

Regiomontanus Calendarium

Learning Leaflet: Instruments
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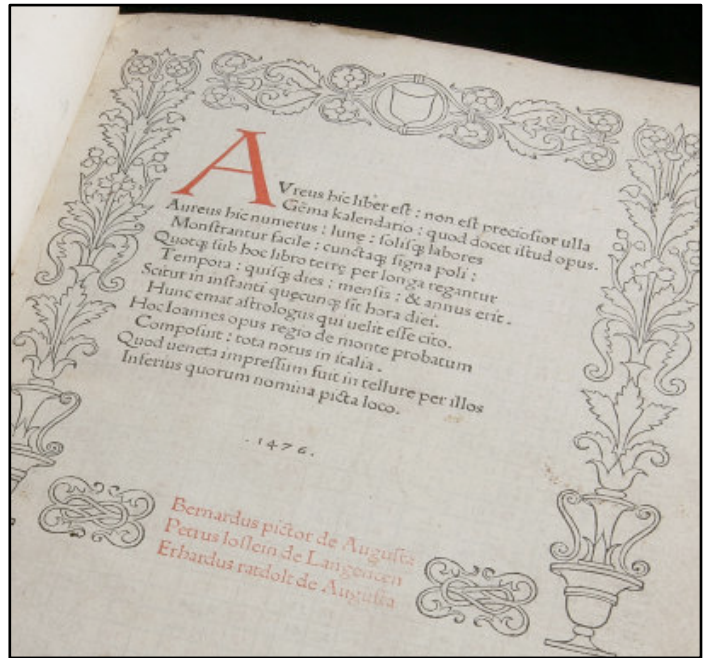
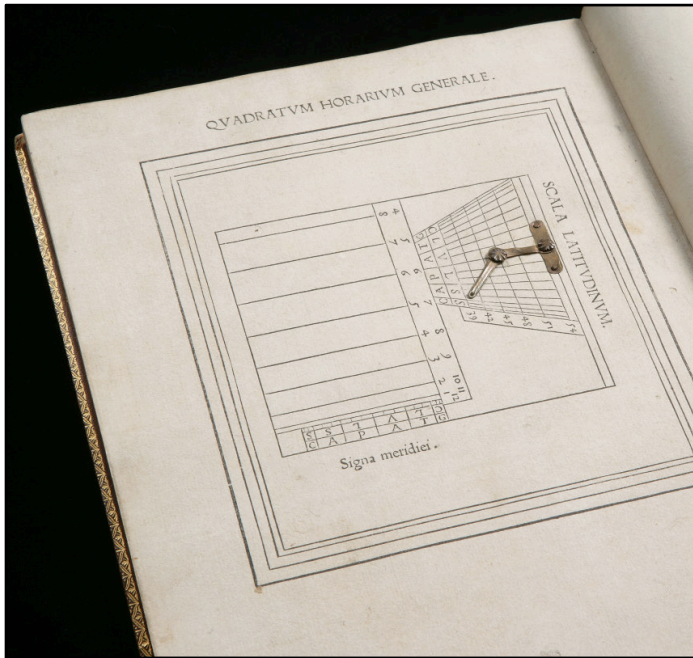


Regiomontanus, *Calendarium* (Venice, 1476)

Exhibit: Galileo's World | Gallery: Music of the Spheres | Section 6, No. 21

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When is a book an instrument?

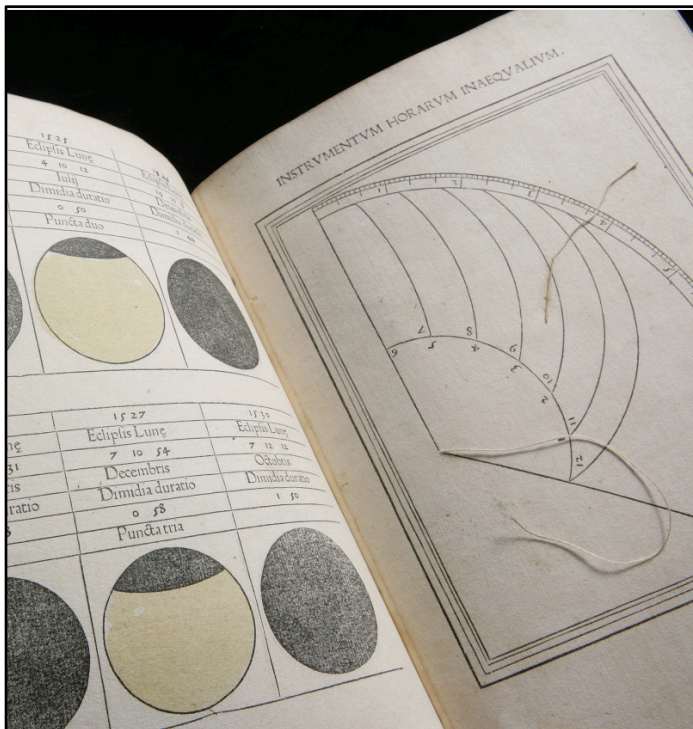


Regiomontanus: *Calendarium*

In this book, Regiomontanus predicted the positions of the Sun and Moon for 40 years. He designed a sundial to work independently of one's latitude (upper left), and a volvelle, or circular dial, to locate the position and phase of the Moon according to date and time (front side). Books became observing instruments in their own right.

The Printing Revolution transformed every field of science in part because of a more widespread use of images. But images were not the only visual components of books. As early as 1476, books became instruments, combining paper and metal in “volvelles,” circular calculating wheels, and even in portable sundials.

This *Calendarium* by Regiomontanus, published in Venice by Erhard Ratdolt, is the earliest work to contain a date on the first page (top right). Regiomontanus wrote a number of other important astronomical works, including the *Epitome* of Ptolemy's *Almagest* (1496; lower left).



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