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Second Edition
Allan Chapman

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By Allan Chapman

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William Gascoigne, Jeremiah Horrocks and William Crabtree were pioneers of the scientific revolution in England. Working in Salford, Liverpool and Leeds on the eve of the Civil War, they made fundamental discoveries in astronomy and the design of scientific instruments. Within three decades of their deaths, in the early 1640s, their work was recognised both at home and abroad. Horrocks' and Crabtree's discoveries were published in Holland, and they were formally recognised by the Royal Society and acknowledged by Sir Isaac Newton. One of their disciples – Sir Jonas Moore – was a founding father of the Royal Greenwich Observatory in 1675 and patron of John Flamsteed, the first Astronomer Royal. Flamsteed, in turn, was deeply influenced by their work, and specifically incorporated the inventions of William Gascoigne into the first instruments for the Royal Observatory.

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