Johannes De Sacrobosco Encyclopedia Article

Johannes De Sacrobosco

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Johannes De Sacrobosco

1195-1256

English astronomer and mathematician, also known as John of Holywood or John of Halifax, whose *Tractatus de sphaera* (1220) helped popularize the ideas of Ptolemy (fl. 100s). In 1472 the book became Europe's first printed work on astronomy, and despite a number of errors, it continued to be widely used until the seventeenth century. Sacrobosco called for calendar reform in *De anni ratione* (1232), and discussed the use of the quadrant by astronomers in *Tractatus de quadrante.*