

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Maurolico, Francesco

Born Messina, (Italy), 16 September 1494

Died near Messina, (Italy), 21 or 22 July 1575

Francesco Maurolico, in addition to doing original work, translated and commented on works by ancient authors such as Euclid, Apollonius, and Archimedes.

Maurolico spent nearly all of his life in Sicily, where he was ordained a priest in 1521, and held various ecclesiastical as well as civil posts. His astronomical writings include a criticism of Nicolaus Copernicus, and a treatise on the use of the principal astronomical instruments. Maurolico's observation of the supernova of 1572 in Cassiopeia (SN B Cas) appears to predate that of Tycho Brahe by five days.

Katherine Bracher

Selected References

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