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Latin, that strangely familiar language…

Or, "Say it in Latin!!" ™

Ready?

When you want to say
"and so on..."

Et cetera !

...

When you want to say "the other way around..."

Vice versa !

...

When you want to say "the thing for itself..."

Per se !

...

and "that is to say ..."?

Id est !

...

and "and on and on and on and on"?

Ad infinitum!

...

and "until you puke"?

Ad nause<u>am</u>!

...

and "after death"?

Post mortem!

and "in the morning"?

Ante merid<u>iem</u>!
(a.m.)

(astronomical term referring to position of sun in sky)

and "in the afternoon"?

Post meridiem!

and a vicious personal attack, such as in a debate?

Ad hominem!

Possibly the only Latin phrase to have made it onto the American bumper sticker, thanks to Robin Williams's performance in a Peter Weir smash hit...

Carpe diem!

Well, perhaps this other one as well...

Semper fidelis!

Term for a stipend commensurate with daily living expenses...

Per di<u>em</u>!

Inflection: Grammatical function indicated by the word ending

Compare:

Who is it? (subject case)

Whom do you wish to see? (objective case)

Whose is it?

(genitive [=possessive] case of what is esentially the same word)

A requisite minimum number of people ("of whom")...

Quorum!

The motto of the United States, struck on the back of every coin...

E pluribus unum!

And the motto of the City of Detroit? (a toughie...)

Speramus meliora / resurget cineribus!

On bookplates, "from the library of..."

Ex libris!

The conventional means of indicating a year in the Christian calendar...

Anno domini!

When you want to say "Let us give blessings to the Lord"

(or perhaps choose a pizzeria)...

[benedicamus] Domino!

When you want to say
"the voice of the people"...

Vox populi!

And "the stiffness of death"?

Rigor mortis!

And when the stiffness of death has gone to its logical conclusion?

(Hint: let it R.I.P.)

Requiescat in pace!

A holiday carol: "Give us peace"...

Dona nobis pacem!

The chant the self-flagellating monks are intoning in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail...*

Pie Jesu domine, dona eis requi<u>em</u>! (thud)

So, depending on its grammatical function, the word "Lord" takes different forms, including

- Domini
- Domino
- Domine

When one comment has nothing to do with the last one, you say "That really <u>doesn't follow</u>"

Non sequitur!

For an e-mail response "concerning this subject" what two-letter Latinism does your computer use?

Re!

(Short for "in re," with ablative form of "res," thing, matter)

The way to say, "you scratch my back, I'll scratch your back"...

Quid pro quo !

(something for something else)

When a lawyer takes on a case free of charge...

Pro bono!

= pro bono publico, "for the public good"

When you want to say "by the fact itself"...

Ipso facto!

When you want to describe the <u>means of operating</u> of a criminal...

Modus operandi!

A type of medieval book used to prepare people for meeting their end with dignity...

Ars moriendi!

Things which <u>must be put out</u> (propagated) for the sake of public opinion...

Propaganda!

A "great work"?

Magnum opus!

# Medieval jurisprudence: "The Great Charter" ?

Magna carta!
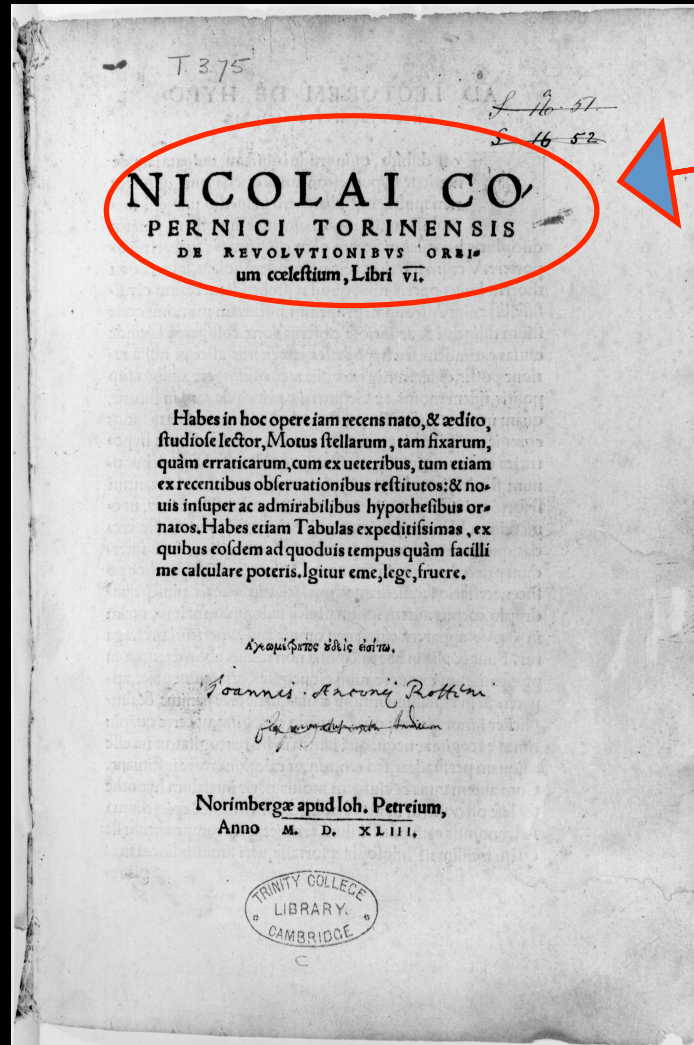
And "You should have the body" ?

Habeas corpus!

Plus:

- alter ego ("other I")
- ante bellum ("before the War")
- exempli gratia ("for the sake of example")
- ex officio ("by dint of one's office")
- mea culpa ("by my own fault")
- prima facie ("on the first view")
- reductio ad absurdum ("reduction to absurdity")
- status quo
- sine qua non
- sui generis
- sic semper tyrannis
- bona fide

And the history of the book here?
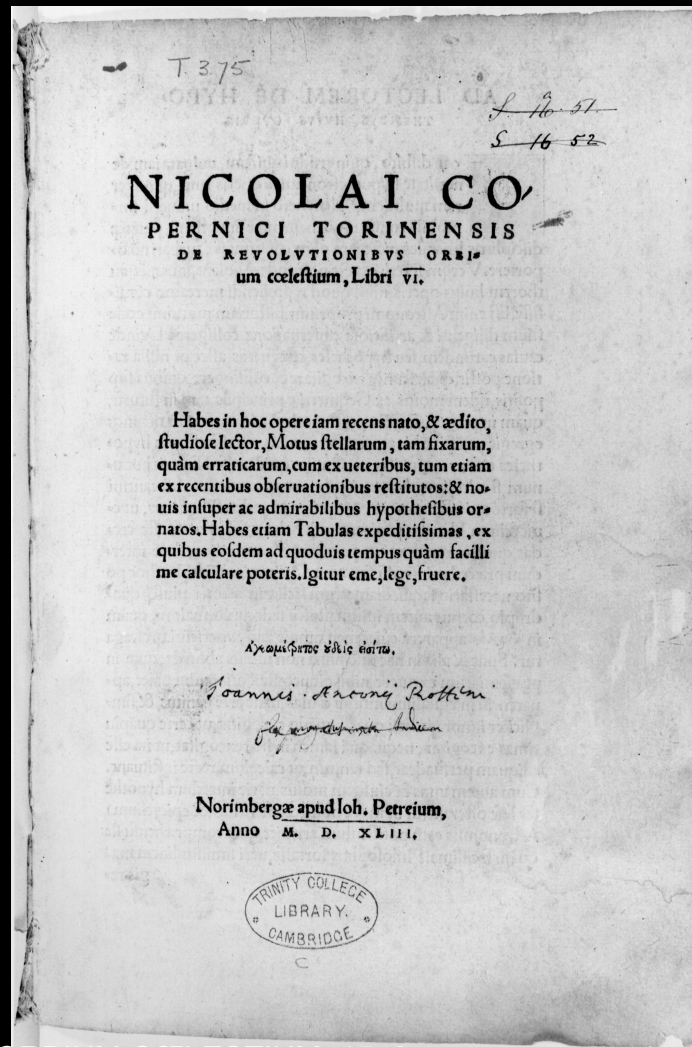
Author's name and title of the work (Nicholas Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus ...*)

NICOLAI CO'
PERNICI TORINENSIS

Note that in Latin all forms of the name take the genitive (inflected) form

Hence *Nicolai Copernici Torninensis*

If English were like Latin on this point, we would say, referring to someone named Nicole Cooper Torrance,
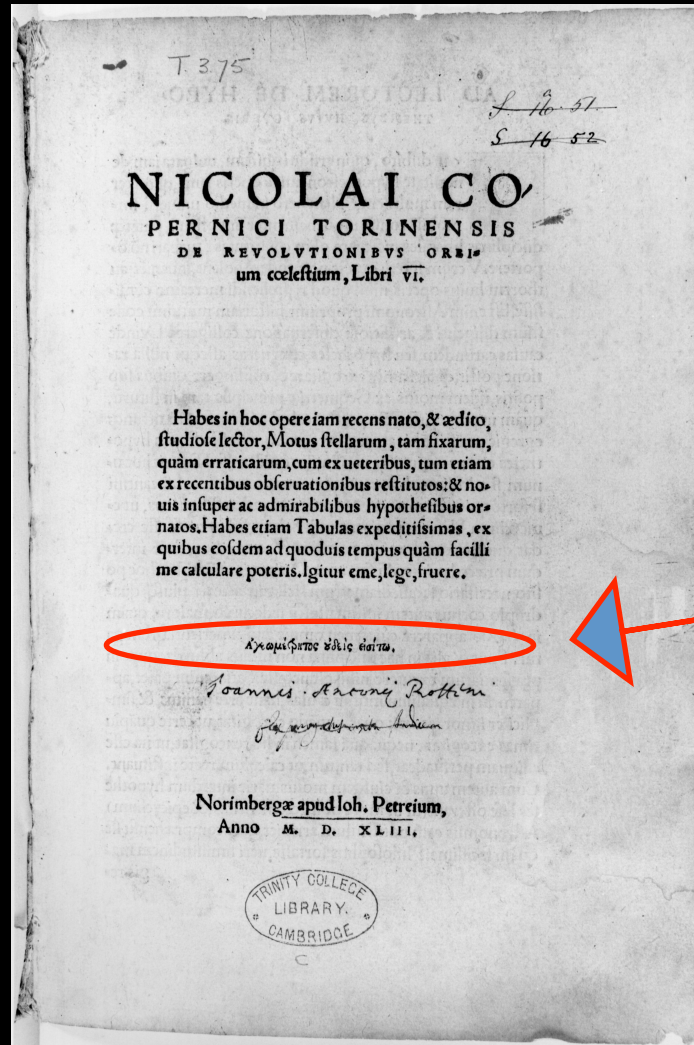
"Have you read Nicole's Cooper's Torrance's new book?"
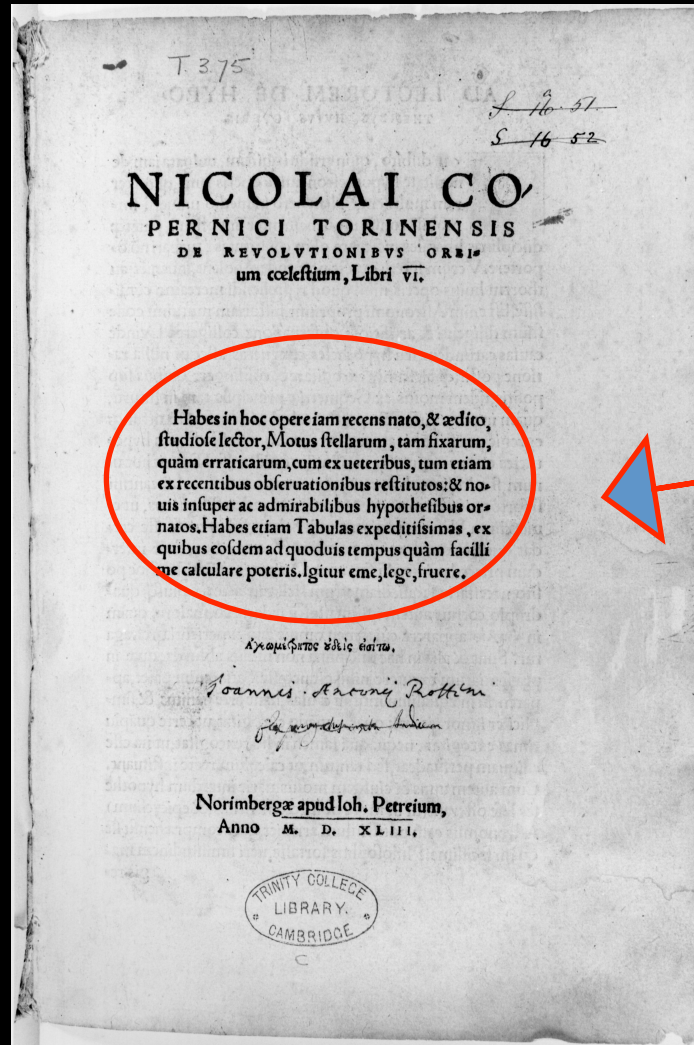
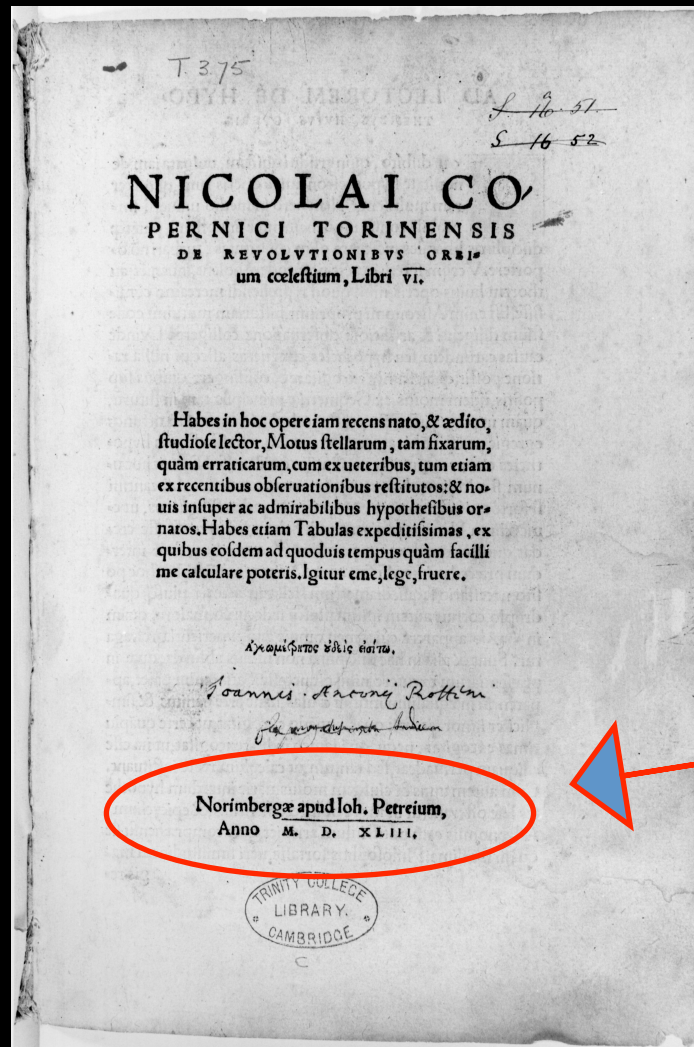Author's address to reader (Latin summary of the contents of the work)

Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM CŒLESTIUM, 1543

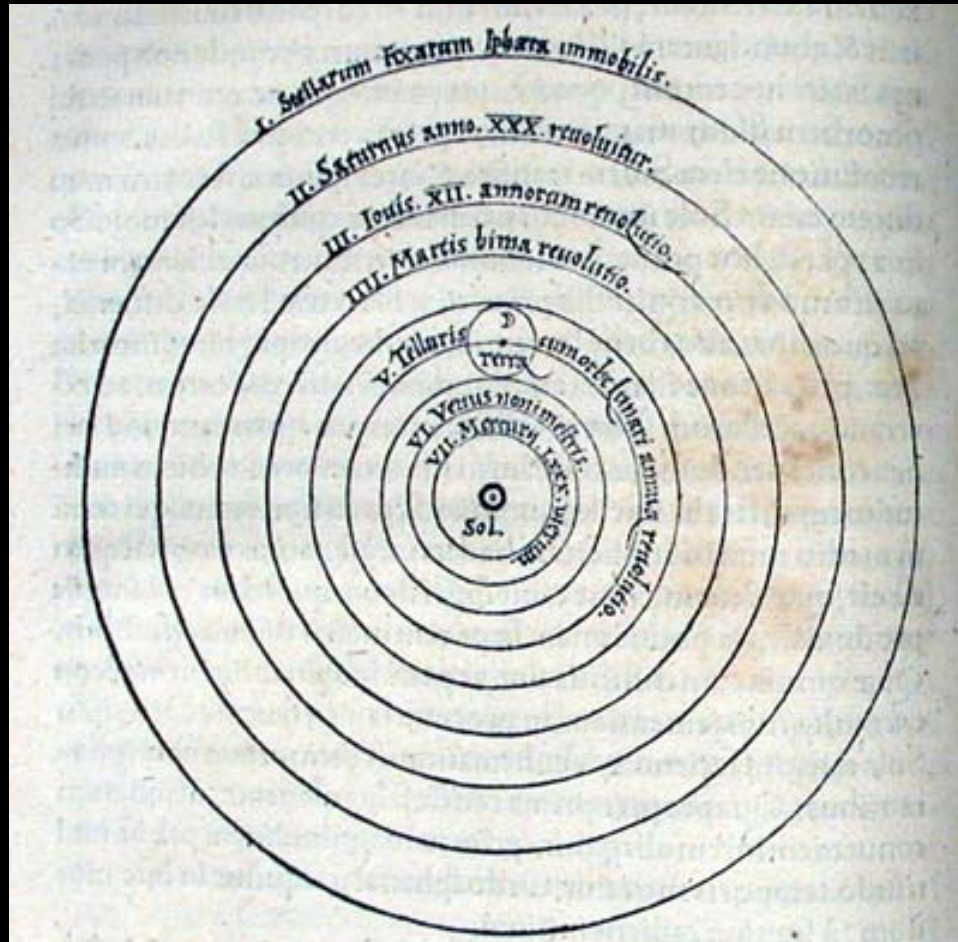Author's coded address to reader in Greek
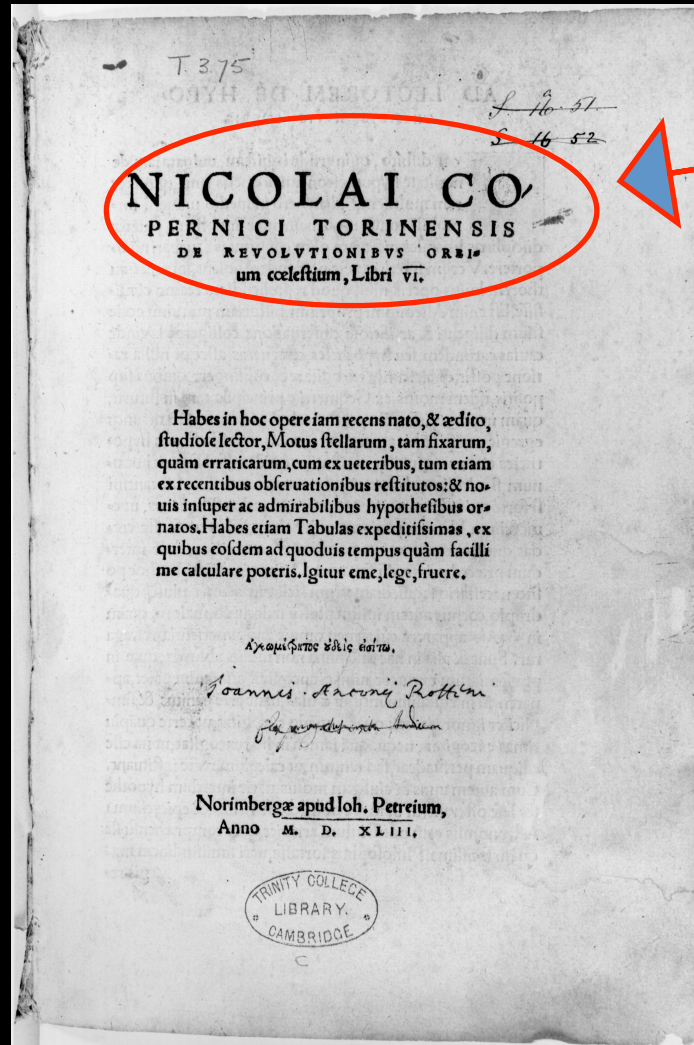
Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM CŒLESTIUM, 1543

Publishing information (city, printer, date)

Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM CŒLESTIUM, 1543

The Diagram:

Author's name and title of the work (Nicholas Copernicus's *De Revolutionibus ...*)

NICOLAI CO- / PERNICI TORINENSIS

NICOLAI CO-

PERNICI TORINENSIS

DE REVOLVTIONIBUS ORBI-

um coelestium, Libri vi

[NICOLAI CO-

PERNICI TORINENSIS]

[DE REVOLVTIONIBUS ORBI-

um coelestium], [Libri vi]

Source: DE
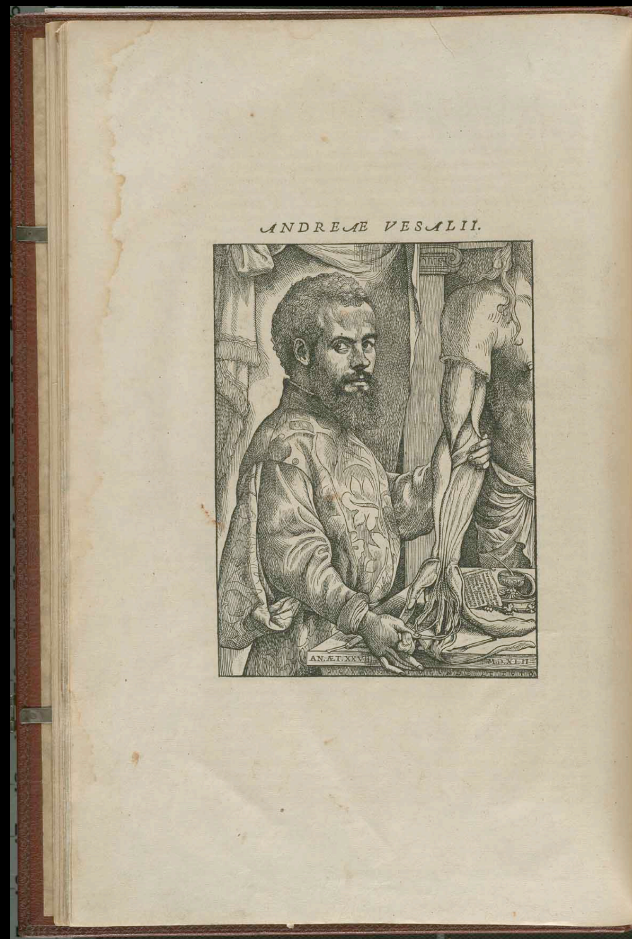REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM
CŒLESTIUM, 1543

Publishing information
(city, printer, date)

Norimbergae, apud Ioh. Petreium =

"[Printed] in Nuremberg, at [the shop of] Johannes Petreius"

Andreas van Wesel, aka *Andreas Vesalius,* 1514-64, author of the medical equivalent of Copernicus' work, 1543

ANDREAE VESALII.

Title page of the *De corporis humani fabrica libri septem*

ANDREAE VESALII

BRVXELLENSIS, SCHOLAE

Medicorum Patauinae professoris, de

Humani corporis fabrica

Libri septem.

[ANDREAE VESALII BRVXELLENSIS], [SCHOLAE Medicorum Patauinae professoris], [de Humani corporis fabrica] Libri septem.

BASILEAE, EX OFFICI-
NA IOANNIS OPORINI,
Anno salutis reparatæ M D X L I I I.
Mense Iunio.

Source: Basileae ex Office, 1500s

City names in Latin (in the "place" case):

- Basileae = Basel
- Venetiis = Venice   (also "urbis venete")
- Nuremburgae = Nuremberg
- "Parisii," "Lutetia," "Loticia Parisiorum = Paris
- Stellae campus = Compostelle
- Coloniae Ubiorum = Cologne
- Coloniae Munatianae = Basel (again)
- Coloniae Brandeburgicae = Berlin