

# Galileo: The Man and His Science

## A Resource Guide to Materials in English

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This guide is designed to help introduce beginners to the life and work of the great scientist, who, in many ways, was both the founder of science and the first systematic observer with a telescope. It makes no pretense to being a scholarly or complete bibliography, but simply recommends some accessible entry points to the enormous literature on Galileo.

### **Galileo Books for Adults**

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- Drake, Stillman *The Discoveries and Opinions of Galileo*. 1957, Anchor. Drake, a foremost Galileo authority, translates some of Galileo's key writings, and nicely sets them in context. (See also his *Galileo: A Very Short Introduction*. 2001, Oxford University Press.)
- Maran, Stephen & Marschall, Laurence *Galileo's New Universe: The Revolution in Our Understanding of the Cosmos*. 2009, Benbella Books. A history of the telescope and its influences on our society and worldview, by two astronomers.
- Reeves, Eileen *Galileo's Glassworks: The Telescope and the Mirror*. 2008, Harvard University Press. A cultural historian fills in the story of the inventions and politics that led to the astronomical telescope and Galileo's work.
- Reston, James *Galileo: A Life*. 1994, Beard Books. A well-reviewed popular biography by a journalist; a good introduction for beginners.
- Ronan, Colin *Galileo*. 1974, Putnams. Now out of print, this is a nicely written introduction by a British science writer and historical specialist, with many illustrations.
- Sharratt, Michael *Galileo: Decisive Innovator*. 1994, Cambridge U. Press. Popular-level biography by a priest/philosophy professor, with a last chapter on the 1992 Papal Commission which reviewed the Galileo case for the Vatican.
- Sobel, Dava *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love*. 1999, Walker & Co. Galileo's public and private life, seen through the filter of his relationship with his daughter, who was a nun.

### **Galileo Books for Children**

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- Bendick, Jeanne *Along Came Galileo*. 1999, Beautiful Feet Books. A picture book for elementary school children.
- MacLachlan, James *Galileo Galilei: First Physicist*. 1997, Oxford University Press. An introduction for middle school and up; part of the Oxford Portraits in Science series.
- Panchyk, Richard *Galileo for Kids: His Life and Ideas (with 25 Activities)*. 2005, Chicago Review Press. For middle-school kids, with some activities for school or home.
- Pettenati, Jeanne: *Galileo's Journal (1609-1610)*. 2006, Charlesbridge Books. Illustrated picture book for elementary school readers, chronicling the year Galileo turned the telescope to the heavens.
- Sis, Peter *Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei*. 2000, Farrar, Straus and Giroux. A picture book for children ages 4 - 8.

Steele, Philip *Galileo: The Genius Who Faced the Inquisition*. 2005, National Geographic Books. Part of Nat'l Geographic's World History series, for kids ages 9 - 12.

### **Galileo Articles**

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Gingerich, Owen "The Galileo Affair" in *Scientific American*, Aug. 1982, p. 132. Reprinted in his *The Great Copernicus Chase*. 1992, Sky Publishing.

Gingerich, Owen "Galileo and the Phases of Venus" in *Sky & Telescope*, Dec. 1984, p. 520. Reprinted in his *The Great Copernicus Chase*. 1992, Sky Publishing.

Gingerich, Owen "How Galileo Changed the Rules of Science" in *Sky & Telescope*, Mar. 1993, p. 32. Especially useful article, including recent developments.

Lerner, L. & Gosselin, E. "Galileo and the Specter of Bruno" in *Scientific American*, Nov. 1986, p. 116.

Maran, S. & Marschall, L. "The Moon, the Telescope, and the Birth of the Modern World" in *Sky & Telescope*, Feb. 2009, p. 28. On Galileo's pioneering observations of the Moon.

Sobel, Dava "The Heretic's Daughter: A Startling Correspondence Reveals a New Portrait of Galileo" in *The New Yorker*, Sep. 13, 1999, p. 52.

### **Some Galileo Web Sites**

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Galileo Project at Rice University: <http://galileo.rice.edu/>

Galileo and Einstein Course at U. of Virginia: <http://galileoandeinstein.physics.virginia.edu/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Galileo Entry: <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/galileo/>

MacTutor, Galileo Entry: <http://www-history.mcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/Biographies/Galileo.html>

Galileo's Battle for the Heavens (PBS show website): <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/galileo/>

### **Some Galileo Videos**

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*Galileo's Battle for the Heavens* (PBS NOVA Episode): This 2-hour NOVA special, based in part on Dava Sobel's best-selling book, *Galileo's Daughter*, combines recreations of Galileo's life (starring Simon Callow as Galileo) with a discussion of his science and times.

*Galileo and the Sinful Spyglass* (part of History Channel's *Man, Moment, and Machine* Series) A dramatic introduction to Galileo and his times, featuring dramatizations and interviews.

[http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content\\_type=Minisite\\_Generic&content\\_type\\_id=51725&display\\_order=6&sub\\_display\\_order=7&mini\\_id=51673](http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=51725&display_order=6&sub_display_order=7&mini_id=51673)

To purchase: <http://store.aetv.com/html/product/index.jhtml?id=77189>

*Galileo: On the Shoulders of Giants* (part of the HBO's *The Inventors Specials*) This dramatization of Galileo's life for young people won daytime TV awards, but takes some liberties to keep kids interested.

### **Galileo in Fiction**

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Brecht, Bertold *Galileo*. 1952, Grove Press. (plus many updated editions) Controversial play, not always historically accurate, and with a strong political perspective. (Joseph Losey's production, with Topol and John Gielgud, is available on DVD.)

Stavis, Barry *Lamp at Midnight*. 1966, Bantam. Another play about Galileo and the Inquisition, shown on television's Hallmark Hall of Fame.