

**EPIISODES FROM THE EARLY HISTORY OF ASTRONOMY**

Alyse Dorr

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Hipparchus made a number of other contributions, including the first measurement of precession and the compilation of the first star catalog in which he proposed our modern system of apparent magnitudes. Their younger contemporary Heraclides Ponticus proposed that the Earth rotates around its axis.

Altogether, an enjoyable, scholarly work

The modern practice of dividing a circle into degrees or an hour into 60 minutes

Aryabhata – in his magnum opus Aryabhatiyapropounded a computational system based on a planetary model in which the Earth was taken to be spinning on its axis and the periods of the planets were given with respect to the Sun. Other important astronomers from India include Madhava of Sangamagrama Nilakantha Somayaji and Jyeshthadevawho were members of the Kerala school of astronomy and mathematics from the 14th century to the 16th century.

Next, the Ptolemaic System, the first cosmological scheme to incorporate equinoxes and solstices. Galilei was among the first to use a telescope to observe the sky, and after constructing a 20x refractor telescope.