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On the Cover

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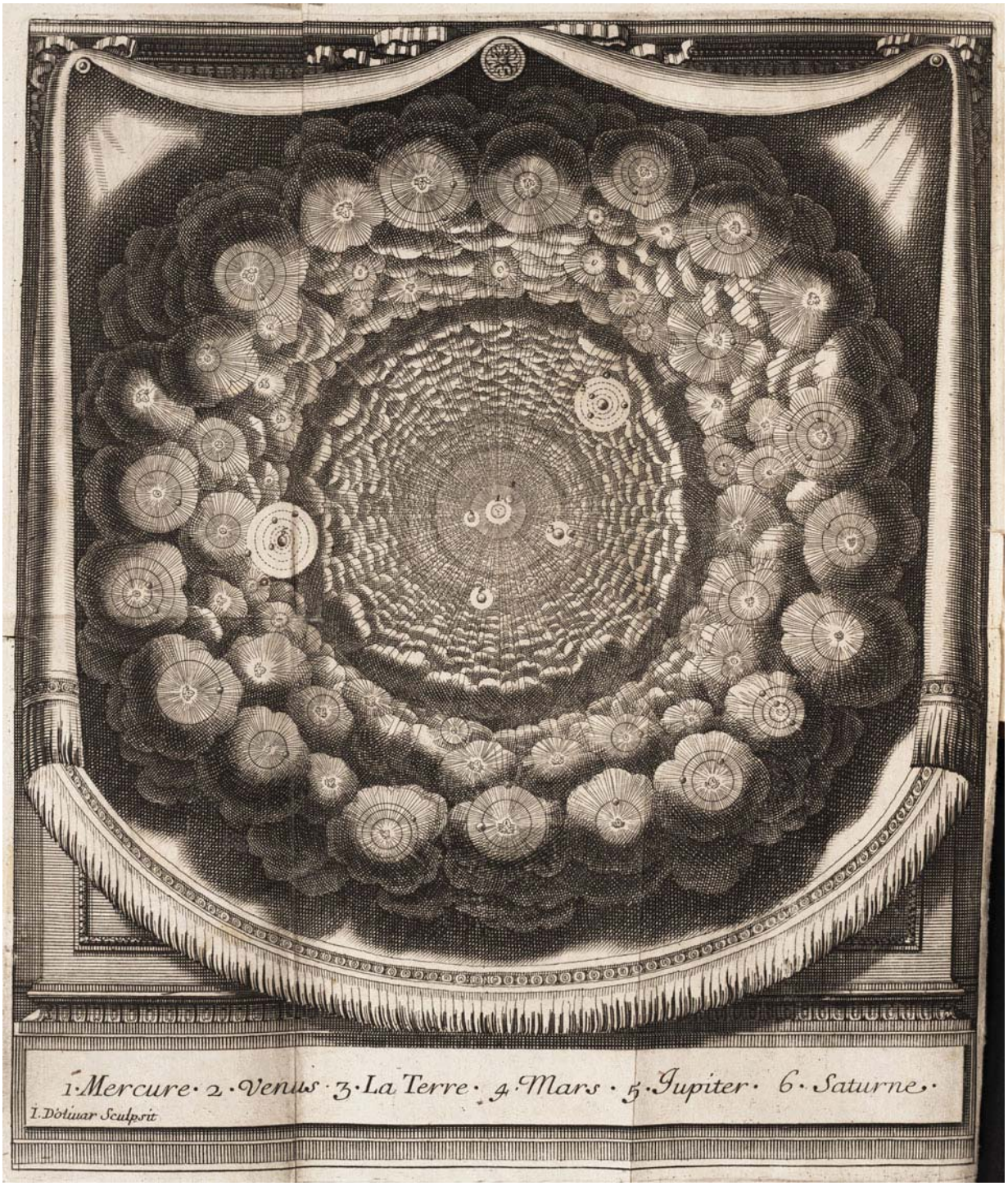
SciTech News

The Official Bulletin for the Chemistry, Engineering, and Science-Technology Divisions and the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association



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SciTech News

Ellis Mount, Editor Emeritus

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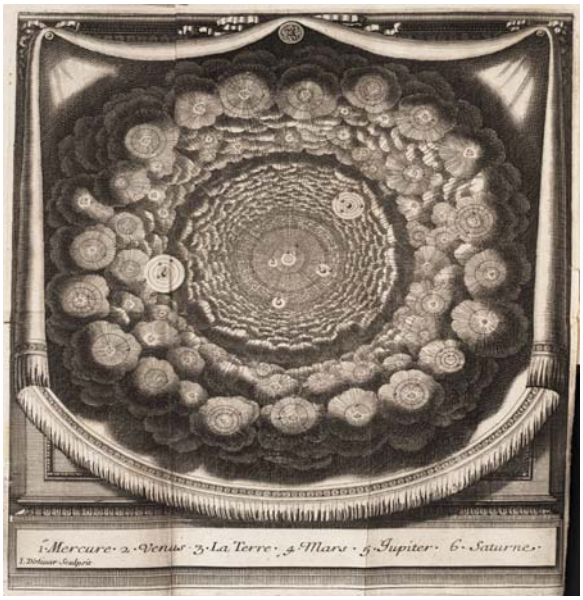
On the Cover



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.*)

Feature Articles

SciTech News Call for Articles.....4

News from the Sponsoring Divisions

Chemistry Division..... 9
Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division..... 12
Engineering Division 14
Science-Technology Division..... 16
Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division 18

Departments

From the Editor 3
Web Reviews 21
Beyond the Chemistry Web 25
Sci-Tech Book News Reviews..... 27

Index of Advertisers

ACS 49
Annual Reviews..... 8
Cuadra Associates 19
Global Translations 15
McGraw-Hill 20
Nature Publishing Group..... 24
Powell's Technical Books 47
Smithers-Rapra..... 5
World Scientific 13

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