

HISTORY OF GEOCENTRICITY BOOK SERIES

For much of this year I have been working on a new edition of *Geocentricity*. Indeed, working on it is the main reason why I am behind in my quarterly publication as well as this being a double issue. In the course of the revision, new chapters have been added to the book. Two of those chapters will examine geocentrists past and present. Some were geocentrists because of Scripture, others for philosophical reasons, and a few for scientific reasons. Also, some anti-geocentrists have had some curious reasons and arguments. Their views, too, are worthy of consideration, not because of their pro-heliocentric merit so much as for the reasons they placed their faith in the heliocentric models. Many of those reasons appear ridiculous today. Tischner, for instance, is not a geocentrist but spent his life reprimanding heliocentrists for not removing the sun from the center of the universe when every heliocentric indication shows that the sun orbits the center of the Milky Way.

In the meantime, the Internet has allowed me to collect many of the historic geocentric papers. I shall make these available to the readership of the *Biblical Astronomer*. Each book will be accompanied by biographical information and other information and anecdotes I have collected. The printing format is six by nine inches with the reproduced area spanning as much of the page as possible. (Sometimes the flaws are too evident if a page is too enlarged.) Most of the pages have been enhanced, and some pages that are missing from copies available from other vendors who considered the quality too bad to be worthy of inclusion have been touched up and restored for reading's sake instead of historical appearance.

To make any sense of many of the arguments presented by the authors, you have to remember that the science of their day is not the science we know today. For instance, the reason for why the sky is blue—that blue is halfway between black and white—may be ridiculed today, but in 1850 it made perfect sense. After all, Rayleigh did not find the true cause (preferential scattering of blue light) until about 1880.

Some of our offerings will be in French and German. As a rule, if the title is not in English, then neither is the book.

One theme that runs through the late eighteenth, nineteenth, and early twentieth century works is the rejection of gravity in favor of electromagnetic force as the mechanism to keep the solar system in tact. This is not necessarily bad science given the limited knowledge of

the time. Most geocentric books prefer Tycho Brahe's model of the universe. Some reject Tycho as well as the Copernican system. Some books, albeit none on the current list, have flat-earth overtones. Generally, flat earth advocates see the sun being too small to be the center of anything, which moots the geocentric vs. heliocentric debate.

The following list has the year of publication in the first column, followed by the title and author, followed by the number of pages.

1632	Brahe's Account of the Supernova of 1572	39
1690	<i>De la Cause de la Pesanteur</i> -- Fatio de Duillier	51
1707 v. 1	<i>That the Moon May Be a World</i> -- Wilkins	143
1707 v. 2	<i>That it is Probable the Earth Is One of the Planets</i>	138
1728	<i>Immobility of the Earth</i> -- Jonchere	32
1784	<i>Lucrèce Newtonien</i> --le Sage	11
1784	<i>The le Sage Theory of Gravity</i> -- translated by Abbot	28
1803	<i>Defence of the Divine System</i> -- Prescott	103
1818	<i>Deux Traités de Physique Mechanique</i> -- le Sage	399
1833	<i>David and Goliath</i> -- Lander	133
1885	<i>The Fixed Idea of Astronomical Theory</i> -- Tischner	99
1890	<i>Joshua's Long Day & Hezekiah's Sign</i> -- Totten	159
1900	<i>Earth Stands Fast</i> -- Schöpffer, de Peyster, Allaben	85
1900	<i>Algol the Demon Star</i> -- de Peyster, Allaben	100
1906	<i>Die Bible und Astronomie</i> -- Pasche	420
1915	<i>Fifty Reasons</i> -- Pasche	51
1967	<i>The Heart of the Matter</i> -- van der Kamp	33

We cannot afford to publish all volumes at once. The books will be released one at a time. Each book will be prefaced by an introduction relating what is known about the author followed by an overview of the book's science and, where applicable, its theology.

The first reprint is August Tischner's *The Fixed Idea of Astronomical Theory*. Tischner was not so much a geocentrist as he was an anti-Copernican. He earned that label by opposing the Copernican dogma that the sun is fixed immobile at the center of the universe. Tischner described a double mindedness among astronomers of the nineteenth century. On the one hand, astronomers insisted that the sun was fixed at the center of the universe. At the same time, they believed that the sun orbited the center of the Milky Way. As outlined in my introduction to the book, that double mindedness continues to this day.

Tischner's book also includes a collection of interviews with several of the leading astronomers of his time on the issue of geocentricity. Some of these accounts appear in Schöpffer's and Pasche's books. See the editorial for the status and price of Tischner's book.