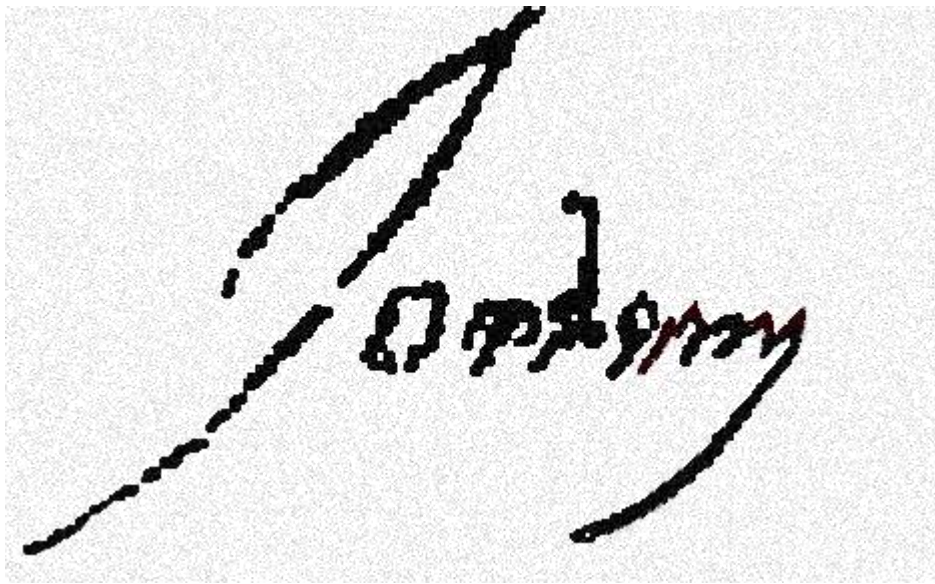


*Guido del Giudice*

**A NEW, ORIGINAL GIORDANO BRUNO'S  
AUTOGRAPH, IN THE PRAGUE'S COPY OF  
*CAMOERACENSIS ACROTISMUS*.**



Extract from "*The dispute of Cambrai. Camoeracensis Acrotismus*" edited by Guido del Giudice, publ. Di Renzo, Rome 2008. ([www.giordanobruno.info](http://www.giordanobruno.info))

There are several copies, about fifty, of the '*Acrotismus*', scattered everywhere, of which only eight in Italian libraries.

Among all, the one preserved at the National Library in Prague, had the most eventful history because, though it has been examined several times, continues to provide interesting surprises. First, it was reported, by Ivo Koran who discovered it, the presence, on the title page, of a Bruno's dedication to Tycho Brahe. Later, Zdenek Horský noticed on the last page the cruel Tycho's comment:

*"Nullanus, nullus et nihil. Convenient rebus nomina saepe suis."*<sup>1</sup>

Rita Pagnoni Sturlese published, in 1985, a thorough investigation of the volume, which illuminated his philosophical and historical value. I examined the book, in the ancient halls of the Klementinum Library, where a plaque recalls: "Giordano Bruno, philosopher and astronomer." The consultation, apart from excitement to keep in my hands an original text of the Nolan, has allowed me to detect a few more details, so far escaped, which deserves further investigations. In the last page, under Tycho's comment, there are another three lines of hand, time and meaning unclear. The handwriting is different and the meaning, at first sight incomprehensible: they seem short verses separated by slash marks.

Koran, who first examined the dedication on the title page, he claimed to be able to read, at the bottom of the page, the word "*author*", which today is completely erased by time.

Bruno will sign in a similar way, a few years after, the last of the dedication of our knowledge, to the young student Jacob Cuno:

*"Admodum generoso, nobili studiosissimoque D. Iacobo Cunoni Francofurtensi benevolentiae ergo et in sui memoriam dedicavit author"*<sup>2</sup>.

In the case of the homage to the famous astronomer, he cared so much, we would have expected to find his

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<sup>1</sup> "Nullan, null and nothing. Often the names are well suited to their bearers".

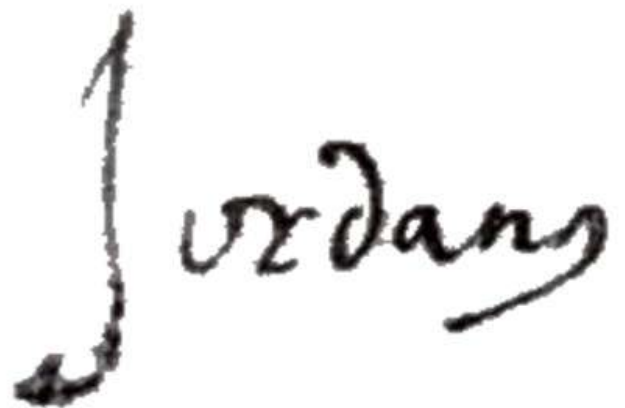
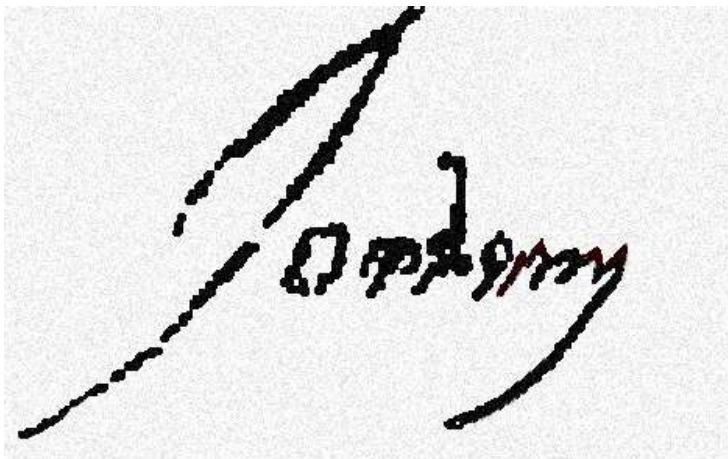
<sup>2</sup> "At the very generous, noble and studious Mr. Jacob Cuno from Frankfurt, the author devoted as a sign of benevolence and for his own memory."

name, considering the habit to write it clearly, often accompanied by high-sounding titles, such as when he enrolled in the registers of Universities, or when he signed the 'album amicorum" of his own students. The Nolan liked to release autographs, although few have come down to us. Looking at the right of the first page, also deteriorated and worn by time, it seemed to me to glimpse another faded writing, largely unreadable, which began clearly with the word "Jordanus." Thanks to the availability of the National Library in Prague, I was able to submit the page reproductions to a computerized analysis, and a comparison with other existing rare Bruno's autographs, noting many calligraphic concordances . In particular, the shapes of the "r" and especially of "d" and "s" are similar to those of the autograph of the Wittenberg xilography. This makes me believe that it could be a signature of Nolan's hand, that could integrate the dedication written on the title page.

*Guido del Giudice*



The original copy of the autograph and its electronic processing.



The new autograph compared with that of the Wittenberg xilography.