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NEWSLETTER

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5th IOAA SILESIA POLAND 2011



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Media patrons:

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Friday, 2nd September 2011

Today's Schedule

Students Katowice

- 7⁰⁰ – 9⁰⁰ breakfast at the hotel
- 9⁰⁰ – 12⁰⁰ free time (shopping – Silesia City Centre)
- 12³⁰ – 14³⁰ lunch at the hotel
- 16⁰⁰ – 22⁰⁰ party in Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park in Chorzów

Leaders Kraków

- 7⁰⁰ – 8⁰⁰ breakfast at the hotel
- 9⁰⁰ – 13⁰⁰ IBM #5 syllabus discussion, elections for the next IOAA
- 13⁰⁰ – 14⁰⁰ lunch at the hotel
- 14³⁰ – 16⁰⁰ transfer to Chorzów
- 16⁰⁰ – 22⁰⁰ party in Upper Silesian Ethnographic Park in Chorzów
- 22⁰⁰ - return to the hotel in Kraków

Karaoke stars and the Underground Journey

While leaders and judges were discussing in Cracow, the participants of 5th IOAA took trips in Silesia to explore the best tourist attractions this region can offer. The historical coal mine Guido is one of them. After the return and quick dinner some of the participants decided to amuse others with singing beautiful songs at Karaoke night.



International Astronomical Youth Camp

Imagine spending 3 weeks of your summer in beautiful scenery working with other students from all over the world on an astronomical project of your choice. The International Astronomical Youth Camp (IAYC) is a three-week long summer camp aiming to promote knowledge on astronomy and related sciences in a unique international atmosphere. It is organized by a non-profit organization IWA e.V. – International Workshop for Astronomy.

The IAYC is different from most astronomical camps for two reasons: the international character and the fact that you carry out your own small research project. You will not just accept facts, but you will discover them yourself or working together with other people. The IAYC is therefore not like staying in a hotel and following a summer school or an astronomy course. We are proud that award-winning projects were carried out during the camp and many of the IAYC alumni chose science as their profession and work in leading astronomical centers.

As a participant you will explore astronomy related projects in one of the 7 working groups - together with other young people. These projects are done in a working group of your choice and depend on your own interest. The working groups themselves will be led by young scientists and focus on a specific field in astronomy. Each camp offers a wide range of working groups and topics, from practical astronomy and basic theoretical astronomy over simulations in astronomy and electronic-robotronic engineering to high energy astrophysics, astrochemistry and not-so-introductory physics. There will be something for everyone from the complete beginner to the ambitious student.

As well as the astronomical program, there are many non-astronomical activities such as group games, sporting events, singing evenings, hiking tours and an excursion. Since it is an international camp, the camp language is English.

In the long history of the camp (over 50 years) it took place in such places as: Klingenthal (Germany), Vép (Hungary), Eichendorf (Germany), Závadka nad Hronom (Slovakia), Třemešek (Czech Republic), and many others across Europe.

For more details, application form, outlines of projects and pictures from previous camps please check out www.iayc.org or write our info service: info@iayc.org



A little commentary

If we talk about Nicolaus Copernicus, we always have in mind his work – “De Revolutionibus” – that was being written in Frombork for the period of thirty-three years. On the other hand, it took him five years (1507-1512) to write a short work entitled “Nicolaus Copernicus’s little commentary on the hypotheses formulated by himself for the heavenly motions.” The work was published many years after its author’s death. Historians of science, especially astronomy historians and biographers supposed that the work was lost. In XIX century fantastically preserved handmade copies of the mentioned work were found! One of them was in the Library of the Astronomical Observatory in Stockholm. Its postulates practically summarise the major Copernicus’s work in which he was going to present the results of his observations and cogitations:

- there is no common centre of all circles (heavenly spheres),
- the centre of the Earth is not the centre of the universe,
- all planets go around the Sun,
- the proportion of the size of the Earth to the distance from the Sun is bigger than the proportion of the size of the Earth’s orbit to the size of fixed stars,
- the motions observed in the sky are not the consequence of the motion of the heavenly sphere, but they are the consequence of the Earth motion,
- the motion of the Sun is a consequence of the Earth motion,
- the planets motion, their retrograde motion and prograde motion are the combination of the motion of planets around the Sun and the Earth motions,

However, “De Revolutionibus” is drawn most attention to. Below, there is a presentation of the people who kept a hand writing version known as the autograph and the places where they were kept:

1. Nicolaus Copernicus (1473 - 1543) - Frombork,
2. Tiedeman Giese (1480 - 1550) - Warmia,
3. Jerzy Joachim Retyk (1514 - 1574) - Lipsk, Cracow, Koszyce,
4. Walentyn Otho (around 1545 - ok. 1603) - Koszyce, Heidelberg,
5. Jakub Christmann (1554 - 1613) - Heidelberg,
6. Jan Amos Komeński (1592 - 1670), places unknown,
7. Otto von Nositz (1608 - 1664) and heirs, Jawor Śląski,Prag,

8.The National Museum Library in Prag (1945 - 1956),

9. Jagiellonian Library in Cracow Krakowie (from 25.09.1956 to date).

Having a look at the hand writing, one can get to know much about the author himself. Even calligraphy style of writing, called humanist italics, gives evidence to the orderliness of his main thought. Regular charts and clear drawings show the author’s greatness. One can notice fragments written as the consequence of a kind of inspiration. The ink was getting lighter and lighter, suggesting that some water was added. On another page, there are stains; the ink could get spilled. Probably, Nicolaus Copernicus’s inkstand was always full. Different thickness of writing may be the result of different thickness of a cut goose quill. In some tables, the author used red ink to highlight headings.

It is visible that the work was being written for many years and in its ending, one can see the craft of a good writer. Even without knowing Latin, astronomy and geometry and merely having a look at the pages, you can get to know so much information about the character and genius of Nicolaus Copernicus.

Jacek Szczepanik

