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Latin, that strangely familiar  
language...

Or, "Say it in Latin!!" <sup>TM</sup>

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 nauseam!*

...

and “after death”?

*Post mortem!*



and “in the  
morning”?

*Ante meridiem!*

*(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 diem!*

# 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 essentially  
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  
requiem! (thud)*

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

- Dominii
- Dominoo
- Dominee

When one comment has  
nothing to do with the last  
one, you say “That really  
doesn’t follow”

*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”...

*Ipsa facto!*

When you want to  
describe the means of  
operating of a criminal...

*Modus operandi!*



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

*Ars moriendi!*

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

*Propaganda!*

A “great work”?

*Magnum opus!*

Medieval jurisprudence:  
“The Great Charter” ?

*Magna carta!*



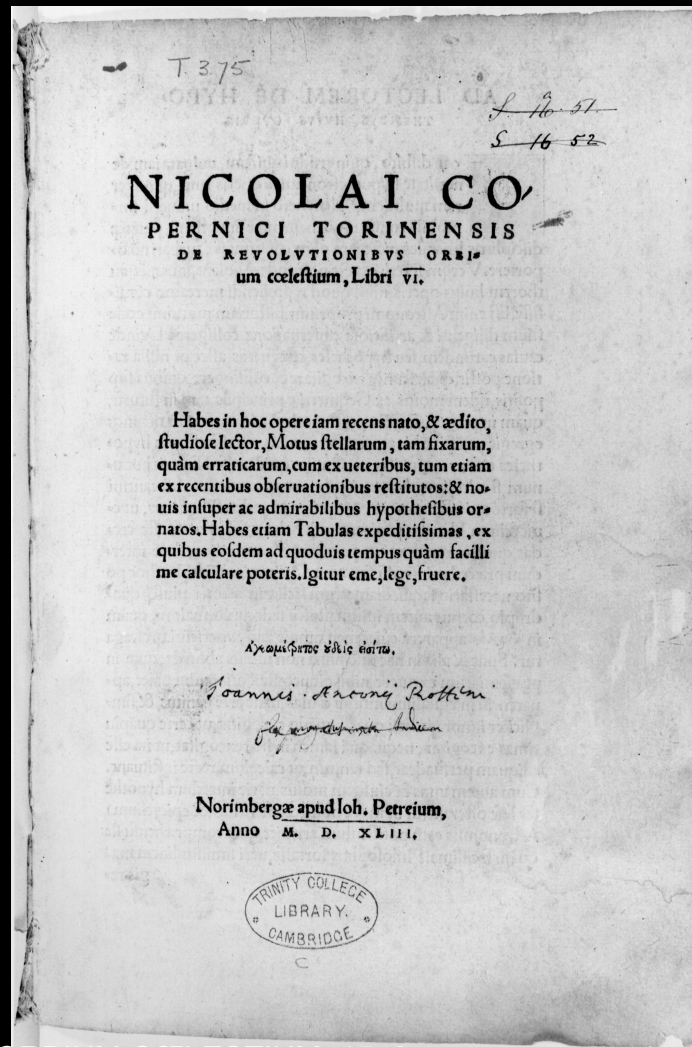
And “You should have the  
body” ?

*Habeas corpus!*

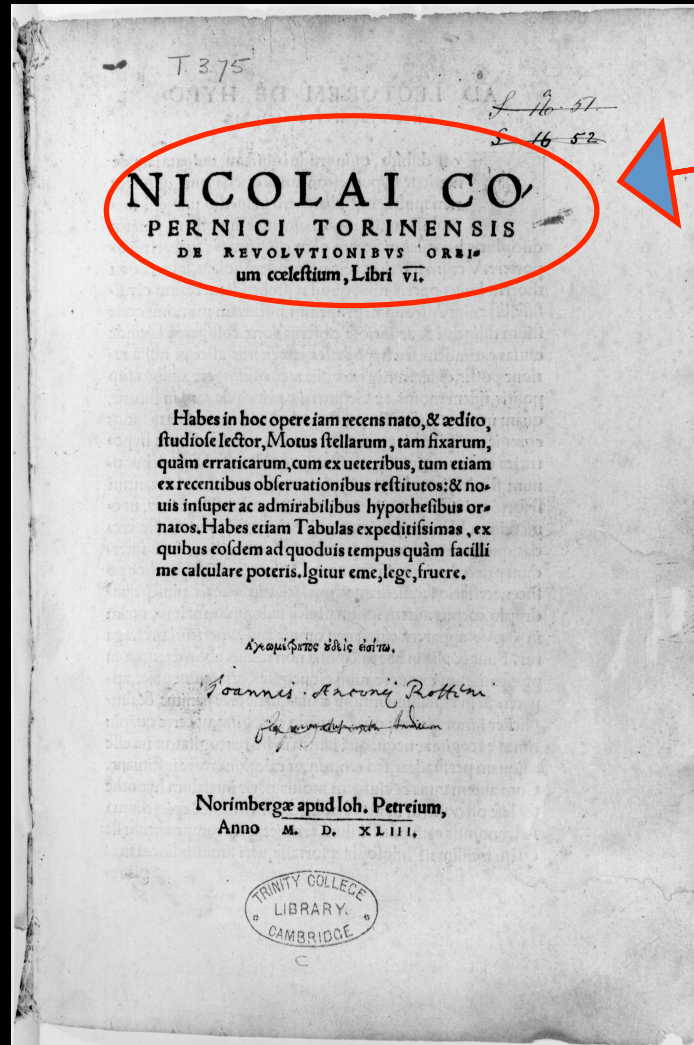
# *Plus:*

- 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?



Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM COELESTIUM, 1543



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

Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM COELESTIVM, 1543

NICOLAI CO  
PERNICI TORINENSIS

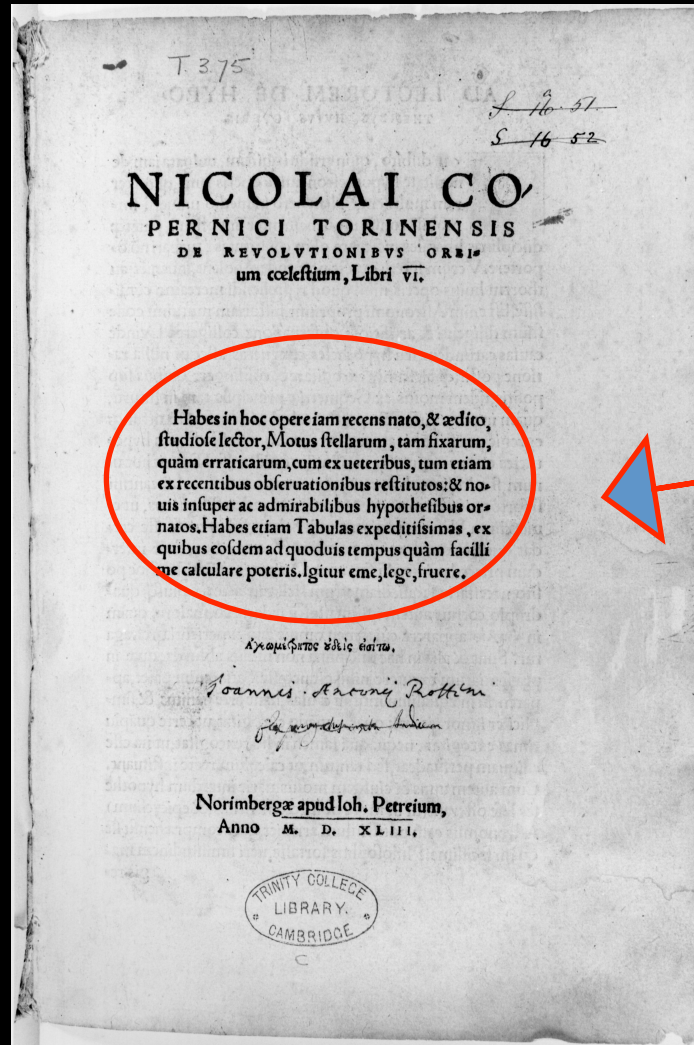
Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM CŒLESTIUM, 1543

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,

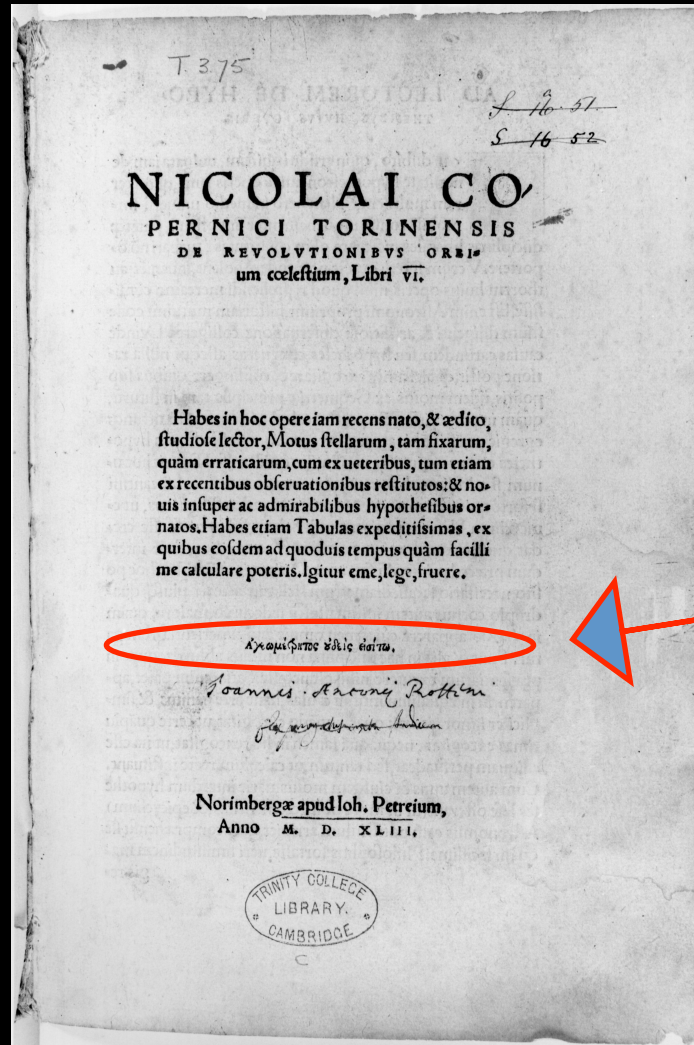
*“Have you read Nicole’s Cooper’s Torrance’s new  
book?”*



Author's address to reader (Latin summary of the contents of the work)

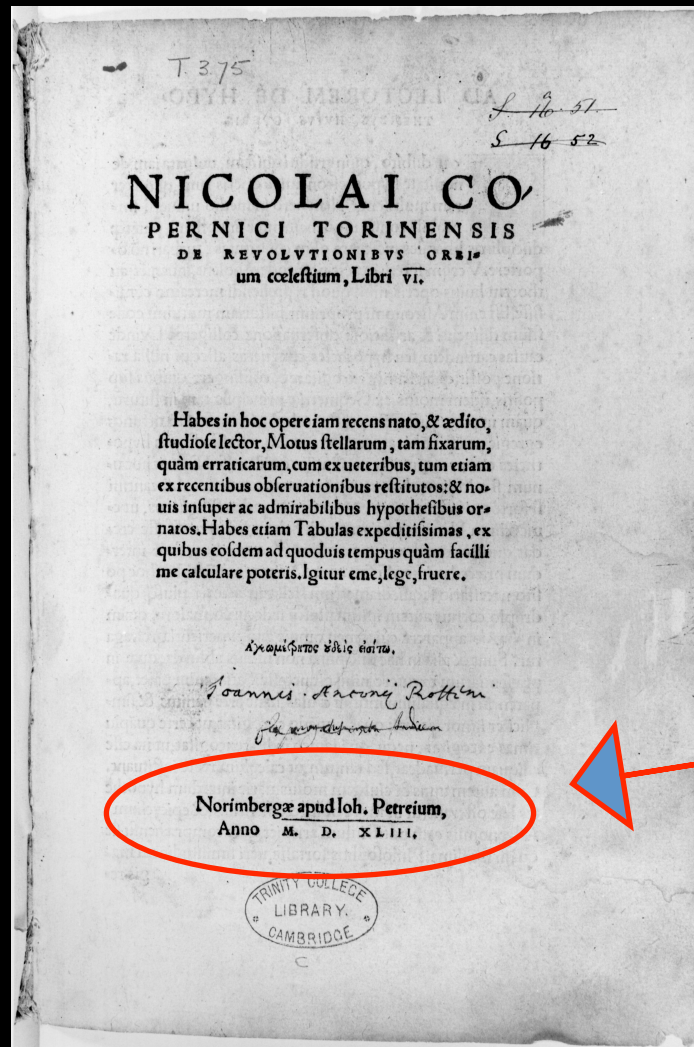
Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM COELESTIUM, 1543





Author's coded address to reader in Greek

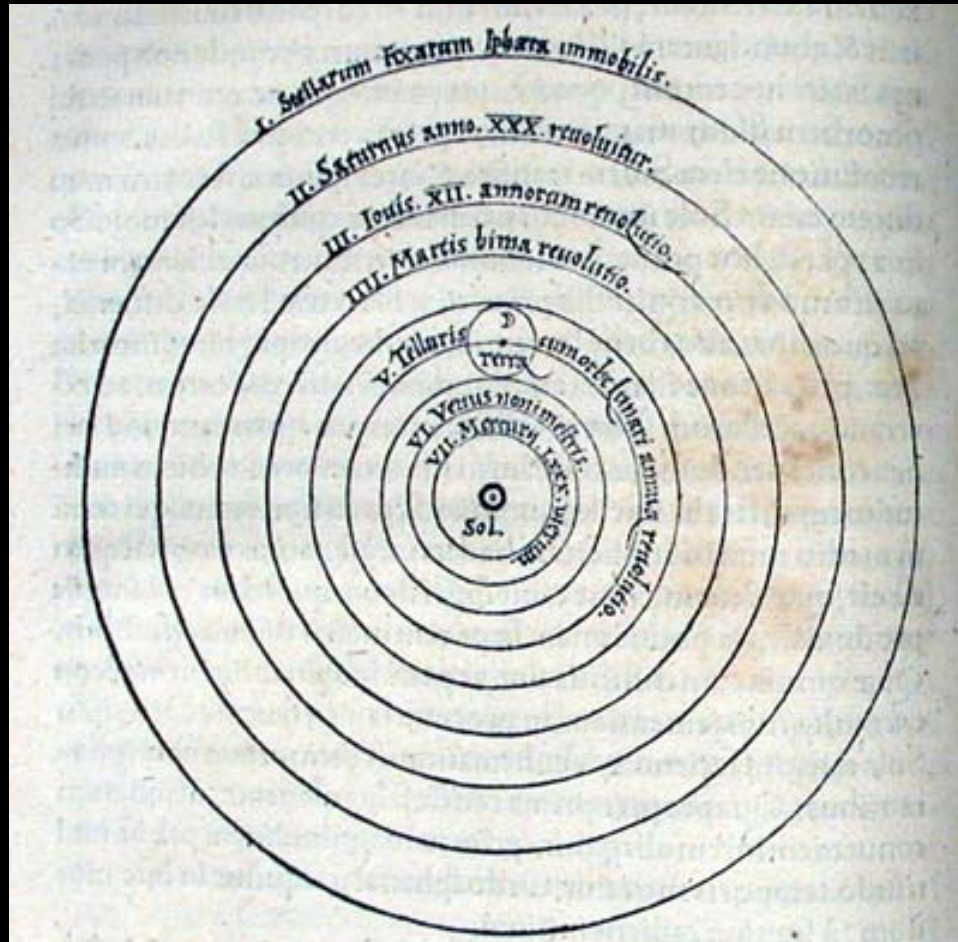
Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM CŒLESTIUM, 1543



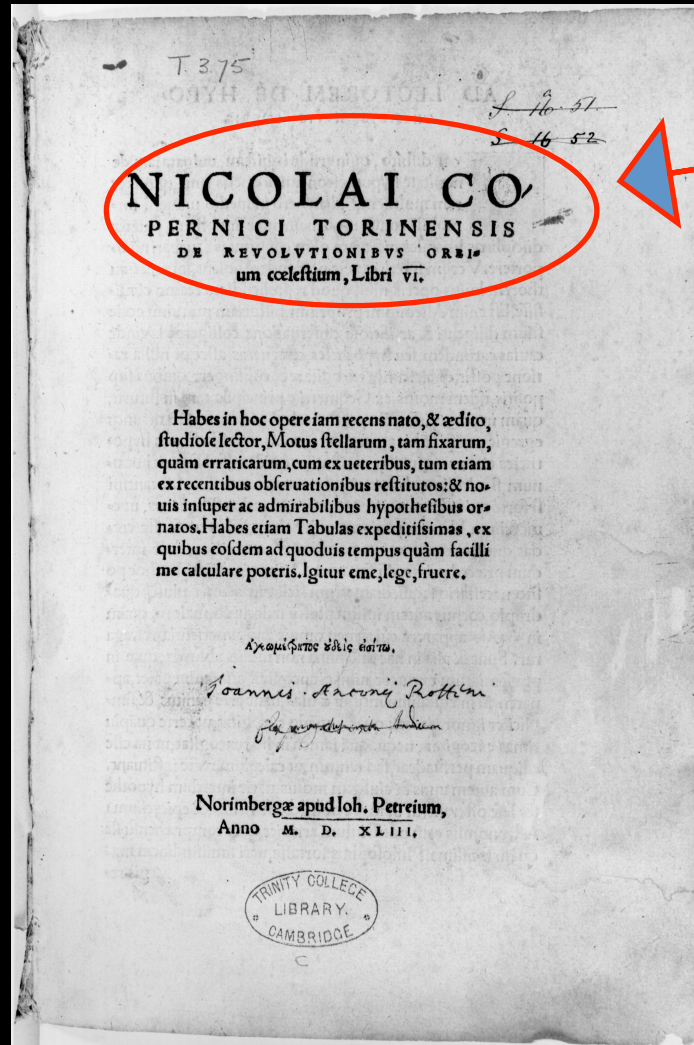
Publishing information  
(city, printer, date)

Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM CŒLESTIUM, 1543

# The Diagram:



Source: DE REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM COELESTIUM, 1543



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



NICOLAI CO  
PERNICI TORINENSIS

Source: DE  
REVOLUTIONIBUS  
ORBIUM  
CŒLESTIUM, 1543

NICOLAI CO-

PERNICI TORINENSIS

DE REVOLVTIONIBUS ORBI-

um coelestium, Libri vi

[NICOLAI CO-  
PERNICI TORINENSIS ]

[DE REVOLVTIONIBUS ORBI-  
um coelestium], [Libri vi]

T. 3.75

S. 16.51

S. 16.52

NICOLAI COPERNICI TORINENSIS  
DE REVOLUTIONIBVS ORBI-  
um caelestium, Libri vi.

Habes in hoc opere iam recens nato, & ædito, studiose lector, Motus stellarum, tam fixarum, quam erraticarum, cum ex ueteribus, tum etiam ex recentibus obseruationibus restitutos: & nouis insuper ac admirabilibus hypothesibus ornatos. Habes etiam Tabulas expeditissimas, ex quibus eisdem ad quoduis tempus quàm facillime calculare poteris. Igitur eme, lege, fruere.

Ἐκδοθήσεται ἐν τῇ πόλει.

Joannis Antonij Rothmanni  
pro reuoluntate sua

Norimbergæ apud Ioh. Petreium,  
Anno M. D. XLIII.

TRINITY COLLEGE  
LIBRARY  
CAMBRIDGE

Source: DE  
REVOLUTIONIBUS ORBIUM  
CÆLESTIUM, 1543

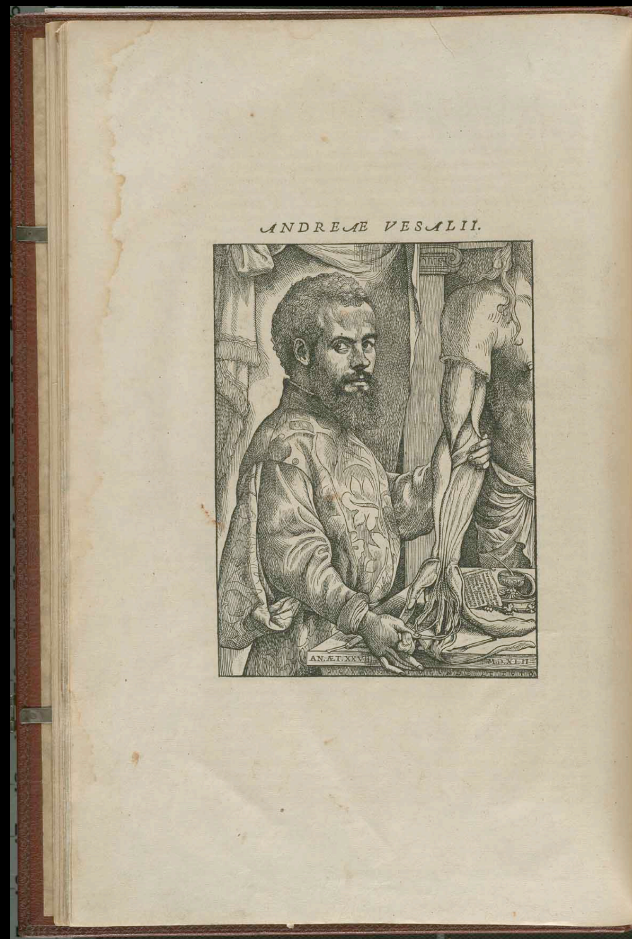
Publishing information  
(city, printer, date)



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



Source: De humani  
corporis fabrica libri  
septem , 1543



ANDREAE VESALII

BRUXELLENSIS, SCHOLAE

Medicorum Patauinae professoris, de

Humani corporis fabrica

Libri septem.

[ANDREAE VESALII

BRUXELLENSIS], [SCHOLAE

Medicorum Patauinae professoris], [de

Humani corporis fabrica]

Libri septem.

BASILEAE, EX OFFICIO  
NA IOANNIS OPORINI,  
*Anno salutis reparate M D XLIII.*  
*Menſe Junio.*

Source: Basileae ex Office, 1500s



## City names in Latin (in the “place” case):

- Basileae = Basel
- Venetis = Venice (also “urbis venete”)
- Nuremburgae = Nuremberg
- “Parisii,” “Lutetia,” “Loticia Parisiorum = Paris
- Stellae campus = Compostelle
- Coloniae Ubiorum = Cologne
- Coloniae Munatiana = Basel (again)
- Coloniae Brandeburgicae = Berlin