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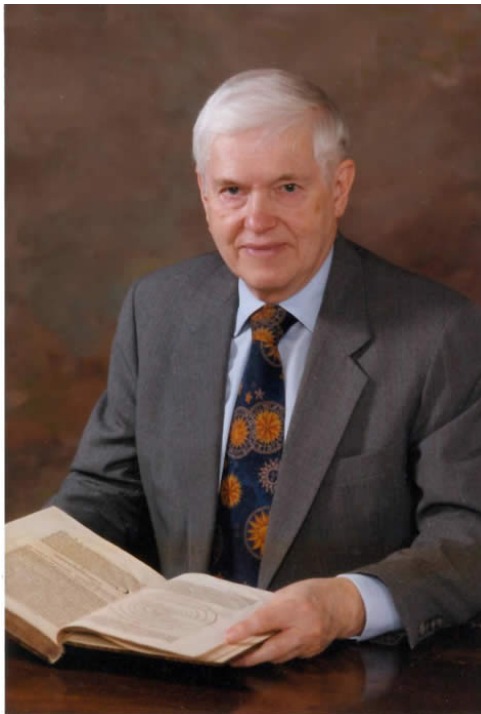
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The Book Nobody Read: A Closer Look at the Book that Moved the World

A free lecture sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science and the Center for Public Humanities

Featured speaker: Dr. Owen Gingerich, Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and of the History of Science at Harvard University and a senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory



Nicholas Copernicus' famous book, *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres* (1543), stopped the sun and threw the earth into motion, leading to one of the great revolutions in scientific thought. Yet it has been called "the book that nobody read," because of its very challenging technical content. Owen Gingerich, a leading historian of astronomy, has discovered through meticulous research that this assumption is badly mistaken. A bibliographic detective, Prof. Gingerich tells how he searched worldwide for copies of the book, in order to examine the notes written into copies by its many early readers. Involved are the FBI, the KGB, a hapless Marxist, the English art squad, and the Italian Carabinieri. Also involved are the history of the pretzel, the center of the universe, the Church's censorship of Copernicus' words, "the divine handiwork," and how the Spanish Inquisition allowed books that had been banned by Rome.

Friday, 24 February 2012, at 7:00 pm.

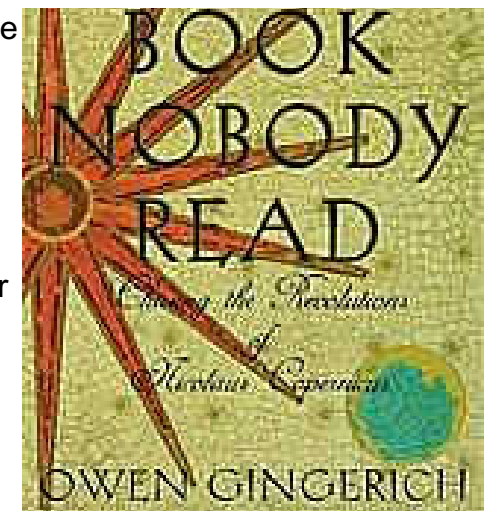
Location: Boyer Hall 131, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are at <http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.

Owen Gingerich is Professor Emeritus of Astronomy and of the History of Science at Harvard University and a senior astronomer emeritus at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory. A former vice president of the American



Philosophical Society, he has also served as chairman of the US National Committee of the International Astronomical Union. His research interests have ranged from the re-computation of an ancient Babylonian mathematical table to the interpretation of stellar spectra. Professor Gingerich is a leading authority on the astronomers Johannes Kepler and Nicholas Copernicus. For three decades he carried out a survey of Copernicus' great book *De revolutionibus*, examining almost 600 original copies in libraries throughout the world. His annotated census of these books was published in 2002 as a 434-page monograph. In recognition of these studies he was awarded the Polish government's Order of Merit in 1981, and subsequently an asteroid was named in his honor. An account of his Copernican adventures, *The Book Nobody Read*, is in fourteen foreign editions.

The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.



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