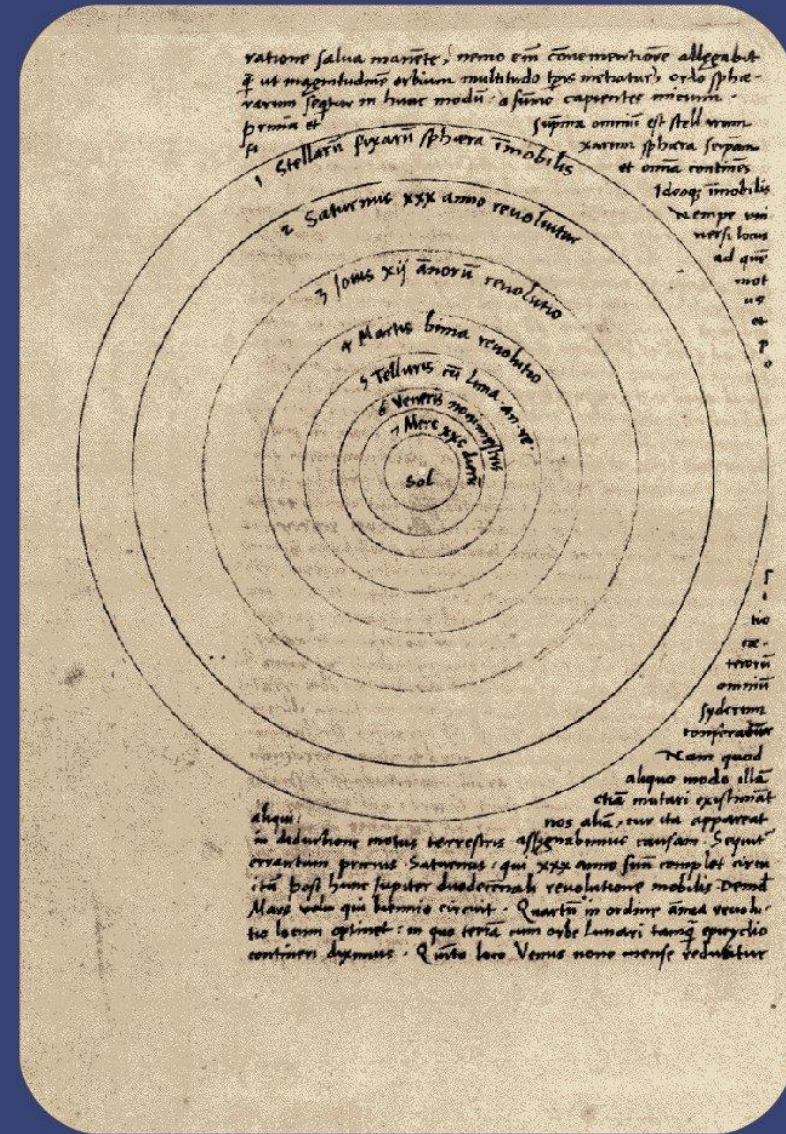




Copernicus in Italy

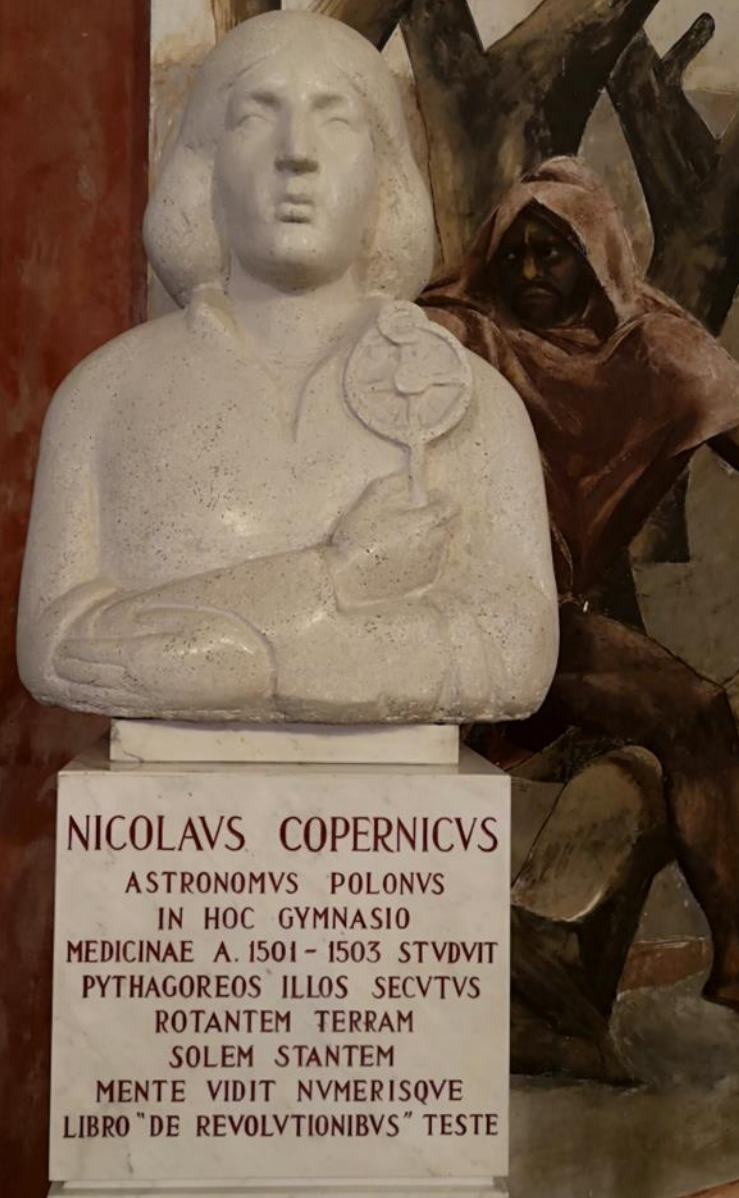


Portrait of Copernicus by Henryk Siemiradzki (Roma, 1876). Courtesy of the Copernican museum, Roma.

Giacomo Leopardi on the Copernican revolution

... Its effects will not belong to physics only: for it will upset the degrees of the dignity of things, and the order of entities; it will exchange the ends of creatures; and, therefore, it will make a great upheaval also in metaphysics, indeed in everything that touches the speculative part of knowledge. And it will result that humans ... will find themselves to be anything but what they have been so far, or what they have imagined to be.

Giacomo Leopardi, Il Copernico, Scena IV (1827)

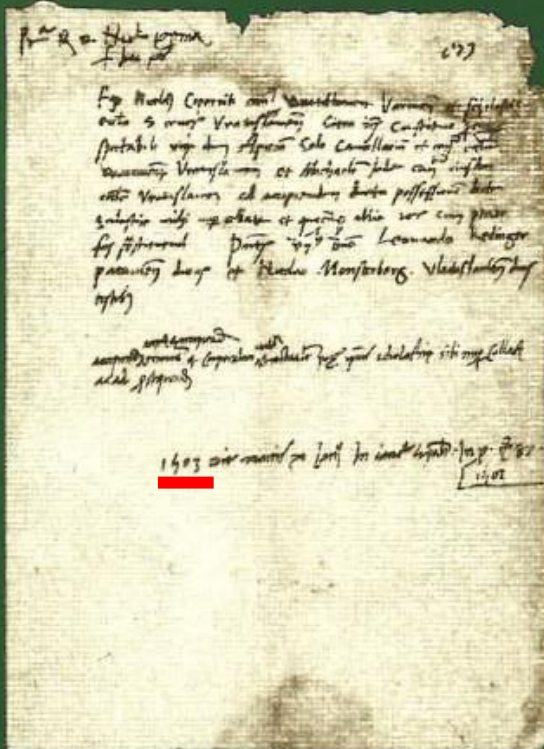


Copernicus' bust placed in the Basilica of the Bo Palace in 1976.



The Copernicus telescope (182 cm) in Asiago – Cima Ekar, inaugurated in 1973 in the occasion of the V centenary of Copernicus birth.

COPERNICO A PADOVA



The most ancient
autograph
document by
Copernicus (1503).
State Archive of
Padua.

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA
Atti della Giornata Copernicana
nel 450° della pubblicazione del
De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium

10 dicembre 1993

CLUP



Plaque placed in the Aula Magna in
1873, in the occasion of the IV
centenary of Copernicus' birth.







1496-1500: Bologna

1500: Rome

1501-1503 Padua

1503 Ferrara

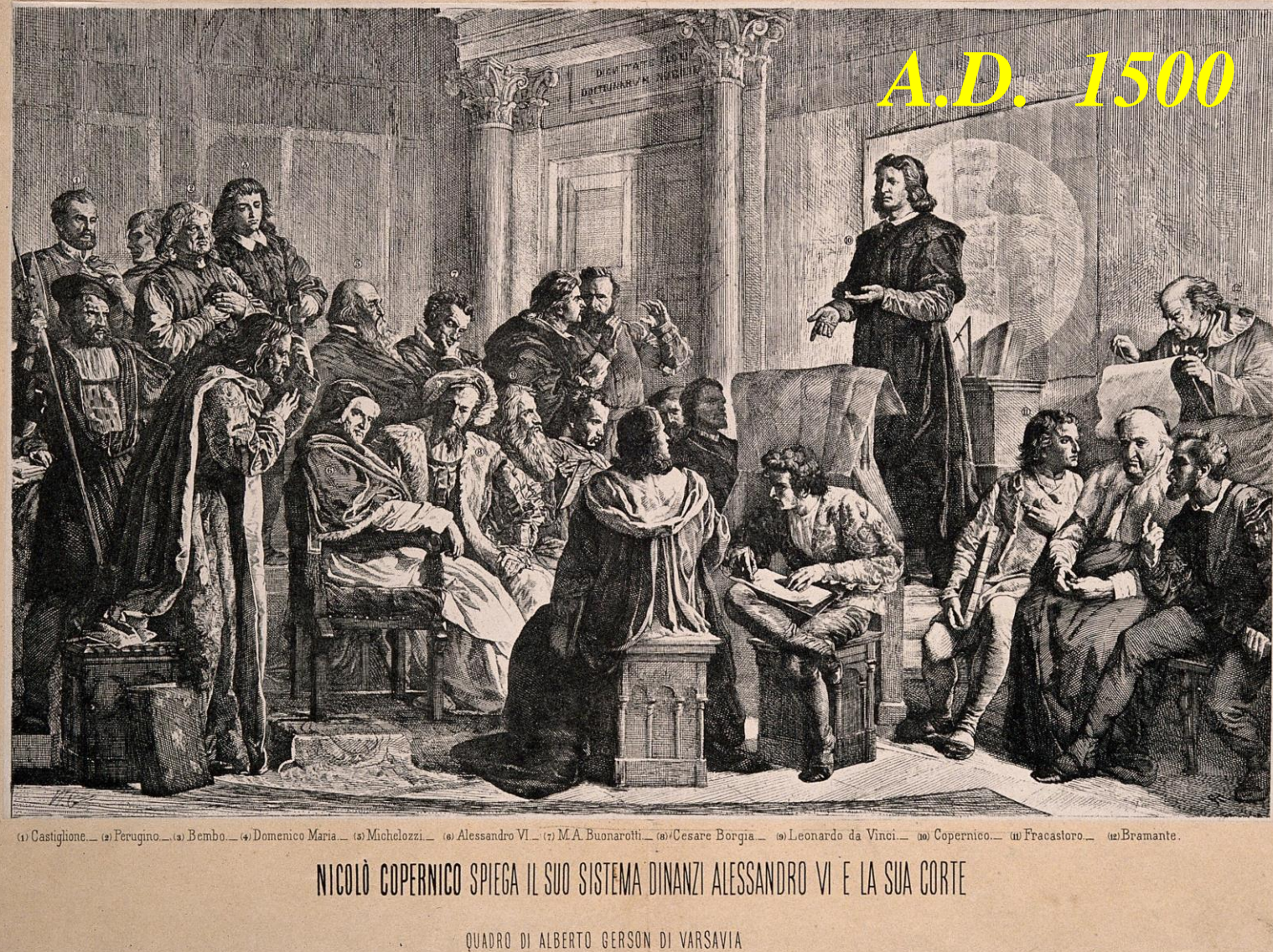
A.D. 1496 - 1500

He was registered as a student of law but collaborated with professor Domenico Maria Novara in mathematical researches and astronomical observations («non tam discipulus quam adjutor et testis observationum doctissimi viri Dominici Mariae». Gioacchino Retico, 1540).



Bologna

1500: Rome to celebrate the jubilee. May have illustrated his ideas in the mansion of cardinal Alessandro Farnese, future Pope Paul III, to whom the *De Revolutionibus* is dedicated.



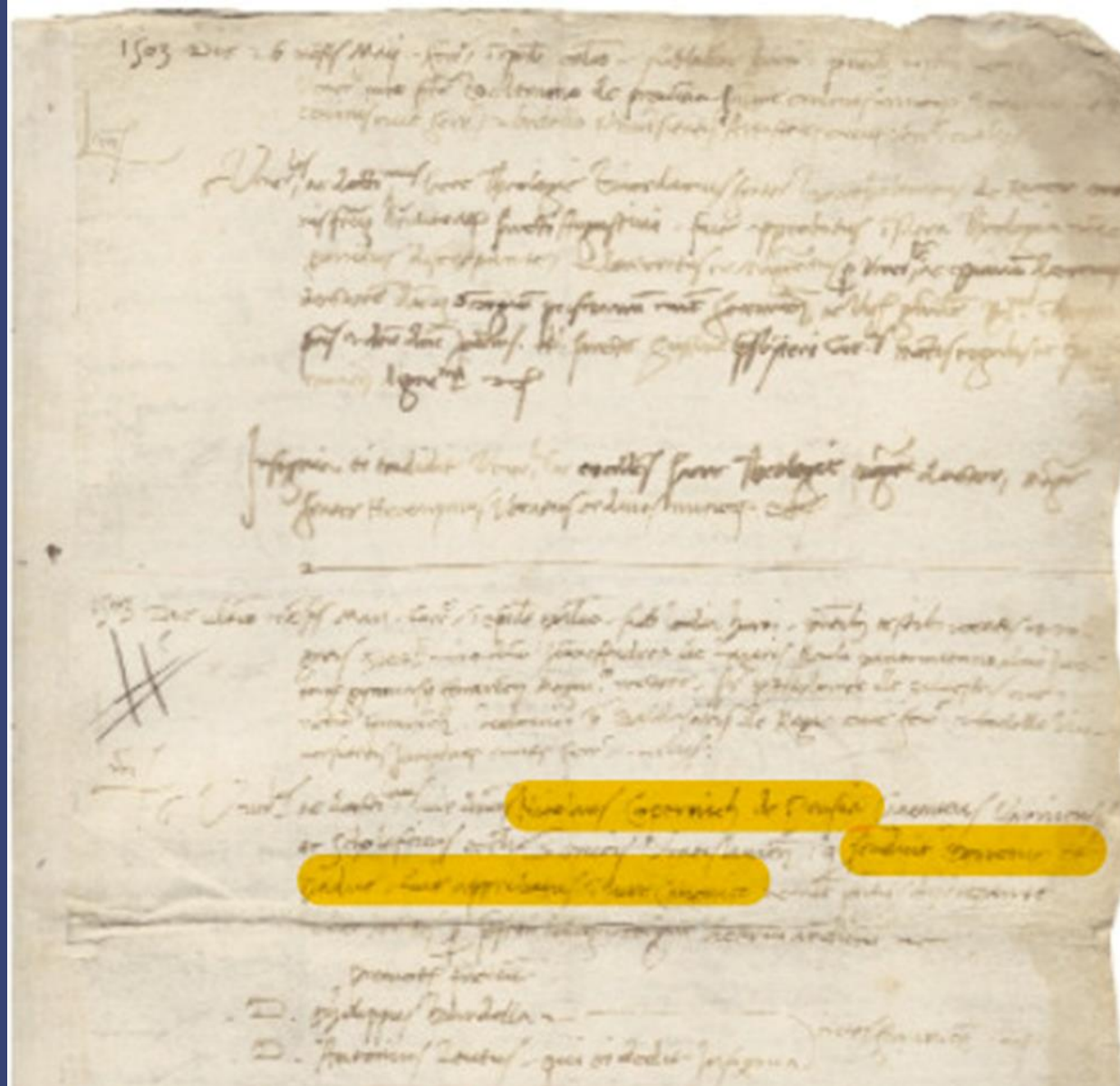
Engraving by E. Gorazdowski of a painting by Wojciech Gerson. Astronomical and Copernican Museum, Rome.

Studied medicine. Probably followed classes together with Girolamo Fracastoro.

Close link between medicine and astronomy: astral influences believed to govern the fate of human body. “Ne medici quidem ipsi ullo in numero habebantur , nisi simul astrologi essent” (Jacopo Facciolati, 1682-1769)



Map of Padua in the XVI century



Ferrara state archive: Certificate of doctorate in canon law received by Nicolaus Copernicus on May 31, 1503. Deed of the notary Tommaso Meleghini.

“1503. Die ultimo mensis maii. Ferrarie. In episcopali palatio sub lodia horti, presentibus testibus vocatis et rogatis spectabili viro domino Ioanne Andrea de Lazaris, siculo panormitano, almi iuristarum gymnasii ferrariensis magnifico rectore, ser Bartholomeo de Silvestris, cive et notario ferrariensi, Lodovico quondam Baldasaris de Regio, cive ferrariensi, et bidello universitatis iuristarum civitatis Ferrarie et aliis.

Venerabilis ac doctissimus vir dominus **Nicolaus Copernich de Prusia**, canonicus varmiensis et scholasticus ecclesie sancte Crucis vratislaviensis, **qui studuit Bononie et Padue, fuit approbatus in iure canonico**, nemine penitus discrepante, et doctoratus per praefatum dominum Georgium, vicarium antedictum etc.

Promotores fuerunt dominus Philippus Bardella et dominus Antonius Leutus qui ei dedit insignia, cives ferrarienses”.

What may have attracted Copernicus to Italy?

- Italian Universities had a very good international reputation. No problem with language: latin was the universal language of European scholars.
- Links with Poland were particularly tight: famous saying on the Poles and Italians: «i luoghi sono ben lontani, ma gli animi son ben vicini» i.e. “places are far away, but souls are very close” (G.B. Guarini, *Il pastor fido*, composed between 1580 and 1583). Bona Sforza became Queen of Poland in 1518 as the second wife of Sigismund I.
- The cultural climate of Italy was particularly vibrant: it was the Renaissance period, with flourishing arts and sciences.

Contemporaries to Copernicus (1473-1543)

Ludovico Ariosto (1474 – 1533)

Donato Bramante (1444? – 1514)

Sandro Botticelli (1445 – 1510)

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475 – 1564)

Cristoforo Colombo (1447 – 1506)

Leonardo da Vinci (1452 – 1519)

Giorgione (1478? – 1510)

Francesco Guicciardini (1483 – 1540)

Girolamo Fracastoro (1478 – 1553)

Niccolò Machiavelli (1469 – 1527)

Pietro Perugino (1450 – 1523)

Raffaello Sanzio (1483 – 1520)

Tiziano Vecellio (1488 – 1576)



ΥΠΟΘΕΣΙΣ ΟΙΔΙΠΟΔΟΣ ΤΥΡΑΝ
ΝΟΥ ΕΜΜΕΤΡΟΣ ΠΑΡΑΓΓΕΛΙΑ
ΣΤΟΦΑΝΟΥΣ.

Λιγὼν Κόρινθον Οἰδίπους, πατρὸς νόθος
Γρὸς τῶν ἀπάρτων λοιδοροῦ μινος ξένος,
Ἡλθεν τυδίδου πυθικῶν θίσπις μάτων,
Ζητῶν ἑαυτὸν, καὶ γένους φυτοσπόρον.
Εὐρὺν δὲ τλήμων ἐν σινᾶς ἀμαξίτοισι,
Ἀκὼν ἵππερι Λάϊον γιγνέτορα.
Σφριγγὸς δὲ δγνῆς θανάσιμον λύσας μίλος,
Ἡχνη μιστὸς ἀγνοοῦ μίνης λίχος.
Λοίμω δὲ Θήβας ἤλε, καὶ νόσος μακρά.
Κρίων δὲ πεμφθεὶς διελρικὴν πρὸς ἵσταν,
Ὅπως τυδίδου τοῦ κακοῦ παυσήριον,
Ἡκουσὶ φωνῆς μαντικῆς θεοῦ πάρα,
Τὸν λαῖζον ἐκδίκηθῃαι φόνον.
Ὅθεν μαθὼν ἑαυτὸν Οἰδίπους τάλας,
Διαπᾶς τε χερσὶν ἐξακάλωσεν κόρας.
Αὐτὴ δὲ μητιρ, ἀχλὺς αἰσθάνεται.

ΔΙΑΤΙ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ ΕΡΓΙ
ΓΕΓΡΑΓΤΑΙ.

Ο τύραννος Οἰδίπους, ἐπὶ διακρίσει βατέρω ἐπὶ
γίγραπται. χαρίεντως δὲ τύραννον ἀπαντες αὐτὸν ἀπὲ
γραφον, ὡς ἔξινοντα πάσης τῆς Σοφοκλείους ποιήσε
ως, καὶ περὶ ἡθῆντα ὑπὸ φιλοκλείους, ὡς φησι Δι
καί αὐτος. ἔσθ δὲ καὶ οἱ πρότερον αὐτὸν ὁ τύραννον ἐπὶ
γράφοντες, διὰ τοῦ χρόνου τῶν διδασκαλιῶν, καὶ
διὰ τὰ

διὰ τὰ πράγματα. ἀλλήτῃ γὰρ καὶ πῦρ Οἰδίπους
δα τὸν ἐπὶ Κολωνῶν τὰς Ἀθήνας ἀφικνέσθαι. ἴδι
ον δὲ τι πεισθασιν οἱ μὲν ὁ μικρὸν ποιητὰς, τοὺς πρὸ
τῶν τρωϊκῶν βασιλεῖς τυράντους προσαγορεύοντες,
ὅψι ποτε τοῦδε τοῦ ὀνόματος εἰς τοὺς Ἕλληνας δια
δοθέντος, κατὰ τοὺς Ἀρχιλόχου χρόνους, καὶ ἀπὲρ
Ἰππίας ὁσοφιστὴς φησιν. ὁ μικρὸς γοῦν τὸν πάντων
παρανομώτατον ἔχοντα, βασιλιάφῃσι, καὶ οὐ τυ
ραννοῖς, εἰς ἔχοντα βασιλῆα βροτῶν δηλοῖ μόνον. προ
σαγορεύεται δὲ φησὶ τὸν τύραννον ἀπὸ τῶν Τυρρῶν
νῶν. χαλκίπες γὰρ τινες περὶ λησιάν τῆς τῶν γυνέσθαι.
εἰδὲ, λίγους αὐτὸν γιγνέσθαι ἀπὸ Τύρῃ πόλεως. φη
ται δὲ τύραννος κατὰ τὸ ἴτυμον, οἷον ἔτυμω τὸς λαὸς,
καὶ ἀνίας ἵππερι, καὶ τυράνων δολὸς κατὰ τῶν ὑπὲρ
αὐτὸν. ὅτι δὲ νῦν τὸν τὸν τυράντου ὀνομα, δηλοῖ.
ἔτι γὰρ ὁ μικρὸς, ὅτι Ἡσίοδος, ὅτι ἄλλος ὁ δὲ τῶν
παλαιῶν, τύραννον ἐν τοῖς ποιήμασιν ὀνομαζέσθαι. ὅδ'
Ἀριστοτέλης ἐν Κυμαίων πολιτείᾳ, τοὺς τυράντους
φησὶ, τοπρότερον Ἀἰσχυρῆας προσαγορεύεσθαι. ὅφιν
μότερον ἢ ἐκείνο τοῦνομα.

ΧΡΗΣΙΜΟΣ ΔΟΘΕΙΣ ΛΑΙΩΝ
ΤΩ ΘΗΒΑΙΩΝ.

Λαίω λαβδακίδῃ, παίδων γένος ὀλβιον αὐτῆς;
Δώσω τοι φίλον ἦγον. ἀτὰρ πετρω μινον ἴσι
Σοῦ παιδὸς χεῖρῃ λιπῆν φάος. ὡς γὰρ ἴνασι
Ζεὺς κρονίδης Πέλοπος συγχεῖς ἀρῆσι πιδῆσας,
Οὐ φίλον ἦρπασας ἦγον. ὅδ' ἠνξατό σοι τὰ πάντα.

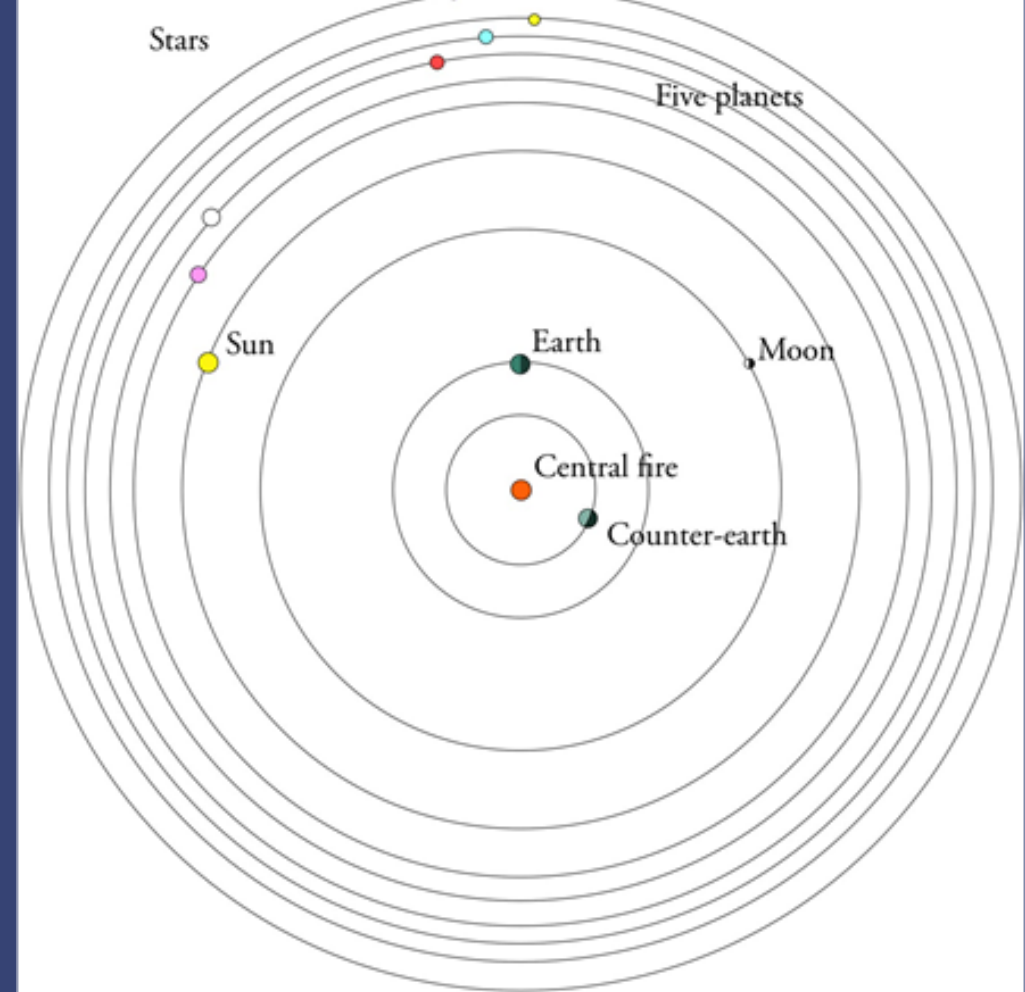
Aldus Manutius, Venetian humanist
and famous printer of Latin and Greek
books.

Sophocles, Tragaediae septem cum commentariis, 1502,
published by Aldo Manuzio (Biblioteca Universitaria di
Bologna).

Credibile est hisce similibus causis Philolaum mobilitate terrae sensisse, quod etiam nonnulli Aristarchum Samium ferunt in eadem fuisse sententia.

*Manuscript of De Revolutionibus Orbis Coelestium.
Not included in printed version.*

Aristarchus of Samos (c. 310 – c. 230 BC) identified the "central fire" with the Sun and put the other planets in their correct order of distance around the Sun. His astronomical ideas were often rejected in favor of the geocentric theories of Aristotle (384–322 BC) and Ptolemy (c. 100 – c. 170 AD).



Philolaus' of Croton (c. 470 – 385 BC) cosmology (D.W. Graham, Arch. Hist. Exact Sci. (2015) 69:217)

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