Willem Jakob 'Sgravesande Encyclopedia Article

Willem Jakob 'Sgravesande

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Willem Jakob 'Sgravesande

1688-1742

Dutch physicist best known among his contemporaries as an exponent of Newtonianism, in particular for his *Mathematical Elements of Physics* (1720, 1721), which was easily the most influential semi-popular account of Newton's ideas prior to 1750. 'sGravesande elaborated on the methodology of Isaac Newton's work and helped to created a new school of experimental physics in Holland. 'sGravesande's 1722 free-fall experiments supported Gottfried Leibniz's interpretation of *vis viva*—"living force"—as the force of a body in motion.