

## ATRIUM TOUR

### LANGUAGE

**Bacon was familiar with English, French, Latin, Greek, Arabic, and Aramaic. His mastery of Greek in particular was unique in his times.**

**He was an early advocate of the importance of studying foreign languages, including Arabic and Hebrew, for the advancement of knowledge.** Some of Bacon's greatest inspirations were Middle Eastern academics like al-Farabi, Ibn Sina, and Averroes.

He argued that, rather than training to debate minor philosophical distinctions, theologians should focus their attention primarily on the Bible itself, learning the languages of its original sources thoroughly. He was fluent in several of these languages and was able to note several corruptions of scripture, and of the works of the Greek philosophers that had been mistranslated or misinterpreted by scholars working in Latin. Bacon insisted that even in the best versions of scientific works or the Scriptures, there were still some foreign expressions impossible to express in Latin.

*“The conquest of learning is achieved through the knowledge of languages.”*



Friar Bacon in His Study (Howard Pyle - 1903)