



# Andreas Cellarius: Harmonia Macrocosmica

By Robert Van Gent

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## The divine sky: History's most beautiful celestial atlas

This collection of celestial maps by Dutch-German mathematician and cosmographer **Andreas Cellarius** (c. 1596 – 1665) brings back to life a masterpiece from the Golden Age of celestial cartography. First published in 1660 in the *Harmonia Macrocosmica*, the complete 29 double-folio maps and dozens of unusual details reproduced here depict the world systems of **Claudius Ptolemy**, **Nicolaus Copernicus**, and **Tycho Brahe**, the motions of the sun, the moon, and the planets, and the delineation of the constellations in various views. Cellarius's atlas, superbly embellished with richly decorated borders depicting cherubs, astronomers, and astronomical instruments, features some of the most spectacular illustration in the history of astronomy.

This reprint includes a copiously illustrated introduction by Robert van Gent, one of the leading Cellarius experts, summarizing the history of celestial cartography from antiquity to late 17th/early 18th century and illuminating the life and work of Andreas Cellarius. Van Gent also discusses the historical and cultural context and significance of the atlas and provides detailed descriptions of the astronomical and iconographical content of the plates, allowing modern readers to fully appreciate the masterwork of Andreas Cellarius and his publisher, Johannes Janssonius.

The book's detailed appendix includes a list of constellation figures with short descriptions of their origin and mythology, a list of star names found on the plates, a glossary of technical words, and a bibliography. Cellarius's exquisite renditions of the constellations will excite the astronomer in anyone.

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### **About the Author**

Robert van Gent is an historian of astronomy associated with the Institute for History and Foundations of Science at Utrecht University. After obtaining his PhD in astronomy at the University of Utrecht, he worked from 1989 to 1999 as curator of astronomy at the Museum Boerhaave in Leiden. He has published on the history of astronomy, celestial cartography, and astronomical instruments.

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