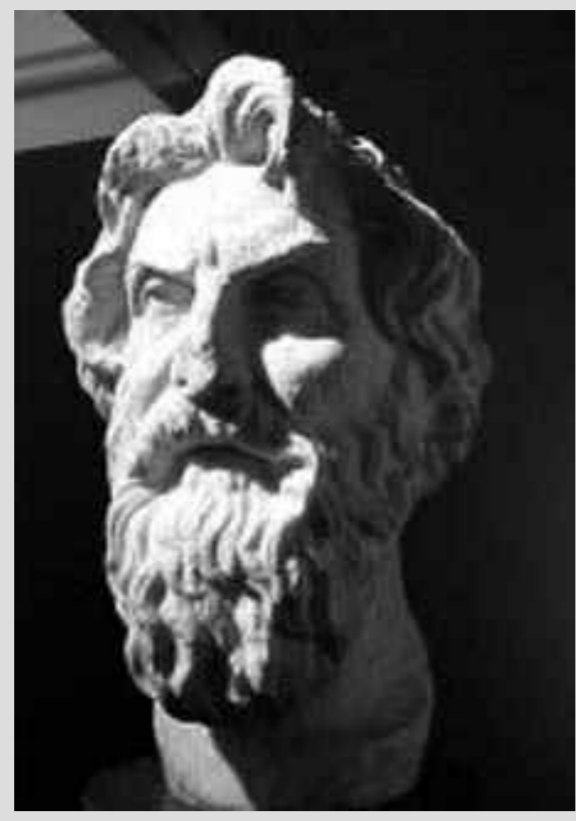


SOME EARLY ASTRONOMERS



Anaximander
611 BC - 546 BC

Anaximander of Miletus was a Greek scholar who first proposed that the sun, moon and planets revolved around the earth. He invented the gnomon of a sun-dial.



Aristarchus
310 BC - 230 BC

Aristarchus was a Greek mathematician and astronomer who is celebrated as the exponent of a Sun-centred universe and for his pioneering attempt to determine the sizes and distances of the Sun and Moon.



Zhang Heng
78 - 139

Zhang Heng was a Chinese mathematician, astronomer and geographer. He became chief astrologer and minister under the Emperor An'ti of China.



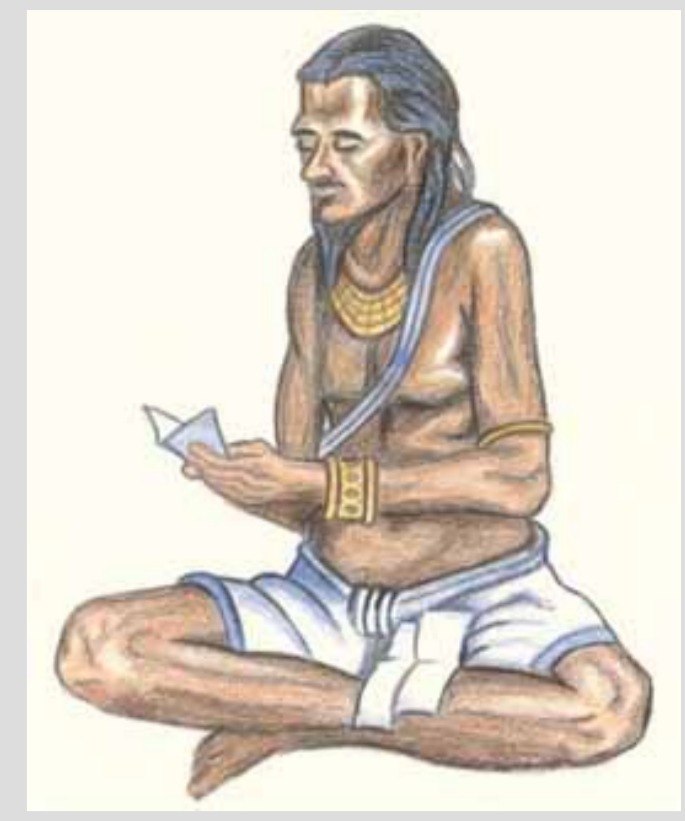
Ptolemy
85 - 165

Ptolemy was the most influential of Greek astronomers and geographers of his time. He propounded the geocentric theory of the solar system that prevailed for 1400 years.



Zu Chongzhi
429 - 501

Zu Chongzhi was a Chinese mathematician and astronomer.



Brahmagupta
598 - 670

Brahmagupta was the foremost Indian mathematician of his time. He made advances in astronomy.



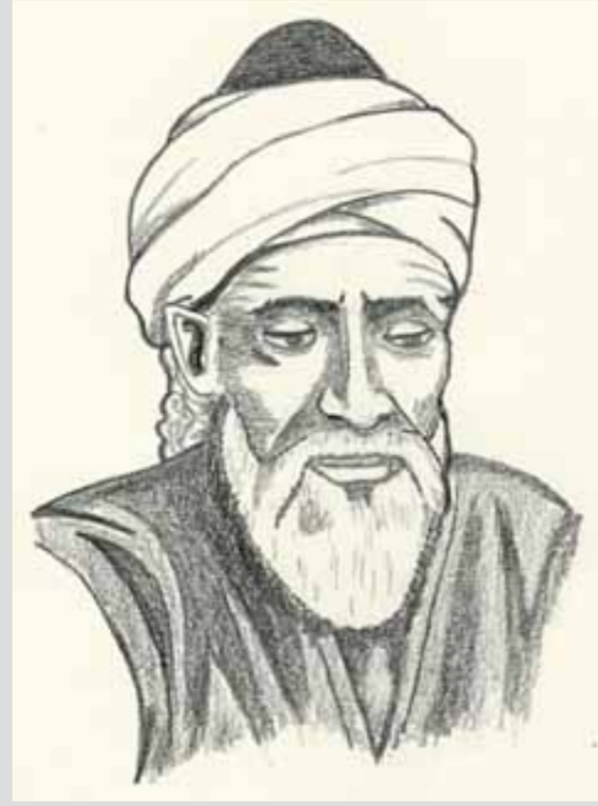
Thabit
836 - 901

Thabit ibn Qurra was an important Islamic mathematician who worked on number theory, astronomy and statics.



Al-Battani
868 - 929

Al-Battani or **Albategnius** was an Islamic astronomer and mathematician. He made important accurate measurements of the stars, moon and planets. His measurements and methods were used by later astronomers.



Abu'l-Wafa
940 - 998

Abu'l-Wafa was an Islamic astronomer and mathematician who wrote commentaries on the works of earlier mathematicians. He made astronomical observations and constructed accurate trigonometric tables.



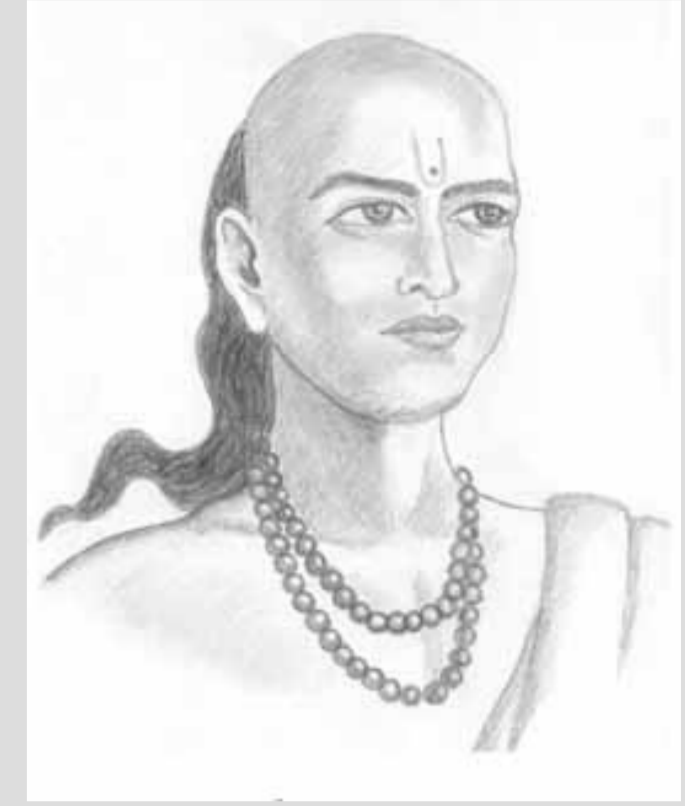
Al-Biruni
973 - 1048

Al-Biruni is one of the major figures of Islamic mathematics. He contributed to astronomy, mathematics, physics, medicine and history.



Omar Khayyam
1048 - 1131

Omar Khayyam was an Islamic scholar who was a poet as well as a mathematician. He compiled astronomical tables and contributed to calendar reform.



Bhaskara II
1114 - 1185

Bhaskara II or **Bhaskaracharya** was an Indian mathematician and astronomer who extended Brahmagupta's work.



John Sacrobosco
1195 - 1256

John of Holywood or **Johannes de Sacrobosco** was an English scholar who wrote an important text on astronomy.



Guo Shoujing
1231 - 1316

Guo Shoujing was a Chinese astronomer who worked on spherical trigonometry and the calendar.



Ulugh Beg
1393 - 1449

Ulugh Beg was the grandson of the conqueror Tamerlane and was a mathematician and astronomer. He founded an important centre for study at Samarkand staffed with the best scientists of the time.



Regiomontanus
1436 - 1476

Regiomontanus or **Johann Müller** was a German scholar who made important contributions to trigonometry and astronomy.



Nicolaus Copernicus
1473 - 1543

Copernicus was a Polish astronomer and mathematician whose theory that the Earth moved around the Sun profoundly altered later workers' view of the universe, but was rejected by the Catholic church.



Oronce Fine
1494 - 1555

Oronce Fine was a French mathematician who published a major work on mathematics and astronomy.



Petrus Apianus
1495 - 1552

Petrus Apianus was a German mathematician who published important popular works on astronomy and geography.



Gemma Frisius
1508 - 1555

Regnier Gemma Frisius was a Dutch mathematician who applied his mathematical expertise to geography, astronomy and map making.



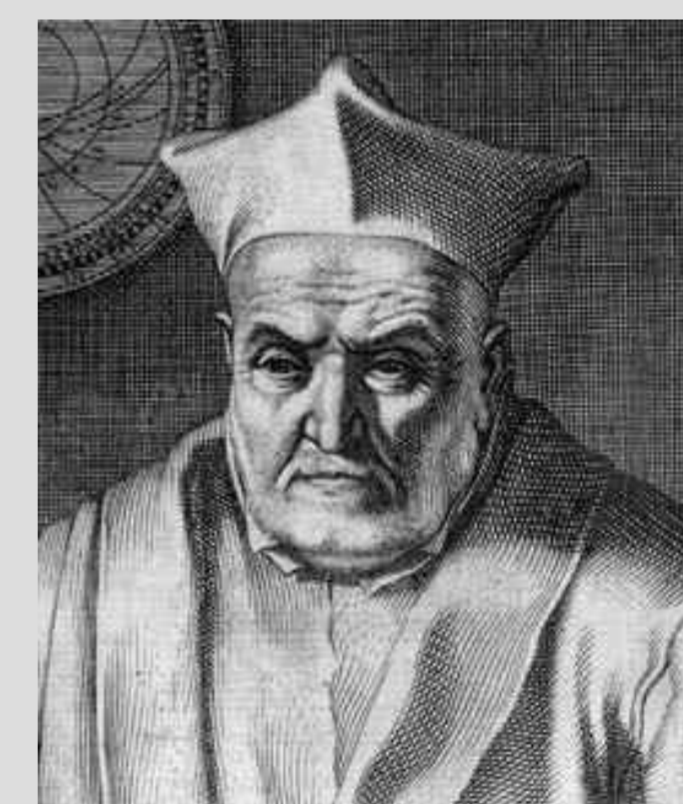
Erasmus Reinhold
1511 - 1553

Erasmus Reinhold was a German astronomer and mathematician who catalogued a large number of stars and published important astronomical tables.



Georg Joachim Rheticus
1514 - 1574

Georg Joachim Rheticus was an Austrian mathematician and astronomer who published the trigonometrical sections of Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus*.



Christopher Clavius
1538 - 1612

Christopher Clavius was a German Jesuit astronomer who helped Pope Gregory XIII to introduce what is now called the Gregorian calendar.



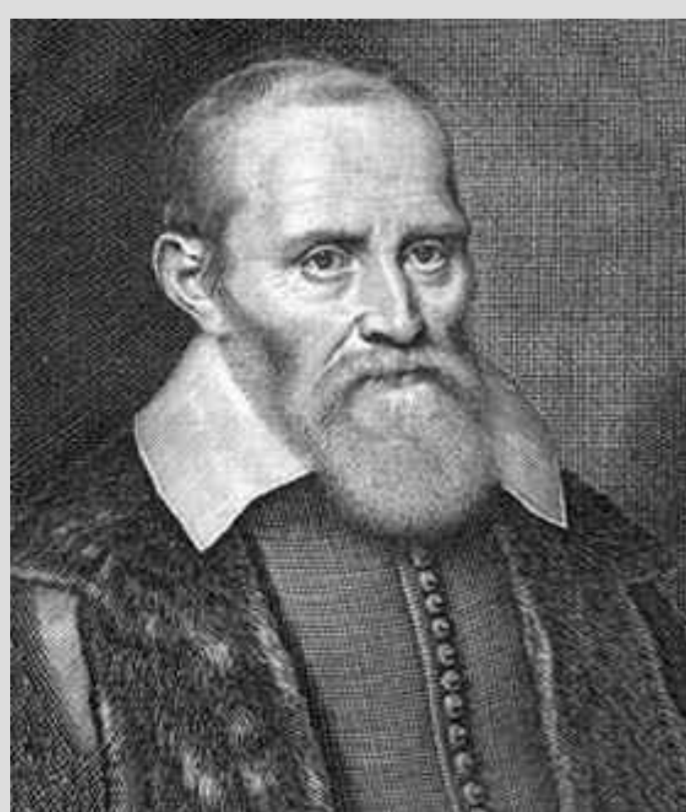
Tycho Brahe
1546 - 1601

Tycho Brahe was a Danish astronomer who is best known for the astronomical observations which led Kepler to his theories of the Solar system.



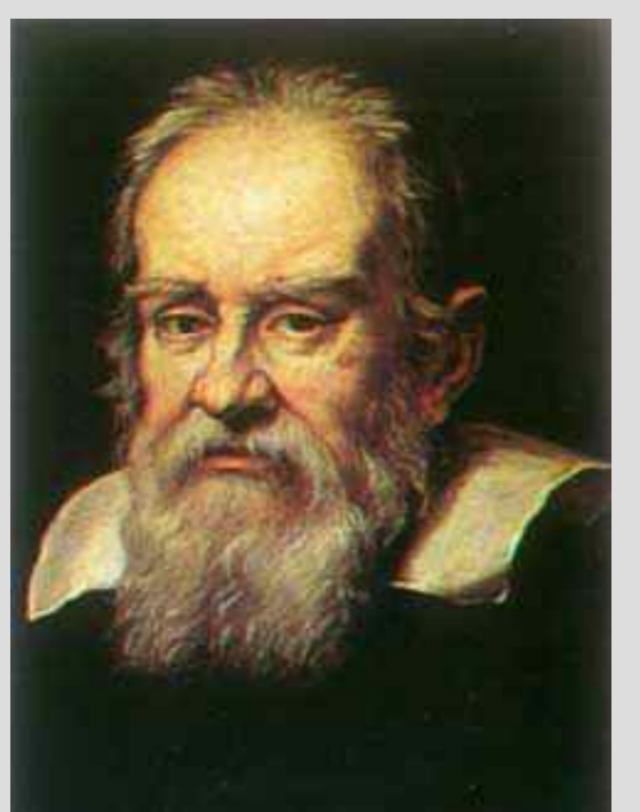
Michael Mästlin
1550 - 1631

Michael Mästlin was a German astronomer who was Kepler's teacher and who publicised the Copernican system.



Philip van Lansberge
1561 - 1632

Philippe van Lansberge was a Flemish clergyman who wrote on mathematics and astronomy.



Galileo Galilei
1564 - 1642

Galileo Galilei constructed a telescope with which he studied lunar craters, and discovered four moons revolving around Jupiter and espoused the Copernican cause.



Giuseppe Biancani
1566 - 1624

Giuseppe Biancani was an Italian Jesuit astronomer and mathematician who made observations of the moon and planets with the newly invented telescope.



Johannes Kepler
1571 - 1630

Johannes Kepler discovered that the Earth and planets travel about the sun in elliptical orbits. He gave three fundamental laws of planetary motion.



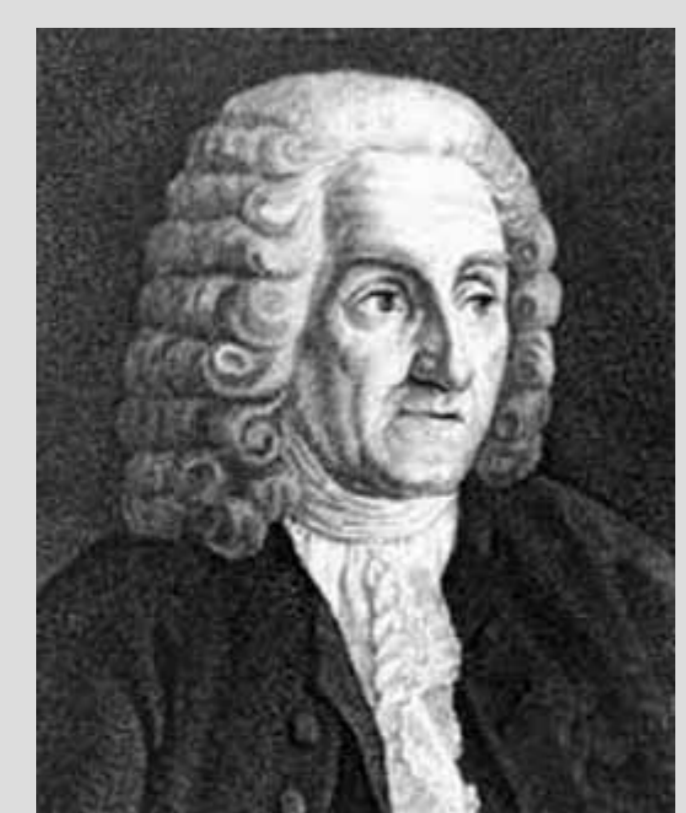
Pierre Gassendi
1592 - 1655

Pierre Gassendi was the first to observe a transit of Venus. He wrote on astronomy, his own astronomical observations and on falling bodies.



Johannes Hevelius
1611 - 1687

Johannes Hevelius was a Polish astronomer who published important observations with the help of his wife.



Jeremiah Horrocks
1618 - 1641

Jeremiah Horrocks was an English astronomer who improved Kepler's tables and worked on the lunar theory.



Christiaan Huygens
1629 - 1695

Christiaan Huygens patented the first pendulum clock, which greatly increased the accuracy of time measurement. He also constructed telescopes and discovered the first of Saturn's moons.



James Gregory
1638 - 1675

James Gregory was a Scottish scientist and first Regius Professor of Mathematics at St Andrews who described the first practical reflecting telescope.



Isaac Newton
1643 - 1727

Isaac Newton theory of gravitation led to an understanding of the solar system. He designed an early reflecting telescope.



John Flamsteed
1646 - 1719

John Flamsteed was an English astronomer who published accurate astronomical observations and was the first Astronomer Royal.

