

Stephan Heilen

# Konjunktionsprognostik in der Frühen Neuzeit



Of Perso-Arabic origin, conjunction astrology bypasses individual birth horoscopes in favor of those rare conjunctions of planets on which historical events—especially the fates of dynasties and religions—were thought to depend. Brought to Europe via Arabic texts, this doctrine exerted an enormous impact on late Medieval and Renaissance culture.

So far, however, all this has received very little scholarly attention: hence the absence of either critical edition or commentary on any early modern prediction of the future based on this doctrine. By way of recovery, the present project focuses on a particularly fertile period for such predictions—those concerned with the conjunctions of Saturn and Jupiter in 1484 and 1504.

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**Band 1:** Die Antichrist-Prognose des Johannes von Lübeck (1474) zur Saturn-Jupiter-Konjunktion von 1504 und ihre frühneuzeitliche Rezeption. 2020. XII, 710 Seiten, 10 Abbildungen. € 78,— ISBN 978-3-87320-453-9 SAECVLA SPIRITALIA 53

Volume 1 offers a general introduction to the project followed by a critical edition with German translation of the earliest relevant text. Here John of Lübeck, writing from Padua in 1474, predicts in detail when and how the Antichrist's reign of terror, widely anticipated as the last world religion, will arrive. The commentary thoroughly elucidates philological, astronomical, astrological, theological, demonological and other aspects of this text, one of the most important of its time. An analysis of its reception among early modern readers in light of various social and geographical contexts rounds out the first volume.

**Band 2:** Prognosen des Paul von Middelburg und anderer Astrologen zur Saturn-Jupiter-Konjunktion von 1484.

Volume 2 will explore predictions concerned with the Saturn/Jupiter conjunction in 1484 (esp. Paul of Middelburg, but also Cristoforo Landino, Battista Piasio, Paul of Poland, Albert of Brudzewo and Domenico Maria da Novara) and their reception.

**Band 3:** Weitere Prognosen zu den Konjunktionen der oberen Planeten in den Jahren 1503/04.

Volume 3 will cover further predictions arising from conjunctions of the superior planets (Saturn, Jupiter, Mars) in 1503/04 and their reception. Unlike John of Lübeck, the authors of these texts (Lorenzo Bonincontri, Antonio Arquato, Sebastian Brant, Pietro Bono Avogario, Giacomo Benazzo, Luca Gaurico, Johannes Stabius, Domenico Maria da Novara, Giulio Malchiavelli, Gian Luigi de' Rossi, Santo da Rimini, Bernard de la Forest, Bartolomeo Vespucci, and others) writing shortly before the astronomical events of 1503/04, adopt a secular perspective. They are followed by texts written after June 1504 by authors such as Joseph Grünpeck, Giacomo Pietramellara, Marco Scribanari, Agostino Nifo, and Thomas Montis.

Volumes 2 and 3 are in preparation and will appear within few years after volume 1. Together, the three volumes form one conceptual unit.



Stephan Heilen (born 1965) studied classical philology, papyrology, codicology, and Italian at the universities of Münster and Florence. From 1993 until 2005 he was assistant professor at the University of Münster, from 2006 to 2009 assistant and associate professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (USA). Since 2009 he is professor of classical philology, especially Latin & Neo-

Latin, at the University of Osnabrück. His research focuses on the history of astrology, astronomy, geography and mathematics in Greco-Roman antiquity and the Renaissance, Neo-Latin literature, forgeries of texts and artifacts, and the history of 19th and 20th century classical scholarship. With regard to astrology, he seeks—in cooperation with orientalists, Egyptologists, archaeologists, historians of religion, Arabists, Judaists and experts of other disciplines—to make Greek and Latin astrological texts accessible through critical editions, in addition to elucidating their contents (with special attention to technical detail) and their cultural context.

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