

## Introduction

The great Paul of Middelburg (1446–1534) has become virtually invisible behind the even greater Joseph Justus Scaliger (1540–1609). This has not been to the advantage of investigations into the history of chronology and computus, an assertion I will justify by discussing the following problem:

It is generally believed that there is some sort of computistical progress between the 95-year Easter table of Cyril of Alexandria (437) and the 532-year Easter table of Victorius of Aquitaine (457). — But what is the nature of that progress?

To my knowledge, it was Paul of Middelburg (1513) who first raised this question and ventured an answer. While his answer is not convincing, I will argue that the answers given by Scaliger (1583), Bartholomew MacCarthy (1901), Charles W. Jones (1937), and others are even less so.

My own answer, which denies that supposed progress “from Alexandria to Aquitaine”, would hardly have been possible without the inspiring help of Paul of Middelburg, who led me to see that knowledge of the 532-year Easter cycle is presupposed in the Alexandrian 95-year Easter period. I will draw some rather far-reaching conclusions from this insight.

But first of all, I will try to introduce "Paul of Middelburg".

<b>Part I</b>	<b>PAULUS MIDDELBURGUS</b>	<b>5</b>
1.	The life of Paul of Middelburg	6
2.	De recta Paschae celebratione	11
3.	Types of reform	15
4.	De die resurrectionis Domini nostri Iesu Christi	21
<b>Part II</b>	<b>DE CYCLO PASCHALIS MAGNO</b>	<b>24</b>
1.	On the origin of the 532-year Easter cycle	24
2.	The strange case of $\theta = 437$	40
3.	Paul's shortcomings	54
4.	Beyond Paul of Middelburg	61
	References	68