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On the Cover

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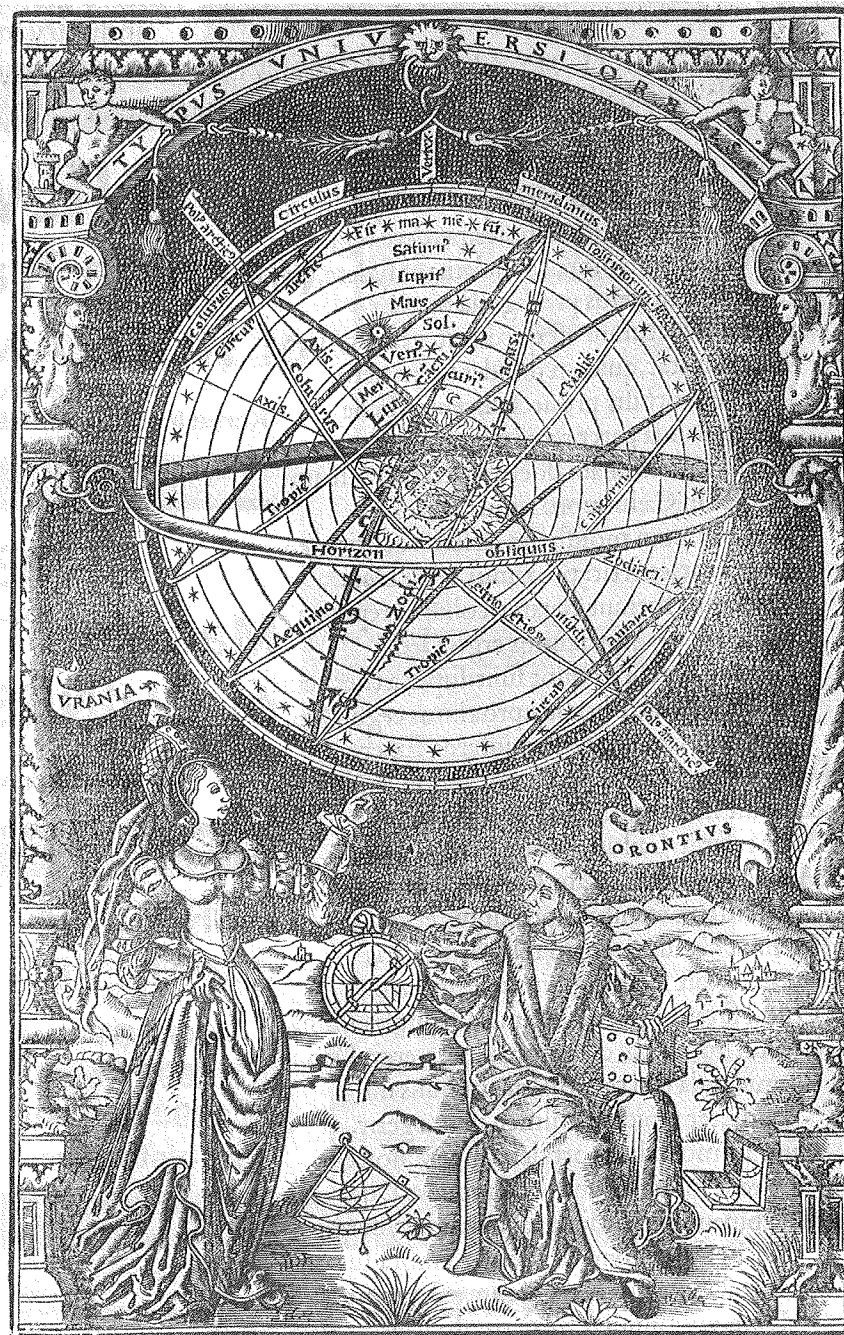
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Ellis Mount, Editor Emeritus



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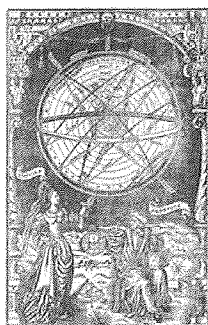
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On the Cover



Oronce Finé was a French astronomer and mathematician who wrote several beautiful treatises on astronomy, including *De Mundi sphaera (On the Heavenly Spheres, Paris, 1542)*, from which the cover illustration is taken. He was unusual in that he designed most of his woodcut illustrations himself, and he invented a type of shading, known as *criblé*, that is quite distinctive. The woodcut displays, at the top, an armillary sphere, on which is superimposed a cosmological diagram, with the earth at the center. It stands out nicely against the *criblé* background. Below, Urania, the muse of astronomy, points to the heavens, while the author (Orontius) demonstrates the use of an astrolabe. (Photo and caption courtesy of the Linda Hall Library of Science, Engineering & Technology).

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