

Kepler: His Life and Work

A Resource Guide to Materials in English for Beginners

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Kepler Books for Adults

Casper, Max *Kepler*. 1959, Collier; available in a Dover reprint edition. This biography by a respected historian is the classic story of Kepler's life.

Connor, James *Kepler's Witch: An Astronomer's Discovery of Cosmic Order Amid Religious War, Political Intrigue, and the Heresy Trial of His Mother*. 2004, HaperOne. A popular-level introduction that places Kepler in the context of the religious and political conflicts of his time.

Ferguson, Kitty *Tycho and Kepler: The Unlikely Partnership That Forever Changed Our Understanding of the Heavens*. 2002, Walker & Co. Biography and chronicle of the two men's interaction, by a prolific science writer.

Gingerich, Owen *The Eye of Heaven: Ptolemy, Copernicus and Kepler*. 1993, American Institute of Physics Press. A somewhat more technical introduction by a foremost astronomical historian.

Koestler, Arthur *The Watershed*. 1960, Doubleday. A novelist's take on the revolutionary ideas of Kepler and others. (See Koestler's *The Sleepwalkers*, 1959, Macmillan, for his full history of the astronomical renaissance. *The Watershed* is one section of this longer book.)

Most books on the history of astronomy feature a section on the work of Kepler. Two that have nice sections on his contributions are:

Ferris, Timothy *Coming of Age in the Milky Way*. 1988, Morrow. Chapter 4 focuses on Kepler.

Kolb, Rocky *Blind Watchers of the Sky*. 1996, Helix/Addison-Wesley. Kepler is one of the key scientists discussed.

Kepler Books for Children

Boerst, William *Johannes Kepler: Discovering the Laws of Celestial Motion*. 2003, Morgan Reynolds. For students in grades 6 - 9.

Voelkel, James *Johannes Kepler and the New Astronomy*. 1999, Oxford U. Press. Good beginner's introduction to his work and life; part of the "Oxford Portraits in Science" series. For middle and high school students.

Kepler Articles

- Gee, B. "400 Years: Johannes Kepler" in *Physics Teacher*, vol. 9, p. 510 (1971).
- Gingerich, O. "Johannes Kepler and the Rudolphine Tables" in *Sky & Telescope*, Dec. 1971, p. 328. (6-page article on Kepler's work, reprinted in Gingerich's *The Great Copernicus Chase*. 1992, Sky Publishing.)
- Wilson, C. "How Did Kepler Discover His First Two Laws" in *Scientific American*, Mar. 1972, p. 92.

Some Kepler Web Sites

- Biography at the Galileo Project Site: <http://galileo.rice.edu/sci/kepler.html>
- Kepler Mission's Johannes Kepler Page (with brief bio): <http://kepler.nasa.gov/johannes/>
- MacTutor Kepler Biography:
<http://www-groups.dcs.st-and.ac.uk/~history/Biographies/Kepler.html>
- Michael Fowler's Notes from a Course at the University of Virginia:
<http://galileoandstein.physics.virginia.edu/1995/lectures/kepler.html> and
<http://galileoandstein.physics.virginia.edu/1995/lectures/morekepl.html>

Kepler in Fiction

- Banville, John *Kepler: A Novel*. 1981, Godine. Novelization of Kepler's life.
- Hindemith, Paul *The Harmony of the World*. An opera written in the 1950's based on Kepler's life and philosophical beliefs. A CD of the full opera is available, performed by the Berlin Rundfunk Symphony, conducted by Janowski (Wergo CD)