Erasmus Reinhold Encyclopedia Article

Erasmus Reinhold

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1511-1553

German astronomer and mathematician who calculated the *Tabulae Prutenicae* (1551)—the first practical set of planetary tables based on Nicolaus Copernicus's theory. More accurate than the *Alfonsine Tables*, Reinhold's tables were widely adopted and provided a strong argument in favor of Copernicanism. Reinhold's focus on Copernicus's mathematical modeling and silence regarding the physical reality of heliocentrism—the notion that Earth revolved around the Sun, not vice versa—encouraged a similar attitude in German astronomers that persisted, long after his death from the plague, into the late sixteenth century.