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1. Simon-Marius-Anniversary 2014 finally at the Finish Line

After nine years of work, the English Marius volume has been published, concluding the Simon Marius Anniversary 2014. Thus the follow-up to the Marius Celebrations has taken five years, a little longer than the preparation. Highlights were the launching of the Marius Portal in the State Archives in Nuremberg, the designation of the asteroid “(7984) Marius” by the International Astronomical Union and the conference “Simon Marius and His Time” in the Nicolaus-Copernicus-Planetarium Nuremberg. The conference proceedings were published in German in 2016.

The editors Dr. Hans Gaab and Pierre Leich were, of course, aware: “That a German publication was not sufficient and that international dissemination of the current research on Marius could only be achieved through an English publication.” The well-known American solar eclipse expert Jay Pasachoff made contact with Springer, the second-largest player in this segment. Nevertheless, the change in citation methods and multiple proofreading took a lot of time. In addition, an offer by astronomy historian Albert van Helden opened up a new perspective. He was willing to provide a completed English translation of Marius’s main work “Mundus Iovialis”. Thony Christie was in charge of the historical editing and Springer paid attention to the form.

The result is a book that combines the most important primary source with 19 current research contributions in English. At a presentation at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, one of the first copies was handed over to Prof. Dr. Michael Lackner, who heads the International Consortium for Research in the Humanities “Fate, Freedom and Prognostication.”

The largest sponsors of the project are Hermann Gutmann Stiftung, Stiftung NV, Vereinigte Sparkassen Gunzenhausen, Kost-Pocher’sche Stiftung, N-Ergie, the cities of Ansbach, Gunzenhausen and Nuremberg as well as the district of Weißenburg-Gunzenhausen.

2. background

Simon Marius (1573–1624) was margravian court astronomer in Ansbach, Southern Germany and independently of Galileo Galilei discovered the four largest moons of Jupiter and the phases of Venus – important arguments for the heliocentric world system, which still had not been proven in 1610. Since Galilei wrongly—as we know today—accused Marius of plagiarism the Franconian was largely forgotten by the history of science. The Simon Marius Society cultivates his scientific heritage, operates the Marius portal www.simon-marius.net and stimulates research with lectures and publications.

A brief outline of Marius’s life and research results can be found on the Marius Portal at <https://www.simon-marius.net/index.php?lang=en&menu=2>. This Internet presentation lists all works by and about Marius in 33 menu languages and was activated during the Simon Marius Anniversary 2014.

3. table of contents

The table of contents with links to the authors and the German essays can be found at https://www.simon-marius.net/pix/content/16/Simon-Marius-and-His-Research_Content.pdf.

4. blurb

The margravian court astronomer, Simon Marius, was involved in all of the new observations made with the recently invented telescope in the early part of the seventeenth century. He also discovered the Moons of Jupiter in January 1610 but lost the priority dispute with Galileo Galilei, because he failed to publish his findings in a timely manner.

The history of astronomy neglected Marius for a long time, finding only the apologists for the Copernican system worthy of attention. In contrast the papers presented on the occasion of the Simon Marius Anniversary Conference 2014, and collected in this volume, demonstrate that it is just this struggle to find the correct astronomical system that makes him particularly interesting. His research into comets, sunspots, the Moons of Jupiter and the phases of Venus led him to abandon the Ptolemaic system and adopt the Tychoenic one. He could not take the final step to heliocentricity but his rejection was based on empirical arguments of his time.

This volume presents the current state of research, refines his biography and also introduces Marius as a calendar maker. Finally this volume contains a complete translation of Simon Marius’s magnum opus “Mundus Iovialis”.

5. online-info

Marius Portal: <https://www.simon-marius.net/book>

Springer: <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319926209#aboutBook>

6. press contact

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Press area with texts and photos:

<https://www.simon-marius.net/index.php?lang=en&menu=13>



Lecturer Thony Christie with editor Pierre Leich and Prof. Michael Lackner from University Erlangen-Nuremberg; photo: Alanah Marx



Handover of a book by Pierre Leich to the president of the University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Prof. Dr. Joachim Hornegger; photo: Anna Gerken



When delivery is made; photo: Chriska Wagner