

physics

International Journal for the History of Science

LVII

2-2022



BOOK REVIEWS

ESTRATTO

da

PHYSIS

Rivista Internazionale di Storia della Scienza

2022/2 ~ (LVII)



Leo S. Olschki Editore
Firenze

physis

International
Journal for
the History of
Science

pubblicata dalla

DOMUS GALILÆANA DI PISA

in collaborazione con

SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI STORIA DELLA SCIENZA
SEMINARIO DI STORIA DELLA SCIENZA DELL'UNIVERSITÀ DI BARI

DIREZIONE E REDAZIONE

(EDITORS)

Direttore responsabile (Senior Editor): STEFANO CARRAI.

Direttori (Editors): FRANCESCO PAOLO DE CEGLIA, CARLA RITA PALMERINO, CLAUDIO POGLIANO.

Comitato direttivo (Editorial Board): MONICA AZZOLINI, MARCO BRESADOLA, MAURO CAPOCCI, GIOVANNI DI PASQUALE, RENATO FOSCHI, SERGIO GIUDICI, LUIGI INGALISO, SANDRA LINGUERRI, ERIKA LUCIANO, ELIO NENCI.

Responsabili delle recensioni (Book Reviews Editors): ANDREA CANDELA, GIULIA GIANNINI, MATTIA MANTOVANI.

Redazione (Editorial Office): DAVID CECCARELLI, LUCIA DE FRENZA.

CONSIGLIO SCIENTIFICO

(ADVISORY BOARD)

MAURO ANTONELLI, GIULIO BARSANTI, MARCO BERETTA, DOMENICO BERTOLONI MELI, PAOLA BERTUCCI, JANET BROWNE, ELENA CANADELLI, LUCA CIANCIO, MARCO CIARDI, GUIDO CIMINO, ANTONIO CLERICUZIO, MARIA CONFORTI, BARBARA CONTINENZA, VINCENZO DE RISI, FEDERICA FAVINO, PAULA FINDLEN, PAOLO GALLUZZI, PAOLA GOVONI, NICCOLÒ GUICCIARDINI, MICHAEL HAGNER, NICK HOPWOOD, MARIANNE KLEMUN, MATTEO MARTELLI, RENATO G. MAZZOLINI, MASSIMO MAZZOTTI, MARIA MONTSERRAT CABRÉ PAIRET, CARMELA MORABITO, STAFFAN MÜLLER-WILLE, GIULIANO PANCALDI, IRINA PODGORNYY, GIANNA POMATA, TELMO PIEVANI, CLAUDIA PRINCIPE, PIETRO REDONDI, HANS-JÖRG RHEINBERGER, ANTONELLA ROMANO, PAOLO ROSSI, SOPHIE ROUX, DAGMAR SCHÄFER, EZIO VACCARI, STÉPHANE VAN DAMME.

E-MAIL: francescopaolo.deceglia@uniba.it

2023: ABBONAMENTO ANNUALE (2 fascicoli) – ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION (2 issues)

Il listino prezzi e i servizi per le **Istituzioni** sono disponibili sul sito www.olschki.it alla pagina <https://www.olschki.it/acquisti/abbonamenti>

Subscription rates and services for Institutions are available on

<https://en.olschki.it/> at following page:

<https://en.olschki.it/acquisti/abbonamenti>

PRIVATI

Italia € 117,00 (carta e *on-line only*)

INDIVIDUALS

Foreign € 154,00 (print) • € 117,00 (*on-line only*)

MAURIZIO TORRINI, 2021. *Galileo nel tempo*, Biblioteca di Galilaeana XI, Firenze, Olschki, x + 382 pp.

The volume gathers most of the late Maurizio Torrini's (1942-2019) essays on Galileo, written and published from the early 1970s to 2015. The writings, previously scattered in various journals, in conference proceedings and collective volumes now make it into the twenty-two chapters of this book, thanks to the support and encouragement of Sara Bonechi and Massimo Bucciantini, who reviewed and arranged them. As Bonechi and Bucciantini point out in their preface, in the last weeks of his life, Torrini himself selected the essays to be published, chose their order and even the title of the book (p. vii). Indeed, the volume accompanies the reader in a journey through the life and work of Galileo, and follows the development of his image and myth from his own times to the twentieth century. The essays deal with crucial issues of Galileo's natural philosophy, with the reception of his ideas among his disciples, and with the influence that Galileo's trial and conviction for heresy exerted, in the following decades and even centuries, on the development of Italian science and, more broadly, on the political, religious and cultural life of the country. As the volume makes clear, Torrini's work as a historian of science and philosophy went hand in hand with a strong civic passion.

The first five essays provide the reader with valuable insights into the relationship between Galileo's natural philosophy and Copernicanism. According to Torrini, the conception of nature as 'inexorable and immutable,' that is, led by unbending and uniform mathematical laws, was the premise, rather than the consequence, of his endorsement of Copernican astronomy (*Galileo Copernicano*, p. 6). Galileo's conception of nature as an autonomous system implied a separation between the human world, which was the realm of opinion, and the natural world, which was the domain of truth. This same thesis is further brought to light in the next four essays, in which Torrini presents his views about the role played by Copernicanism in Galileo's natural philosophy (*La natura della nuova scienza; Cose, fatti, occhi e mani: la fondazione della scienza galileiana*), and then discusses several aspects of Galileo's intellectual biography, from his involvement in the Accademia dei Lincei and relationship with Federico Cesi (*Galileo, il principe Cesi e i Lincei*) to

his contribution to the contemporary 'Republic of scientists' (*Galileo e la repubblica degli scienziati*).

The following seven chapters deal with the last years of Galileo's life and his legacy in the Galilean school. Drawing on Galileo's correspondence and that of his disciples, Torrini delves into the decline of Italian science after the 1633 trial, highlighting its consequences for the fate of the scientific debate in Italy (*Che il mio nome non si estingua. La morte di Galileo e le sorti della scienza*, especially p. 87). In another essay (*Una vita difficile*), Torrini argues that Viviani's biography of Galileo originated in the same context: dissimulation, censorship and self-censorship strongly influenced Viviani's project as well as the new edition of the works of the Pisan scientist. In *La biblioteca di Galileo e dei galileiani*, Torrini compares the libraries of Torricelli and Galileo, arguing that after the former's death, the reconstruction of the new science became a collective effort within the Roman circle of Galileo's disciples. Drawing on the works and correspondence of Magiotti and Nardi, Torrini sheds light on one of the prominent features of post-Galilean science, namely the tendency to focus on the investigation of specific phenomena. Another essay on post-Galilean science in Italy focuses on the Jesuit and Galilean Giuseppe Ferroni. In yet another chapter (*Giovanni Ciampoli filosofo*), Torrini discusses the relationship between Galileo and one of his closest friends and supporters, Giovanni Ciampoli, and reconstructs the circulation of Ciampoli's philosophical writings. Torrini has also chosen to include in this collection a very interesting contribution on the preservation and circulation of Galileo's correspondence among his disciples (*La correspondance de Galilée entre chronique et histoire des sciences*). The essay contains important considerations about the role played by epistolary networks in the scientific revolution, which are nicely illustrated by the analysis of the reception of Galileo's *Discorsi intorno a due nuove scienze* in the correspondence of various members of the Galilean school. Finally, the last chapter (*Da Galileo a Kircher*) focuses on some recent historiographical theses on the contribution of Jesuit science to the development of scientific knowledge in Galileo's time.

The last part of the volume includes a series of studies published in the last two decades, which are mainly devoted to the representation of Galileo in different historiographical contexts. *Il Galileo di Francesco Colangelo: la scienza come apologia*, and the two subsequent studies, *Il caso Galileo nell'apologetica cattolica tra Ottocento e Novecento*, and *Galileo intempestivo* examine the attempt of nineteenth-century Catholic apologetics to establish the absolute authority of the Catholic Church in defining truth. Torrini identifies and criticizes the strategies adopted by Catholic apologetics, and especially the attempt to describe the conflict between science and faith as being at the same time eternal and inherent in the human condition, thereby removing it from history. Then we find three chapters respectively devoted to Galileo's image in Italy and Europe in the twentieth century. In *Galileo nel Novecento tra Italia e Europa*, Torrini has convincingly suggested that, in the first decade of the twentieth century, Galileo's scientific achievements remained on the fringes of the historiographical debate, at least until Koyre's studies. The author also gives us an overview of twentieth-century Galileo scholarship in Italy, by em-

phasizing the role played by the Torrini's own mentor, Eugenio Garin, who operated a sort of historiographical revolution in Italy (*I Galilei di Eugenio Garin*), and by the Spanish Galileo scholar Antonio Beltrán Marí (*Il Galileo di Antonio Beltrán Marí*). The volume ends with two reviews (*Non è tutto oro quel che luccica; Galileo barocco*), and an essay, *La Chiesa e Galileo. Celebrare per restaurare*, which discusses some contributions published in newspapers and conference proceedings. It aims at reassessing the historical and cultural value of 'the Galileo affair' after the work of the Galilean pontifical commission in the 1980s and the celebrations of Galileo's celestial discoveries in 2009. Undoubtedly, *La Chiesa e Galileo* provides the reader with one of the most significant accounts of Torrini's civic engagement, and his invaluable intellectual legacy to Galilean scholarship.

SALVATORE RICCIARDO
Università degli Studi di Bergamo
salvatore.ricciardo@unibg.it