

The Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers



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Volume I A–L

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ISBN 13: 978-0-387-31022-0

The electronic version of the whole set will be available under ISBN-13: 978-0-387-30400-7.

The print and electronic bundle of the whole set will be available under ISBN-13: 978-0-387-33628-2.

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springer.com

Printed on acid-free paper SPIN: 11494034 2109 — 5 4 3 2 1 0

To my teachers

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Herbert Beebe

William Eamon

Clyde Tombaugh



Preface

Like that of any human activity, the history of astronomy has been played out under the influence of myriad cultural, institutional, political, sociological, technological, and natural forces. Any history that focuses only on the greatest participants in a field likely misses a great deal of interest and historical value. Inasmuch as astronomy is undertaken by and for human beings, therefore, its history cannot be limited to the lives and achievements of a narrow group.

Here we analyze the lives of people who, in our view, produced some substantial contribution to the field of astronomy, were involved in some important astronomical event, or were in some other manner important to the discipline. In doing so we do not discount the work of countless other journeyman astronomers without whom the science would not have progressed as it has.

Scope

Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers [BEA] entries presented here do not pretend to illuminate all aspects of a given person's vita. Moreover, some figures included are better known for their enterprises outside of astronomy. In these situations, their astronomical contributions are emphasized.

For many of our entries, the length is limited to something substantially less than 1,000 words due to the lack of available information. There is, of course, an inclination to write a great deal more about persons for whom there is a significant literature already available, *e. g.*, Copernicus, Kepler, Newton, William Herschel, or Einstein. Many such individuals are covered in other standard resources, and we have not felt compelled to repeat all that is already published in those cases. In fact, we look at our entries as a guide to recent scholarship and a brief summary of the important facts about the lives involved. On the other hand, two-thirds of the entries in this encyclopedia are about individuals for whom there is no readily available standard source. In those cases, the length of the article may be longer than might be expected in comparison with those of better known astronomers, and reflects the fact that an entry offers the first (and perhaps only) easily available information about the astronomer involved: It is not difficult to find sources on "Greats" such as Galileo Galilei; however, it is hard to find information on Galilei's acolyte, Mario Guiducci.

Citations within the text have been avoided to enhance readability. Nearly all articles end with a list of selected references. The reader is thus presented with opportunities for further research; no article is intended to be a dead end. Toward that end, if we do not provide additional resources for an entry, the subject will be cross-referenced within other articles for which we do provide selected references.

In compiling the selected references, we have tried to include difficult-to-identify secondary sources. At the same time we have largely excluded standard reference works and include only some of the latest canonical works covering the best-known figures in astronomy.

The *BEA* documents individuals born from Antiquity to approximately mid-1918. Subjects may be living or dead. While some ancient figures have become legendary, we have tried to avoid clearly mythological ones. For example, while the royal Chinese astronomers Ho and Hsi (supposedly third millennium BCE) appear in nearly every history of eclipses, they warrant no entry here.

This terminal birth date assures that the subjects written about have completed most of their careers, and that sufficient time likely has elapsed since their featured accomplishments that a historical perspective on their work is possible. Note that almost all of our subjects began their careers before the watershed transformation of astronomy brought about by the events of World War II. It is also true that the number of astronomers significantly increased after this time. Our youngest subject is Gérard de Vaucouleurs; our oldest is Homer.

Inclusion Parameters

Our entry selection embraces a broad definition of the word "astronomer." In modern science, little differentiation is made between the words "astronomy" and "astrophysics"; we do not use such a distinction here. For example, our definition includes astrometrists, cosmologists, and planetologists. These three fields were considered separate and self-contained for most of human history. Cosmology, especially, requires the inclusion of many philosophers and theologians.

Early astronomers often also were astrologers. If they performed astronomical pursuits in addition to simple divination, we include them. Likewise, no distinction is made between the professional and the contributing amateur.

With the exception of a few important cases, instrument makers are included only if they pursued astronomical work with their instruments. Surveyors and cartographers are included if their study of the stars went beyond mere reference for terrestrial mapmaking. Lastly, a select group of authors, editors of astronomical journals, founders of astronomical societies, observatory builders and directors, astronomy historians, and patrons of astronomy are included.

A common pitfall in the history of science is to make the story of a discipline appear to be a single ladder ascending toward modern theory. Instead, it is a tree with many branches, only some of which have led to our current understanding of the Universe. Indeed, seemingly dead branches may become reanimated later in time. And branches may merge as ideas once considered unrelated are brought together. A better metaphor may be a vine, one with many grafts.

Scientists who contributed theories no longer held salient, or who made observations now considered suspect, nonetheless are included on our list if their effort was considered scientifically useful in its time, and the basis for further inquiry. At the same time, scientists whose ideas or techniques are now considered prescient, but who were unrecognized in their lifetimes, may appear as well.

The contributions of persons selected for entries in this work were weighed in the context of their times. Thus, while a contribution made by a medieval scholar might seem small by today's standards, it was significant for its era. We are especially proud of our inclusion of "non-western" figures who often have been given little treatment in histories of astronomy. Finally, we have included numerous entries of fewer than 100 words, some just a sentence or two, to introduce their names and place them in context within the broader vistas of astronomy.

Construction of the subject list was done by the editor-in-chief in consultation with the content editors. Well-known historian of astronomy Owen Gingerich generously volunteered his time to comment upon draft lists. Still, while an earnest attempt was made to make an objective selection of our more than 1,500 entries, responsibility for omissions must rest with the editor-in-chief. Most vulnerable to omission were those born in the last century.

Project Staffing

Author solicitation was done by the editor-in-chief. Many of the shortest entries were crafted by the editor-in-chief; some but not most of these short entries were paraphrased from an unpublished typescript draft titled *Biographical Dictionary of Astronomers*, originally prepared by the historian Hector C. Macpherson in 1940. The standardized format of the articles was arrived at by consensus among the editors. Senior editor Thomas R. Williams's *Author Guidelines* proved indispensable.

Editors were invited to join the project by the editor-in-chief. This editorial board includes, more-or-less equally, individuals who entered history-of-astronomy scholarship with a background either in history of science or in astronomy. (Some have both.) Unlike many encyclopedists, we did not use our editorial role to eradicate the individual writing styles of the authors.

Each content editor was assigned a thematic editorial responsibility, though all were called upon, at one time or another, to edit articles outside of this specialty. The assignments were as follows:

- Classical and Medieval Astronomers—Katherine Bracher
- Renaissance and Enlightenment Astronomers—Richard A. Jarrell
- Nineteenth Century Astronomers—Marvin Bolt
- Twentieth Century Astronomers/Astrophysicists—Virginia Trimble
- Astronomers of the Islamic World—Jamil Ragep
- Nonvocational Astronomers—Thomas R. Williams
- Astronomy Popularizers—Jordan D. Marché, II

All content editors also contributed articles to the *BEA*. JoAnn Palmeri edited the vital references for all entries. Additionally she served as our illustrations editor.

For *errata* information, e-mail us at HOCKEY@UNI.EDU

Thomas Hockey
October 2005

Acknowledgments

The *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* [BEA] is above all the product of its authors. These 410 contributors hail from 40 different countries. Nearly every article is an original piece of scholarship. In some cases, scholars about whom entries were written were themselves gracious enough to write articles for us on other subjects.

At the heart of this 6-year project has been its board of editors. Contrary to what the narrow definition of this job title might imply, these people have been actively providing aid, comfort, and advice to the project, since its inception. As to their editorial contribution specifically, this was often far greater, and more time consuming, than is commonly assumed.

The BEA was the idea of Peter Binfield (then Business Development at Kluwer). Dr. Binfield's assistant, Ms. Livia Iebba, also provided support "above and beyond." Dr. Harry Blom, Springer's Senior Editor for Astronomy and Astrophysics, traveled many kilometers to meet with the BEA editorial board and lend support on the long road to publication.

Usually unsung in a project of this nature are those individuals who did not write for us, but instead recommended other willing and qualified authors. Brevity permits me only two examples: Eva Isaksson of the University of Helsinki and Kevin Krisciunas of the Cerro Tololo Interamerican Observatory.

Brenda G. Corbin at the United States Naval Observatory kindly provided us with a manuscript copy of Hector Copland MacPherson's *Biographical Dictionary of Astronomers* (1940), which was never published. We hope that its use in assembling the BEA is similar to what Dr. MacPherson had wished to achieve. Many, though not most, of the shortest entries in the BEA were paraphrased from MacPherson's work.

Certain scholars consulted with us on astronomers of specific nationalities. We appreciate the assistance of Alexander A. Gurshtein (astronomers of the former USSR), Suzanne Débarbat (Francophone astronomers), Helge Kragh (Scandinavian astronomers), Robert Van Gent (Dutch), A. Vagiswari (Indian astronomers), Kevin D. Pang (Chinese astronomers), Jochi Shigeru (East Asian astronomers), and Rudi Paul Lindner (Byzantine astronomers).

The bibliographies of recent works in the history of astronomy published by Ruth Freitag (Library of Congress) were enormously useful. So was the Finding List of Obituary Notes of Astronomers (1900–1997) prepared by Hilmar Dürbeck and Beatrix Ott, with contributions by Wolfgang Dick. The Astrophysics Data System of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was frequently accessed.

The effort of Daniel W. E. Green, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and International Astronomical Union Center for Astronomical Telegrams, assured that the proper use of new International Astronomical Union comet and minor-planet nomenclatures was maintained.

H. Miller's Thryomanes font facilitated communicating Arabic text between editors. Yuliana Ivakh helped the editor-in-chief with Cyrillic.

Kari Aunan handled thousands of letters during the author-solicitation process. Wesley Even created and maintained the spreadsheet, so necessary for keeping track of the data and long lists generated by the project. Rachel Wiekhorst operated the document scanner. Jeff Guntren prepared the Table of Contents. I am proud to say that all did so while being undergraduate students at the University of Northern Iowa.

Ruby Hockey undertook the cumbersome filing process.

"Thank you" to the members of the Department of Earth Science, University of Northern Iowa [UNI], especially Lois Jerke. I relied on their infrastructure and good humor greatly. Generous, too, was the support of Dean Kichoon Yang, UNI College of Natural Sciences. Linda Berneking of the UNI Donald O. Rod Library, Interlibrary Loan, also deserves special mention.

Editor Marvin Bolt would like to thank the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum and the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Notre Dame for research support.

Editor Katherine Bracher would like to acknowledge the advice and support of Cynthia W. Shelmerdine, Professor of Classics at the University of Texas at Austin.

Editor Jordan D. Marché, II thanks the Department of Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for its strong support, and especially the Woodman Astronomical Library. Concurrently, he acknowledges the other libraries of the University of Wisconsin-Madison system and the Wisconsin State Historical Society Library.

Editor Jamil Ragep wishes to acknowledge Sally P. Ragep for editorial work behind the scenes and also Julio Samsó for help with Andalusian/North African astronomers.

Editor Virginia Trimble wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Leon Mestel, George Herbig, Meinhard Mayer, Harry Lustig, M. G. Rodriguez, Adriaan Blaauw, and Dimitri Klimushkin.

Editor Thomas R. Williams would like to acknowledge Peter Hingley, librarian of the Royal Astronomical Society, and Richard McKim, as well as the staff of Fondren Library at Rice University for their assistance.

The editorial board is grateful for the aid received from the many other scholars and librarians, too many to list here, who assisted with facts, citations, and general comments on individual entries. This public support is echoed by officers of the International Astronomical Union Commission 41 (History of Astronomy)/Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy, Ileana Chinnici and Wayne Orchiston, who, in the *ICHA Newsletter* #3 (2002), wrote regarding the *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomy*: "While the formation of the ICHA came too late for it to be an active participant in the planning phase, we are happy to report that the ICHA Organizing Committee has given the project its whole-hearted support..."



Foreword

In the past four decades, the history of astronomy and cosmology has grown into a professional research area, complete with a journal (*Journal for the History of Astronomy*), sessions devoted to the subject at annual meetings of professional societies, and regular meetings of its own, such as the biennial meetings at the University of Notre Dame. Indeed, the field contains subspecialties, such as archaeoastronomy, that hold regular meetings of their own and have journals.

Astronomy is unique in several respects. First, although the research front in all sciences moves ever faster, constantly increasing the distance between the practitioner and the subject's history, in astronomy the time dimension plays a crucial role in current research (as opposed to, for instance, chemistry), and this means that past data, *e. g.*, of eclipse or sunspot observations, continue to play a role in astronomical research. The historian of astronomy is often the intermediary between the astronomer and these data, especially for earlier periods. Second, among the exact sciences, astronomy is the only field in which amateurs continue to play an active, if supporting, role: In a number of cases professional astronomers rely on the services of the amateurs, and many of the services delivered by these amateurs are very professional indeed. But the lines demarking astronomers from historians and professionals from amateurs are not cut-and-dried. There are museum curators and planetarium educators who are amateurs astronomers or do highly professional research on historical periods, and there are professional astronomers who have an abiding interest in the history of their field for various reasons. And lest we forget, there are very large numbers of readers and television viewers with a passive interest in the history of astronomy for whom the human dimension of the quest to understand the heavens is crucial.

Many of the standard histories of astronomy date from the 1930s and 1950s. But these single-volume histories, which once served both as teaching tools and reference works, have become obsolete in the past few decades. More recent single-volume histories of astronomy can serve only as teaching tools and works of general interest. There has, thus, been a growing need for reference works that cover the results of research into the history of astronomy published in the past half century. Recently, two encyclopedias have been published, *History of Astronomy: an Encyclopedia*, edited by John Lankford, and *Encyclopedia of Cosmology*, edited by Norriss S. Hetherington. Concepts and issues are central in these works. The *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers* is a reference work that focuses on individuals; it adds the human dimension without which no science, or its history, can come to life.

Albert van Helden
Utrecht, September 2005



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Johns Hopkins University
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Seaton Hall University
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Kanagawa University
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American Association of Variable Star Observers
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Universitat de Barcelona
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Universität Kiel

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Ankara University

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Zenit

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Université du Québec

Giancarlo Truffa
Independent Scholar

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Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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- Benno van Dalen
Johann Wolfgang Göthe Universität
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Universiteit Ghent
- Petra Van der Heijden
Universiteit Leiden
- Frans van Lunteren
Universiteit Utrecht
- Steven M. van Roode
Independent Scholar
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California Institute of Technology
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University of Ottawa
- Gerald P. Verbrugghe
Rutgers University
- Andreas Verdun
Universität Bern
- Graziella Vescovini
Università di Firenze
- Živa Vesel
Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (France)
- Jan Vondrák
Observatória na Skalnatom Plese
- Bert G. Wachsmuth
Seaton Hall University
- Christoffel Waelkens
Universiteit Leuven
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Independent Scholar
- Alun Ward
Independent Scholar
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Independent Scholar
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University of Michigan
- Sven Widmalm
Uppsala Universitet
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Astronomisches Rechen-Institut
- Christian Wildberg
Princeton University
- Richard P. Wilds
Independent Scholar
- Thomas R. Williams
Rice University
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University of Nebraska
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- Lodewijk Woltjer
Observatoire de Saint Michel
- Shin Yabushita
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Kyoto Sangyo University
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Kyoto Sangyo University
- Hamid-Reza Giah Yazdi
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National Aeronautics and Space Administration (USA)
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Iowa State University
- Miloslav Zejda
Práce Hvezdárny a Planetária Mikuláše Koperníka
- Endre Zsoldos
Konkoly Obszervatórium



Table of Entries

Names preceded by an article or preposition are alphabetized by the next word in the name. There are two exceptions: One is the Dutch “Van,” “Van de,” “Van den,” and “Van der.” Another is “Warren De La Rue” (alphabetized under D). (Arabic names are alphabetized under the shortened version of the name.)

- ʿAbbās Wasīm Efendi
Abbe, Cleveland
Abbo of [Abbon de] Fleury
Abbot, Charles Greeley
Abbott, Francis
ʿAbd al-Wājid: Badr al-Dīn ʿAbd al-Wājid [Wāhid] ibn Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad al-Ḥanafī
Abetti, Antonio
Abetti, Giorgio
Abharī: Athīr al-Dīn al-Mufaḍḍal ibn ʿUmar ibn al-Mufaḍḍal al-Samarqandī al-Abharī
Abney, William de Wiveleslie
Abū al-Ṣalt: Umayya ibn ʿAbd al-ʿAzīz ibn Abī al-Ṣalt al-Dānī al-Andalusī
 Albuzale
Abū al-ʿUqūl: Abū al-ʿUqūl Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad al-Ṭabarī
Abū Maʿshar Jaʿfar ibn Muḥammad ibn ʿUmar al-Balkhī
 Albumasar
Acyuta Piṣārāṭī
Ādami: Abū ʿAlī al-Ḥusayn ibn Muḥammad al-Ādami
Adams, John Couch
Adams, Walter Sydney
Adel, Arthur
Adelard of Bath
Adhémar, Joseph-Alphonse
Aeschylus
Aḥmad Mukhtār: Ghāzī Aḥmad Mukhtār Pasha
Ainslie, Maurice Anderson
Airy, George Biddell
Aitken, Robert Grant
Albert the Great
 Albertus Magnus
Albrecht, Sebastian
Alcuin
 Alchvine
 Ealhwine
 Flaccus Albinus
Alden, Harold Lee
Alexander, Arthur Francis O’Donel
Alexander, Stephen
Alfonsi, Petrus
Alfonso X
 Alfonso el Sabio
 Alfonso the Learned
 Alfonso the Wise
Alfvén, Hannes Olof Gösta
ʿAlī al-Muwaqqit: Muṣliḥ al-Dīn Muṣṭafā ibn ʿAlī al-Qusṭantīnī al-Rūmī al-Ḥanafī al-Muwaqqit
ʿAlī ibn ʿIsā al-Aṣṭurlābī
ʿAlī ibn Khalaf: Abū al-Ḥasan ibn Aḥmar al-Ṣaydalānī
 ʿAlī ibn Khalaf ibn Aḥmar Akhir [Akhiyar]
Alighieri, Dante
Allen, Clabon Walter
Aller, Lawrence Hugh
Alvarez, Luis Walter
Amājūr Family
Ambartsumian, Victor Amazaspovitch
Amici, Giovanni Battista
ʿĀmili: Bahā al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Ḥusayn al-ʿĀmili
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Anaxagoras of Clazomenae
Anaximander of Miletus
Anaximenes of Miletus
Andalò di Negro of Genoa
Anderson, Carl David
Anderson, John August
Anderson, Thomas David
Andoyer, Marie-Henri
André, M. Charles
Ångström, Anders Jonas
Anthelme, Voituret
Antonjadi, Eugène Michael
Apian, Peter
 Petrus Apianus
Apollonius of Perga
Appleton, Edward Victor
Aquinas, Thomas
Arago, Dominique-François-Jean
Aratus
Archelaus of Athens
Archenhold, Friedrich Simon
Archimedes
Archytas of Tarentum
Argelander, Friedrich Wilhelm August
Argoli, Andrea
Aristarchus of Samos
Aristotle
Aristyllus
Arrhenius, Svante August
Āryabhaṭa I
 Āryabhaṭa the Elder
Āryabhaṭa II
 Āryabhaṭa the Younger
Asada, Goryu
 Yasuaki
Ascham [Askham], Anthony

- Ashbrook, Joseph
 Ashraf: al-Malik al-Ashraf (Mumahhid al-Dīn) ʿUmar ibn Yūsuf
 ibn ʿUmar ibn ʿAlī ibn Rasūl
 Aston, Francis William
 Atkinson, Robert d'Escourt
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 Aurelianus Augustinus
 Autolycus
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 Auzout, Adrien
- Baade, Wilhelm Heinrich Walter
 Babcock, Harold Delos
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 Babinet, Jacques
 Bache, Alexander Dallas
 Backhouse, Thomas William
 Backlund, Jöns Oskar
 Bacon, Francis
 Bacon, Roger
 Bailey, Solon Irving
 Baillaud, Edouard-Benjamin
 Bailly, Jean-Sylvain
 Baily, Francis
 Bainbridge, John
 Baize, Paul-Achille-Ariel
 Baker, James Gilbert
 Baldwin, Ralph Belknap
 Ball, Robert Stawell
 Balmer, Johann Jakob
 Banachiewicz, Thaddeus Julian
 Banneker, Benjamin
 Banū Mūsā
 Bär, Nicholas Reymers
 Raimarus Ursus
 Barbier, Daniel
 Barhebraeus: Gregory Abū al-Faraj
 Grīgōriyōs Bar ʿEbrāyā
 Grīgōriyōs Bar ʿEbroyo
 Bar Ḥiyya: Abraham bar Ḥiyya Savasorda
 Barker, Thomas
 Barnard, Edward Emerson
 Barnothy, Jenö M.
 Barnothy Forro, Madeleine
 Barozzi, Francesco
 Franciscus Barocius
 Barringer, Daniel Moreau
 Bartholin, Erasmus
 Bartholomaeus Anglicus
 Bartsch, Jakob
 Bartschius
 Bates, David Robert
 Bateson, Frank Maine
 Battāni: Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Jābir ibn Sinān al-Battānī
 al-Ḥarrānī al-Ṣābiʿ
 Albategnius [Albatenus]
 Baxendell, Joseph
 Bayer, Johann
- Beals, Carlyle Smith
 Becquerel, Alexandre-Edmond
 Bečvář, Antonín
 Bede
 Beer, Wilhelm
 Behaim, Martin
 Martin of Bohemia
 Belopolsky, Aristarkh Apollonovich
 Ben Solomon: Judah ben Solomon ha-Kohen
 Bennot, Maude Verona
 Benzenberg, Johann Friedrich
 Bergstrand, Östen
 Berman, Louis
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 Bernardus de Trilia
 Bernoulli, Daniel
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 Bevis [Bevans], John
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 Bianchini, Francesco
 Blanchinus, Francisco
 Bickerton, Alexander William
 Biela, Wilhelm Freiherr von
 Biermann, Ludwig Franz Benedikt
 Bigourdan, Camille Guillaume
 Billy, Jacques de
 Biot, Edouard-Constant
 Biot, Jean-Baptiste
 Birjandi: ʿAbd al-ʿAlī ibn Muḥammad ibn Ḥusayn al-Birjandi
 Birkeland, Kristian Olaf Bernhard
 Birkhoff, George David
 Birmingham, John
 Birt, William Radcliff
 Bīrūnī: Abū al-Rayḥān Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad al-Bīrūnī
 Biṭrūjī: Nūr al-Dīn Abū Ishāq [Abū Jaʿfar] Ibrāhīm ibn Yūsuf
 al-Biṭrūjī
 Alpetragius
 Bjerknæs, Vilhelm Frimann Koren
 Blaauw, Adriaan
 Blackett, Patrick Maynard Stuart
 Baron Blackett of Chelsea
 Blagg, Mary Adela
 Blazhko, Sergei Nikolaevich
 Bliss, Nathaniel
 Bobrovnikoff, Nicholas Theodore
 Bochart de Saron [Bochart-Saron], Jean-Baptiste-Gaspard
 Bode, Johann Elert
 Boëthius, Anicius Manlius Torquatus Severinus
 Boguslawsky, Palon [Palm] Heinrich Ludwig von
 Bohlin, Karl Petrus Teodor
 Bohr, Niels Henrik David
 Bok, Bart Jan

- Bond, George Phillips
 Bond, William Cranch
 Borda, Jean-Charles de
 Borelli, Giovanni Francesco Antonio Alfonso
 Boskovic, Rudjer [Roger] J.
 Boss, Benjamin
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 Bouguer, Pierre
 Boulliau, Ismaël
 Bour, Edmond
 Bouvard, Alexis
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 Bowen, Ira Sprague
 Bower, Ernest Clare
 Boyer, Charles
 Bradley, James
 Bradwardine, Thomas
 Brahe, Tycho [Tyge] Ottsen
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 Brandes, Heinrich Wilhelm
 Brashear, John Alfred
 Bredikhin, Fyodor Aleksandrovich
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 Bremiker, Carl
 Brenner, Leo
 Gopčević, Spiridion
 Brinkley, John
 Brisbane, Thomas Makdougall
 Brooks, William Robert
 Brorsen, Theodor Johann Christian Ambders
 Brouwer, Dirk
 Brown, Ernest William
 Brown, Robert Hanbury
 Hanbury Brown, Robert
 Brück, Hermann Alexander
 Brudzewski, Albertus de
 Albertus Blar de Brudzewo
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 Bruhns, Karl [Carl] Christian
 Brünnow, Franz Friedrich Ernst
 Bruno, Giordano
 Bunsen, Robert Wilhelm Eberhard
 Buot [Buhot], Jacques
 Burckhardt, Johann Karl [Jean-Charles]
 Bürgi, Jost [Joost, Jobst]
 Buridan, John
 Burnham, Sherburne Wesley
 Burrau, Carl
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 Calandrelli, Giuseppe
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 Campbell, William Wallace
 Camus, Charles-Étienne-Louis
 Cannon, Annie Jump
 Capella, Martianus (Felix) Mineus [Minneius, Minneus]
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 Carpenter, James
 Carrington, Richard Christopher
 Cassegrain, Laurent
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 Cassini, Giovanni Domenico [Jean-Dominique]
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 Cassini II
 Cassini, Jean-Dominique
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 Cassiodorus, Flavius Magnus Aurelius
 Castelli, Benedetto (Antonio)
 Cauchy, Augustin-Louis
 Cavalieri, Bonaventura (Francesco)
 Cavendish, Henry
 Cayley, Arthur
 Celoria, Giovanni
 Celsius, Anders
 Cerulli, Vincenzo
 Cesi, Federico
 Chacornac, Jean
 Chalcidius
 Challis, James
 Chalonge, Daniel
 Chamberlin, Thomas Chrowder
 Chandler, Seth Carlo, Jr.
 Chandrasekhar, Subrahmanyan
 Chant, Clarence Augustus
 Chapman, Sydney
 Chappe d'Auteroche, Jean-Baptiste
 Charlier, Carl Vilhelm Ludvig
 Charlois, Auguste
 Chaucer, Geoffrey
 Chauvenet, William
 Chemla-Lameche, Felix
 Lamech, Felix
 Chen Kui
 Chen Zhuo
 Chèn Cho
 Chiamonti, Scipione
 Chionades, Gregor [George]
 Chladni, Ernst Florens Friedrich
 Cholgi: Maḥmūd Shāh Cholgi
 Khalji: Maḥmūd Shāh Khalji
 Christiansen, Wilbur Norman
 Christie, William Henry Mahoney
 Christmann, Jacob

- Chrysippus of Soloi
 Cicero, Marcus Tullius
 Clairaut, Alexis-Claude
 Clark Family
 Clausen, Thomas
 Clavius, Christoph
 Clemence, Gerald Maurice
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 Clerke, Agnes Mary
 Coblentz, William Weber
 Cole, Humphrey
 Comas Solá, José
 Common, Andrew Ainslie
 Compton, Arthur Holly
 Comrie, Leslie John
 Comstock, George Cary
 Comte, Auguste (Isidore-Auguste-Marie-François-Xavier)
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 Cooper, Edward Joshua
 Copeland, Ralph
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 Koppernigk, Nicolaus [Nicholas]
 Cornu, Marie Alfred
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 Cotes, Roger
 Couderc, Paul
 Cousins, Alan William James
 Cowell, Philip Herbert
 Cowling, Thomas George
 Crabtree, William
 Craig, John
 Critchfield, Charles Louis
 Croll, James
 Crommelin, Andrew Claude de la Cherois
 Crosthwait, Joseph
 Cuffey, James
 Cunitz [Cunitia, Cunitiae], Maria
 Kunicia, Maria
 Curtis, Heber Doust
 Curtiss, Ralph Hamilton
 Curtz, Albert
 Cysat, Johann Baptist
- d'Agelet, Joseph
 d'Ailly, Pierre
 Petrus de Alliaco
 Peter of Ailli
 d'Alembert [Dalembert], Jean-Le-Rond
 d'Arrest, Heinrich Louis [Ludwig]
 d'Aurillac, Gerbert
 Pope Sylvester II
 d'Azambuja, Lucien
 Daly, Reginald Aldworth
 Damoiseau, Marie-Charles-Théodore de
 Danjon, André-Louis
 Danti, Egnatio
- Rainaldi, Carlo Pellegrino
 Dārandawī: Muḥammad ibn ʿUmar ibn ʿUthmān al-Dārandawī
 al-Ḥanafī
 Darquier de Pellepoix, Antoine
 Darwin, George Howard
 Daśabala
 Davis, Charles Henry
 Davis Locanthi, Dorothy N.
 Locanthi, Dorothy N.
 Davis, Raymond Jr.
 Dawes, William
 Dawes, William Rutter
 Dawson, Bernhard
 De La Rue, Warren
 Dee, John
 Delambre, Jean-Baptiste-Joseph
 Delaunay, Charles-Eugène
 Delisle, Joseph-Nicolas
 Delporte, Eugène-Joseph
 Dembowski, Ercole [Hercules]
 Democritus of Abdera
 Denning, William Frederick
 Derham, William
 Descartes, René
 Deslandres, Henri-Alexandre
 Deutsch, Armin Joseph
 Dick, Thomas
 Dicke, Robert Henry
 Digges, Leonard
 Digges, Thomas
 Dinakara
 Dingle, Herbert
 Diogenes of Apollonia
 Dionis du Séjour, Achille-Pierre
 Dionysius Exiguus
 Dirac, Paul Adrien Maurice
 Divini, Eustachio
 Dixon, Jeremiah
 Dollond, John
 Dollond, Peter
 Dombrovskij [Dombrovsky, Dombrovski],
 Viktor Alekseyevich
 Donati, Giovan Battista
 Donner, Anders Severin
 Doppelmayer [Doppelmayr], Johann Gabriel
 Doppler, Johann Christian
 Dörffel, Georg Samuel
 Dôsitheus of Pélousion
 Douglass, Andrew Ellicott
 Draper, Henry
 Draper, John William
 Dreyer, John Louis Emil
 Dudits [Dudith, Duditus], András [Andreas]
 Dufay, Jean
 Dugan, Raymond Smith
 Dunash ibn Tamim
 Duncan, John Charles
 Dunér, Nils Christoffer
 Dungal of Saint Denis

- Dunham, Theodore, Jr.
 Dunthorne, Richard
 Dürer, Albrecht
 Dymond, Joseph
 Dyson, Frank Watson
 Dziejewski, Wladyslaw
- Easton, Cornelis
 Eckert, Wallace John
 Ecphantus
 Eddington, Arthur Stanley
 Edlén, Bengt
 Eichstad, Lorenz
 Laurentius Eichstadius
 Eimmart, George Christoph
 Einhard
 Einstein, Albert
 Elger, Thomas Gwyn Empy
 Elkin, William Lewis
 Ellerman, Ferdinand
 Ellery, Robert Lewis John
 Ellicott, Andrew
 Ellison, Mervyn Archdall
 Elvey, Christian Thomas
 Emden, Robert
 Empedocles of Acragas
 Encke, Johann Franz
 Engel, Johannes
 Angelus
 Engelhard, Nicolaus
 Ensor, George Edmund
 Ephorus
 Epicurus of Samos
 Eratosthenes of Cyrene
 Erro, Luis Enrique
 Esclangon, Ernest-Benjamin
 Espin, Thomas Henry Espinall Compton
 Euctemon
 Eudemus of Rhodes
 Eudoxus
 Euler, Leonhard
 Eutocius
 Evans, David Stanley
 Evans, John Wainright
 Evershed, John
 Evershed, Mary Acworth Orr
- Fabricius, David
 Fabricius, Johann
 Goldsmid, Johann
 Fabry, Marie-Paul-Auguste-Charles
 Fallows, Fearon
 Fārābī: Abū Naṣr Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn
 Tarkhān al-Fārābī
 Alfarabius
 Farghānī: Abū al-ʿAbbās Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad
 ibn Kathīr al-Farghānī
 Fārisī: Muḥammad ibn Abī Bakr al-Fārisī
 Fath, Edward Arthur
- Fauth, Philipp Johann Heinrich
 Faye, Hervé
 Fazārī: Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm al-Fazārī
 Federer, Charles Anthony, Jr.
 Feild, John
 Fényi, Gyula
 Finck, Julius
 Ferguson, James
 Fernel, Jean-François
 Ferraro, Vincenzo Consolato Antonino
 Ferrel, William
 Fesenkov, Vasilii Grigorevich
 Fèvre, Jean le
 Finé, Oronce
 Orontius Finaeus
 Finlay, William Henry
 Finsen, William S.
 Fisher, Osmond
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 FitzGerald, George Francis
 Fixlmillner, Placidus
 Fizeau, Armand-Hippolyte-Louis
 Flammarion, Nicolas Camille
 Flamsteed, John
 Flaugergues, Honoré
 Fleming, Williamina Paton Stevens
 Focas, John Henry
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 Fontenelle, Bernard le Bovier [Bouyer] de
 Forbush, Scott Ellsworth
 Ford, Clinton Banker
 Foucault, Jean-Bernard-Léon
 Fouchy, Jean-Paul
 Fouchy, Grandjean de
 Fowler, Alfred
 Fowler, Ralph Howard
 Fowler, William Alfred
 Fox, Philip
 Fracastoro, Girolamo
 Franklin-Adams, John
 Franks, William Sadler
 Franz, Julius Heinrich G.
 Fraunhofer, Joseph von
 Freundlich, Erwin
 Finlay-Freundlich, Erwin
 Friedman, Herbert
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 Frisi, Paolo
 Frisius, Gemma Reinerus
 Regnerus
 Fromondus, Libertus
 Frost, Edwin Brant
 Fu An
 Furness, Caroline Ellen
 Fusoris, Jean [Johanne]
- Gaillot, Jean-Baptiste-Aimable
 Galilei, Galileo
 Galle, Johann Gottfried

- Gallucci, Giovanni Paolo
 Gambart, Jean-Félix-Adolphe
 Gamow, George [Georgiy] (Antonovich)
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 Ganeša
 Gaposchkin, Sergei [Sergej] Illarionovich
 Garfinkel, Boris
 Gascoigne, William
 Gasparis, Annibale de
 Gassendi, Pierre
 Gauss, Carl Friedrich
 Gautier, Jean-Alfred
 Geddes, Murray
 Geminus
 Gemma, Cornelius
 Gentil de la Galaisière, Guillaume-Joseph-Hyacinthe
 Jean-Baptiste le
 Gerard of Cremona
 Gerardus Cremonensis
 Gerasimovich [Gerasimovič], Boris Petrovich
 Gersonides: Levi ben Gerson
 Gilbert, Grove Karl
 Gilbert [Gilberd], William
 Gildemeister, Johann
 Giles of Rome
 Aegidius Romanus
 Aegidius Colonna [Columna]
 Gill, David
 Gillis, James Melville
 Gingrich, Curvin Henry
 Ginzburg [Ginsberg], Vitaly Lazarevich
 Giovanelli, Ronald Gordon
 Glaisher, James
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 Godin, Louis
 Godwin, Francis
 Gökmen, Mehmed Fatin
 Goldberg, Leo
 Goldschmidt, Hermann Chaim Meyer
 Goodacre, Walter
 Goodricke, John
 Gore, John Ellard
 Gorton, Sandford
 Gothard, Jenō [Eugen] von
 Gould, Benjamin Apthorp
 Graham, George
 Grassi, Horatio
 Gray, Stephen
 Greaves, John
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 Greenstein, Jesse Leonard
 Greenwood, Nicholas
 Gregoras, Nicephoros
 Gregory [Gregorie], David
 Gregory, James
 Gregory of Tours
 Grienberger, Christopher
 Grigg, John
 Grimaldi, Francesco Maria
 Groombridge, Stephen
 Grosseteste, Robert
 Grotrian, Walter
 Grubb, Howard
 Grubb, Thomas
 Gruithuisen, Franz von Paula
 Guiducci, Mario
 Guillemin, Amédée-Victor
 Guo Shoujing
 Kuo Shou-ching
 Guthnick, Paul
 Gylđen, Johan August Hugo
 Haas, Walter Henry
 Ḥabash al-Ḥāsib: Abū Jaʿfar Aḥmad ibn ʿAbd Allāh al-Marwazī
 Hadley, John
 Hagen, Johann Georg
 Hagihara, Yusuke
 Hahn, Graf Friedrich von
 Hájek z Hájku, Tadeá
 Thaddaeus Hagecius
 ab Hayck, Tadeá
 Nemicus, Tadeá
 Agecio, Tadeá
 Ḥajjāj ibn Yūsuf ibn Maṭar
 Halbach, Edward Anthony
 Hale, George Ellery
 Hall, Asaph
 Hall, John Scoville
 Halley, Edmond
 Halm, Jacob Karl Ernst
 Hansen, Peter Andreas
 Hansteen, Christopher
 Harding, Carl Ludwig
 Haridatta I
 Harkness, William
 Haro Barraza, Guillermo
 Harper, William Edmund
 Harriot, Thomas
 Hartmann, Johannes Franz
 Hartwig, Carl Ernst Albrecht
 Hārūn al-Rashīd
 Hāshimī: ʿAlī ibn Sulaymān al-Hāshimī
 Hatanaka, Takeo
 Hay, William Thomson
 Heckmann, Otto Hermann Leopold
 Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich
 Heis, Edward [Eduard, Edouard]
 Helicon of Cyzicus
 Heliodorus of Alexandria
 Helmholtz, Hermann Ludwig Ferdinand von
 Hencke, Karl Ludwig
 Henderson, Thomas

- Henry, Joseph
Henry of Langenstein
 Henry of Hesse the Elder
 Heinrich von Langenstein
Henry, Paul Pierre and Prosper-Mathieu
Henry, Louis George
Heraclides of Heraclea
 Heraclides of Pontus
 Heraclides Ponticus
Heraclitus of Ephesus
 Heraclitus the Riddler
 Heraclitus the Obscure
Herget, Paul
Herman, Robert
Hermann the Dalmatian
Hermann the lame
 Reichenau, Hermann von
 Hermannus Contractus
Herrick, Edward
Herschel, Alexander Stewart
Herschel, Caroline Lucretia
Herschel, John (Jr.)
Herschel, John Frederick William
Herschel, (Friedrich) William [Wilhelm]
Hertzprung, Ejnar [Einar]
Herzberg, Gerhard
Hesiod
Hess, Victor Franz [Francis]
Hevel, Johannes
 Hevelius
Hevelius, Catherina Elisabetha Koopman
Hey, (James) Stanley
Hicetus
 Nicetus
Higgs, George Daniel Sutton
Hildegard of Bingen-am-Rhine
Hill, George William
Hiltner, William Albert
Hind, John Russell
Hinks, Arthur Robert
Hiorter, Olof
Hipparchus of Nicaea
Hippocrates of Chios
Hirayama, Kiyotsugu
Hire, Philippe de la
Hirst, George Denton
Hirzgarer, Matthias
Hoek, Martinus
Hoffleit, Ellen Dorrit
Hoffmeister, Cuno
Hogg, Frank Scott
Holden, Edward Singleton
Höll, Miksa
 Hell, Maximilian
Holmberg, Erik
Holwarda, Johannes Phocylides [Fokkens]
Homer
Honda, Minoru
Honter, Johannes
Hooke, Robert
Hörbiger, Hanns
Horn d'Arturo, Guido
Hornsby, Thomas
Horrebow, Christian
Horrebow, Peder Nielsen
Horrocks [Horrox], Jeremiah
Hough, George Washington
Hough, Sydney Samuel
Houtermans, Friedrich Georg
Houzeau de Lehaie, Jean-Charles-Hippolyte-Joseph
Hoyle, Fred
Hubble, Edwin Powell
Huggins, Margaret Lindsay Murray
Huggins, William
Hulburt, Edward Olson
Humason, Milton Lassell
Humboldt, Alexander Friedrich Heinrich von
Humphreys, William Jackson
Ḥusayn, Ḥasan and Muḥammad
Hussey, William Joseph
Huth, Johann Sigismund Gottfried
Huygens, Christiaan
Hypatia
Hypsicles of Alexandria

Ibn Abī al-Faṭḥ al-Ṣūfi: Shams al-Dīn Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muḥammad
 ibn Abī al-Faṭḥ al-Ṣūfi
 Abī al-Faṭḥ al-Ṣūfi
Ibn Abī al-Shukr: Muḥyī al-Milla wa-ʿl-Dīn Yaḥyā Abū ʿAbdallāh
 ibn Muḥammad ibn Abī al-Shukr al-Maghribī
 al-Andalusī [al-Qurṭubī]
 Abī al-Shukr
Ibn al-Aʿlām: ʿAlī ibn al-Ḥusayn Abū al-Qāsim al-ʿAlawī al-Sharīf
 al-Ḥusaynī
Ibn Bājja: Abū Bakr Muḥammad ibn Yaḥyā ibn al-Ṣāʿigh al-Tujībī
 al-Andalusī al-Saraqustī
 Avempace
 Bājja
Ibn al-Bannāʾ: Abū al-ʿAbbās Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad ibn ʿUthmān
 al-Azdī al-Marrākushī
 al-Bannāʾ
Ibn Bāšo: Abū ʿAlī Al-Ḥusayn ibn Abī Jaʿfar Aḥmad ibn Yūsuf Ibn Bāšo
 Bāšo
Ibn Ezra: Abraham ibn ʿEzra
 Ezra
Ibn al-Hāʾim: Abū Muḥammad ʿAbd al-Ḥaqq al-Ghāfiqī al-Ishbilī
 al-Hāʾim
Ibn al-Haytham: Abū ʿAlī al-Ḥasan ibn al-Ḥasan
 Alhazen
 al-Haytham
Ibn ʿIrāq: Abū Naṣr Maṣṣūr ibn ʿAlī ibn ʿIrāq
 ʿIrāq
Ibn Ishāq: Abū al-ʿAbbās ibn Ishāq al-Tamīmī al-Tūnisī
 Ishāq

- Ibn al-Kammād: Abū Jaʿfar Aḥmad ibn Yūsuf ibn al-Kammād
al-Kammād
- Ibn Labbān, Kushyār: Kiyā Abū al-Ḥasan Kushyār ibn Labbān
Bashahrī al-Jilī (Gilānī)
Labbān, Kushyār
- Ibn al-Majdī: Shihāb al-Dīn Abū al-ʿAbbās Aḥmad ibn Rajab ibn
Ṭaybughā al-Majdī al-Shāfiʿī
al-Majdī
- Ibn Muʿādh: Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Muʿādh al-Jayyānī
Muʿādh
- Ibn al-Raqqām: Abū ʿAbd Allāh Muḥammad ibn Ibrāhīm ibn ʿAlī
ibn Aḥmad ibn Yūsuf al-Mursī al-Andalusī al-
Tūnisī al-Awsī ibn al-Raqqām
al-Raqqām
- Ibn Rushd: Abū l-Walīd Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad
ibn Rushd al-Ḥafīd
Averroes
Rushd
- Ibn al-Ṣaffār: Abū al-Qāsim Aḥmad ibn ʿAbd Allāh ibn ʿUmar
al-Ghāfiqī ibn al-Ṣaffār al-Andalusī
al-Ṣaffār
- Ibn Sahl: Abū Saʿd al-ʿAlāʾ ibn Sahl
Sahl
- Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ: Najm al-Dīn Abū al-Futūḥ Aḥmad ibn Muḥammad
ibn al-Sarī Ibn al-Ṣalāḥ
al-Ṣalāḥ
- Ibn al-Samḥ: Abū al-Qāsim Aṣbagh ibn Muḥammad ibn al-Samḥ
al-Gharnāṭī
al-Samḥ
- Ibn al-Shāṭir: ʿAlāʾ al-Dīn ʿAlī ibn Ibrāhīm
al-Shāṭir
- Ibn Sid: Isaac ibn Sid
Sid
- Ibn Sinā: Abū ʿAlī al-Ḥusayn ibn ʿAbdallāh ibn Sinā
Avicenna
Sinā
- Ibn Ṭufayl: Abū Bakr Muḥammad ibn ʿAbd al-Malik ibn
Muḥammad ibn Muḥammad ibn Ṭufayl al-Qaysī
Abubacer
Ṭufayl
- Ibn Yūnus: Abū al-Ḥasan ʿAlī ibn ʿAbd al-Raḥmān ibn Aḥmad ibn
Yūnus al-Ṣadafī
Yūnus
- Ibrāhīm ibn Sinān ibn Thābit ibn Qurra
- Ihle, Abraham
- Ingalls, Albert Graham
- Innes, Robert Thorburn Ayton
- Ino, Tadataka
- Irwin, John Henry Barrows
- Isfizārī: Abū Ḥātim al-Muẓaffār ibn Ismāʿīl al-Isfizārī
- Ishāq Ibn Ḥunayn: Abū Yaʿqūb Ishāq ibn Ḥunayn ibn Ishāq
al-ʿIbādī
- Isidore of Seville
Isidorus Hispalensis
- Jābir ibn Aflāḥ: Abū Muḥammad Jābir ibn Aflāḥ
- Jacchia, Luigi Giuseppe
- Jackson, John
- Jacob ben Makhir ibn Tibbon
- Don Profeit Tibbon
Profatius
- Jagannātha Samrāt
- Jaghminī: Sharaf al-Dīn Maḥmūd ibn Muḥammad ibn ʿUmar
al-Jaghminī al-Khwārizmī
- Jai Singh II
- Jansky, Karl Guthe
- Janssen, Pierre Jules César
- Jarry-Desloges, René
- Javelle, Stéphane
- Jawhari: al-ʿAbbās ibn Saʿīd al-Jawhari
- Jeans, James Hopwood
- Jeaurat, Edme-Sébastien
- Jeffreys, Harold
- Jenkins, Louise Freeland
- Jia Kui
- John of Gmunden
Krafft, Johann
- John of Holywood
Johannes de Sacrobosco
Sacrobosco
- John of Lignères
Johannes de Lineriis
- John of [Juan de] Messina
- John of Muris [Murs]
Jean de Meurs
Jehan de Murs
Johannes de Muris
- John [Danko] of Saxony
- John of Toledo
- Johnson, Manuel John
- Jonckheere, Robert
- Jordan, Ernst Pascual
- Joy, Alfred Harrison
- Jurjānī: ʿAlī ibn Muḥammad ibn ʿAlī al-Ḥusaynī al-Jurjānī
(al-Sayyid al-Sharīf)
- Jūzjānī: Abū ʿUbayd ʿAbd al-Wāḥid ibn Muḥammad
al-Jūzjānī
- Jyeṣṭhadeva
- Kaiser, Frederik [Frederick, Friedrich]
- Kaluza, Theodor Franz Eduard
- Kamāl al-Dīn al-Turkmānī: Kamāl al-Dīn Muḥammad ibn Aḥmad
ibn ʿUthmān ibn Ibrāhīm ibn Muṣṭafā
al-Māridīnī al-Turkmānī al-Ḥanafī
- Kamalākara
- Kanka
- Kant, Immanuel
- Kapteyn, Jacobus Cornelius
- Kāshī: Ghiyāth (al-Milla wa-) al-Dīn Jamshīd ibn Masʿūd ibn
Maḥmūd al-Kāshī [al-Kāshānī]
- Kauffman, Nicolaus
Mercator, Nicolaus
- Keckermann, Bartholomew
- Keeler, James Edward
- Keenan, Philip Childs
- Keill, John
- Kempf, Paul Friedrich Ferdinand
- Kepler, Johannes