

PTOLEMY IN PERSPECTIVE: USE AND CRITICISM OF HIS WORK FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT



CLAUDIUS PTOLEMY - FRESCO (c. 1475) by Hans van Wierzbny

MAY 31—JUNE 2, 2007
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

*Organized by the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences
at the California Institute of Technology with the support of the Francis Bacon Foundation*

First published at the height of the Roman Empire during the second century of our era, Ptolemy's writings soon established themselves as the authoritative presentations of Greek mathematical and physical science. From late antiquity to the present, scholars and scientists have exploited Ptolemy's treatises on astronomy, astrology, and cartography with a view both to contemporary scientific problems and to the understanding of the past. This conference explores Greco-Roman, Islamic, and European engagements with—and criticisms of—Ptolemy's sciences of the earth and heavens.

If you plan to attend or need information, please call Lisa Keppel at 626.395.3609 or RSVP by e-mail to ldkeppel@hss.caltech.edu. Space is limited.

THURSDAY, MAY 31
25 Baxter Hall

5:15 p.m.
Keynote lecture by
Bacon Prize winner

Alexander Jones
University of Toronto
"Erigor Dum Corrigor: Ptolemy
Condemned or Vindicated?"

FRIDAY, JUNE 1
Treasure Room, Dabney Hall

9:00–10:00 a.m.
Anne Tihon
Université catholique de Louvain
"A New Astronomical Document
Contemporary with Ptolemy"

10:00–11:00 a.m.
Stephan Hellen
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
"Ptolemy's Doctrine of the 'Terms'
and its Reception"

2:00–3:00 p.m.
F. Jamil Ragep
McGill University
"Islamic Reactions to Ptolemy's
Imprecisions"

3:00–4:00 p.m.
Florian Mittenhuber
Universität Bern
"The Relation between Texts and
Maps in the Tradition of Ptolemy's
Geography"

SATURDAY, JUNE 2
Treasure Room, Dabney Hall

9:00–10:00 a.m.
Darrel Rutkin
The University of Oklahoma
"The Use and Abuse of Ptolemy
in Renaissance and Early Modern
Europe: Two Case Studies"

10:00–11:00 a.m.
James Voelkel
Independent Scholar
"Abandoning the Equant"

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
François Charette
Independent Scholar
"Ptolemy and His Medieval Heirs
in the Eyes of Nineteenth-Century
Scholarship"

2:00–3:00 p.m.
John Steele
University of Durham
"The Use of the Almagest Eclipse
Reports in Early Studies of the
Earth's Rotation"

3:00–4:00 p.m.
Noel Swerdlow
The University of Chicago
"Tycho and Kepler on Ptolemy's
Observations"

4:00–5:00 p.m.
Concluding discussion