COPERNICUS BANNED
THE ENTANGLED MATTER OF THE ANTI-COPERNICAN DECREE OF 1616

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This volume deals with the anti-Copernican decree issued by the Holy Office of the Catholic Church on 5 March 1616, and is being published on the occasion of the four centenary of the promulgation of this ban. Adopting a different perspective from the mainstream of Galilean studies, this book aims to bring the ‘entangled matter’ of the anti-Copernican decree, which has hitherto been overshadowed by the 1633 trial of Galileo, into the foreground and give it the attention it deserves. Composed of nine essays dedicated to the causes, the protagonists and the aftermath of the decree, the book sheds light on various philosophical, theological, political and cultural aspects of the discussions that arose around the ‘temerity’ of Copernicanism and, in the end, its prohibition by the Church. The chapters form a mosaic whose pieces not only contribute to the completion of the picture outlined by other studies, both by building on their conclusions and engaging in a fruitful dialogue with them, but which also give new meaning to the whole scenario.

Adottando una prospettiva originale, il volume intende sottrarre gli eventi del 1616 dal cono d’ombra del processo a Galileo del 1633 e di fornire una lettura rinnovata dello stretto intreccio di elementi – culturali, filosofici, dottrinali, politici, personali – da cui scaturì la decisione dell’Inquisizione e l’affaire Galileo. I nove saggi qui raccolti completano l’immagine degli eventi delineata finora dalla storiografia, proiettando al contempo su di essa nuovi significati.

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