

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Scot, Michael

Born possibly the Borders of Scotland, circa 1175

Died possibly the Borders of Scotland, circa 1234

Michael Scot's main contribution to astronomy was through his translations of works from Arabic into Latin, including those by Al-Bitruji and Aristotle, and significantly Ibn Rushd's *De motibus coelorum*. Scot was thus instrumental in reintroducing Aristotelian ideas to the Western world.

Scot traveled widely around Europe, serving as court astronomer and physician (or astrologer and alchemist) to Holy Roman Emperor Frederick II. Legends of his supernatural powers abound (popularized by Dante Alighieri, Giovanni Boccaccio, and Sir Walter Scott), and few facts are known about his life.

Douglas Scott

Selected References

Carmody, Francis J. (ed.) (1952). *De motibus celorum: Critical Edition of the Latin Translation of Michael Scot*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Thorndike, Lynn (1965). *Michael Scot*. London: Nelson