

**Den danska kungens offer  
&  
den falska vetenskapens grund**

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*Peter Vok av Rosenberg och Tycho Brahes sista tid i livet*

# Den sista kvällen i hälsa

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*Tycho Brahe,  
Tycho Brahe  
(1546-1601)*

**13 oktober 1601**

Tycho Brahe sätter sig till bords på en bankett i Prag.

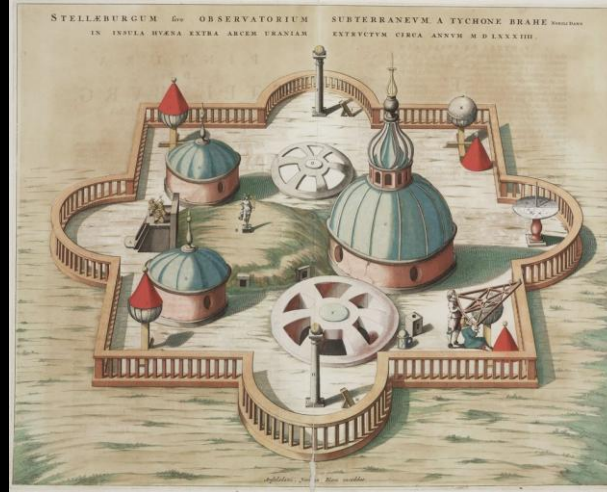
**24 oktober 1601**

Elva dagar senare är han död. 54 år gammal.

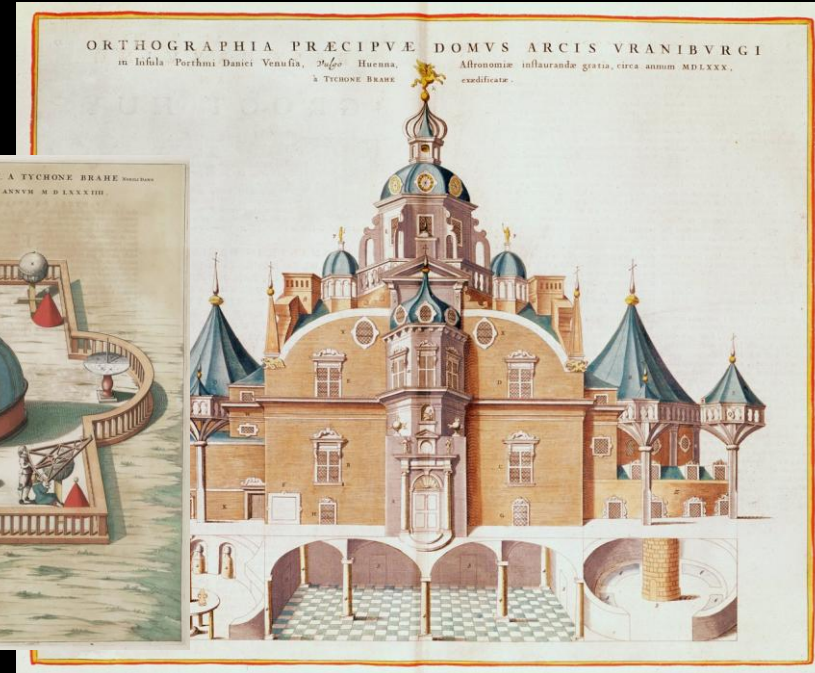
# Uraniborg — Europas mest berömda observatorium

Finansierat av kung Fredrik II av Danmark.

Brahes stjärnkartor och planetmätningar var så precisa att de inte överträffades förrän teleskopet började användas.



*Stjerneborg*



*Uraniborg*

# En kung besöker en stjärnskådare



*Jakob VI av Skottland (Jakob I av England)*

**20 mars 1590**

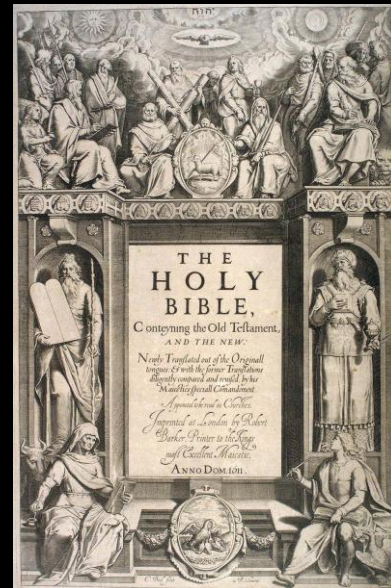
Jakob VI besöker Uraniborg  
— stannar i **sju timmar**.

*Skriver tre hyllningsdikter  
med egen hand.*

*Jämför Tycho med Apollon.*

**1603**

Jakob I av England (*King James*)



# Landsflykt och förlust

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*Christian IV av Danmark  
(1577–1648)*

**1597:**

Christian IV fördriver Brahe och förstör observatorierna – ett märkligt offer.

Brahe söker sig till Prag — och Rudolf II:s hov.

Där möter han så småningom sin nye assistent:

**Johannes Kepler**

# Den trogne medarbetaren — borta när det gällde



Christen Sørensen  
Longomontanus  
(1562-1647)

Åtta år vid Brahes sida på Ven.

**4 aug 1600:** Lockad bort av rikskansler Christian Friis — Brahes uttalade fiende.

*Friis betalade lönen till Longomontanus ur **egen ficka.***

*I hans ställe stod Kepler.*



Christian Friis  
(1581-1639)



# 1601 — ett år av förluster

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## 4 februari

Lillebror Jørgen Ottesen Brahe dör i Skåne.

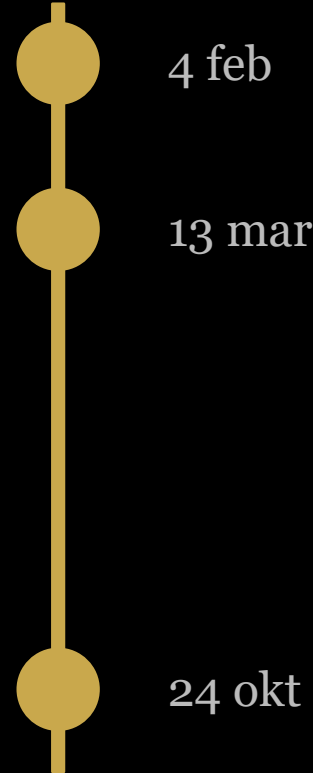
## 13 mars

Svägerskan Ingeborg Nielsdatter Parsberg dör också — möjligen i pesten.

*Brahe: i exil, utan sin trognaste kollega, nu sörjande bror och svägerska.*

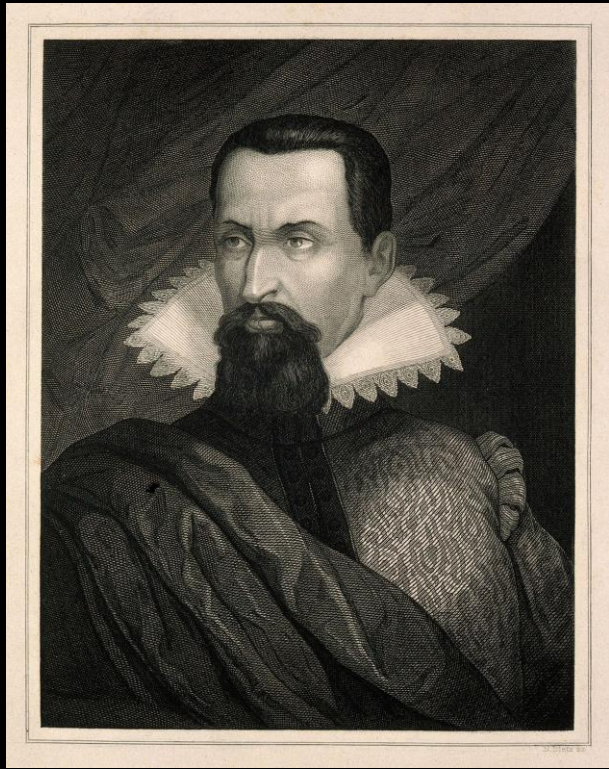
## 24 oktober

**Tycho Brahe dör i Prag.**



# Brahe och Kepler — en stormig relation

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Johannes Kepler (1571–1630)

Brahe hade en geocentrisk världsbild. Kepler ville bevisa att Kopernikus hade rätt.

Brahe gav Kepler tillgång till **enbart Marsdata** — och inget mer.

*Kepler: starkt nedsatt syn, ingen observatör.*

*Hans metod: matematiska harmonier och kabbalistiska talsamband.*

## Keplers egna ord

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*”Han är mycket rik, men han nyttjar inte sina rikedomar som de flesta rika människor. Därför måste vi rycka dessa rikedomar från honom.”*

*— Johannes Kepler i brev till sin lärare Michael Mästlin*

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**Kort därefter var Brahe död. Kepler  
tillskanskade sig hela katalogen.**

Hg

80  
200.59

# Mercury



**1901**

Tycho grav öppnas, hår- och skäggprover tas.

**1992**

Rättsmedicinaren Bent Kæmpe (Köpenhamns universitets rättsmedicinska institut) löser upp skäggstrån i stark syra.

Resultat: Massor av kvicksilver.

Hg

80

200.59

# Mercury



**1995**

Bent Kæmpe i tidningen Ingenjøren:

*”Tycho Brahe föll offer för sin egen medicin”*

(som bland annat ska ha innehållit kvicksilver)

Hg

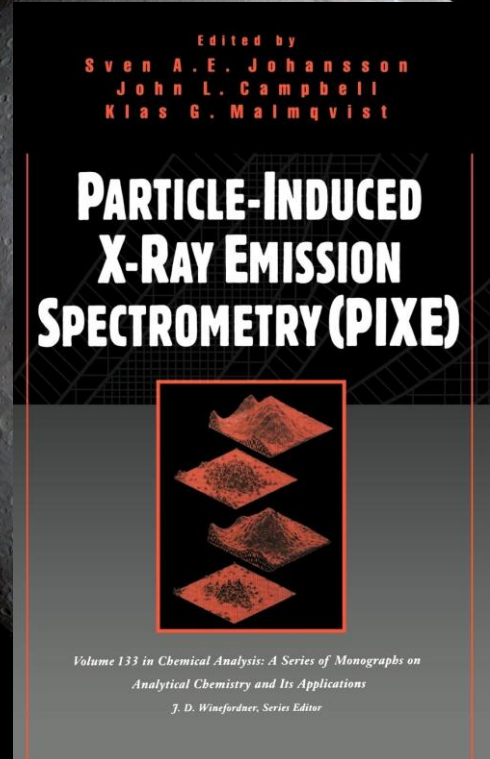
80  
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# Mercury



**1996**

Fysikern Jan Pallon vid Lunds universitet finner kvicksilver inuti endast i hårrötterna, men inte i de högre delarna. Därför stödde hans resultat hypotesen om mord.



## 2012

Ludwig Jonas, Heiner Jaksch, Erhard Zellmann, Kerstin I. Klemm och Peter Hvilshøj Andersen "debunkar" mordteorin genom elektronmikroskopi.

Finner kvicksilver enbart i hårets yttre fjäll – inte i rötterna eller hårskaftet – vilket istället talar för långvarig exponering för kvicksilverånga från t.ex. Brahes alkemiska laboratorium...

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Detection of Mercury in the 411-year-old Beard Hairs of the Astronomer Tycho Brahe by Elemental Analysis in Electron Microscopy

Ludwig Jonas<sup>1</sup>, Heiner Jaksch<sup>2</sup>, Erhard Zellmann<sup>2</sup>, Kerstin I. Klemm<sup>3</sup>, and Peter Hvilshøj Andersen<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Electron Microscopic Center, Department of Pathology, University of Rostock, Rostock, Germany, <sup>2</sup>Zeiss SMT Company, Oberkochen, Germany, <sup>3</sup>Institute for Planetology, University of Münster, Münster, Germany, and <sup>4</sup>Université de Strasbourg, Faculté des Langues et des Cultures Étrangères, Département d'Études Allemandes, Strasbourg, France

#### ABSTRACT

Hairs more than 400 years old of the famous astronomer Tycho Brahe were studied by electron microscopy to evaluate the hypothesis that Johannes Kepler murdered his teacher Brahe by mercury intoxication. The beard hairs showed a well-preserved ultrastructure with typical hair scales and melanosomes. The authors detected an accumulation of electron-dense granules of about 10 nm inside the outer hair scales, but not in the hair shaft and roots. At the places of these heavy-metal-containing granules they detected mercury besides other elements by energy dispersive X-ray analysis (EDX, Oxford, UK) in a field cathode scanning electron microscope (SEM, Gemini, Zeiss). The mercury-containing granules were found over the whole length of hairs, but only in the outer hair scales. Nevertheless, surface coatings of hairs were free of mercury. This distribution of mercury does not support the murder hypothesis, but could be related to precipitation of mercury dust from the air during long-term alchemistic activities.

**Keywords:** beard hairs, electron microscopy, elemental analysis, forensic medicine, mercury intoxication

Tycho Brahe (1546–1601) was one of the famous astronomers during the Renaissance. He observed the movement of stars and planets very precisely with his naked eyes and recorded the angles using self-constructed instruments. His protocols about the positions of stars and planets over a period of nearly 40 years served as the basis for the three laws of planetary motion formulated by Johannes Kepler. However, there was a strong distrust between Brahe and his student Kepler, so Brahe kept his protocols under lock and key. Therefore, the sudden death of Brahe in 1601 after a banquet at Baron Peter Rosenberg's palace in Prague led to speculations about an unnatural cause of death [1–3]. The pain and symptoms of Brahe's death throes were described precisely in the funeral speech by the imperial physician Jan Jessenius and by Kepler himself in a notice written at the end of the astronomical protocols and published some years later. A rumor about a possible

poison attack was raised after Brahe's death, but after some decades, this rumor was completely forgotten by most people and scarcely mentioned by the historians for the next 300 years. After the Velvet Revolution, things changed. Hair and beard samples extracted from the tomb in 1901 were offered by the Czech authorities to Denmark, where they were examined twice. In 1992, the Danish forensicist Bent Kæmpe was the first to detect mercury in the hairs of the beard by AAS analysis [4,5]. In 1996, the Swedish physicist Jan Pallon confirmed these results, when he discovered the same poison in the astronomer's beard hairs by PIXE analyses [6].

In Scandinavia, these discoveries led to reinforced speculations about murder, but the rest of the world did not take notice of the scientific results, until the journalists Joshua and Anne-Lee Gilder published *Heavenly Intrigue* in 2004 [7]. In this book, they accused Kepler of having murdered his master with

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# Mercury

2012

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**DEBUNKED**

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**Ungefär:**  
"Tycho Brahe föll offer för sin egen medicin"

more than 400 years old of the famous astronomer Tycho Brahe were studied by electron microscopy to evaluate the hypothesis that Johannes Kepler murdered his teacher Brahe by mercury intoxication. The hair samples were analyzed by ultramicrochemical methods and elemental analysis by energy-dispersive X-ray analysis (EDS) in a field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM, Gemini, Zeiss). The mercury-containing granules were found over the whole length of hairs, but only in the outer hair scales. Nevertheless, surface coatings of hairs were free of mercury. This distribution of mercury does not support the murder hypothesis, but could be related to precipitation of mercury dust from the air during long-term alchemistic activities.

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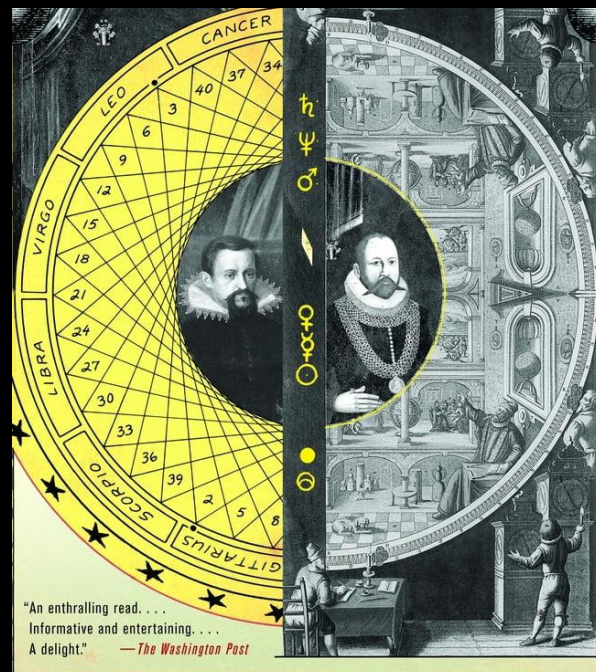
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# Mordet — med kvicksilver som vapen

## Paret Gilders tes (2004)

En första dos vid banketten den 13 oktober.

En andra, dödlig dos — given av Kepler  
(som bodde hos Brahe).



## HEAVENLY INTRIGUE

Johannes Kepler, Tycho Brahe, and the Murder  
Behind One of History's Greatest Scientific Discoveries

JOSHUA GILDER AND ANNE-LEE GILDER

Peter Vok av Rosenberg  
(1539–1611)



# Värden ingen frågade ut

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Banketten hölls i **Peter Vok av Rosenbergs (Rožmberka) hem.**

*I "Heavenly Intrigue" nämns han tre gånger — aldrig som misstänkt.*

*Vem var mannen som bjöd in Tycho Brahe till sin sista kväll i hälsa?*

# Huset Rosenberg — alkemins Mecka

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Södra Böhmen: ett av Europas centra för hermetisk vetenskap.

Familjen Rosenbergs gods lockade alkemister från hela kontinenten.

Peter Voks äldre bror Wilhelm av Rosenberg — politisk storspelare och den ledande mecenaten för alkemi i hela Böhmen.



*Český Krumlov — Rosenbergs stamslott*

# John Dee — drottningens alkemist och spion

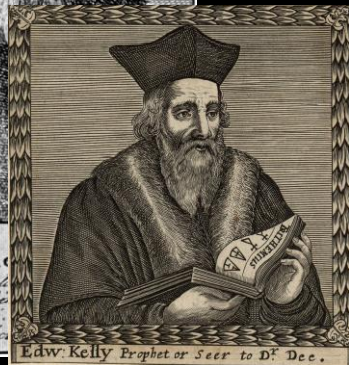
Hovastronom åt Elisabet I — och agent för den engelska kronan.

**1586**

Dee och Kelley anländer till slottet i Třeboň hos Wilhelm von Rosenberg.

Kelley: dömd för falskmyntning — **båda öronen avskurna.**

*Vid Třeboň: alkemiska experiment med kvicksilver — noggrant dokumenterade.*



John Dee  
(1527–1608)



# Peter Vok ärver ett nätverk



## Alkemisk expertis

Kunskaper om kvicksilver från decennier av experiment vid Třeboň

## Engelska kontakter

Förbindelser med Dees krets och den engelska kronan — ärvt från Wilhelm

## Politiskt nätverk

Nära vän med Christian av Anhalt — böhmiska protestantismens starkaste kraft

*Wilhelm dog 1592, barnlös. Peter Vok ärvde allt.*



# Det hemliga mötet i Lüneburg 1586

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## »*Confederatio Militiae Evangelicae*«

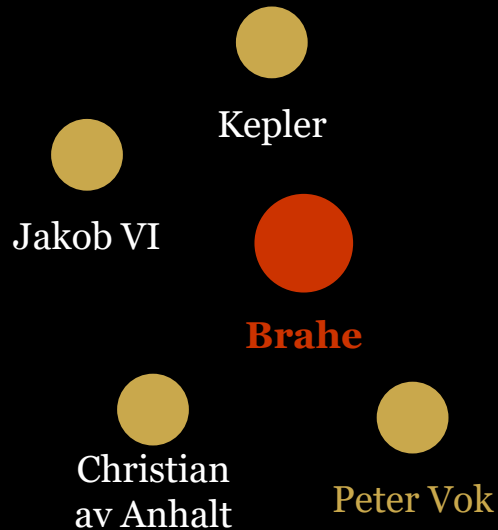
Ett evangeliskt försvarsförbund mot de kejserliga och katolska krafterna.

Undertecknare: England · Danmark · Frankrike  
· Württemberg

## Württemberg = Keplers hemlandskap.

Kepler studerade vid Tübingen med hertigens stipendium.

Hans lärare Mästlin var nära knuten till den proto-rosenkorsiska rörelsen.



# Oswald Croll — alkemisten i Prag

Hovläkare åt Christian I av Anhalt-Bernburg.

Alkemist, paracelsist, diplomatisk agent — stationerad i Prag.

**Christian av Anhalt:**

Nära vän med Peter Vok av Rosenberg.

*Croll: väl förtrogen med kvicksilvrets egenskaper som läkemedel — och som gift.*



Oswald Croll (ca 1560–1609)

# Den danska kungens offer

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## **Palle Laurings tes (1954):**

Danska kungar förnyade sin lycka vart sjunde och nionde år — genom ett offer.

## **Frazer, The Golden Bough:**

Offerfester i Uppsala: vart nionde år, nio dagar, nio offer per dag.



*Offerfesten i Uppsala — vart nionde år*

# Nio år efter tronsbestigningen

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1588

Christian IV bestiger danska tronen

1596

Tar personlig kontroll, 19 år gammal

1597

**Fördrivet Brahe — förstör Uraniborg och Stjerneborg**

1588 → 1597 = **exakt nio år.**

*Var det ett offer — av faderns arv och berömmelse?*

# En man i ekonomisk kris

**1601 — samma år Brahe dör:**  
Peter Vok säljer Český Krumlov —  
familjens historiska stamslott — till  
kejsar Rudolf II för att täcka sina  
skulder.

*En man i den positionen söker  
allierade.*

*En man i den positionen gör tjänster  
— mot gentjänster.*



# Trådarna som löper genom Peter Vok

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- Arrangerade banketten den 13 oktober 1601
- Ärvde alkemisk kunskap om kvicksilver
- Förbindelser med det engelska nätverket
- Nära vän med Christian av Anhalt
- Djup ekonomisk kris samma år

# Mannen som historieskrivningen glömt

**Brahe dog efter Peter Voks gästabud.**

Kirstine Brahe dog 1604. Gravsatt bredvid Tycho i Týnkyrkan.

*Peter Voks roll i Tychos sista kväll i hälsa förtjänar mer än en fotnot i historien.*



*Týnkyrkan i Prag —  
Brahes sista viloplats*

**Var Kepler ensam om dådet?**

*Eller var han ett redskap i ett större spel?*



# Några källor

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- ◆ stateless3, TYCHOS Forum, april 2024 — den direkta inspirationen till denna artikel



# Was Kepler out of his mind?

The TYCHOS Discussions

<https://forum.tychos.space/t/was-kepler-out-of-his-mind/406/10>

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stateless3

Patrik

Apr 2024

Apr 2024

Hi, Patrick/Simon, and everyone else,

This is quite a long post and a bit convoluted so be warned. It does however attempt to tie his murder in with a larger conspiracy and not just the notion Kepler murdered Brahe because he was fixated on proving Copernicus right using Brahe's data. However, I have no doubt Kepler was involved in the murder of Brahe. I just don't think he acted alone. He almost damns himself through his own words.

"He is very rich but he does not make proper use of his riches like most rich people. Therefore we must wrest his riches from him"

- Letter from Johannes Kepler to Michael Mästlin on Tycho Brahe.

He had motive and opportunity as he was at the banquet and in the house when Brahe expired. I suspect he was responsible for Brahe's second poisoning where he was close at hand, but the initial deed I would suggest was committed by another hand. I would suggest a prime suspect for the role of instigator would have to be the man who organized the event where Brahe was taken ill. Peter Vok of Rosenberg as the host of the event had the opportunity yet he is rarely referred to by scholars investigating Brahe's demise. In 'Heavenly Intrigue' Peter Vok of Rosenberg (Peter Vok Ursinus Rozmberk) is mentioned three times briefly in passing. Without going into too much detail here, you can find links between Peter Vok of Rosenberg and the Elizabethan intelligence services. He met the Queen in England as a young nobleman when he traveled to England for two weeks. Not long after England, Scotland, Denmark, The Duchy of Württemberg [Kepler studied at the Tübingen Stift under the Duke], Christian I, Prince of Anhalt-Bernburg [Christian of Anhalt], and several other German principalities together with the Bohemian protestants had formed a close alliance to counter the catholic forces of Europe.

Having done a fair amount of research into this period it is clear that there were secret groups on

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Apr 2024

Dec 2024

# Några källor

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- ◆ stateless3, TYCHOS Forum, april 2024 — den direkta inspirationen till denna artikel
- ◆ Joshua & Anne-Lee Gilder: Heavenly Intrigue (2004)
- ◆ Frances Yates: The Rosicrucian Enlightenment (1972)
- ◆ Palle Larring: Danmarks Håb og Horn (1954)
- ◆ James George Frazer: The Golden Bough (1890/1922)

**Tack för er uppmärksamhet!**