Ptolemy in Perspective: Use and Criticism of His Work from Antiquity to the Present

THURSDAY, MAY 31
25 Baxter Hall

5:30 P.M.
Keynote lecture by Baron Prize winner

Alexander Jones
University of Vienna
"Ephemeris of the Moon: A New Astronomical Document Contemporaneous with Ptolemy"

FRIDAY, JUNE 1
Treasure Room, Dabney Hall

9:00–10:00 A.M.
Anne Tilton
Universitié catholique de Louvain
"A New Astronomical Document Contemporary with Ptolemy"

10:00–11:00 A.M.
Stephan Helen
University of Ghent
"Ptolemy’s Doctrine of the ‘Hips’ and Its Rejection"

10:30–11:00 A.M.
E.J. Janiak
McGill University
"Islamic Reactions to Ptolemy’s Improvements"

11:00–11:30 A.M.
Florian Mittelhuber
Universität Bern
"The Relation between Texts and Maps in the Tradition of Ptolemy’s Geography"

SATURDAY, JUNE 2
Treasure Room, Dabney Hall

9:00–10:00 A.M.
Daniel Rutkin
The University of Oklahoma
"The Use and Abuse of Ptolemy in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe: Two Case Studies"

10:00–11:00 A.M.
Janet Wells
Independent Scholar
"Abandoning the Equator"

11:00 A.M.–12:00 P.M.
François Charette
Independent Scholar
"Ptolemy and His Medieval Heirs in the Eyes of Nineteenth-Century Scholarship"

12:00 P.M.–2:00 P.M.
John Steele
University of Durham
"The Use of the Almagest’s Eclipse Reports in Early Studies of the Earth’s Rotation"

3:00–4:00 P.M.
Evelyn S. Morgan
The University of Chicago
"‘Apocheimata’ and the Ptolemaic Observations"

4:00–5:00 P.M.
Concluding discussion

May 11–June 2, 2007
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, California

Organized by the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences
at the California Institute of Technology with the support of the Francis Bacon Foundation

First published at the height of the Roman Empire during the second century of our era, Ptolemy’s writings soon established themselves as the authoritative presentations of Greek mathematical and physical science. From late antiquity to the present, scholars and scientists have exploited Ptolemy’s treatises on astronomy, astrology, and cartography with a view both to contemporary scientific problems and to the understanding of the past. This conference explores Greco-Roman, Islamic, and European engagements with—and criticisms of—Ptolemy’s sciences of the earth and heavens.

If you plan to attend or need information, please call Lisa Keppel at 626.395.1609 or RSVP by e-mail to lkeppel@lss.caltech.edu. Space is limited.