

Press Release
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The Simon Marius Anniversary Celebrations 2014 has been a great success

The initiators of the 'The Simon Marius Anniversary Celebrations 2014' can look back over a very eventful year. More than 60 lectures and exhibitions corrected the public image of the margravian court astronomer both at home and abroad, and more than 250 articles appeared in newspapers, magazines, and other media. Motivation was the publication of Simon Marius' magnum opus *Mundus Iovialis* (The World of Jupiter) four hundred years ago in 1614.

The first high point of these activities was the launching of the Marius-Portal, www.simon-marius.net, in The State Archives in Nürnberg. This Internet site contains a bibliography, with 28 menu languages, of all the publications by or about Simon Marius (1573-1624), who discovered the four largest Jupiter moons at the same time but independently of Galileo Galilei in 1610. A substantial number of these publications have been digitised and can – where legally permitted – be viewed directly. The medium-term aim is to create a virtual 'Collected Works'.

The designation of an asteroid by the International Astronomical Union was very pleasing. The asteroid "(7984) Marius" is about 10 km in diameter and is situated in the so-called main belt between Mars and Jupiter. It orbits the sun once every 4.27 years and travels at a speed of 18 km/s.

The final high point was the conference "Simon Marius und seine Zeit" (Simon Marius and his Times), which focused on the results of his researches. The conference report will appear in 2015.

Galileo Galilei had accused the margravian court astronomer of plagiarism, however at the beginning of the 20th century he was rehabilitated and in 2014 Simon Marius was honoured in particular in Southern Germany but also in the Cosmonaut Museum in Moscow and in the USA. Galileo and Marius discovered the four largest Jupiter moons in January 1610, but Marius first published his results four years later than his Italian colleague. Today we know that in the 17th century Marius was an astronomer at the highest European levels.

'The Simon Marius Anniversary Celebrations 2014' was initiated by the Nürnberger Astronomische Gesellschaft (Nürnberger Astronomical Society) and will be set forth by the Simon Marius Society, which was founded at the end of December 2014.