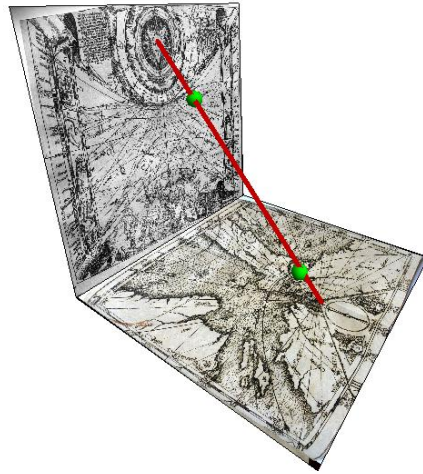


Time and Human Life 1700 Years After Scipios Dream

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The diurnal and annual changes on heaven and on earth led humans to construct an interrelation between these events. Especially one observed that human life is finite, whereas the motions on heaven seem to be eternal. So the question arose how to use ones finite time on earth to reach eternal 'life' in heaven after ones death. One answer was given by Cicero in *Scipio's Dream* together with a presentation of the cosmos.

In the year 1598, 1700 years later, Philipp Uffenbach (1566 - 1636) gave another answer in his small book *Vericht und Erklärung Zweyer beygelegten künstlichen Kupferstücken oder Zeitweiser der Sonnen vber die ganze Welt.* [*Report and explanation of two attached copper plate printings or the sun's time pointer over the whole world*] published in Frankfurt/Main. Similar to Cicero in *Scipios Dream* Philipp Uffenbach connects his considerations on life with the presentation of a printed diptych sundial and a gnomonic world map. These artefacts are thought to show "the four most distinguished creations of God" (the sky, the earth, the time and men) and to remember men to use its time on earth agreeable to God. Apart from the religious content of the book and the graphic account several exceptional features are shown on the sundial like the lines of the ascending signs of zodiac and of the brightest stars. The world map covers the region from Asia to America and from the north pole down to Madagascar and Brasilia and turned out to be the oldest gnomonic world map unknown so far. Thus Uffenbach's sundial is a forerunner of the horizontal sundial published by Franz Ritter 1607 in Nuremberg.