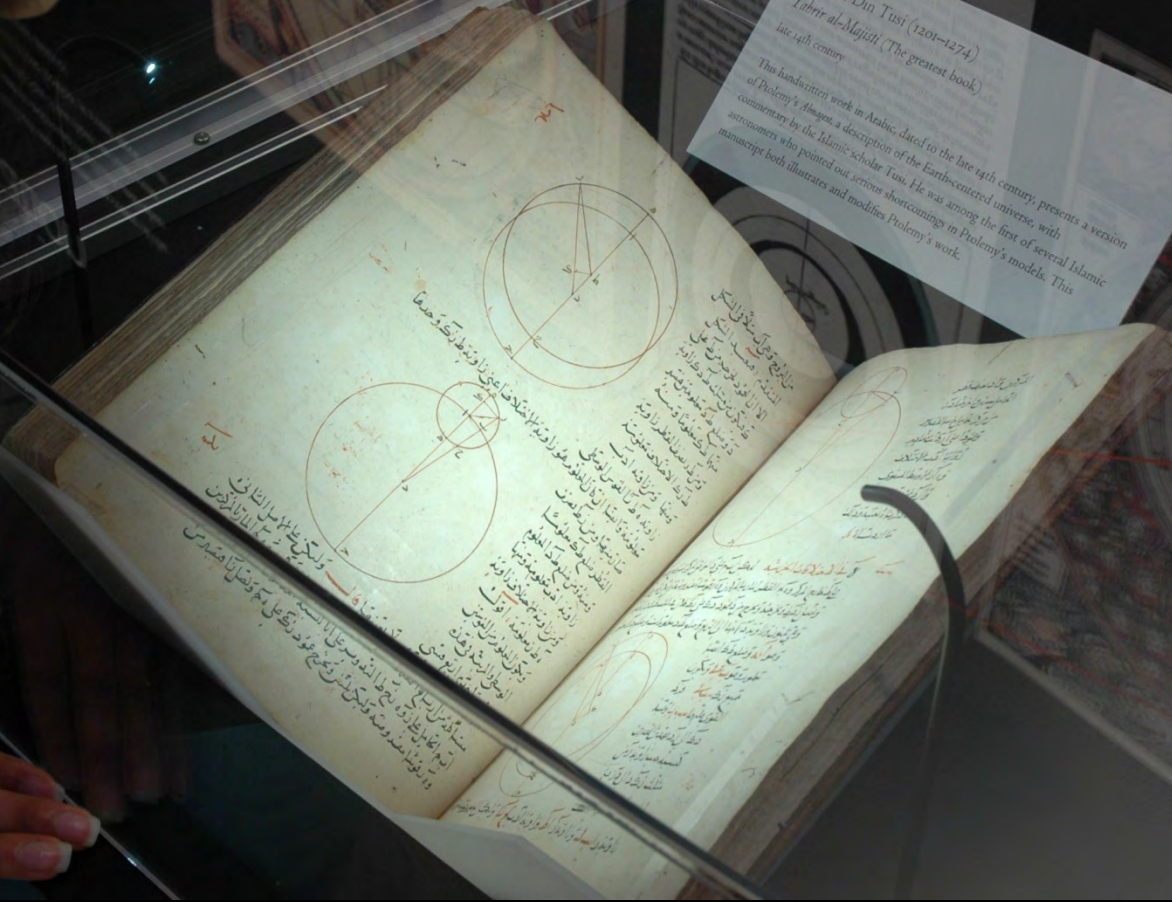
IN PADOVA.

In Casa dell'Autore, Per Pietro Marinelli. MDCVI.

Con licenza dei Superiori.

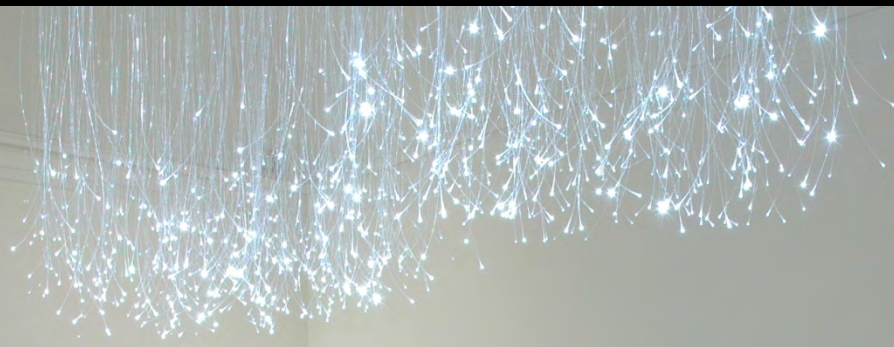
Nasir al-Din Tusi (1201-1274)
Tahrir al-Majma'i (The greatest book)
late 14th century

The handwritten work in Arabic, dated to the late 14th century, presents a version of Ptolemy's *Almagest* a description of the Earth-centered universe, with commentary by the Islamic scholar Tusi. He was among the first of several Islamic astronomers who pointed out serious shortcomings in Ptolemy's models. This manuscript both illustrates and modifies Ptolemy's work.



light

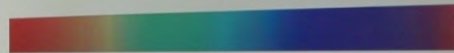
Light, or electromagnetic radiation, consists of visible light, radio waves, microwaves, X-rays, gamma rays, and other kinds of energy. Its properties have both enchanted and puzzled scientists for centuries. Light makes the simplest and most basic thing possible—the ability to see beauty with our own eyes—while at the same time it is extremely complex in its physics and applications.



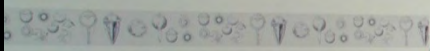
light

Light, or electromagnetic radiation, consists of visible light, radio waves, microwaves, X-rays, gamma rays, and other kinds of energy. Its properties have both enthralled and puzzled scientists for centuries. Light makes the simplest and most basic thing possible—the ability to see beauty with our own eyes—while at the same time it is extremely complex in its physics and applications.

color



Visible light is the only part of the electromagnetic spectrum that we can see. It is made up of a range of colors from red to violet. The colors of the rainbow are a result of the way light waves of different lengths are refracted by water droplets in the atmosphere.









electricity

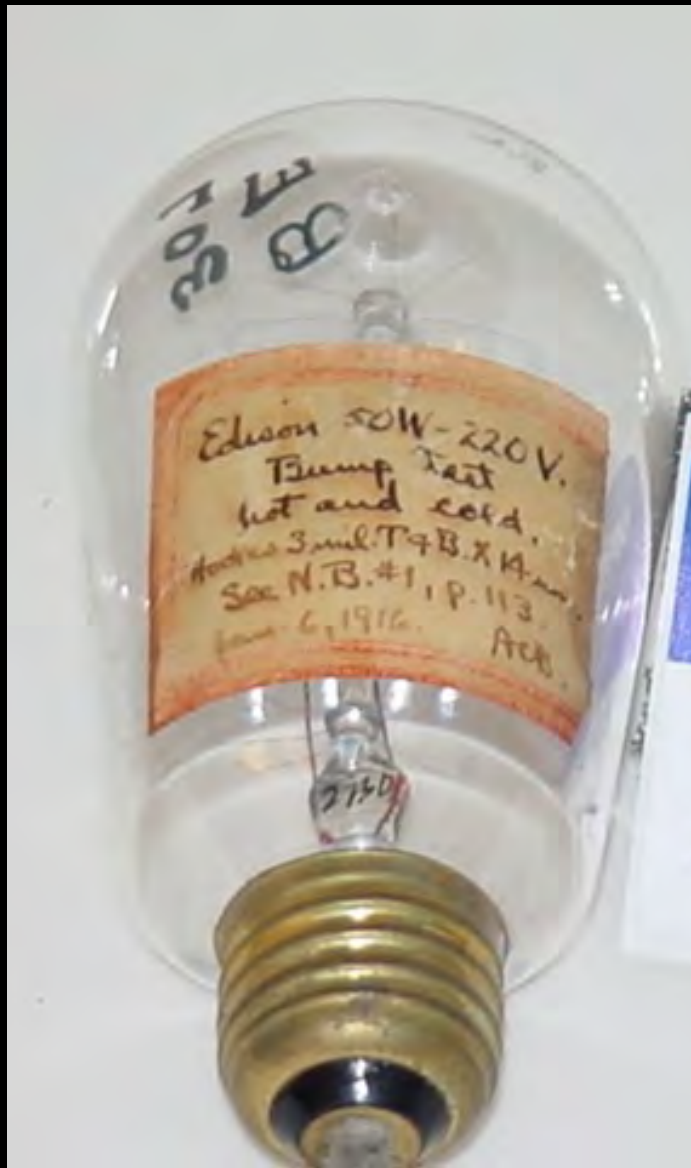
After centuries as a curiosity, sustained (and often dangerous) research in the 17th and 18th centuries revealed more about the fundamental nature of electricity. This allowed it to be harnessed through increasingly effective generation, storage, and transmission. It changed from a scientific curiosity into an essential tool for modern life.



70 W
E

Edison 50W-220V.
Bump Test
hot and cold.
Hook's 3 mil. T & B. X 14.
See N.B. #1, p. 113.
Jan. 6, 1916. A.C.B.

7150



ISTICS
ATED

erations;
wait

species are stable and unchanging

This idea was largely related to the idea that God would only create perfect creatures.

Though he didn't understand how, **Aristotle** believed that characteristics are inherited.

1800

species change over time and that species can go extinct

This idea was conceived in the late 1700s, as evidence mounted that

species evolve
and that species can go extinct

1900

species evolve

CHARACTERISTIC TRAIT INHERITED THROUGH DNA

Lamarck believed species change over time, but mistakenly thought they were evolving to become more perfect.

Cuvier studied fossils and believed extinctions were frequent, but thought they were due to catastrophes.

Darwin proposed natural selection, which explained how species change over time.

Mendel discovered the laws of inheritance.

Morgan discovered chromosomes.

Watson & Crick discovered the structure of DNA.



structure

The body's complex workings, hidden from casual view beneath the skin, required dissection, comparison, and careful study before they could be better understood.



William Cheselden
Anatomical engraving of the human skeleton
1684-1685



William Cheselden
Anatomical engraving of the back of the human body
1684-1685



William Cheselden
Anatomical engraving of the human torso
1684-1685





Small text caption below the anatomical illustrations.

*Human anatomy will never be
as intricate, more beautiful,
more simple or more force-
ful than does nature because no
her inventions nothing is sitting
and nothing is surprising.*

-Leonardo da Vinci

PHILOSOPHIÆ
NATURALIS
PRINCIPIA
MATHEMATICA.

Autore *J. S. NEWTON, Trin. Coll. Cantab. Soc. Matheseos
Professore Lucasiano, & Societatis Regalis Sodali.*

IMPRIMATUR.
S. PEPYS, *Reg. Soc. PRÆSES.*
Julii 5. 1686.

LONDINI,

*Jussu Societatis Regiæ ac Typis Josephi Streater. Prostat apud
plures Bibliopolas. Anno MDCLXXXVII.*



LACMA-RB L20 D35d
Before Treatment
01/15/2008
Detached lower board



LACMA-RB L20 D35d
After Treatment
01/24/2008
Reattached upper cover



LACMA-RB L20 D35d
Before Treatment
01/15/2008
Overall



LACMA-RB L20 D35d
After Treatment
01/24/2008
Overall



LACMA-RB L20 D35d
Before Treatment
01/15/2008
Spine (upper joint)



LACMA-RB L20 D35d
After Treatment
01/24/2008
Spine

What's next

Team Members:

Jenny Watts, Senior Curator for Library Special Projects

Dan Lewis, Dibner Senior Curator of the History of Science and Technology

Joel Klein, Molina Curator for the History of Science and Allied Sciences

Natalie Lawler, Assistant Curator for Library Special Projects

Cameron Robertson, Curatorial Assistant

Collections investigations

Advisory Committees and Input

Eight academic advisors from across the country: historians of astronomy, medicine, botany, astronomy, and technology, as well as working scientists in the biological sciences, astrophysics, and other specialists

Local and visiting scholars for individual meetings with the team

Listening sessions with Huntington Security, volunteers, staff, and others with long-standing interest and involvement with permanent exhibitions (most prominently, our Main Hall installation)

Local and national visitation to other history of science or science-center installations

Objects



Our greatest assets:

Money

Time

People with big brains

People with amazing design sensibilities

Formidable institutional support

Our great challenges:

Making a stable, inspirational, beautiful, long-term exhibition – crafted to be understood and appreciated by broad audiences, hitting key topical notes, illustrating the Huntington’s collection strengths across divisions, and critiquing science at the same time as celebrating science – is

VERY DIFFICULT.



Daniel Lewis

Dibner Senior Curator for the History
of Science, Medicine & Technology

The Huntington Library, Art Collections
& Botanical Gardens

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