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The life and time of a Pisan Astronomer

Wednesday 7 May 2025 10:00 (20 minutes)

While we celebrate our friend Daniele from Pisa, I will talk about another great Pisan astronomer, Giovanni Battista Donati (1826-1873), pioneer of Astrophysics and founder of the Arcetri Observatory. Despite his many achievements, Donati had received little attention by Italian science historians in the past. In the last two decades, however, the situation has changed, thanks to Daniele, who spent countless night hours to read and transcribe letters and other documents regarding his personal hero (a.k.a. "Bista").

I will illustrate the human aspects of Bista that emerged from Daniele's work (and the fun we had in this research!).

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