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Reworking the *Alfonsine Tables* in Cracow: The *Tabulae Aureae* of Petrus Gaszowiec (1448) **

COMPILED ORIGINALLY IN TOLEDO around 1270, recast in Paris around 1320, and thereafter diffusing rapidly throughout Europe, the *Alfonsine Tables* provided European astronomers with their most significant computational tool until well into the sixteenth century. Although many of its underlying parameters remained fixed, this corpus appeared in so many differing configurations and included so many disparate sets of tables that historians are starting to ask whether the term “Alfonsine Tables” should be replaced by more specific names for coherent variants of the corpus. Understanding this cultural diffusion has become a central desideratum for historians of early modern astronomy.

In Central Europe, the *Alfonsine corpus* was represented initially by John of Gmunden’s tables, composed in Vienna from 1422–40, and the simpler *Tabulae resolutae*, developed from 1424 in Wroclaw, Prague and Cracow. In 1448, Petrus Gaszowiec, newly conferred Bachelor of Arts in Cracow who subsequently would join the faculty of that university, prepared an even shorter set of tables with canons. Mieczyslaw Markowski has found copies of Gaszowiec’s *Tabulae Aureae* extant in four, the canons in nine, manuscripts.

This paper will examine the contents of Gaszowiec’s tables and canons, and assess their relationship to the earlier *Tabulae resolutae* and *Gmunden’s tables*. It will consider the simplifications Gaszowiec made in Alfonsine procedures and will speculate that the *Tabulae Aureae* may have been explicitly intended for young students at the university of Cracow.

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