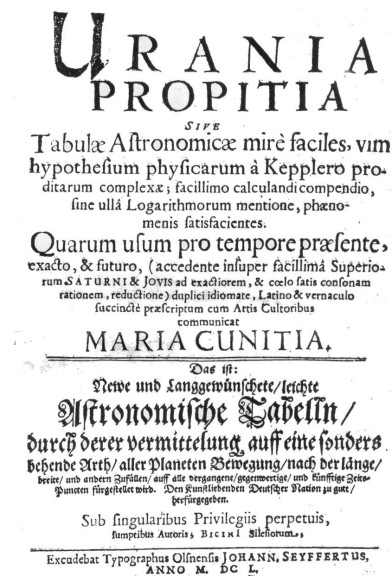


Augenschein and Finsternisse – the language of the astronomer Maria Cunitia (1604?–1664)

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In her book *Urania Propitia* of 1650 with one volume astronomical tables Maria CUNITIA (1604?–1664) tries to correct, to supplement and to facilitate calculation as found in Johannes KEPLER's *Tabulae Rudolphinae* of 1627. In a second volume with a Latin and a shorter German text for nonlearned readers she explains how to calculate with her tables. Both the volume with the tables and the bilingual text of the second volume are organized into three parts. These three parts constitute the frame for my analysis of the developing scientific language in her German text. After an introductory part explaining in German the Latin terminology of astronomy, Part One deals with what we can see without technical aid, what is "augenscheinlich". Part Two, however, discusses what is only partly visible like the movements of planets. Part Three finally explains the tables of calculation for eclipses of the sun and of the moon, the "Finsternisse". Part three ends with the verification and new presentation of an eclipse of the sun the Greek philosopher and astronomer THALES of Miletus predicted for the year 585 B.C. Following some short notes on the biography of Maria CUNITIA and her book, my language analysis will thus base on selections of these three parts ending with some open questions on indirect messages of metaphoric language.



Maria CUNITIA: *Urania Propitia* (1650)

Primary source:

Maria CUNITIA: *Urania Propitia* sive Tabulae Astronomicae mirè faciles, vim hypotheseum physicarum à Keplero proditarum complexae; (...) Das ist: Neue and Langgewünschete / leichte Astronomische Tabelln (...). Bicini Silesiorum, 1650.

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