

Nicolaus Copernicus, as a Surveyor and Cartographer

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Key words: Cartography; Education; History; Keyword 1; Keyword 2; Keyword 3

SUMMARY

Nicolaus Copernicus (1473–1543) is best known as an astronomer – the creator of the heliocentric model of the Solar System and the author of the work "De revolutionibus orbium coelestium" (On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres), presenting his vision of the Universe in detail. However, Copernicus' activity as a surveyor and cartographer is little known, and this subject is presented in this paper. Previous research shows that Copernicus' first cartographic work was a map of a region known as Warmia, a part of the Kingdom of Prussia, made around 1510. Another cartographic work of Copernicus was a map of Livonia, also located in the Kingdom of Prussia. Noteworthy is the cooperation of Copernicus with Bernard Wapowski in drawing up a map of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. These and other maps will be discussed in this paper, focusing on measurement methods, visualization, and presumed accuracy.

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FIG Working Week 2024

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Accra, Ghana, 19–24 May 2024