

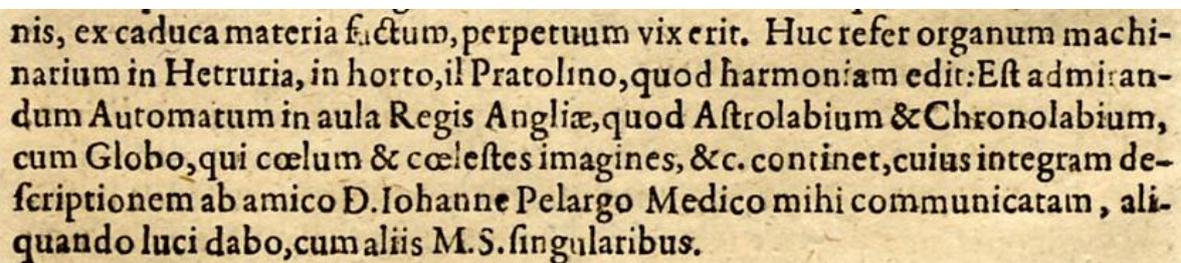
In Vera Keller's dissertation CORNELIS DREBBEL (1572-1633): FAME AND THE MAKING OF MODERNITY p. 134 we read:

“Drebbel's machine was of particular interest for its relationship to a *deperditum*, the lost art of the Archimedean sphere. Drebbel himself had made the comparison, as did many others such as Vranckheim. There were even those that thought he might have built the machine out of the famous malleable glass. Indeed, we find the Archimedean sphere among Bornitz's list of lost arts. The Emperor Rudolf, according to Bornitz, wished to rediscover this art, but —hindered by death and the burden of wars he left the work unfinished. 467 Here too Bornitz did not mention the fact that it was Drebbel who came to Prague to build the sphere for Rudolf shortly before Rudolf's death. The *deperditum* of the Archimedean sphere, the imperial quest to rediscover it, as well as the possibility that the sphere might be moved —magnetically, must have made Drebbel's sphere a considerable desideratum for Bornitz.

Bornitz's list — *adhuc reperienda et investiganda* was not entitled *desiderata* for many of its contents had already been invented, such as the devices of Burggrav and Drebbel. However, they had not yet been investigated to Bornitz's satisfaction (he particularly urged in the case of Drebbel's instruments —*reddere aut investigare quis valet, ex scholis vulgaribus Mathematicorum, Physicorum & Musicorum*).⁴⁶⁸ These devices were so new and ill-explored that they fell into a special category of those things on the cutting-edge of existence, teetering between the desirable and the impossible. It is a category we will encounter again in the works of Francis Bacon.”

[Jakob Bornitz](#) Tractatus politicus De Rerum Sufficientia. - Frankfurt <Main>, 1625.

[Ibid, 166.](#) —Est admirandum Automatum in aula Regis Angliae, quod Astrolabium et Chronolabium, cum Globo, qui caelum et caelestes imagines, etc. continet, cuius integram descriptionem ab amico D. Iohanne Pelargo Medico mihi communicatam, aliquando luci dabo, cum aliis M. S. singularibus.



nis, ex caduca materia factum, perpetuum vix erit. Huc refer organum machinarium in Hetruria, in horto, il Pratolino, quod harmoniam edit: Est admirandum Automatum in aula Regis Angliæ, quod Astrolabium & Chronolabium, cum Globo, qui cœlum & cœlestes imagines, &c. continet, cuius integram descriptionem ab amico D. Iohanne Pelargo Medico mihi communicatam, aliquando luci dabo, cum aliis M. S. singularibus.

[Ibid, 178.](#) —Hic recordor globi Drubleri, Belgæ, qui ad motum caeli moveri, perhibetur: plurimi magicum quiddam subesse putant, quod corpora naturalia sine adminiculo immobilia. Naturæ, qui conveniens esse, disputant, spiritus mundi universalis vel caelesti virtuti magneticae adsignant. Ideo adhuc sub Iudice lis est. Cuius meminit Marcell. Wanckemius, in *Ep. ad Burggravium*, et Keplerus noster, in *Epist. ad Sethum Calvisium*.

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De

[Bornitz \(1625\), 225.](#) —Archimedes Syracusanus Sphaeram vitream fecit, in qua motus coli et stellarum cursus incrementum et decrementum ante oculos posuit, ut Stradius refert ex hist. Qualem Rudolph. II. Imp. affectasse fertur, sed morte et mole bellorum impeditus imperfectum opus reliquit.

solide refutat. Archimedes Syracusanus Sphaeram vitream fecit, in qua motus cœli & stellarum cursus incrementum & decrementum ante oculos posuit, ut Stradius refert *ex hist.* Qualem Rudolph. II. Imp. affectasse fertur, sed morte & mole bellorum impeditus imperfectum opus reliquit. Archytas Tarentinus columbam ligneam volatilem fecit. Crin. 17. c. 12. Gellius 10. c. 12. Cui simile quodam modo, Aquilæ se mouentis & alis complodentis automatam Noribergicum, sed non par fuit.

[Ibid, 227.](#) —Nec rationem et causam sphaerae in Anglia prodigiosae, à Cornelio Drebbelio fabricatae, quae motus caelestes et aestus maris refert: Item, organi musici, quod musicam edit ad motum caeli et splendorem Solis, reddere aut investigare quis valet, ex scholis vulgaribus Mathematicorum, Physicorum et Musicorum.

Ignem perpetuum, quadraturam circuli, de qua Ioseph. Scalig. & Ludolph. Gladiator Hollandus, & nuper Philippus Bffenbach/ de eadem *Mechanice*, Et quod pote sit vento aduerso nauigare, vel etiam sub aqua.

Nec rationem & causam sphaerae in Anglia prodigiosae, à Cornelio Drebbelio fabricatae, quae motus caelestes & aestus maris refert: Item, organi musici, quod musicam edit ad motum cœli & splendorem Solis, reddere aut inuestigare quis valet, ex scholis vulgaribus Mathematicorum, Physicorum & Musicorum.