

1154-01-371 **Glen R Van Brummelen*** (gvb@questu.ca), Quest University, 3200 University Boulevard,
Squamish, BC V8B 0N8, Canada. *Who Invented the Decimal Point?* Preliminary report.

The question of the invention of the decimal point is vexed, with multiple interpretations and several different cultural claims. Within Europe, textbooks assert that decimal fractional notation was introduced in the late 16th century with Simon Stevin's *De Thiende*, and that the decimal point itself first appeared around the same time with Christopher Clavius or John Napier. These claims are mostly untrue. We shall explore the much older origin of the decimal point in European mathematical astronomy, and touch on some of the historiographic issues that arise when considering this issue. (Received September 02, 2019)