

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Gerard of Cremona

Born Cremona, (Italy), circa 1114

Died Toledo, (Spain), or Cremona, (Italy), 1187

Gerard's principal contributions were his translations of Arabic texts on astronomy and other sciences. Gerard received his basic education in his native town of Cremona. Then, an interest in deeper learning, especially the work of Ptolemy, led him to (before 1144) Toledo, where he studied Arabic and devoted himself to translating into Latin some of the Arabic translations of Greek treatises, Arabic commentaries on them, and original Arabic works dealing with astronomy, mathematics, philosophy, medicine, and other sciences

Gerard is said to have translated 76 works, including the *Almagest* (1175) by Ptolemy, the Toledo Tables ascribed to al-Zarqali, Physics by Aristotle, and various works by Abu Ibn al-Haytham, Ibn Sina, Jabir ibn Aflah, al-Farghani, al-Kindi, Masha'alla, and others. Some traditional attributions that he is credited with are incorrect (e.g., the *Theorica planetarum* also ascribed to Gerard Sabionetta). However, like other translators (e.g., Adelard of Bath, Hermannus of Carinthia, Johannes Hispalensis, Plato of Tivoli, Robert of Chester), he mediated the knowledge of the achievements of Greek and Arabic science to medieval Europe—several of his translations were printed in the 16th century—and thus stimulated its subsequent development

Gerard was buried at Saint Lucy Church in Cremona.

Alena Hadravová and Petr Hadrava

Alternate name

Gerardus Cremonensis

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