

January 2012

## On the Cover

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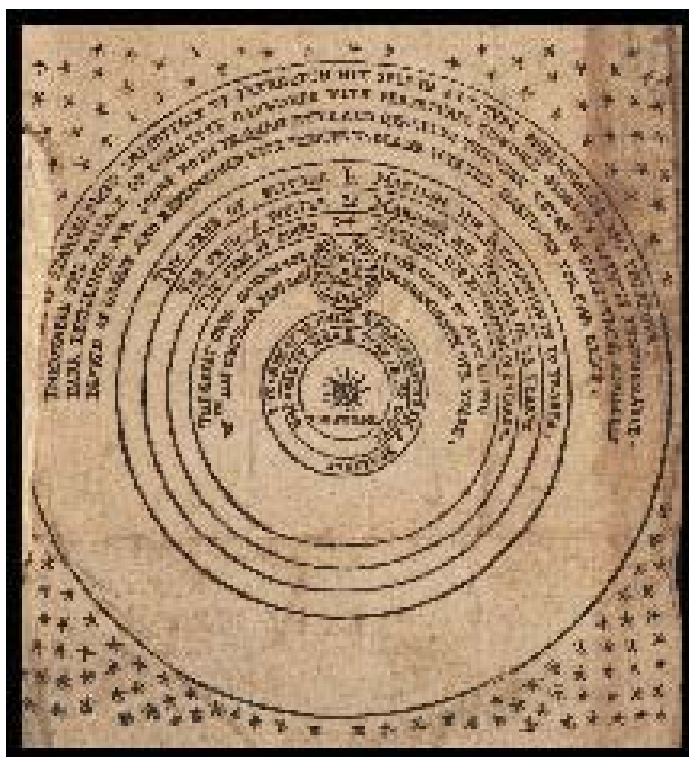
### Recommended Citation

(2012) "On the Cover," *Sci-Tech News*: Vol. 66 : Iss. 1 , Article 1.  
Available at: <http://jdc.jefferson.edu/scitechnews/vol66/iss1/1>

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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

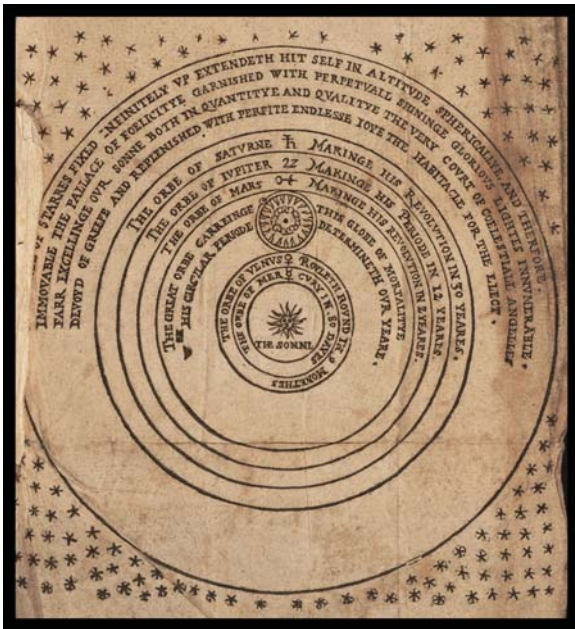




# SciTech News



## On the Cover



Nicolas Copernicus was daring enough to propose in 1543 that the earth is a planet and rotates on its axis, but he still thought that the stars are part of an enormous stellar sphere. Copernicus stopped the stellar sphere from rotating, but he never dreamed that it might not exist at all. The first person to take that step, cutting the stars loose from their sphere and proposing that they might extend out indefinitely, was an Englishman, Thomas Digges. In an appendix to a new edition of his father's almanac, Digges suggested that the stars "indefinitely up extendeth," and he showed just that on a woodcut of the cosmos that he included with his "Perfit Description of the Coelestiall Orbes", first published in 1576. The illustration here is from a later edition of Leonard Digges, *Prognostication euerlastinge* (London, 1596). All editions are very scarce. (Photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology).

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### Copy Deadline

Issue Number 1 .....	Feb 1
Issue Number 2 .....	April 1
Issue Number 3 .....	Aug 1
Issue Number 4 .....	Nov 1

# SciTech News

Volume 66, Number 1 (2012)  
ISSN 0036-8059

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**SCITECH NEWS** (ISSN 0036-8059) is published quarterly (March, May, September, December) by the Chemistry, Engineering, and the Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association, 132 Hemingway Place, Georgetown, KY, 40324, (859) 539-5810.

**Publication Policy:** *SciTech News* is the official bulletin of the Chemistry, Engineering, Science-Technology Divisions, the Aerospace Section of the Engineering Division, and the Materials Research and Manufacturing Section of the Chemistry Division of the Special Libraries Association. The contents of articles and editorials are not to be construed as being or representing the official position of the sponsoring divisions.

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