Lippershey, Hans (1570-1619) Encyclopedia Article

Lippershey, Hans (1570-1619)

The following sections of this BookRags Literature Study Guide is offprint from Gale's For Students Series: Presenting Analysis, Context, and Criticism on Commonly Studied Works: Introduction, Author Biography, Plot Summary, Characters, Themes, Style, Historical Context, Critical Overview, Criticism and Critical Essays, Media Adaptations, Topics for Further Study, Compare & Contrast, What Do I Read Next?, For Further Study, and Sources.

(c)1998-2002; (c)2002 by Gale. Gale is an imprint of The Gale Group, Inc., a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Gale and Design and Thomson Learning are trademarks used herein under license.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction: "Social Concerns", "Thematic Overview", "Techniques", "Literary Precedents", "Key Questions", "Related Titles", "Adaptations", "Related Web Sites". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

The following sections, if they exist, are offprint from Beacham's Guide to Literature for Young Adults: "About the Author", "Overview", "Setting", "Literary Qualities", "Social Sensitivity", "Topics for Discussion", "Ideas for Reports and Papers". (c)1994-2005, by Walton Beacham.

All other sections in this Literature Study Guide are owned and copyrighted by BookRags, Inc.

Contents

Lippershey, Hans (1570-1619) Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Lippershey, Hans (1570-1619).....3

Lippershey, Hans (1570-1619)

German-born Dutch lens maker

Although there is some debate, most historians argue that Hans Lippershey was the first inventor of the **telescope**. Born in Wesel (Germany), Lippershey migrated to Zeeland in the Netherlands. Little is known about Lippershey's personal life except that he married in 1594 and officially became a citizen of his adopted country in 1602.

According to fragmented documentary evidence (including third party diary entries), Lippershey, an eyeglass maker, developed the idea for the telescope after watching two children in his eyeglass shop play with his lenses. The legend holds that children grasping two lenses and, looking through both simultaneously, noticed that a **weather** vane on a nearby church steeple seemed to appear larger and clearer than visible by normal sight. Lippershey realized the potential of this accidental discovery and proceeded to make a telescope by attaching lenses at the two ends of a tube.

Lippershey applied for a patent in 1608, but the device could not be kept a secret and the patent was eventually denied. Others came forth claiming to have invented the new device, including Jacob Metius and Sacharias Janssen, both of the Netherlands. Regardless, Lippershey's application for a patent remains the earliest record of a telescope, which he called a *kijker*, or "looker." Lippershey also benefited financially from his invention through the Dutch government, which paid him to construct several telescopes for military use.

See Also

Hubble Space Telescope (Hst)