



View of the 15th-century Kraków



View of the 15th-century Bologna



View of 15th-century Ferrara; Copernicus' doctoral thesis was found in the local archives

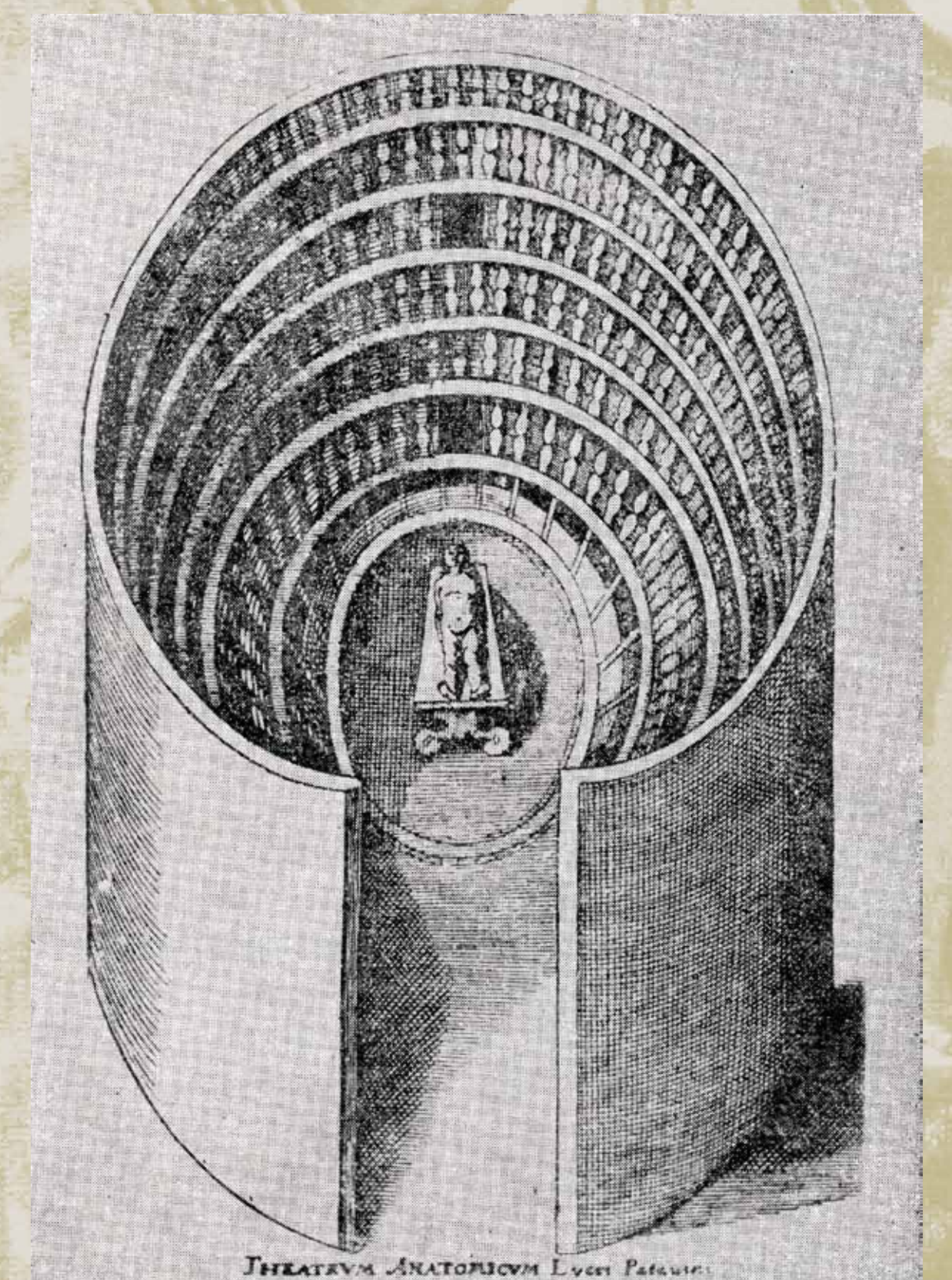
EDUCATION

In 1491 Nicolaus Copernicus graduated from the parish school in Toruń where he studied Latin and fundamentals of mathematics and astronomy.

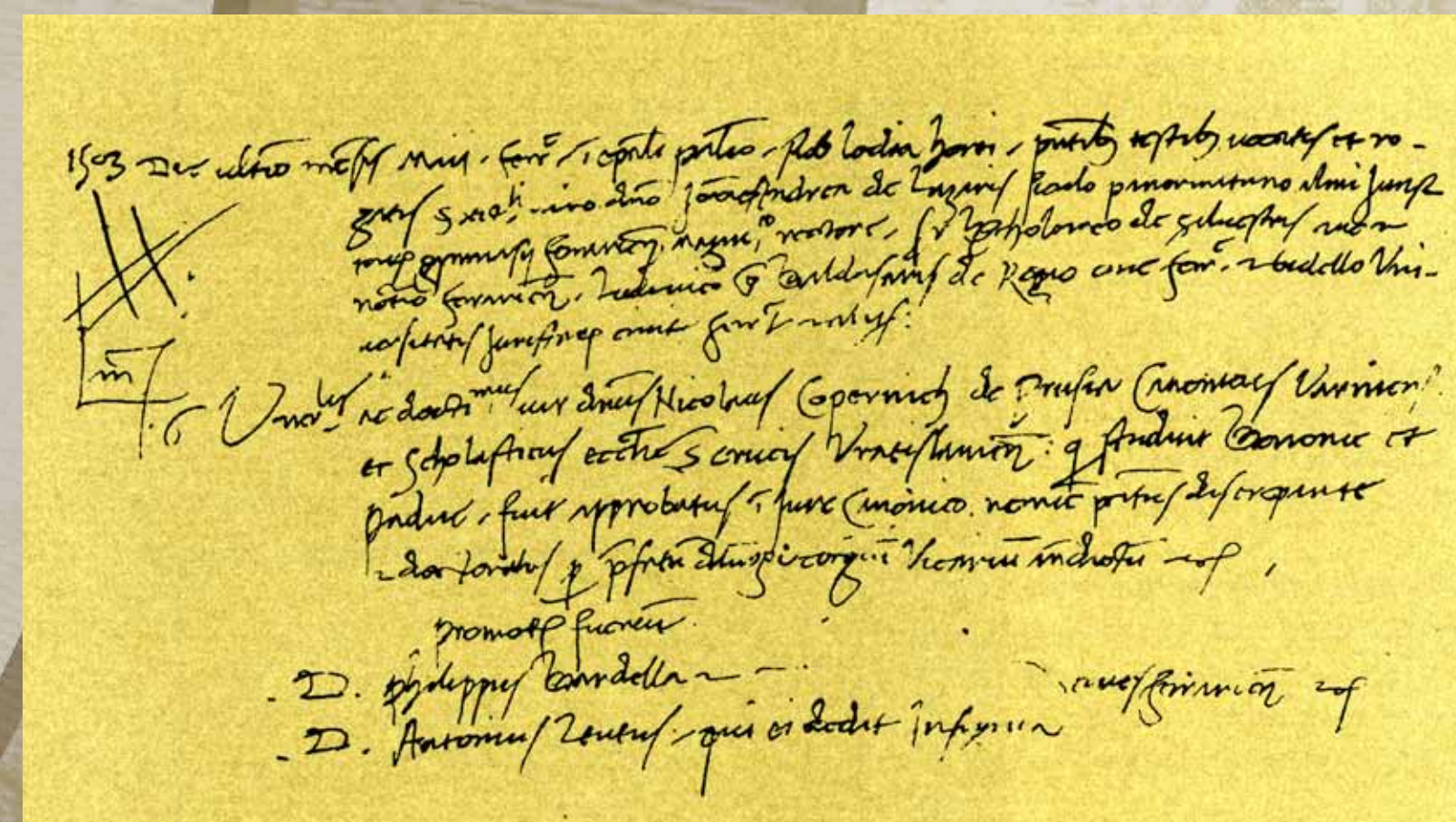
- ◆ In the semester 1491/1492 he matriculated at the Kraków Academy. "There is a famous university in Kraków [...]. It excels in astronomy [...] no other university is more famous for it" wrote Hartmann Schedel in the *Nuremberg Chronicle* published in 1493. Copernicus signed himself as "Nicolaus Nicolai de Thorunia solvit totum" and begun studying in the Department of Liberal Arts (including grammar, logic, rhetorics, astronomy and music). In 1542, Wojciech Caprinus of Bukowo remarked "[...] our university provided him with the foundations of his future mathematical studies, which he has never denied; on the contrary, he confessed that he owed everything he had achieved to the Academy".
- ◆ Copernicus graduated from the Kraków Academy in 1495, and in 1496 he enrolled at Bologna Law School, where he learnt, among others, Greek. He signed himself in the register of the German jurist student corporation as "Dominus Nicolaus Kopperlingh de Thorn grossetos navem". The corporation embraced young Poles from Silesia, Prussia, Pomerania, as well as Germans, Hungarians, Czechs, Lithuanians and other foreign students living in Bologna.
- ◆ In 1500 Nicolaus and his brother Andreas performed their student's legal practice in the Papal Curia in Rome.
- ◆ In 1501 he received from the Warmia chapter a two-year extension of leave in order to study medicine in Padua ("since as a helpful physician he would some day advise our reverend bishop and also the members of the chapter"). He graduated and was granted the right to practice medicine.
- ◆ In 1503 in Ferrara he received his degree of doctor in canon law: "Honourable and knowledgeable Nicolaus Copernich de Prussia [...], who gained his education in Bologna and Padua was granted by his principal with no objections a doctorate in canon law". (from the Copernicus' doctorate, Archivio di Stato, Ferrara, *Notarial Register*, Sign. 237, p. 446).



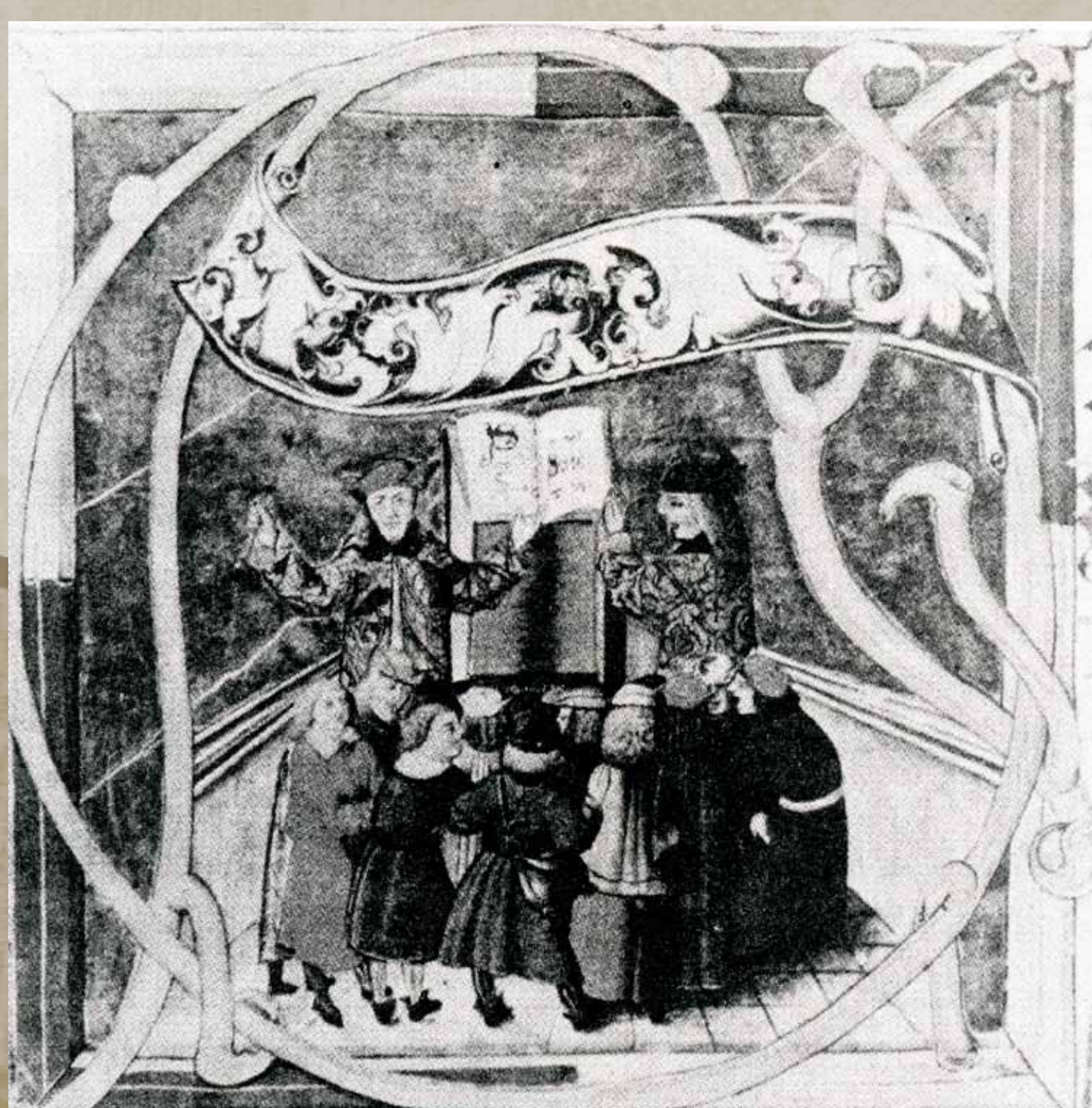
View of the 15th-century Padua



Anatomical theatre in Padua at the time of Copernicus' studies in the city



Nicolaus Copernicus' doctoral diploma in canon law, 1503



Students' Choir and Cantors, Jan Olbracht's Gradual, ca. 1505



Teacher and his students, wood engraving, 16th century; in the times of Nicolaus Copernicus only boys attended schools



Girolamo Fracastoro (1478–1553), outstanding professor of medicine in Padua, believed to be Nicolaus Copernicus' teacher