Rheticus (Georg Joachim Von Lauchen) Encyclopedia Article

Rheticus (Georg Joachim Von Lauchen)

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Rheticus (Georg Joachim Von Lauchen)

1514-1574

German mathematician whose *Narratio prima* (1540) was the first published account of Nicolaus Copernicus's work. A disciple of Copernicus, Rheticus was instrumental in convincing him to publish *De revolutionibus* (1542). Rheticus also was first to relate trigonometric functions to angles rather than arcs of circles; prepared the best trigonometric tables of his time, which contained values for sines, tangents, secants, and their complementary functions to ten decimal places; and wrote a biography of Copernicus which has since been lost.