

Leon Battista Alberti Encyclopedia Article

Leon Battista Alberti

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Leon Battista Alberti

1404-1472

Italian architect and writer who, in addition to his work in mathematics, wrote on geology. In about 1450 Alberti discussed the erosive effect of the atmosphere, and in so doing served as a forerunner for the modern science of hydrogeology. Though not a professional mathematician or scientist, he also laid the groundwork for the scientific study of perspective in his *Trattato della pittura* (1436).