

# Great Firsts *of* Science

*By*

*HERBERT M. EVANS*

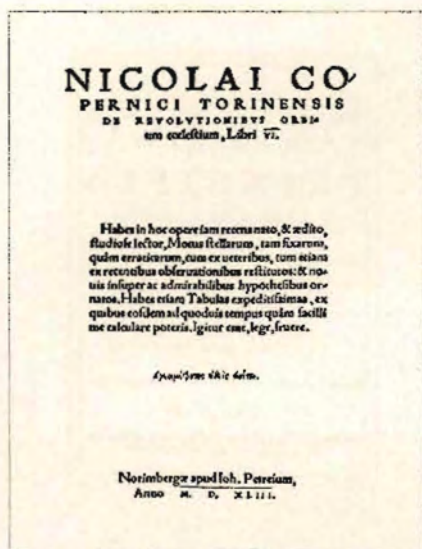


A projected quarto here prefigured for

**The Roxburghe Club of San Francisco**

March 6, 1939





NICOLAUS COPERNICUS, 1473-1543.

*De revolutionibus orbium coelestium.* 1543.

Title: NICOLAI CO/PERNICI TORINENSIS / DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBI/UM COELESTIUM, LIBRI VI. / HABES IN HOC OPERE IAM RECENS NATO, & AEDITO, / STUDIOSE LECTOR, MOTUS STELLARUM, TAM FIXARUM, / QUAM ERRATICARUM, CUM EX UETERIBUS, TUM ETIAM / EX RECENTIBUS OBSERVATIONIBUS RESTITUTOS: & NOUIS INSUPER AC ADMIRABILIBUS HYPOTHESISIBUS OR/NATOS. HABES ETIAM TABULAS EXPEDITISSIMAS, EX / QUIBUS EOSDEM AD QUODUIS TEMPUS QUAM FACILLI / ME CALCULARE POTERIS. IGITUR EME, LEGE, FRUERE. /  
/ NORIMBERGAE APUD IOH. PETREIUM, / ANNO M.D. XLIII.

Collation: [i], ii, iii, iiiii, [], [], a-z<sup>4</sup>, A-Z<sup>4</sup>, Aa-Cc<sup>4</sup>, []. 6 unnumbered leaves, 196 numbered leaves (52 wrongly lettered 49), 1 unnumbered leaf.

Contents: [i], title-page; [i] (verso)-ii, introductory note; ii, dedication to Cardinal Schönberg; ii (verso)-iii, preface; [], [], index; a-z<sup>4</sup>, A-Z<sup>4</sup>, Aa-Cc<sup>4</sup>, text; [], errata; [] (verso), duplicate title page.

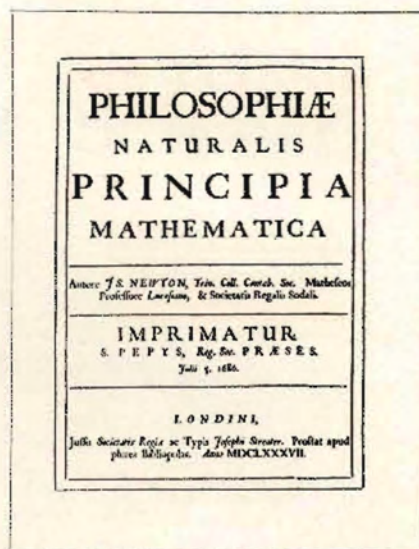
Illustrations: Numerous text diagrams; capital guide spaces throughout.

*Note: This great treatise which fully presented the heliocentric view of our planetary system, completely revolutionized astronomy. Copernicus' dissatisfaction with Ptolemaic astronomy was of early date and from 1513 on his endeavors were directed towards mathematical verification of his own theory. His view was first actually formulated in 1530 in a brief popular account circularized in manuscript (Commentariolus). Upon the importunities of his friends who demanded fuller publication, his assent was given in 1540, and his friend, George Joachim Rheticus, printed a preliminary account in the Narratio Prima (Danzig, 1540); this was reprinted at Basel, 1541. The complete exposition, a great classic, was sent to the press simultaneously with the Narratio and appeared in 1543, a few days before the death of Copernicus.*



SIR ISAAC NEWTON, 1642-1727.

*Principia mathematica.* 1687



Title: PHILOSOPHIAE / NATURALIS / PRINCIPIA / MATHEMATICA. / AUTORE I S. NEWTON, TRIN. COLL. CANTAB. SOC. MATHESEOS / PROFESSORE LUCASIANA, & SOCIETATIS REGALIS SODALI. / IMPRIMATUR. / S. PEPYS, REG. SOC. PRAESES. / JULII 5. 1686. / LONDINI, / JUSSU SOCIETATIS REGIAE AC TYPIS JOSEPHI STREATER. PROSTAT APUD / PLURES BIBLIOPOLAS. ANNO MDCLXXXVII.

Collation: [A]-G<sup>4</sup>, H<sup>1</sup>, G<sup>2</sup>, [H]<sup>3</sup>-[H]<sup>4</sup>, I-Z<sup>4</sup>, Aa-Kk<sup>4</sup>, Ll<sup>1</sup>, Kk<sup>2</sup>, [Ll]<sup>3</sup>-[Ll]<sup>4</sup>, Mm-Zz<sup>4</sup>, \*<sup>4</sup>, Aaa-Ooo<sup>4</sup>. 4 unnumbered leaves, 1-383, 400-510 leaves, 1 unnumbered leaf.

Contents: [A]<sup>1</sup>, title; [A]<sup>2</sup>, dedication to Charles II, [A]<sup>3</sup>, preface; A<sup>4</sup>, poem to Newton by Edmund Halley; B-C<sup>2</sup> definitions; C<sup>2</sup> (verso)-E<sup>1</sup>, axioms; E<sup>1</sup> (verso)-Ooo<sup>3</sup>, text; Ooo<sup>4</sup>, errata; Ooo<sup>4</sup> (verso), blank.

Illustrations: Title within a border within a border; 1 folded plate between [A]<sup>4</sup> and B<sup>1</sup>; numerous text diagrams throughout.

*Note: First issue of the first edition of Newton's immortal work . . . perhaps the most important work in all science to date. The great importance of the Principia resides to a large extent the fact that in it is found (1) the first enunciation on a scientific basis of quantitative physical principles applicable to the entire universe, in particular (a) the three "laws of motion," (b) the inverse square law of gravitation, (c) numerous mathematical consequences of (a) and (b); (2) the manner, which became the chief model for theoretical physics, of combining induction and deduction to form a scientific system; (3) its unparalleled stimulation of scientific activity in general; (4) its great extra-scientific effect upon human thought and behaviour.*

Issued by members of the Club.