

Huib Zuidervart and Oscar Matsuura

Astronomer, Cartographer and Naturalist of the New World

The Life and Scholarly Achievements of Georg Marggrafe (1610-1643) in Colonial Dutch Brazil. Volume 1: Life, Work and Legacy

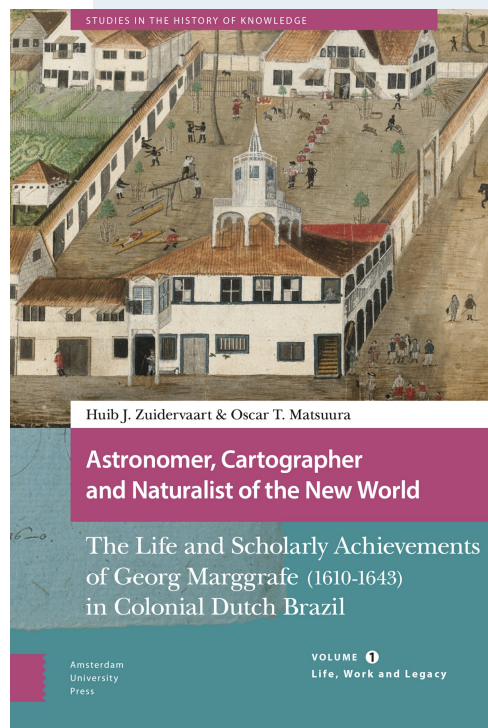
Georg Marggrafe (1610-1643) is today hailed as the principal author of an influential account of the natural history of Northern Brazil and as compiler of the first accurate map of the area, which is considered as one of the most elegant products of seventeenth-century Dutch cartography. But initial he had the ambition to become known in astronomy. With the support Johan Maurits van Nassau-Siegen, then governor-general of colonial Dutch Brazil, he built in Recife the first European-style astronomical observatory on the South-American continent, where he systematically charted the southern stars. He intended to supplement the famous astronomer Tycho Brahe, who charted the Northern sky half a century before. But Marggrafe's untimely death (and the negligence of a Leiden professor) prevented the publication of his valuable observations. As a result, Marggrafe did not achieve fame in astronomy, but instead became famous for his equally remarkable other achievements.

This volume, Volume 1, presents Marggrafe's stunning biography. Volume 2 consists of a text edition of his astronomical legacy, prepared for the printing press in the 1650s, but only now finalized and published.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Huib Zuidervart is a retired senior researcher (2007-2019) at the Huygens Institute for the History of the Netherlands (KNAW).

Dr. Oscar Matsuura is a retired professor at the University of São Paulo, remaining engaged in several projects, mainly in the History of Astronomy in Brazil.



Studies in the History of Knowledge
November 2022
400 pages, 154 illustrations, colour
Hardback
170.0 x 240.0 mm
€69.00 / £57.00 / \$75.00

ISBN 978 94 6372 218 6
e-ISBN 978 90 485 5621 2
BISAC HIS033000 / HIS037040 / SCI034000
BIC BG / HBTQ

KEYWORDS
Georg Marggrafe, Colonial Dutch Brazil, Early Modern
Science, Astronomy, 17th century

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Amsterdam
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