

*PHILOSOPHICAL*  
TRANSACTIONS:

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**Observationes Quaedam Accurate Insignis  
Cometae Sub Finem Anni 1680 visi, Coburgi  
Saxoniae a Domino Gottfried Kirch Habitae;  
Decimo Tertio die Antequam a Quoquam  
Alio Observatus Sit**

Coburgi Saxoniae

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I. *Observationes quædam accuratæ insignis Cometæ sub finem anni 1680 visi, Coburgi Saxoniæ a Domino Gottfried Kirch habitæ; decimo tertio die antequam a quoquam alio observatus sit.*

**C**O MET A ille qui anno exeunte 1680 visus est, plurimis de causis præcipius merito habendus est; tam ob Cursum ejus quadrimestrem, quo novem integra Signa percurrit; quam ob immensam Caudæ magnitudinem & claritatem: maxime vero ob insignem Orbitæ Curvitatem, cuius ope tandem patescere est Cometarum Theoria. Nam dum Astronomi omni adhibita diligentia motum ejus observationibus definiendo desudarunt, conatus eorum secundavit D. Newtoni in Geometricis vis pene divina, qui primus mortaliū Cometas Orbēs Parabolicis maxime affines describere probavit, ac datis tribus locis accurate observatis eosdem construere docuit, remque hujuscē Cometæ exemplo illustravit: id quod sub finem Lib. III. *Principiorum Philosophiae* videre est.

Accidit autem, nescio quo fato, ut Cometa hic (quem vespertinum tantopere prosecuti sunt Cœlispices) antequam Solem attigerat matutinus, nec *Parisii* neque *Grenovici* ne semel quidem observatus sit: quique eum viderunt & observarunt, incongrua & inter se pugnantia, ac pro rei subtilitate parum idonea prodidere: neque ante Novemb. 17. mane a quopiam Observatorium visus est. Unde factum ut Orbitæ pars illa, qua ad Solem descendit Cometa, paulo incertius definiri potuit. Bona autem fortuna nuper incidimus in Librum meritissimi Astronomi Domini Gottfried Kirch, Germani, anno 1681 *Noribergæ* impressi, cui titulus *Neue Himmels Zeitung*, hoc est *Novus Nuncius cœlestis*; ubi auctor diligenter nobis exponit, quo casu ductus Cometam hunc nondum adnata Cauda obscurum, ac vix nudis oculis conspicuum detexe-

detexerit ; dum scilicet Lunam & Martem ei vicinum obser-vaturiens circumlustraret, die Novemb. 4. S. V. mane, idque Coburgi Saxoniae, quod oppidum XI. Grad. Londino orientalius est, sub altitudine poli  $50^{\circ} 20'$  circiter. Excitatus autem, ut ait, rumoribus Cometæ in Germania visi, vultu in Orientem verso pernoctavit, ut cœlo tum forte perquam sereno, si quid novi oriretur, situm ejus notaret. Lunâ vero jam ad stellam aliquam Tychoni incognitam applicatâ, (sed quæ in Catalogo Flamsteedii Britannico habetur, estque numero 44<sup>ta</sup> *Leonis*) voluit dictæ stellæ locum ex circumvicinis Fixis determinare ; dumque Tubum trium graduum capacem hinc inde circumrotat, incidit in Luculam quandam nebulosam, speciem insolitam præ se ferentem, quamque vel novum Cometam esse, vel Stellam nebulosam ad instar ejus quæ in Cingulo *Andromedæ* est, statim conclusit.

Primo autem Cometam vidit, Hora 4<sup>h</sup> matutinâ, paulo altiore duabus stellulis Telescopicis, quæ in *Figura I.* literis *a* & *c* signantur, cum quibus tamen Hora 6<sup>h</sup> visus est in linea accurate rectâ ; unde constabat eum moveri, idque motu directo. Inter horas vero 5. & 6. Tubo decempedali Phænomenon hoc contemplatus est, viditque duas alias stellulas contiguas prioribus minores, literisque *e* & *d* notatas, & supra has tertiam *g*. Erat autem distantia Cometæ ab *e* paulo minor quam ab *a*, major vero distantia *d e*. 6<sup>h</sup>. 38' distantia Cometæ ab *e* dupla erat intervalli inter ipsas *d e*, ac linea *d e* producta reliquit Cometam\* infra se, sic tamen ut marginem ejus superiorem attingeret. 6<sup>h</sup>. 45'. Cometa jam sensibiliter remotior erat ab *e* quam ab *a*, distabatque ab *a* paulo plus quam dimidio distantiae stellarum *a* & *g*.

Notandum vero est Horologium totis 14 minutis cœlum anticipasse, uti ex altitudinibus *Cordis Leonis* tum captis patuit.

Nobilis sane est hæc observatio, adeoque Stellarum Cometæ tunc adjacentium loca non una methodo perquisivimus, exercitatissimam manum suam & instrumenta perelegantia

\* Tubo scilicet objecta invertente.

præ-

præbente Reverendo Viro D. Jacobo Pound, R. Soc. Sodali.  
Unde constabat stellulas illas tum temporis infra scriptos ha-  
buisse situs, nempe

	Long.	Lat.
n	Ω 29° 54' 20"	1. 29. 20 Bor.
d	29. 27. 20	1. 8. 00
s	29. 34. 30	1. 10. 45

Circulus autem maximus per a & c ductus, deprehensus est per Ultimam Cauda Ursæ majoris transire, adeoque angulum cum circulo Longitudinis ad a esse  $15^{\circ} 36' \frac{1}{2}$ . Cumque distantia Cometæ ab a versus c paulo major fuerat dimidio distantie a g, (quam Tubo sedecim pedum & Micrometro deprehendimus 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  min.) ponamus eam fuisse duodecim minutorum; & ex datis proveniet Cometæ locus Ω  $29^{\circ} 51'$  cum Lat. Borea  $1^{\circ} 17' \frac{1}{4}$ . Hora scilicet Horologii 6<sup>ta</sup>, sed Londini 5<sup>h</sup> 2' Temp. Appar.

Deinde Novemb. 6. mane, 4<sup>h</sup> 42', Tubo bipedali deprehendit Cometam omnino in linea recta inter Martem & Stellulam N; quæ quidem in Catalogo Britannico 45<sup>ta</sup> Leonis est, & tunc erat in  $\pi 2^{\circ} 42'$  cum Lat. Aust.  $0^{\circ} 16' \frac{1}{2}$ . Mars autem tum temporis habuit (ex collatis observationibus paulo antea & post factis)  $\pi 3^{\circ} 46' \frac{1}{2}$  cum Lat. Bor.  $1^{\circ} 56'$ . Unde, ob datam ejus viam, Cometa occupavit  $\pi 3^{\circ} 23'$  cum Lat. Bor.  $1^{\circ} 6'$ . Londini Temp. App. 3<sup>h</sup> 58' mane.

Novembris quoque 11<sup>mo</sup>. 5<sup>h</sup> 15' mane, Cometa æqualiter distabat à Stellis Leonis σ & τ Bayero, nondum vero attigit rectam easdem jungentem, sed parum absuit ab ea. In Catalogo Britannico σ tunc habuit  $\pi 14^{\circ} 15'$  cum Lat. Bor.  $1^{\circ} 41'$  ferè, τ vero  $\pi 17^{\circ} 3' \frac{1}{2}$  cum Lat. Aust.  $0^{\circ} 34'$ . Proinde Cometæ Latitudo paulo minor erat medio inter illas, nempe quam  $0^{\circ} 33' \frac{1}{2}$  Bor. ac Longitudo quam  $\pi 15^{\circ} 39'$ . Sed huius non utique fidendum, cum pendeat ab æstimata æqualitate distantiarum, quæ res lubrica est. Cauda autem jam cœpta non nisi dimidio gradu longa Tubo decempedali visa est.

Qui plura cupit adeat Librum ipsum Germanicè editum.

Curus Comete. Anni 1680 Observati  
 ones prime Coburgi-Saxonia a D.<sup>o</sup>  
 Gottfrid Kirch habite.

Philosoph. Transact. N<sup>o</sup> 342

Fig. I.

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Via Maris

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