



The Observer

December 2013 (#34)

**Last public program of 2013 is December 7, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
at the South Harrison Observatory**

SEE SOME *INSPIRED SCIENCE* AT THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Between November 11 and January 11 there is an exhibit on science at the Louisville Free Public Library's main branch (301 York Street, Louisville, KY 40203). Actually, it is an exhibit on science, history, art, God, philosophy, and even skulls! This exhibit features the science and art and thought of the following groundbreaking scientists:



- Johannes Kepler (astronomy – this gets the most space, of course)
- Isaac Newton (physics)
- Robert Boyle (chemistry)
- Robert Hooke (microscopy)
- Andreas Vesalius (anatomy – that's where the skulls fit in)



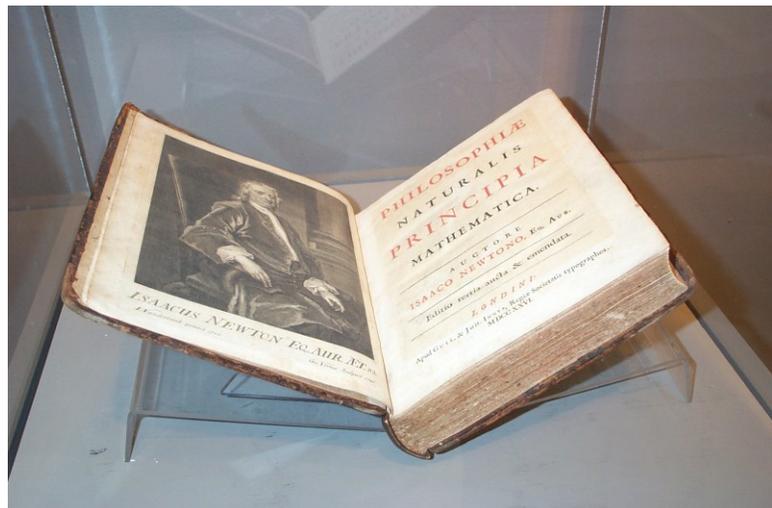
www.jefferson.kctcs.edu/observatory

It also features a copy of the 1726 third edition of Newton's *Principia*, a 1555 second edition of Vesalius's *Fabrica*, a 1664 second edition of Boyle's *Some Considerations*, and a copy of Hooke's *Micrographia*.

The books are on loan from Louisville collector Ted Steinbock. The great graphic art work was done by the LFPL staff. Owen Gingerich of Harvard University and Ted Davis of Messiah College, experts on Kepler and Boyle, respectively, provided much assistance on content. The artwork in science writing of this time is worth seeing. *Micrographia* alone is amazing!

Some people have apprehensions about aspects of science on account of religious reasons, but this exhibit includes a strong focus on these scientists' use of religious language in their work – hence the title of “Inspired Science”. The exhibit seeks to use the history and art of science to advance the Visitor's understanding of and appreciation for science, regardless of that Visitor's religious or secular outlook, and to encourage public conversation about science. “Inspired Science” features the work of prominent pioneering scientists who referenced faith within their work. Regardless of outlook, visitors will see in these Greats of Science, men who share something of their views, and who put great care and artistry into communicating scientific ideas.

Funding for this exhibit was provided by the Louisville Free Public Library, the Louisville chapter of Sigma Xi (The Scientific Research Society), and Jefferson Community & Technical College. It is free to see – just go the Main Branch and look for the exhibit hall on the first floor. Photos of the exhibit are shown here and on the next few pages.



A copy of the third edition (1726) of Newton's *Principia* is part of the “Inspired Science” exhibit



The “Inspired Science” exhibit looking south.



The “Inspired Science” exhibit looking north.



“Inspired Science” panels on Johannes Kepler, the astronomer who discovered the elliptical shape of all orbits. NASA’s “Kepler” satellite is named for him.



COMET ISON UPDATE

The previous issue of this newsletter (August 2013) discussed Comet ISON. As this issue goes out, ISON is rounding the sun. Astronomers are waiting to see whether or not it survives its close encounter with the sun. Even if it does, then there is some question as to whether it will be as spectacular as was once hoped, as the comet may be smaller and fainter than originally estimated. Still, keep your eyes on the eastern morning skies and look for it yourself. On the following page is a finder chart from *Sky & Telescope* magazine (SkyandTelescope.com) that illustrates the expected progress of ISON during the first few days of December.

