

# The Lynx

Number 1

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## Feature articles:

- *Founding the OU Academy of the Lynx*..... 2  
President Boren launches a new support organization for the History of Science, March 6, 2002
- *The Epitome of Ptolemy's Almagest by Regiomontanus (1496)*..... 4  
The most important work of Renaissance astronomy will become the Collections' 50th incunabulum

## Inside:

- *Current Exhibit*..... 7  
Galileo Galilei and the *Accademia dei Lincei*
- *Recent Acquisitions*..... 10
- *Visiting Scholars*..... 9
- *The Missing Lynx*..... 13  
Join the OU Academy of the Lynx
- *Lynx Links*..... 14  
Letter from the Curator

Galileo Galilei, *Il Saggiatore* ("The Assayer"; 1623). Galileo's frontispiece displays the Lynx emblem (below, center) of the earliest modern scientific society, the *Accademia dei Lincei*, of which Galileo was the most illustrious member. See the feature article and the current exhibit, inside.

## FOUNDING THE OU ACADEMY OF THE LYNX

On March 6, 2002, President David Boren hosted the inaugural meeting of the University of Oklahoma Academy of the Lynx. The evening began with a superb banquet—the first ever held in the lobby of the History of Science Collections. Music from a string quartet greeted guests as they arrived.



Once salads were served, the Collections' door buzzer rang insistently. Judge Robert Henry opened the door to turn the uninvited guest away, but a woman—dressed as a nun—refused to leave! Judge Henry told her in no uncertain terms that this was a private party and she should come back at another time. Refusing to take “no” for an answer, however,

she pushed her way in, insisting that she had a right to see her father's books! On further questioning she admitted that her father was Galileo Galilei, and that she was Galileo's daughter, Sister Maria Celeste. Actually, she was Collections worker Brooke Leffler, dressed as Galileo's daughter. (A two-hour NOVA series based on the book *Galileo's Daughter*, by Dava Sobel, is scheduled to air October 29. Many images in the show were provided by the Collections; for examples, look closely at the book mock-ups.)

After dinner Gene Rainbolt served as master of ceremonies for the formal part of the evening, which featured three speakers. Judge Henry, the first speaker, reminisced about his experiences with the Collections from the Roller era through the present. Henry recognized distinguished guests, including Sul Lee, dean of Libraries. To thank President Boren

**Figures.** *Left:* Guests listened to a student string quartet featuring violinist Isaac Ospovat (center), grandson of the first graduate of the OU History of Science doctoral program, Alexander Ospovat.

*Below:* Sister Marie Celeste chats about her father's books with (clockwise at main table) President Boren, Jeannine and Gene Rainbolt, Marilyn Ogilvie, Robert and Jan Henry, and Dick and Jeannette Sias.





for his strong support of “the most valuable 1,000 square feet in Oklahoma,” Henry presented a fine color print of an important event in 19th-century geology (below). Next, Curator Marilyn Ogilvie showed the group some of the Collections’ special treasures, including selected works by Galileo containing his own handwriting. Finally, the host of the dinner, President Boren, spoke of the significance for the University of the History of Science Collections as an international center of research. We all recognize our good fortune to have the support of President Boren—a president who truly understands the value of the Collections! In his epilogue to the formal part of the evening, Gene Rainbolt emphasized the importance of sustaining the Collections as the leading resource for understanding the history of science and its role in making the



modern world, a position which lends prestige to our university and our state.

After the formal program, people mingled in conversation and lingered to peruse the Collections. Some examined the numerous rare works in the exhibit devoted to the original *Accademia dei Lincei*. Others toured the vault with Marilyn Ogilvie. Still others watched an instructional video, produced for classroom use, on the very special book that we hope the Lynx will purchase, the first printed edition in any form of Ptolemy’s great astronomical work. Upon the acquisition of this book, we will have 50 incunabula (books printed in the first 50 years of printing; see article next page).

The evening was a great beginning—the first of many such Lynx events to come.

**Figures.** *Right.* A hand-colored plate depicting a lecture on geology by the Rev. William Buckland at Oxford University in 1823. Judge Robert Henry presented the original print for display with the following inscription: *Presented to David and Molly Boren, Φίλοι τῆς Γνώσεως, upon the founding of The University of Oklahoma Academy of the Lynx, March 6, 2002.* (The Greek text *philoies gnoseos* means “lovers of inquiry.”)

*Above left.* Emblem of the *Accademia dei Lincei*, from the title page of one of the rarest works in the history of geology: Francesco Stelluti, *Trattato del Legno Fossile Minerale* (1637). Compare Stelluti’s emblem with the artistic representation featured on the front cover of this newsletter. The newsletter logo is a detail from a medallion honoring the *Lincei* incorporated within the beautiful decorative screen created by Art Professor emeritus Joe Taylor for the History of Science Collections.

*Above right.* After the banquet, Beth Tolbert, Linda Lambert and Jan Henry examine some of the Collections’ books.



# THE EPITOME OF PTOLEMY'S ALMAGEST BY REGIOMONTANUS (1496)

Ptolemy's *Almagest*, the most important work of astronomy for nearly 1500 years, suggests both the richness of the History of Science Collections' holdings and the need to maintain an active acquisitions policy. The Collections hold 50 works of Ptolemy, not counting digests and commentaries by other writers. Yet the most important edition of Ptolemy's *Almagest*—the one used by Renaissance astronomers such as Copernicus—was an *Epitome* published by Regiomontanus in 1496. For 50 years this *Epitome* has been one of the most significant items missing from the Collections. However, in December 2001, a London rare book dealer named Detlev Auvermann notified curator Marilyn Ogilvie that a beautifully preserved copy of this long-sought-for work had become available, which he hand-delivered to the Collections for potential approval. Through the support of the OU Academy of the Lynx we may soon acquire this landmark book.

FIGURE 1. *Frontispiece, right*. A magnificent full-page woodcut depicts Ptolemy and Regiomontanus seated beneath an armillary sphere. (*Epitome* of Ptolemy's *Almagest*, 1496.)

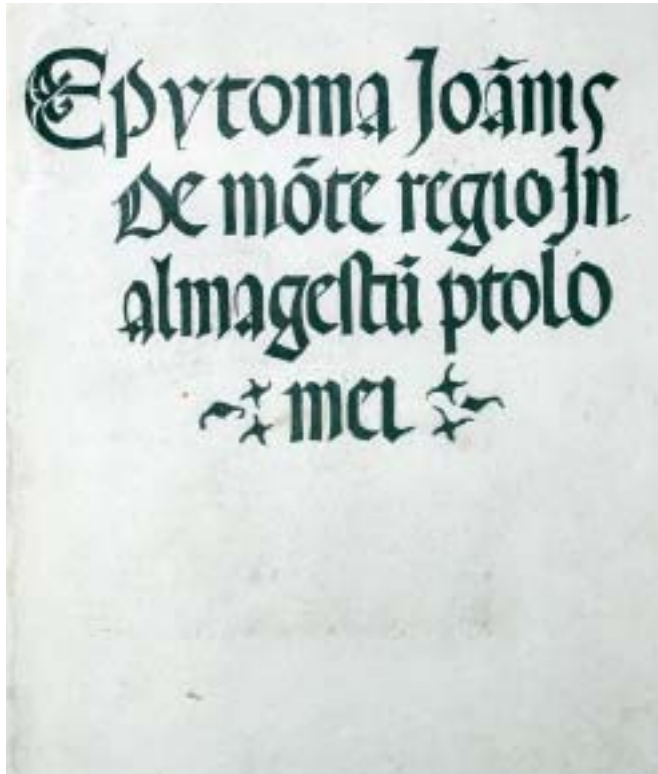


## The Almagest of Ptolemy

Claudius Ptolemaios, one of the greatest astronomers of all time, lived in Alexandria, Egypt, in the middle of the second century A.D. In the *Mathematical Syntaxis*, Ptolemy synthesized and extended the accomplishments of ancient Greek and Babylonian mathematical astronomy. Written in Greek, Ptolemy's book was titled *Almagest* ("The Greatest") by its Arabic translators.

## The Epitome of the Almagest (1496)

An epitome of Ptolemy's *Almagest* based upon a Greek manuscript belonging to Cardinal Johannes Bessarion appeared in 1496. This remarkable book was the first printed edition in any form of Ptolemy's *Almagest*, and its only printing in the 15th century. Begun in 1460 by the great Renaissance astronomer Georg Peurbach, at Bessarion's request, the *Epitome* was completed by Peurbach's student Regiomontanus not long after Peurbach's death in 1461.



**FIGURE 2.** The title page announces that the *Epitome* of Ptolemy's *Almagest* was prepared by "Joannes de Monte regio," the Renaissance astronomer Regiomontanus.

Regiomontanus hoped to publish the *Epitome* with his own press in Nuremberg, but his premature death delayed its appearance for 20 years. (For the Collections' holdings of Peurbach and Regiomontanus, see Figure 4 and Figure 5.)

Far from merely introducing Ptolemaic astronomy like earlier textbooks (Figure 3 and Figure 4), the *Epitome* was a major contribution to Renaissance astronomy. As a detailed commentary organized on the same plan as the *Almagest*, it contained new techniques, methods, observations and critical reflections. For example, at the end of Book V, Section 22, Regiomontanus called attention to the astonishing fact that Ptolemy's lunar theory required the Moon occasionally to appear four times its usual size. This impossible wonder arrested the attention of Copernicus (Figure 6).

In the *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, Doris Hellman and Noel Swerdlow conclude:

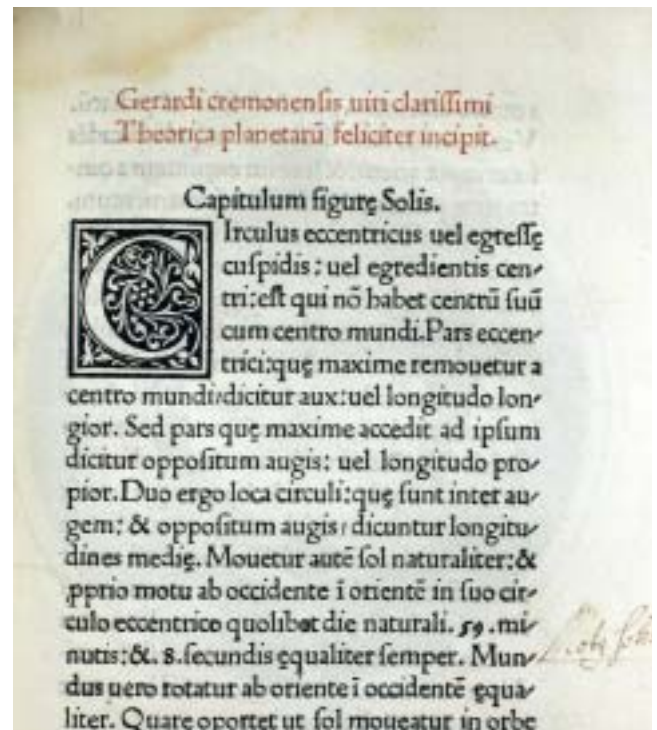
the *Epitome* served as the fundamental treatise on Ptolemaic astronomy until the time of Kepler and Galileo, and remains the best exposition . . . next to the *Almagest* itself. Although it runs to about half the length of the

*Almagest*, the *Epitome* is nevertheless a model of clarity and includes everything essential to a working understanding of mathematical astronomy—and even manages to clarify sections in which Ptolemy omits steps or is somewhat obscure. It has not been superseded even by the excellent modern commentaries on the *Almagest*, and the mathematical astronomy of the sixteenth century is in places unintelligible without it. The *Epitome* is the true discovery of ancient mathematical astronomy in the Renaissance because it gave astronomers an understanding of Ptolemy that they had not previously been able to achieve. Copernicus used it constantly, sometimes in preference to the *Almagest*, and its influence can be seen throughout the *De revolutionibus*.

In the 21st century, the *Epitome* of Ptolemy's *Almagest* is one of three landmark books that appear on any short list of extremely rare and essential works in the history of early modern astronomy (see photograph, inside back cover).

A video presentation on the transmission of Ptolemy's *Almagest*, culminating in the *Epitome* of 1496, is available from the Collections on DVD or via the Collections' web site.

### Some Editions of Ptolemaic Astronomy held in the Collections



**FIGURE 3.** Gerard of Cremona's *Theorica planetarum* offered a simple introduction to Ptolemaic planetary calculations, and became the major astronomy textbook of the middle ages. From Sacrobosco, *Sphaera* (1478). The Collections hold 35 editions or commentaries on Sacrobosco published before 1639.



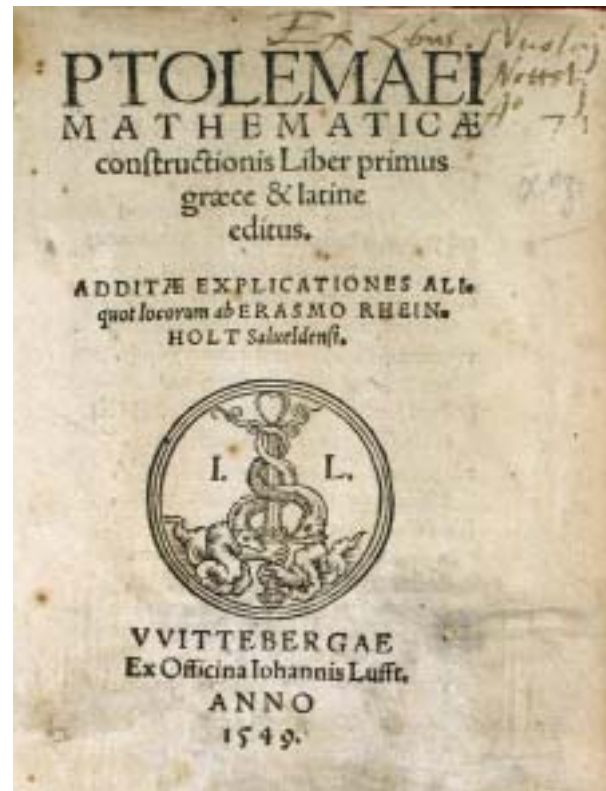
**FIGURE 4.** Georg Peurbach, *Novae theoricæ planetarum* (Venice, 1534). In the 15th century, Peurbach's *Theorica novae planetarum* replaced Gerard of Cremona's *Theorica planetarum* as the standard introduction to Ptolemaic planetary astronomy. Peurbach's student Regiomontanus published the first edition of Peurbach's *Theorica novae planetarum* in 1472. At least 56 editions or commentaries on Peurbach appeared before 1653. The Collections hold 24 such works, including the 1474 edition.

1502	1503	1504
Eclipsis Solis	Eclipsis Lunę	Eclipsis Lunę
30 19 47	15 12 20	20 13 30
Septembri	Octobris	Februarii
Dimidia durans	Dimidia durans	Dimidia durans
1 7	1 1	1 46
Puncta desem	Puncta tria	

**FIGURE 5.** Table of eclipses from Regiomontanus, *Kalendarium* (Venice, 1476). The *Kalendarium* of Regiomontanus was the earliest printed work to include an ornamental title page. Published in 1476 by the Ratdolt press, it predicted the positions of the Sun and Moon for 40 years. Columbus took an earlier German edition on his fourth voyage, and used its prediction of the 1504 lunar eclipse (shown here) to frighten his Jamaican hosts. Regiomontanus wrote a number of other important astronomical works, including a study of trigonometry dedicated to his friend and patron Cardinal Johannes Bessarion, Archbishop of Nicaea. The Collections hold 15 works by Regiomontanus.



**FIGURE 6.** Nicolaus Copernicus, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (1543), cosmic section. Without the *Epitome* of 1496, Renaissance astronomy and the Copernican Revolution would have been inconceivable. Copernicus overthrew the Earth-centered Ptolemaic system, placing the Sun at rest in the center of the universe, and setting the Earth in motion around the Sun as a planet.



**FIGURE 7.** Ptolemy, *Almagest*, 1549. This edition featured parallel Greek and Latin text of Book I with commentary by Erasmus Reinhold, who strengthened Ptolemy's arguments against the motion of the Earth (although elsewhere he adopted Copernicus' mathematical models). Graduate student Katherine Tredwell is examining Reinhold's work as part of her dissertation under the supervision of Professor Peter Barker in the History of Science Department.

## CURRENT EXHIBIT

### Introduction

A new phenomenon characterized science in the 17th century: the scientific society. The current exhibit in the Collections surveys one of the earliest and most important: the *Accademia dei Lincei*, or Academy of the Lynx. The revival of Platonism in Florence in the Italian Renaissance led to the rise of literary societies, often headed by members of the nobility. By 1600, over one hundred societies in Italy called themselves “academies” after the famous school of Plato. These early Italian literary academies turned their attention first chiefly to classical literature, and then moved on to Italian literature.

The current exhibit begins in 1589 with the announcement by Giambattista della Porta (1535-1615) of the *Accademia Secretorum Naturae*, an academy in Naples devoted to discovering the secrets of nature. The title page of one of della Porta’s books displays a lynx, renowned in classical literature for its sharp sight, even at night. With collective methods in organized societies members could peer more deeply into the secrets of nature than ever before.

### Federico Cesi and the Founding of the Accademia dei Lincei

The *Accademia dei Lincei* was founded in 1603 by the young Italian nobleman Federico Cesi (1585-1630). Throughout his life, Cesi provided inspiration, organization and financial support for the academy. The early *Lincei* held ambitious ideals: they hoped to establish centers of scientific learning in various cities around the world. Each cell would be equipped with a library, a museum, a botanical garden, laboratories, and a printing office to support scientific publications. By printed works and personal travel the various centers would quickly communicate their discoveries to each other and to the world. This broad organization never developed, but a private scientific academy might indeed provide a valuable channel of communication and thus facilitate scientific discovery and research.

### Galileo and the Lincei

In 1610 Cesi visited della Porta in Naples, and on behalf of the *Lincei* welcomed him as its first non-founding member. The *Lincei* gained a most important second new member in the spring of 1611: Galileo came to Rome to demonstrate his telescope for the Jesuits after publication of the *Sidereus nuncius* (“Starry Messenger,” 1610). The Jesuits applauded Galileo and confirmed his discoveries. Cesi, too, welcomed him with open arms. According to historian Stillman Drake, a banquet Cesi held in Galileo’s honor marked a turning point for the *Lincei*: Five men who attended the banquet, including Galileo, “were added in 1611, doubling the society; 10 more were added in 1612, doubling it again.”

Galileo’s *Istoria e Dimostrazioni Intorno alle Macchie Solari* (“Letters on Sunspots”) appeared in 1613, paid for by Cesi. The title page identifies Galileo as a member of the *Lincei* (see the cover of this newsletter). Addressed to another *Lincei* member, Mark Welser, Galileo’s letters responded to the studies of sunspots by the Jesuit astronomer Christoph Scheiner (1573-1650; the Collections hold several works by Scheiner, including his magisterial *Rosa Ursina* of 1630). In the *Istoria* Galileo joined others, including Scheiner, in using sunspots to argue against Aristotle for the possibility of celestial corruption. For the first time in print, Galileo also spoke out decisively in favor of the Copernican system.

Another book on display is Galileo’s *Il Saggiatore* (or *The Assayer*), published in 1623 by the *Lincei*. Its title page displays the Barberini family crest at the top, and the seal of the *Lincei* at the bottom. Galileo’s friend, Maffeo Barberini, became Pope Urban VIII just before the book emerged from the press, and the *Linceians* dedicated it to the Pope at the last minute. In this book Galileo famously declared that the book of nature is written in mathematical characters, and therefore requires mathematics to be properly interpreted.

## The Lincei and the Apiarium

Galileo sent an instrument to Cesi in 1624. Named the “microscope” by Linceian botanist Giovanni Faber (1574-1629) the following year, it was an adaptation of the telescope. The reading glass or single lens had been available since the 13th century, but this was the first workable compound microscope, a microscope with more than one lens. Francesco Stelluti, a founding member of the *Lincei*, used Galileo’s microscope to observe a bee, and along with Cesi prepared two large broadsheets titled the *Apiarium*. The excessively rare *Apiarium* (1625) is the earliest published report of microscopic study. In a doctoral dissertation completed in the OU History of Science program, Clara Sue Kidwell (currently director of Native American Studies at OU) translated and analyzed the first broadsheet of the *Apiarium* (on display). The only other known copies are in the Lancisian and Vatican libraries in Rome.

## Hernandez and the Natural History of Mexico

The *Linceian* academy was active for 20 years following the induction of Galileo in 1611, and many books related to the *Lincei* are on display. However, one recent acquisition is of special note: the earliest natural history of Mexico published in Europe, by Francisco Hernandez (1514-1587). The *Rerum medicarum Novae Hispaniae thesaurus seu Plantarum, animalium, mineralium mexicanorum historia* describes the plants and animals of the New World, incorporating approximately 800 woodcut illustrations. Hernandez compiled 20 volumes of manuscript notes before he returned to Europe from Mexico in 1577. Unfortunately, these were all lost in 1671 when a fire destroyed the library of the Royal Monastery in Escorial. Before the fire, Leonardo Antonio Recchi of Montecorvino (Salerno) edited and abridged the Latin manuscripts. In Italy, Cesi organized Recchi’s version for publication in Latin with additions and annotations by various members of the *Lincei*. This monumental work, the first on its subject and still an important source in its own right, was printed in 1628 by Cesi and the *Lincei*, but only two copies were issued. The copy on display consists of the original sheets of the 1628 printing with a new preliminary gathering of five leaves, including a frontispiece, title page (printed in red and black), dedication, preface, imprimatur, and a chapter index prepared by Stelluti.



FIGURE 8. Francisco Hernández, *Rerum Medicarum Novae Hispaniae Thesaurus seu Plantarum Animalium Mineralium Mexicanorum Historia* (Romae, 1628).

## Epilogue

The *Accademia dei Lincei* was the first of many important 17th-century scientific societies. For example, in 1660 the Royal Society of London received a charter from King Charles II, fulfilling the program outlined by Francis Bacon in *New Atlantis* 40 years earlier. On several occasions attempts were made to reconstitute the *Accademia dei Lincei*. These efforts finally succeeded in 1847 when Pope Pius IX founded the *Pontifical Academy of the New Lincei*. Select foreign scientists were invited to join, and thus Charles Darwin joined Galileo among the most illustrious members of the *Lincei* (a first edition of Darwin’s *Origin of Species*, 1859, is on display). In 1875 the sponsorship of the *Lincei* passed to the Italian government. Today, in recognition of the unique Galileo collection of the University of Oklahoma History of Science Collections, the original *Accademia dei Lincei* is a partner in the launching of the University of Oklahoma “Academy of the Lynx.”

## VISITING SCHOLARS

In addition to the faculty and graduate students in the University of Oklahoma History of Science program, visiting scholars from around the world regularly use the Collections.

In November of last year Joy Harvey came to the Collections from Harvard University to produce the History of Science Society's bibliographic guide for the history of science. After intensive effort by Harvey and her graduate students, the *Isis 2000* bibliography has appeared, and another volume for 2001 is nearly complete. Harvey plans to return to Cambridge later this fall, and will be greatly missed. *Isis* bibliographies are the most important professional guide to research in the history of science, and are published both in a series of annual printed volumes and in an online searchable database. Work on future *Isis* bibliographies is already well underway by Stephen Weldon, who came to Norman in July from Cornell University. Weldon also is a new faculty member in the History of Science Department, and will regularly teach courses in the Department and supervise graduate student research.

With a travel grant program generously sponsored by the Andrew W. Mellon foundation, the

Collections facilitated the research of seven scholars during the past year. Mellon Travel Fellowships cover the costs of travel and room and board for up to eight weeks in residence. During their visit, fellows have the opportunity to present their research in a History of Science Department colloquium. (Applications may be downloaded from the Collections' web site.)

Mellon Fellow Mary Gow commented, "Seeing all of Kepler's major works first-hand was an extraordinary experience.... Having the opportunity to have the books together ... with Kepler's own diagrams, tables and calculations, was tremendously valuable. As a writer trying to show young readers the power of ideas, seeing and using original editions of books that communicated new ideas to the world was very moving. How wonderful that these incredibly valuable books are so well cared for and also still used." Glenn Sanford, philosopher and director of the honors program at Sam Houston State University, wrote of his study of the history of creation and evolution: "The resources of the History of Science Collections at the University of Oklahoma were well suited to this work, both in depth and breadth.... The working environment was all that I could have hoped for and more."

**Mellon Travel Fellows, 2001-2002**

Name	Position	Project
Mary Gow	Vermont, free-lance writer	Biography of Johannes Kepler for the Great Minds of Science Series, Enslow Publishers, for middle-school readers
Darin Hayton	Notre Dame, graduate student	Astrology in Early 16th-Century Vienna
Stanislav Juznic	Slovenia, professor	Development of Physics in Jesuit Schools
Lisa Borowski	Kansas State University, graduate student	Operation Argus and the International Geophysical Year in History and Memory
Andrei Pilgoun	Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study	Representing the Medieval Cosmos
Steve Ruskin	Notre Dame, graduate student	The Publication, Distribution and Reception of John Herschel's Astronomical work at the Cape of Good Hope
Glenn Sanford	Sam Houston State University, Texas	Dictionary of the Creation/Evolution Debates

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### Johannes Duns Scotus, Commentary on the Sentences (Venice, 1497, 1481)

*Incunabula* are books that date from the “cradle” of printing before 1500, the first half-century after Gutenberg. The Collections have recently acquired, as our 48th and 49th incunabula, two important volumes of the late medieval philosopher Duns Scotus. (For what we hope will become the Collections’ 50th incunabulum, see the article on Ptolemy’s *Almagest*, beginning on page 4.)



**FIGURE 9.** Johannes Duns Scotus, *Scriptum super tertio sententiarum* (Venice, 1481). Colophon with red printer's device. Shortly after publication, this copy was in the library of the Franciscan convent at Villingen, near Strasbourg. In addition to its original binding, the codex has been consistently annotated by an early reader.



**FIGURE 10.** Johannes Duns Scotus, *Scriptum super tertio sententiarum* (Venice, 1481). The rear wooden board bears the branded symbol of the Franciscans of Villingen.

Both volumes contain portions of Scotus’ *Opus Oxoniense*, revised lectures delivered in Oxford between 1300 and 1302 on the foundational text of scholastic thought, the *Sentences* of Peter Lombard. The 1497 volume was originally the first of four volumes; it contains commentaries on Books I and II. The 1481 edition contains Scotus’ commentary on Book III. Together the two volumes comprise a rich source for material related to medieval science and a wonderful repository of medieval examples relating theology and science.

### Leonardo da Vinci, *Trattato della pittura* (Paris, 1651).

Leonardo published nothing in his own lifetime, but his fame grew as word of his notebooks spread. The Collections have now acquired the first edition of the only printed book bearing Leonardo’s name published before the end of the 19th century! The *Treatise on Painting* is a major source for Leonardo’s views on such topics as proportion and the human body, the physiology of vision, and plant physiology. Given Leonardo’s understanding of art as an intellectual endeavor carried out in imitation of nature, it is impossible to separate his art theory from his understanding of science.



**FIGURE 11.** Leonardo (1651), one of a series of male nudes by Leonardo, as interpreted by Nicolas Poussin.

### Francisco Hernandez, *Rerum Medicarum* (Rome, 1651)

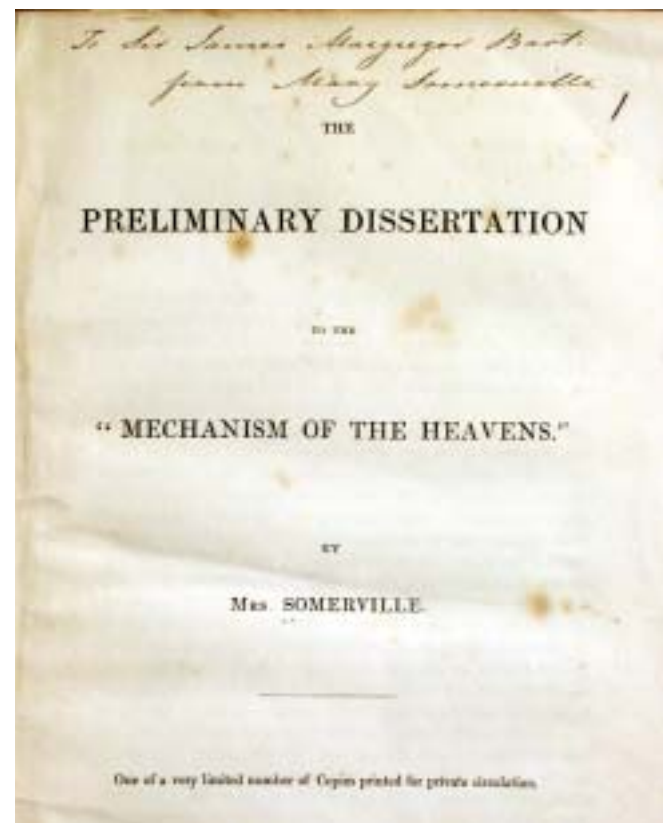


**FIGURE 12.** Hernandez (1651), plant illustrations. See the title page reproduced on p. 8 with a discussion of this book.

One cherished recent acquisition is the first natural history of Mexico to be published in Europe. This beautifully illustrated, richly informative work was printed after many travails as the final major publication of the original *Accademia dei Lincei*. (See the Current Exhibit article, p. 8.)

### Mary Somerville, *Preliminary Dissertation* (London, 1831)

A very limited number of copies of Mary Somerville's "Preliminary Dissertation to the Mechanism of the Heavens" were printed for private circulation. The copy recently acquired by the Collections contains the author's signature on the title page, and was presented by her to Sir James Macgregor. The Collections also hold a copy of Somerville's *Mechanism of the Heavens* (London, 1831; not shown), a translation of LaPlace's *Mécanique Céleste* which prompted LaPlace's grudging compliment that she was the only woman who understood his work.



**FIGURE 13.** Mary Somerville, *Preliminary Dissertation* (London, 1831). Presentation copy signed by the author. The Collections hold 24 works by Somerville published in the 19th century.

## CHARTER MEMBERS: OU ACADEMY OF THE LYNX

Our thanks to the following charter members who attended the founding banquet and/or contributed financially to the establishment of the University of Oklahoma Academy of the Lynx:

David L. and Molly Boren  
 Peter Barker and Catherine Webb  
 Scott Braden  
 Don and Pat Capra  
 Hunter and Kathleen Crowther-Heyck  
 Rufus Fears  
 Joe and Marti Ferretti  
 Marcia Goodman  
 Virginia (Jenny) Hendrick  
 Robert and Jan Henry  
 Penny Hopkins  
 Clifford and Leslie Hudson  
 Clara Sue Kidwell  
 David B. and Nancy Kitts  
 Linda Lambert  
 Sul and Jamie Lee  
 David W. and Lynne Levy  
 Steven J. and Nina Livesey

Larry Lucas and Jean Richardson  
 Kerry and Candace Magruder  
 Jack and Sue Magruder  
 Clinton (Buddy) and Jenny Medbery  
 Marilyn B. Ogilvie  
 Susan M. Otto  
 Katherine Pandora and Ben Keppel  
 Jamil and Sally Ragep  
 Gene and Jeannine Rainbolt  
 John and Pamela Robinson  
 Duane W. and Letitia Roller  
 Lee E. Schoeffler  
 Donna Shirley  
 Richard L. and Jeannette Sias  
 Thomas M. and Libba Smith  
 Kenneth L. and Melva (Mike) Taylor  
 Jim and Beth Tolbert  
 Scott Waller

## UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

The University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. Created by the Oklahoma Territorial Legislature in 1890, the university is composed of campuses in Norman and Oklahoma City as well as the Schusterman Center in Tulsa. The university's main campus and the offices of administration of the University of Oklahoma are located in Norman. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is the headquarters for the seven professional colleges and offers programs at the University of Oklahoma - Tulsa. OU-Tulsa is composed of the Schusterman Center, where the majority of OU programs serving Tulsa are located; the OU/OSU Research and Graduate Education Center, a collaborative effort to provide graduate education and research programs to the Tulsa metropolitan area; and several clinics and hospitals. OU enrolls almost 29,000 students, has approximately 1,900 full-time faculty members, and has 19 colleges offering 154 majors at the baccalaureate level, 152 majors at the master's level, 74 majors at the doctoral level, eight majors at the first professional level, and five graduate certificates. The university's annual operating budget is more than \$1 billion. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.

### University Libraries

Bizzell Memorial Library, the state's largest library, contains more than 2.6 million volumes, more than 16,000 periodicals and distinguished special collections, including the Harry W. Bass Collection in Business History, the Bizzell Bible Collection, and the History of Science Collections. Sul Lee, dean of Libraries, oversees Bizzell Library and various branch libraries, including the Western History Collection, Geology, Engineering, Chemistry-Mathematics, and Physics and Astronomy.

### History of Science Collections

Marilyn Ogilvie, Curator, [mogilvie@ou.edu](mailto:mogilvie@ou.edu)  
 Kerry Magruder, Librarian, [kmagruder@ou.edu](mailto:kmagruder@ou.edu)

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 Norman, OK 73019-0528

Website: [www.ou.edu/prometheus/collections/](http://www.ou.edu/prometheus/collections/)

For accommodations on the basis of disability at any event in the History of Science Collections please call (405) 325-2741.

# THE MISSING LYNX

## Join the Lynx today!

To receive complimentary future issues of *The Lynx*, please complete and mail to:  
History of Science Collections, 401 W. Brooks, Rm. 521, Norman, OK 73019-0528.

### OU Academy of the Lynx

Name:		
Street address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Evening phone:	Daytime phone:	Email:
<input type="checkbox"/> New Lynx member	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> OU alumni
<input type="checkbox"/> Change of address	<input type="checkbox"/> OU faculty/staff	<input type="checkbox"/> OU History of Science alumni
Preferred method(s) of contact (check all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Email <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone		
May we list your name in the membership section of <i>The Lynx</i> newsletter? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed is a donation toward the purchase of the <i>Epitome</i> of Ptolemy's <i>Almagest</i> (1496) in the amount of: \$_____		
<i>Please make checks payable to "OU Foundation, Academy of the Lynx." All contributions are tax deductible.</i>		

### The Missing Lynx

Please help us identify others to join the *OU Academy of the Lynx*

Name:		
Street address:		
City:	State:	Zip:

**Three Treasures:** For the history of astronomy, the 16th century began in 1496 with the *Epitome* of Ptolemy's *Almagest* (top), reached its mid-point with Copernicus' *De revolutionibus* (middle, 1543), and ended with Kepler's *Mysterium cosmographicum* (below, 1596), published exactly 100 years after the *Epitome*. The Collections already hold two of these three landmark works. With Lynx support, Ptolemy's *Epitome* will become the Collections' 50th work published before 1500 (see article beginning on page 4).

*300 copies of The Lynx have been prepared and distributed at no cost to the taxpayers of the state of Oklahoma.*



## LYNX LINKS

*On March 6, 2002, we inaugurated a new support group for the History of Science Collections. Since our handsome screen has a lynx as one of its emblems and since our Collections are known for works by Galileo containing his own handwriting, we decided that it was altogether appropriate to name our new group "The OU Academy of the Lynx" after the early Italian scientific society Accademia dei Lincei. The original Lincei was established in 1603 by Frederico Cesi and three friends as a private scientific academy that would provide a valuable channel of communication and facilitate scientific research. The first decades of the 1600s were a glorious period in the life of this society, and its best-known member, Galileo Galilei, proudly published books under the symbol of the lynx (see front cover and the article inside).*

*The society's original fame was short-lived, for the prestige associated with Galileo was replaced by opprobrium after his trial in 1633. The Lincei disbanded in that year, not to be reconstituted until 1847 when Pope Pius IX founded the Pontifical Academy of the Lynx. Charles Darwin was a celebrated member of the new Lincei. Edoardo Vesentini, the president of the current Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, answered a letter from Judge Robert Henry requesting permission to call our group the "Academy or Society of the Lynx." Vesentini wrote:*

*"The quality and quantity of volumes in the collection are indeed impressive, and we are especially envious of the first editions of Galileo's works as, I am sure you know, Galileo was among the first members of the Accademia dei Lincei. I have no objection to your calling the proposed group of friends of the Collections the Society of the Lynx, and I hope to have the occasion to visit your Library sometime in the future."*



*It is our hope that members of the OU Academy of the Lynx will support our Collections by word of mouth (let people know what Oklahomans have here!), by your presence at functions (we hope to bring in well-known speakers for our annual meeting), and financially as you are able (helping us buy books to fulfill our mission which we would otherwise be unable to acquire; see the article inside on the first edition of Ptolemy's Almagest).*

*I hope that you will decide to become a Lynx. With your support, we will sustain the excellence of one of Oklahoma's most precious resources.*

*Marilyn B. Ogilvie  
Curator and Professor*



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