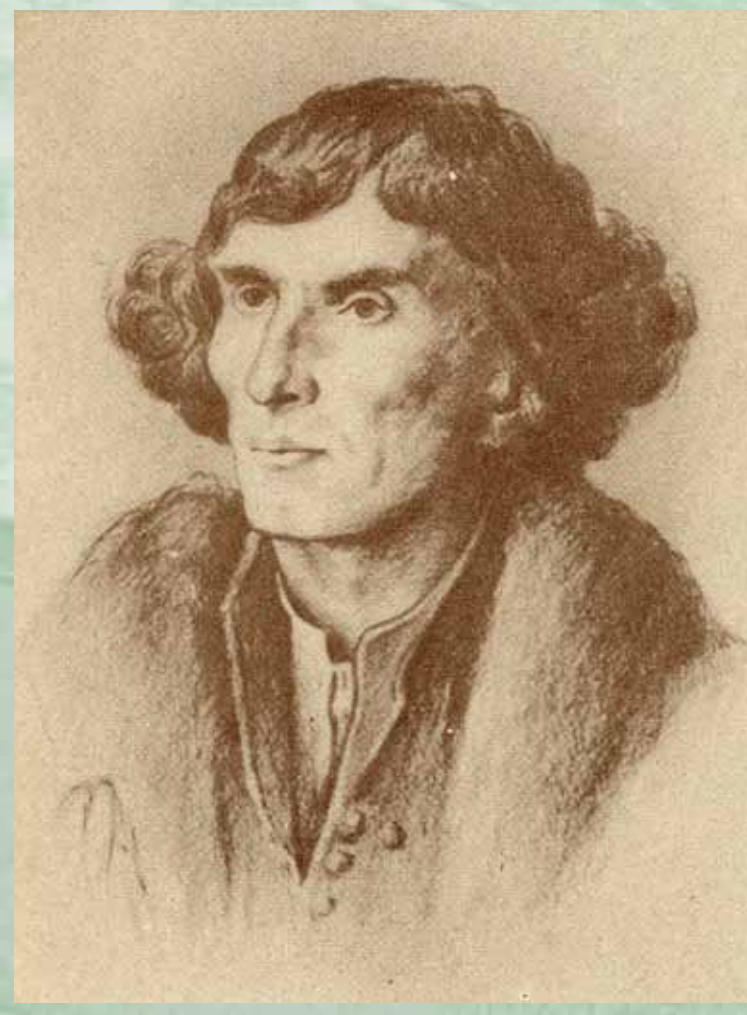
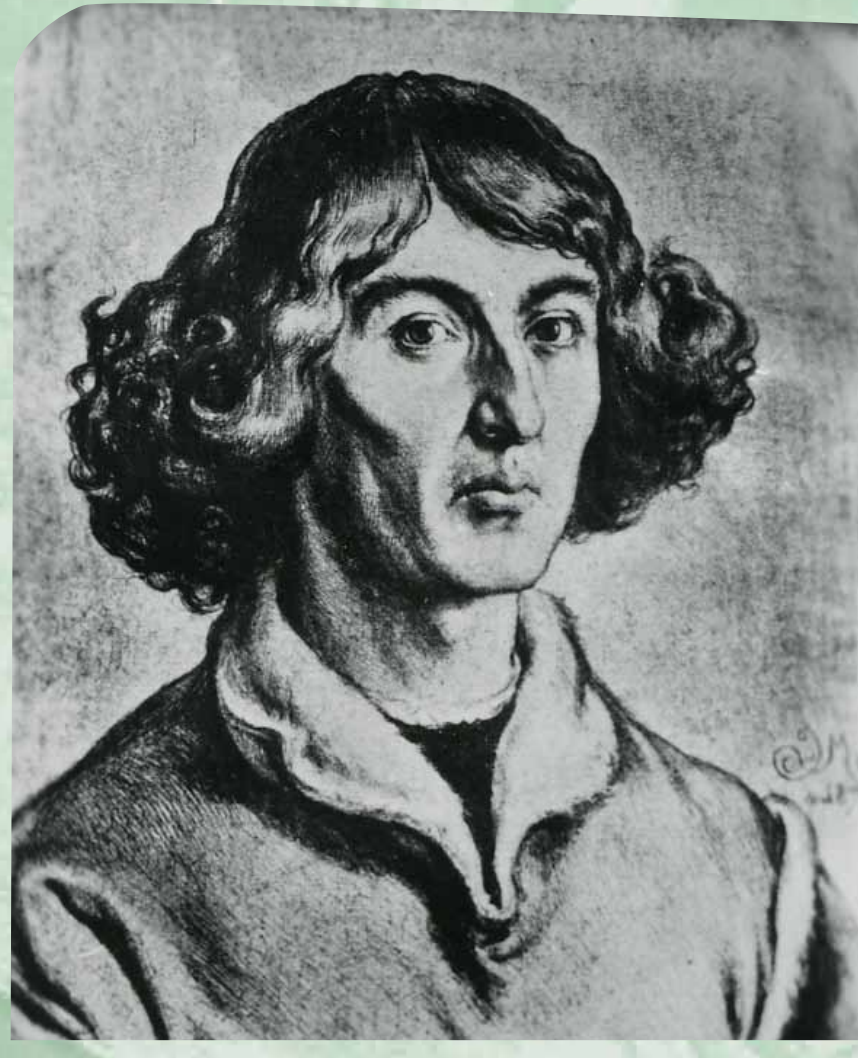




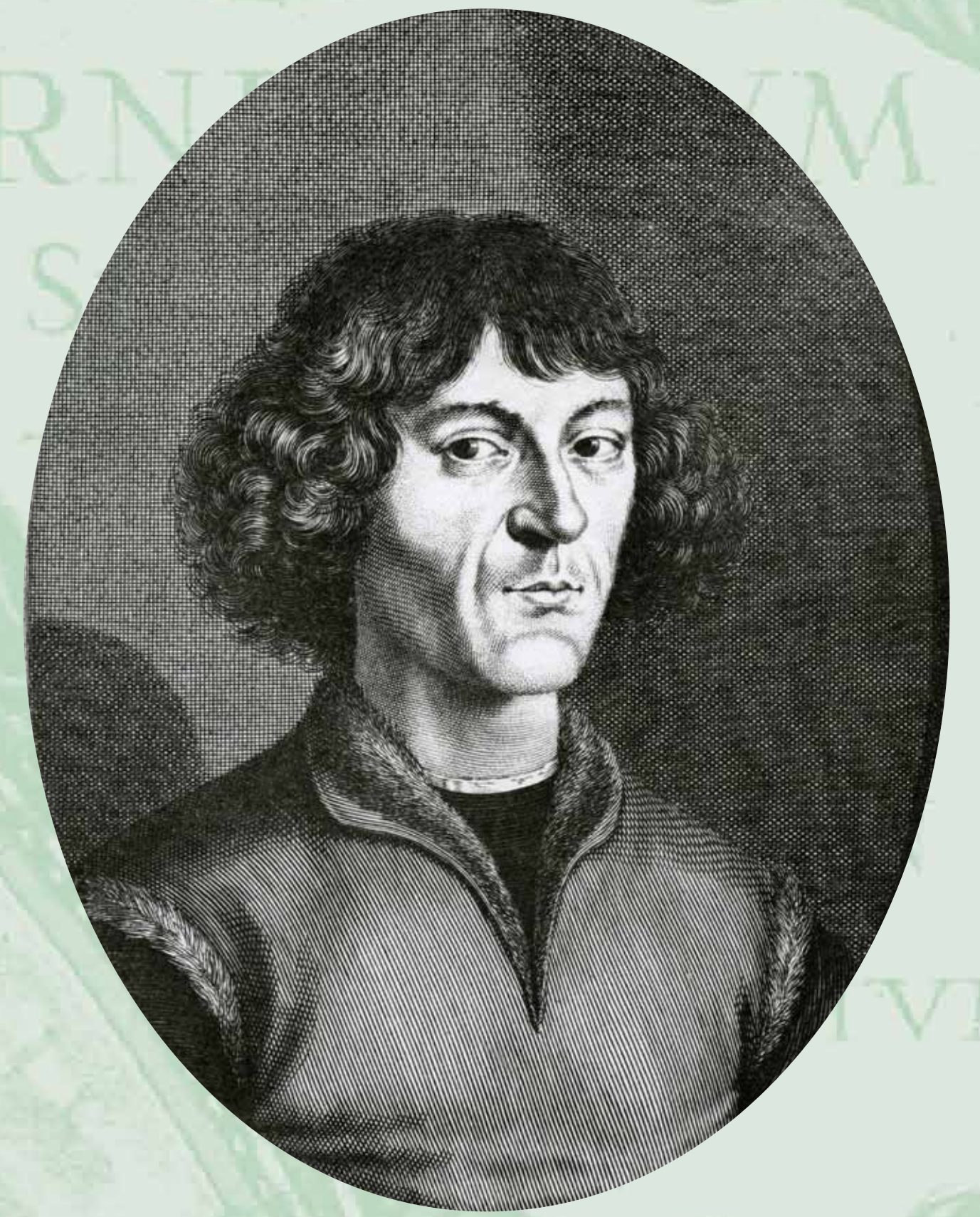
Portrait of Nicolaus Copernicus from the clock in the Strasburg cathedral, 1675



Portrait of Nicolaus Copernicus, author unknown



Portrait of Nicolaus Copernicus from the Toruń original, believed to be his self-portrait; from the gallery of portraits of the Toruń gymnasium from 1568



Portrait of Nicolaus Copernicus by Jeremiasz Falck, Polish copperplate engraver, 1645; probably modelled on the original from Toruń

## PORTRAITS

We know the face of Copernicus owing to a few portraits and prints done during his life and right after his death. Although they did not survive, their copies remained until today. Currently there exist more than 300 “secondary” copies showing Copernicus’ face in more than ten basic portrait types. The fate of the portrait brought from Denmark to Frombork by Morsian, assistant to the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, is not known. The only remnant is the inscription under the portrait: “While many giants had enough strength to put mountains on tops of other mountains [...], Copernicus is so much greater [...] as he lifted the Earth to the stars [...]”.

The oldest and most elaborated portrait of Copernicus can be found on the astronomical clock in the Notre-Dame Cathedral in Strasbourg. It was painted by a Swiss painter Tobias Stimmer who was also responsible for the artistic design of the clock. The painting was based on the Copernicus’ self-portrait brought from Toruń by Tiedeman Giese. The astronomer holds a lily of the valley, which symbolizes his titles in natural philosophy and medicine. (on the board Physician and Soldier)

Other popular portraits of Copernicus are:

- portrait by an anonymous artist from the end of the 16th century;
- portrait modelled on the wood engraving by Sabin Kaufmann, published in a collection of prints in Wittenberg in the 16th century;
- portrait by Jan Feliks Piwarski, a painter, lithographer and sketch artist used in the Warsaw edition of *De revolutionibus* in 1854;
- image from the print *The death of Nicolaus Copernicus* (helio engraved by V. Angerer), 1873; in the painting the astronomer is sitting in an armchair surrounded by his friends (on the board Origin);
- image from the painting by Jan Matejko *Astronomer Copernicus, conversation with God*, 1873; the astronomer’s face lightened by the moonlight symbolizes his gratefulness to God the Creator for the inspiration to resolve the most difficult mystery of the Universe (on the board Astronomer);
- portrait based on a copy by Nora Zinck from around 1942; based on the lost portrait (the so called Gołuchów portrait) painted to commemorate the astronomer’s 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

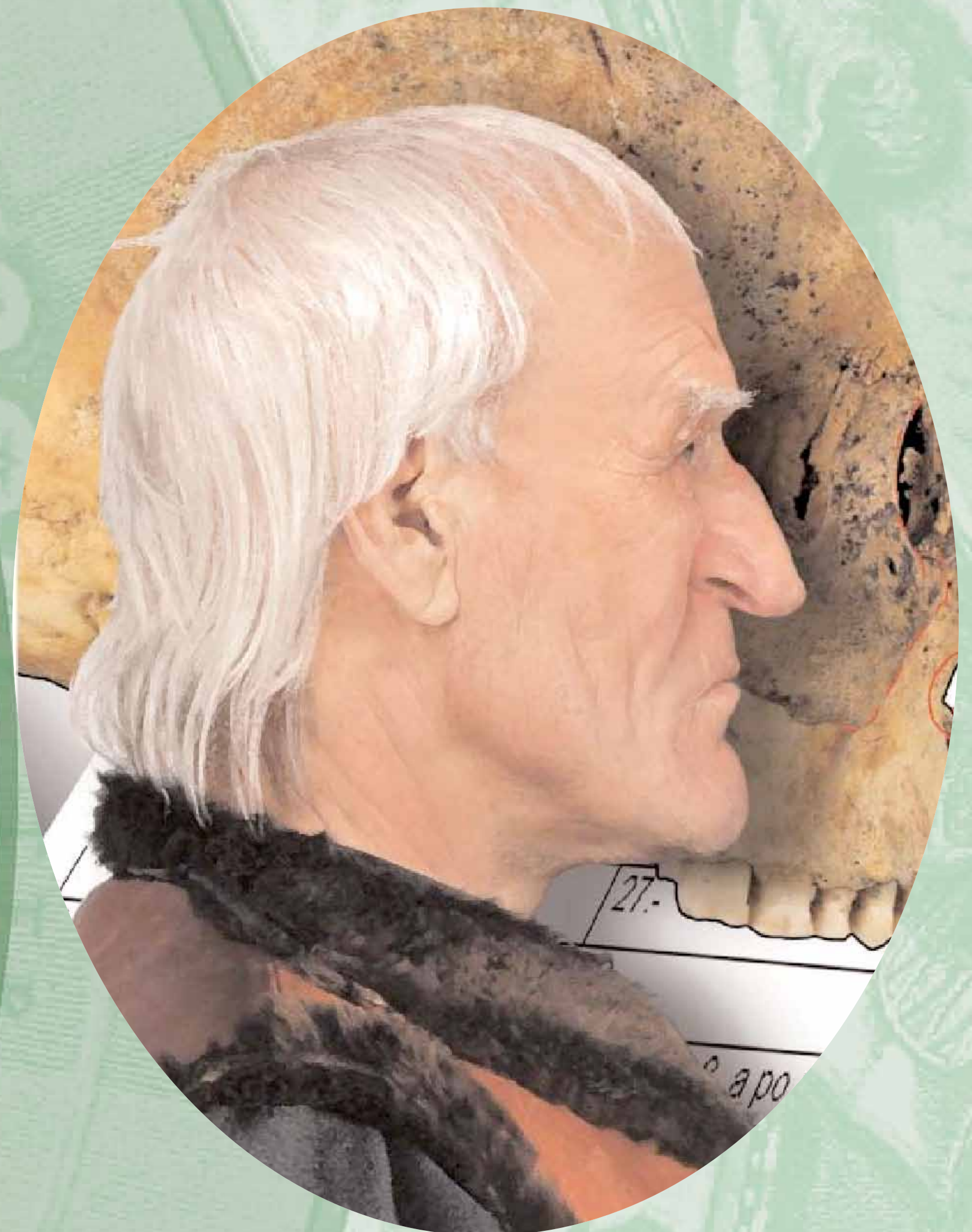
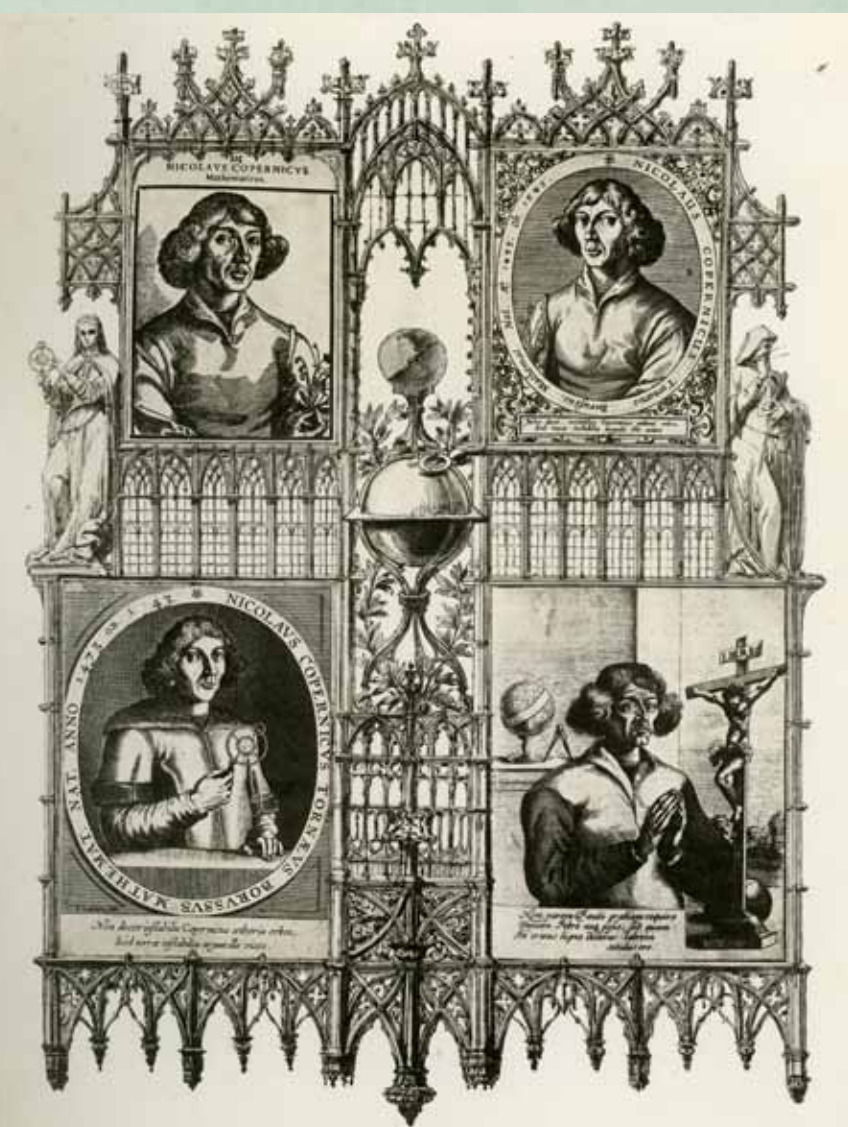


Image of Nicolaus Copernicus’ face digitally generated on the basis of a skull found in 2005 under the floor of the Holy Cross altar, which Copernicus took care of, in the Frombork cathedral, where he was a canon; the image was created with the use of Mikhail Gerasimov’s method of facial reconstruction; the DNA material found in the remains in Frombork cathedral was identical with that of two hairs found in 2008 in Stöffler’s book belonging to Copernicus, which made the identification possible. Stöffler’s book was looted during the Swedish Deluge and is now kept in Uppsala Museum



Typical images of Nicolaus Copernicus, clockwise from top on the right from a work by Nicolaus Reusner *Icones seu imagines virorum litteris illustrium...*, 1590; from a work by Jean-Jacques Boissard *Icones virorum illustrium...*, n/d; by Jacob van Meurs from a biography by Pierre Gassendi, 1654; from a work by Krzysztof Hartknoch about Prussia, 1684



Images of Nicolaus Copernicus from oil paintings, in the centre by Tobias Stimmer, 1570, clockwise from top on the right: by Marco Basaiti, 1512; by Anton Dietrich, n/d; from a Bologna school, n/d; by Nicolas Dandeleau, early 19<sup>th</sup> century



Fantasy images of Nicolaus Copernicus, in the centre an Englishman’s face from an etching by Edward Scriven, clockwise from top on the right: painting, presumably by a French artist; painting by Marcello Bacciarelli, turned into lithography in Warsaw in 1823 by Karol Minter; face of Johannes Stöffler, German mathematician and astronomer from an etching by Antoni Oleszczyński



Portrait of Nicolaus Copernicus from a painting by Rudolfo Curadi, 1505; bottom: portraits of Nicolaus Copernicus: by Marco Basaiti from the Strasbourg cathedral clock, by Jean-Jacques Boissard from a bust in Walhalla temple, from a medal by Amadée Durand, from works by Pierre Gassendi and Johannes Hevelius, from the Greenwich Museum, from the collection of Adolf Cichowski in Paris