Flemish-born Calvinist Minister, geographer, astronomer, cartographer (1552-1622).

Took the initiative for the first Dutch “Schipvaert” to the Indies 1595-1597, led by Captains Frederick de Houtman and Dirk Janszoon Keijzer.
Before departing to the Indies (1595) the sailors were carefully instructed by Plancius in geography and astronomical observing techniques.
Oldest surviving celestial globe, 1600, by Jodocus Hondius (1563-1612), showing the 12 new constellations, introduced by Plancius, on the basis of the precise measurements of the positions of 136 out of the 150 Southern stars brighter than 5th magnitude by Frederick de Houtman and Dirk Janszoon Keyzer, 1595-1597, (Amsterdam, Maritime Museum).

Some of the new constellations had “maritime” names, such as: Vela (the sail), Octans, Triangulum Australis, others animal names: Apis (the Bee), Chamelion, Camelopardus, Pavo (Peacock).
Christiaan Huygens (1629-1695)
In 1672 first president Academie Française

1656: Discovered Saturn’s rings and its moon Titan
1659: discovered formula for centrifugal(-petal) acceleration
Lorentz (1853-1928) and van der Waals (1837-1923) were appointed in Leiden (1878) and Amsterdam (1877), respectively, as a result of the new university law of 1876, which was aimed at promoting education in the sciences. Lorentz would later play an important role in getting de Sitter appointed as director of Leiden Observatory in 1918.
The “father” of statistical and galactic astronomy, appointed as professor of astronomy in Groningen in 1878. Measured the positions of almost 500,000 southern stars down to magnitude 9.5 with accuracy 1-2”. Remeasurement at a second Epoche produced an enormous data base for proper motions from which he derived statistical distances of stellar groups and discovered his two “star streams”.

J.C.Kapteyn (1851-1921)
Five friends in Leiden in 1923

_Einstein, Ehrenfest, de Sitter, Eddington and Lorentz._
Postkarte

[Handwritten text in German]

Prof. Dr. De Littera
Sanatorium Dennewald
Doorn (Holland)

Akten. Mitbestimmung: \[\text{(Handwritten signature)}\]
Wittelbachstr. 73
Berlin.

First published in 1938 by a leader of the Council Communism movement, Anton Pannekoek’s Lenin as philosopher offers a classic left-wing interpretation and critique of Lenin’s philosophical accomplishment and its relationship to the development of Leninism as perhaps the dominant political theory of the twentieth century. Providing a detailed discussion of the philosophical background to the Machist controversy which occasioned Lenin’s Materialism and Empirio criticism, Pannekoek’s study still stands as one of the most forceful and politically astute discussions of the topic available. Published here for the first time in an annotated and scholarly edition, this masterpiece of Marxist criticism is accompanied by a lengthy new introduction expanding and assessing Pannekoek’s discussion and arguing for the continuing relevance of Lenin’s thought for Marxism in the new millennium.
THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, VASSAR COLLEGE, DECEMBER 27, 1923
Luyten (24jr), van de Kamp (22) and Oort (23)

Shapley, (1885–1972)
Bart Bok (Harvard), Oort (Leiden) and vd Kamp (Swarthmore College) at opening of Mac Donald Observatory, Texas, in 1939.
M. Minnaert (1893-1970), Van Hulst’s Utrecht thesis advisor, was in concentration camp 1942-1944.

Van de Hulst (1918-2000) and Oort in the sixties.

In 1944 v.d. Hulst predicted the HI 21-cm line.
Wurzburg “Riese” Radar Antenna, 7.5 m diameter (3.75 MHz, 80 km range, 0.2 degrees resolution; for Flak). Used for first detection of HI, 21 cm line (1951) and first mapping (1953/4) of the spiral arms of the galaxy.

*Detection in 1951 independently by Ewen and Purcell (Harvard), Kerr (Sidney) and Muller, Oort and van de Hulst (Netherlands).*

Westerhout (r), director of US Naval Obs. with J.Weber and L.-H.Laster

21cm hydrogen map of the Galaxy (Oort, Kerr and Westerhout, 1958)
A.Blaauw (born 1914) and L.Woltjer (born 1930) were the second and 3rd Directors General of the European Southern Observatory (1970-1975 and 1975-1988, respectively). Woltjer took the initiative to build the Very Large Telescope and expanded ESO’s membership with Switzerland and Italy. Van der Laan and Giacconi completed its design and construction.
Oort’s Second dream:
The ESO (Chile)

The Very Large Telescope: four 8.2 m telescopes
Gerard Pieter Kuiper
1905-1973

1944, discovered CH₄ atm. of
Titan (5150 km), pressure 1 bar
The Italian-Dutch BeppoSAX satellite (1996-2003)
Discovery of first GRB-Supernova association:

GRB980425/ SN1998bw