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## On the Cover

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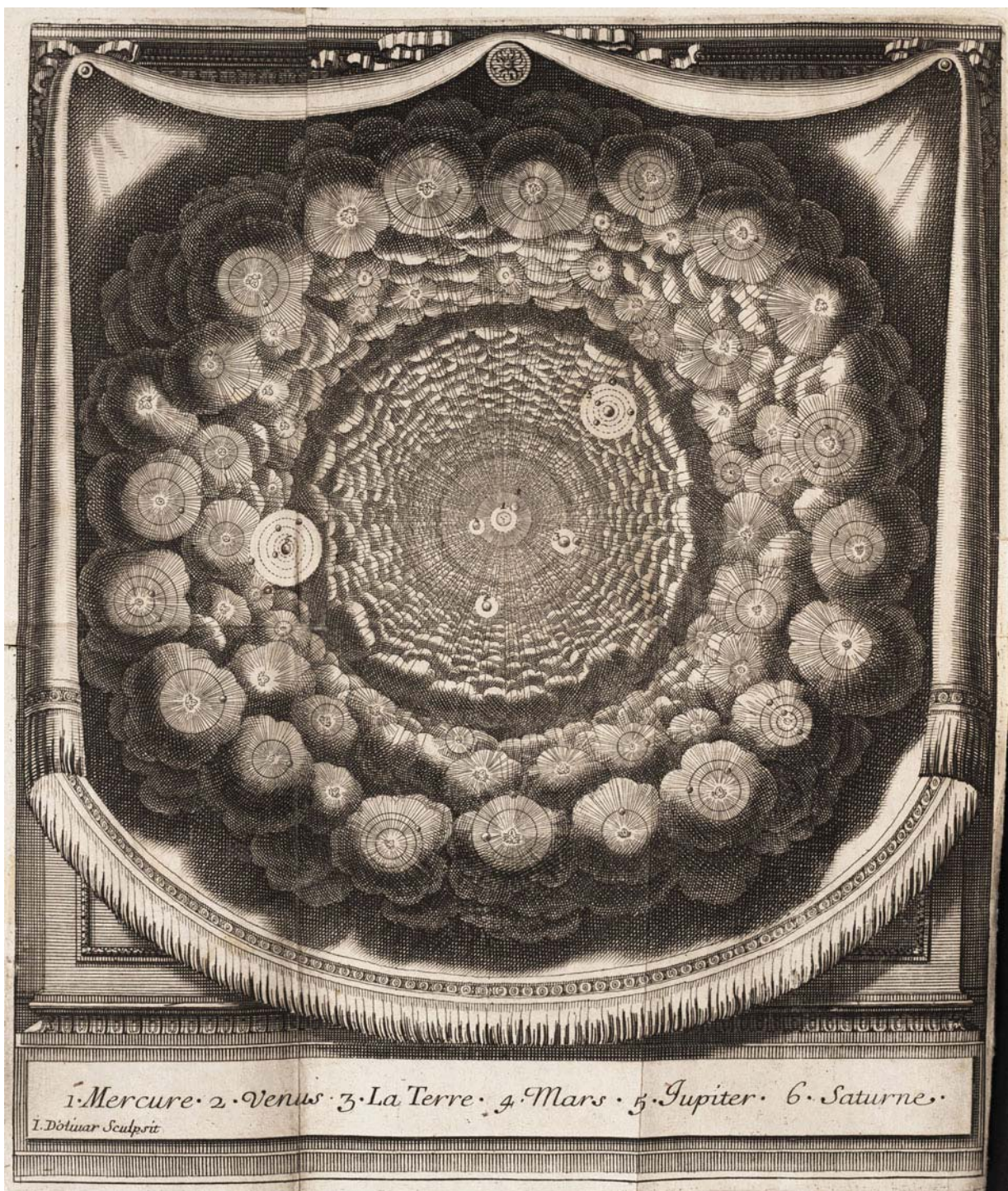
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# SciTech News

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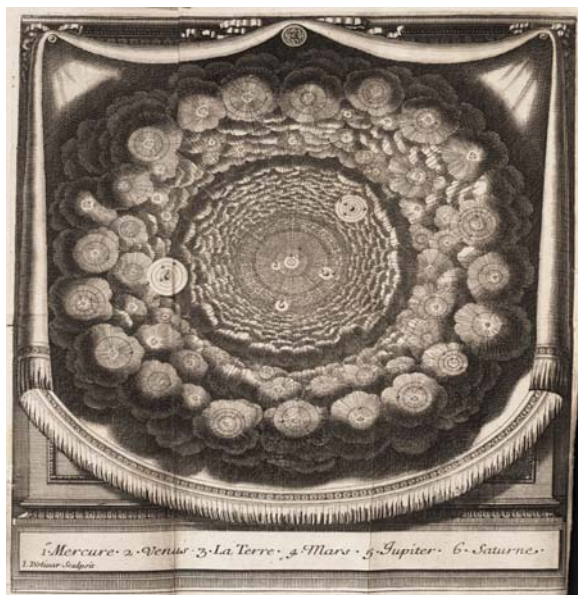
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Ellis Mount, Editor Emeritus



## On the Cover



René Descartes has proposed in 1644 that stars were like suns, and thus might have planetary systems of their own. This idea, known as the “plurality of worlds,” proved quite popular. One early Cartesian, Bernard de Fontenelle, offered a wonderful engraved image that shows the solar system at the center (including the newly discovered moons of Jupiter and Saturn, and surrounding that, a host of stellar systems, many with planetary orbits drawn in. The image is from Bernard de Fontenelle, *Entretiens sur la pluralité des mondes* (Paris, 1686; photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology.)

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