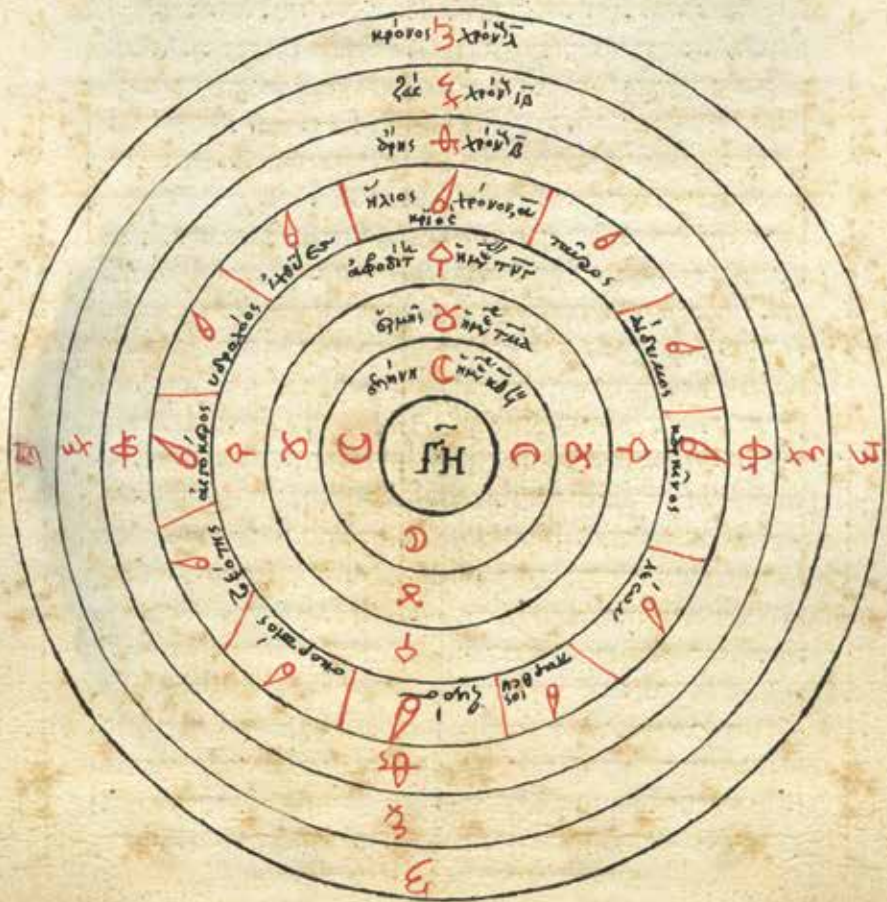


# INTRODUCTION TO **ASTRONOMY**

by **Theodore Metochites**



**Emmanuel A. Paschos**  
**Christos Simelidis**

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**ASTRONOMY**  
*by* **Theodore Metochites**

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**ASTRONOMY**  
*by* **Theodore Metochites**

(Stoicheiosis Astronomike 1.5-30)

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## PREFACE

This book makes available for the first time a large section of an important text of late Byzantine astronomy. The first five, philosophical, chapters of Theodore Metochites' *Stoicheiosis Astronomike* have been well edited and commented on by Börje Bydén. However, the astronomical bulk of the work remains unpublished and this impedes serious study and full appreciation. Metochites' treatise is significant for the study of medieval astronomy, and especially the reception of Ptolemy in Byzantium.

This work is the product of collaboration between a physicist and a philologist with each contributing in the field of his expertise. Emmanuel Paschos produced the Introduction, the English Translation, and the Analysis, while Christos Simelidis prepared the Textual Introduction and the Critical Edition of the Greek text. Metochites' sentences are often long and repetitive, making the text difficult to translate. Paschos tried to make the translation easier to read by limiting repetitions in order to preserve the content of sentences and of entire paragraphs.

We are grateful to Ioannis Vassis and Dimitrios A. Christidis for reading the Greek text and making valuable suggestions. We would also like to thank Andrew Faulkner, Mark Huggins, Nikolaos Konomis, Dimitri Korobeinikov, Maria Mavroudi, Georgi Parpulov, Filippomaria Pontani, Ioanna Skoura, Panagiotis Sotiroudis, Anne Tihon, and Nigel G. Wilson for their helpful advice and encouragement. We are indebted to Haralampos Kimikoglou for preparing the drawings and to Edward C. Yong for his editorial help in preparing the final camera-ready manuscript.

December 2015

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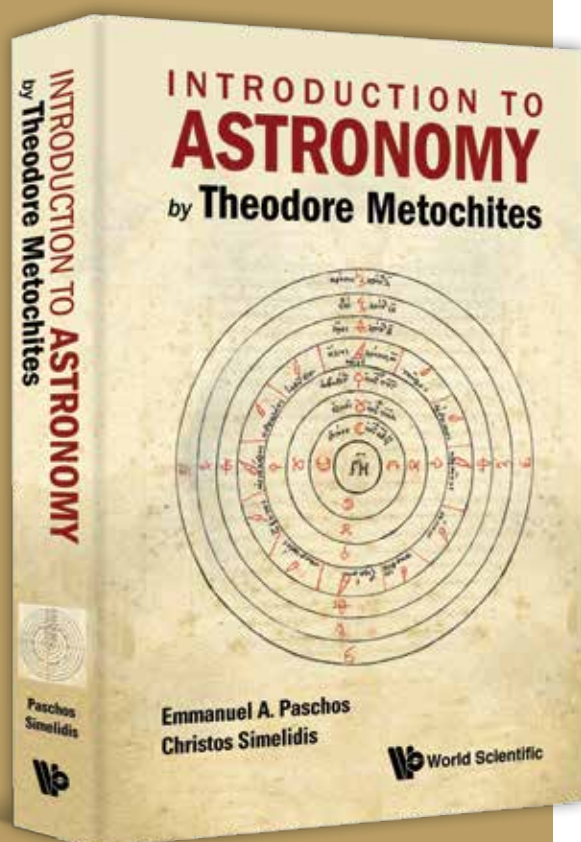
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by **Theodore Metochites**

(*Stoicheiosis Astronomike* 1.5-30)

by **Emmanuel A. Paschos** (*Technische Universität Dortmund, Germany*) & **Christos Simelidis** (*Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece*)

*Stoicheiosis Astronomike* ("Elements of Astronomy") is a late Byzantine comprehensive introduction to Astronomy. It was written by an outstanding figure in Byzantine culture and politics, who served also as prime minister. This volume makes available for the first time a large part of its astronomical contents, offering the original text with an English translation, accompanied by an introduction and analysis.

This book describes the celestial spheres, the rotation of the planets, and especially the apparent trajectory of the sun with its uniform and anomalous rotations, which are used to determine its trajectory during the year. Metochites proposed a new starting date for the calendar (6th of October 1283) specifying the position of the sun on that date. The work revived the interest in studies of Ptolemaic astronomy as attested by numerous annotations in the margins of the manuscripts.

Besides its astronomical content there are statements on the epistemological method and other issues elucidating the spirit of that age. It will be of interest as an introduction to Byzantine astronomy for historians of science and philosophy, for astronomers, and those interested in the development of calendars.

**Readership:** The 'Introduction to Astronomy' by Theodore Metochites is an important treatise on Medieval Astronomy, and will be of interest to historians of science, as well as those interested in the intellectual climate of the Later Byzantine Empire.

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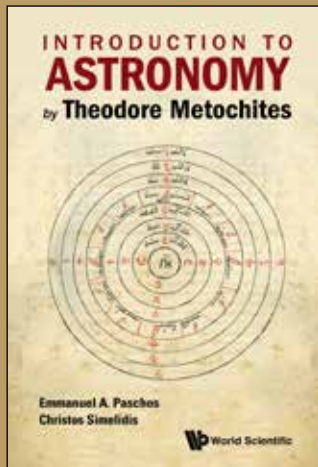
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