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Annotations of a Public Astronomer

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Abstract. Angelo Adamo is an Italian astronomer and artist interested in inspiring people with scientifically-based tales. He has recently published two illustrated books exploring the relationships between mankind and cosmos through physics, art, literature, music, cartoons, and movies.

I have described the star, the eight planets, the hundred of moons, and the myriad of minor bodies (including plutinos, asteroids, comets, and artificial satellites) of our Solar System in *Pianeti tra le note. Appunti di un astronomo divulgatore* ("Planets Among Notes: Annotations of a Public Astronomer"). A detailed scientific explanation (e.g. Figure 1) is given for each of the above objects together with ancient myths, science fiction tales, art images, and musical pieces by different renowned composers. A variety of languages and images have been chosen by mankind to describe the Solar System. I have tried to select the best and more inspiring examples in physics, art, literature, music, cartoons and movies to make the interplanetary space a more comfortable and less weird place for the reader by outlining a unusual breath-taking journey from the Sun to the Oort cloud.

Storie di Soli e di Lune. Racconti di sogni, racconti di scienza ("Stories of Suns and Moons. Tales of Dreams, Tales of Science") is a collection of short stories with a scientific background. They are similar to theatrical monologues, which are illustrated by cartoons that serve as background for an fictional stage. The characters are both ordinary people and natural objects. Through their lives, voices and thoughts, I have tried to unveil some of the fascinating connections between men and the mysterious beauty of cosmos¹.

References

- Adamo, A. 2009, *Storie di Soli e di Lune. Racconti di sogni, racconti di scienza* (Bologna: Giraldi Editore)
- Adamo, A. 2010, *Pianeti tra le note. Appunti di un astronomo divulgatore* (Milano: Springer-Verlag Italia)

¹Further information about the authour can be found in <http://www.angeloadamo.com/>.



Figure 1. This cartoon by Angelo Adamo is taken from *Pianeti fra le note* and it shows Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler having hard times in deriving the shape of the orbit of Mars. (Credit: © Springer-Verlag Italia, 2010)