

The versatile Ruder Josip Bošković

P. Maritz

University of Stellenbosch

pm@sun.ac.za

SAMS Subject Classification: History and Teaching of Mathematics

The **International Year of Astronomy (IYA2009)** is a year-long celebration of astronomy, taking place in 2009 to coincide with the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical observations with a telescope by Galileo Galilei and the publication of Johannes Kepler's *Astronomia nova* in the year 1609.

This talk deals with the life of the Jesuit priest, poet and diplomat Ruder Josip Bošković (born in 1711 in Ragusa, today Dubrovnik in Croatia, died in 1787 in Milan, Italy), and his contributions to astronomy, mathematics and physics.