



MUSEUM *of the*  
HISTORY *of*  
SCIENCE

# THE *Renaissance* *in* Astronomy

BOOKS, GLOBES AND INSTRUMENTS  
OF THE 16TH CENTURY

11 May to 9 September 2012

A special exhibition  
organised with the Royal  
Astronomical Society  
to mark the 500th  
anniversary of the birth  
of Gerard Mercator



ADMISSION FREE

# PROGRAMME

## LECTURES

**'The whole earth, a present for a Prince': Molyneux's English Globes and the Creation of a Global Vision**  
**Thursday 31 May 5 pm**

**Champneys Room, Oriel College**  
Professor Lesley Cormack will give the Harriot Lecture for 2012 in Oriel College in association with the exhibition. Dr Lesley B. Cormack is Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta.

**Mercator: the Man who Mapped the Planet**

**Tuesday 12 June, 7 pm**  
Broadcaster, geographer, explorer and writer Nicholas Crane contributes a lecture to the Museum's 'Between the Lines' series, where successful authors talk about their history of science books. An event not to be missed by fans of 'Coast' and Nicholas Crane's many other television programmes.

**Thoughts and Things: the Role of Craft in 16th-Century Astronomy and Cosmography**

**Tuesday 4 September, 7 pm**  
The curator of the exhibition, Professor Jim Bennett, explains that one of its aims is to draw attention to the objects made within the discipline of 16th-century astronomy. Books, globes and instruments were fabricated by craftsmen in workshops and printshops that were valued as sites of astronomical practice.

**AN ELIZABETHAN ADDITION TO THE COLLECTION**

**Study Afternoon on Astronomy in 16th-Century England**

**Saturday 25 August, 2.30 – 5.30 pm**  
During the course of the exhibition the Museum will announce an important gift: a 16th-century pocket sundial by an English maker. The acquisition of an Elizabethan instrument creates a very special occasion, which will be marked by a study afternoon on astronomy in England in the 16th century. For details of the acquisition, a programme for the afternoon, and booking instructions, see the Museum's website.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**Night of Museums: the Astronomical Workshop**

**Friday 18 May, 7 – 11 pm**  
A late opening for the exhibition as part of the annual 'Night of Museums' festival, with tours throughout the evening. The exhibition emphasises the importance of craft in 16th-century astronomy and there will be a printer, an instrument-maker and a globe-maker at work in the basement gallery.

**Stellar Summer Quiz**

**Friday 6 July, 7 pm**  
The Museum's annual adaptation of the pub quiz format takes an astronomical theme, broadly understood. Enter a team of three or four, or come along and join a scratch team on the night. Drinks and prizes.

**Making and Using an Astrolabe**

**Saturday 4 August, 11 am – 1 pm**  
A workshop for adults. Make a model astrolabe and discover how to use it. Booking essential (01865 277280). Voluntary materials donation £5.

**Making and Using a Globe**

**Saturday 1 September, 11 am – 1 pm**  
A workshop for adults. Discover early methods of globe-making and make a model globe. Booking is essential (01865 277280). Voluntary materials donation £5.

## TABLE TALKS

**The Armillary Animated**

**Sunday 13 May, 2.30 pm**  
Stephen Johnston presents an iconic object of Renaissance astronomy.

**How Does the Astrolabe Work?**

**Sunday 24 June, 2.30 pm**  
Jim Bennett answers one of the questions most frequently heard in the Museum.

**The Astronomy of the Caesars**

**Sunday 9 September, 2.30 pm**  
A look at one of the most extraordinary astronomical books ever printed and 'fabricated', Peter Apian's, *Astronomicum Caesareum*, 1540.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

**Globe-Makers**

**Saturday 26 May**  
**Saturday 23 June**  
**Basement Gallery, 2 – 4 pm**  
Discover the Museum's collection of globes and how globes used to be made, and make your own model globe. Suitable for ages 9-13. Booking required (01865 277280). Voluntary materials donation £5.

**Paper Plate Planetarium**

**Saturday 12 May**  
**Basement Gallery, 2-4 pm**  
Discover the revolution of Copernicus and make a colourful paper planetarium. No need to book. Suitable for ages 7-13.

**Madman Magellan**

**Thursday 7 June**  
**Friday 8 June**  
**Thursday 30 August**  
**Friday 31 August**  
**Saturday 1 September**  
**Basement Gallery, 2-4 pm**  
Maps, globes, instruments and activities to discover early voyages of exploration that influenced cosmographers like Mercator. No need to book. Suitable for ages 7-13.

**What is an Astrolabe?**

**Saturday 4 August**  
**Basement Gallery, 2-4pm**  
Discover the beauty of the astrolabe, make one and find out how it works. Suitable for children aged 9 upwards. Booking required (01865 277280).

## GALLERY TOURS

**The Renaissance in Astronomy**

**Saturday 23 June, 2 pm**  
**Saturday 7 July, 2 pm**  
**Saturday 8 September, 2 pm**  
A guide to the special exhibition led by curator Jim Bennett.

**MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE**

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