Title page of the second edition of Copernicus’s *De revolutionibus* (1566).
The Woodstock Theological Center Library (WTCL) is rooted in, and an expression of, four centuries of Jesuit and Roman Catholic activities on the east coast of the United States. That presence began with two Jesuits on the Ark and the Dove, the two ships by which the colony of Mary’s Land was founded in 1634. Soon thereafter Jesuits began acquiring seventeenth-century European texts for the training of Maryland-born laity and Jesuits. In various central Atlantic locations, collections were assembled and, importantly during the suppression of the Society of Jesus (1774–1814), preserved. They were even developed by a group of then-ex-Jesuits renamed the Corporation of Catholic Gentlemen, still the legal title of restored Maryland Jesuits.

Under the leadership of Bishop John Carroll, himself a member of the pre-suppression Jesuits, the Corporation of Catholic Gentlemen founded Georgetown University in 1789. With its 1814 restoration, the newly reconstituted Society then began expanding Jesuit educational work into the Midwest, New York, and New England, also establishing many “formation” houses for the training of young Jesuits. With the 1876 founding of Woodstock College, located west of Baltimore, many collections that had been scattered were brought together, as the Woodstock library served a revolving community of as many as 200 Jesuit instructors and Jesuits-in-training in a given academic year. Woodstock College and its library were briefly located in New York City (1970–1974), then moved to Georgetown University and rechristened the Woodstock Theological Center Library (WTCL), as a research arm of Woodstock Theological Center. In 1989 the New York and Maryland Provinces of the Society of Jesus agreed to keep the WTCL collections permanently at Georgetown University, augmenting the University’s own Jesuit and Roman Catholic materials, and contributing important research materials for Georgetown’s eventual theology doctoral program and for the Washington Theological Consortium, as well as for Woodstock Center.

General Collection

With continuing collection development, under the guidance of, among others, Scripture scholar Joseph Fitzmyer, S.J., WTCL remains overall the most comprehensive collection of Roman Catholic resources (now numbering some 180,000 volumes) in the central Atlantic states and is one of four major U.S. repositories for Jesuit resources. Both WTCL’s general and its Special Collections are housed on the Lower Level of Lauinger Library, except for some portions of the Woodstock College Archives, as mentioned below.

Special Collections

Formed from the holdings of six New York and Maryland Jesuit houses of formation, the Woodstock Special Collections include some 17,000 fifteenth- through nineteenth-century Roman Catholic Counter-Reformational works covering a variety of fields such as theology, philosophy, the humanities, and sciences. Also included are controversial and devotional works, sermons, extensive anti-Jesuit materials, and a wide range of primary sources from the early-modern Jesuit missions to China, India, and Latin America, which became important sources for the European Enlightenment. Rare individual items include the first and other early editions of Ignatius Loyola’s Exercitia spiritualia (Rome, 1548, the
“founding document” of the Society of Jesus), Copernicus’s *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (1566), Lobelli’s *Innocenta Victrix* [China] 1671 woodcut, a first edition of *The Book of Mormon* (Palmyra, 1830), four complete, well preserved sets of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century polyglot bibles, and a full range of writings by Bellermine, Suarez, Calvin, and Luther. Recently WTCL has become home for the published and archival works of several Jesuits who were important to the twentieth-century ecumenical movement, including John F. Long, S.J., and WTCL is now collecting, general and special, for interfaith activities and studies.

Also included in WTCL’s Special Collections are some artworks, the most significant of which are probably David Roberts’ 229 lithographs of “The Holy Land.”

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**Woodstock College Archives**

The College Archives are currently housed off campus, except as mentioned below, with a very inadequate card index in WTCL. The archives consist primarily of the institutional records of Woodstock College, Maryland, from 1868 to 1976. Extensive additional material includes papers of individual Jesuits; miscellaneous historical documents; and select items of unquestionable importance, though not immediately of apparent relevance, such as Alessandro Manzoni’s original autograph letter to d’Azeglio on Romanticism.

ca. 1750–1976 ≈ ca. 395.00 linear feet

Of special note are three archival collections of Woodstock College faculty—collections that are housed in the Special Collections Research Center, not in WTCL.

**John Courtney Murray, S.J., Papers**

The Murray collection consists of correspondence, manuscripts, and a wide variety of supplemental items documenting his careers as author, editor, lecturer, professor, and theologian. Murray is best known for his work on Vatican II’s Declaration on Religious Freedom, and for his *We Hold These Truths* (1960) and *The Problem of God* (1964), as well as for his longstanding editorship of *Theological Studies*. Among Murray’s correspondents are Rev. John Tracy Ellis, Henry and Clare Boothe Luce, and Samuel Cardinal Stritch, together with fellow Jesuits Walter Burghardt, Bernard Lonergan, Vincent McCormick, and Leo Ward. The Murray papers have been separated out from the Woodstock College Archives, and are located in Lauinger’s Special Collections.

1927–1976 ≈ 42.00 linear feet

**Gustave Weigel, S.J., Papers**

Weigel was involved in various ecumenical and civil rights movements in the 1950s and 1960s. Included in his papers are significant notes and other papers deriving from his work at the Second Vatican Council, as well as material relating to his work in Chile in the 1940s. Among Weigel’s correspondents are Yves Congar, O.P., and Protestant theologian Paul Tillich. The Weigel papers form a separate series located in the Lauinger Special Collections.

1920–1964 ≈ 18.00 linear feet
**John Brosnan, S.J., Collection**

Brosnan served for many years as the “official” photographer for the Maryland Province and as an ongoing consultant for Eastman Kodak. Two large groups of his glass plate and film negatives, totaling more than five thousand images, together with some hundreds of prints, survive as part of the Woodstock College Archives and are housed in Lauinger’s Special Collections. Brosnan’s images, which show his concentration on formal photographs of buildings, individuals, and groups, also include a variety of valuable informal recordings of many aspects of Jesuit communal life. Many of his photos of Woodstock College adorn the walls of WTCL.

ca. 1900-1940 ~ ca. 6,000 items

Various additions have been made to both Woodstock Special Collections and the Special Collections Research Center: materials relating to Murray, Wiegel, Brosnan, and other Jesuits associated with the old Woodstock College, including Walter J. Burghardt, S.J., Robert Drinan, S.J., and Avery Cardinal Dulles, S.J. (restricted).

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**Teilhard de Chardin Collections in Woodstock**

Augmenting the Special Collections Research Center’s own collection of materials on Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J., are the following two collections housed in WTCL’s Special Collections:

**Barbour Collection**

The Woodstock Library houses the Barbour Collection of some 175 printed works by and about Teilhard de Chardin. Many are inscribed by Teilhard, and are supplemented by nearly 30 Teilhard letters (including Teilhard’s reaction to his own silencing, written to Barbour), some 200 photo reproductions of Teilhard letters, photographs, a film of a Barbour-Teilhard archeological expedition into China in 1936, and typescripts of two lectures on Teilhard by George Barbour. In 1983 the collection was augmented by the gift of a bronze bust of Teilhard de Chardin by the noted American sculptress Malvina Hoffman.

*Gift of Ian G. Barbour and Hugh S. Barbour in honor of George and Dorothy Barbour*

**Schmitz-Moorman Teilhard de Chardin Collection**

The collection contains an extensive archive of photocopies of Teilhard correspondence and manuscripts, for the most part copies of original material found in the Teilhard de Chardin Foundation (Paris), compiled by Dr. Karl Schmitz-Moorman and his wife, Nicole Schmitz-Moorman. The letters range from 1912 to shortly before his death in 1955, and the manuscripts include multiple drafts of many of Teilhard’s works, providing a unique insight into his writing.

*Gift of Mrs. Schmitz-Moorman*