

# THE MATHEMATICIAN AND THE ASTRONOMER

## SIMON MARIUS (1573 – 1624)

We present the work of Simon Marius - a mathematician and astronomer who discovered in 1610 the four largest satellites of Jupiter with a Belgian made telescope at about the same time as Galileo Galilei, but published his discoveries 4 years later. In 2014 the astronomical community commemorates 400 years since the publishing of Simon Marius' book *Mundus Iovialis* containing his observations done independently by Galilei. Marius' records are even closer to the modern figures than Galilei's ones. Simon Marius noticed also, that the orbital plane of the Jupiter satellites is slightly tilted relative to both the Jupiter equatorial plane and the ecliptic, explaining thus the discrepancies in latitude, which Galilei did not mention. Marius also noticed the change in the satellites brightness and calculated respective tables for the period 1608 - 1630. Simon Marius was a calendar maker and a translator of Euclid from Greek – he published *Die Ersten Sechs Bücher Elementorum Euclidis* (The First Six Books Elementorum Euclidis). Among his observations are the comets of 1596 and 1618, the supernova in the constellation Ophiuchus in 1604 (giving its precise position), observations of Venus, and the sun spots, from whose movement he noticed that the equatorial plane of the sun is tilted relative to the ecliptic and the appearance of sunspots is periodical. Simon Marius first observed with telescope the Andromeda Nebula in December 1612, and gave the first description of this object based on telescopic observation.

The multilingual portal dedicated to Simon Marius (<http://www.simon-marius.net/>) and prepared by the Nuremberg Astronomical Society, has been opened since February 2014. The portal gives introduction to his biography and scientific achievements, as well as retrievable sources, secondary literature, lectures, news and convenient links.

**Key words:** Simon Marius, History of Astronomy, Galileian satellites