

Brecht Vita Di Galileo

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the first collection and translation into english of the earliest biographical accounts of galileo s life this unique critical edition presents key early biographical accounts of the life and work of galileo galilei 1564 1642 written by his close contemporaries collected and translated into english for the first time and supplemented by an introduction and incisive annotations by stefano gattei these documents paint an incomparable firsthand picture of galileo and offer rare insights into the construction of his public image and the complex intertwining of science religion and politics in seventeenth century italy here in its entirety is vincenzo viviani s historical account an extensive and influential biography of galileo written in 1654 by his last and most devoted pupil viviani s text is accompanied by his letter to prince leopoldo de medici on the application of pendulum to clocks 1659 his 1674 description of galileo s later works and the long inscriptions on the façade of viviani s florentine palace 1702 the collection also includes the adulatio perniciosa a latin poem written in 1620 by cardinal maffeo barberini who as pope urban viii would become galileo s prosecutor as well as descriptive accounts that emerged from the roman court and contemporary european biographers featuring the original texts in italian latin and french with their english translations on facing pages this invaluable book shows how galileo s pupils friends and critics shaped the galileo myth for centuries to come and brings together in one volume the primary sources needed to understand the legendary scientist in his time

this is must reading for historians of science and a delight for the interested public from his access to many primary sources in the vatican library and from his broad knowledge of the history of the 17th century finocchiaro acquaints readers in an interesting manner with the historical facts of galileo s trial its aftermath and its repercussions unlike many other works which present predetermined and at times prejudiced judgments this work provides exhaustive evidence to allow readers to develop their own informed opinion on the subject george v coyne director vatican astronomical observatory the tragic condemnation of galileo by the roman catholic church in 1633 has become the

single most potent symbol of authoritarian opposition to new ideas pioneering in its scope finocchiaro s book provides a fascinating account of how the trial and its cultural significance have been freshly reconstructed by scholars and polemicists down the ages with a philosopher s eye for fine distinctions the author has written an exciting commentary on the successive appearance of new primary sources and their exploitation for apologetic and secular purposes john hedley brooke author of science and religion some historical perspectives if good history begins with good facts then retrying galileo should be the starting point for all future discussions of the post trial phase of the galileo affair maurice finocchiaro s myth busting documentary history is not only a repository of little known sources but a pleasure to read as well ronald l numbers co editor of when christianity and science meet retrying galileo tells the less well known half of the galileo affair its long and complex history after 1633 finocchiaro has performed an invaluable service in writing a book that explores how the trial and condemnation of galileo has been received debated and reinterpreted for over three and a half centuries we are not yet done with this contentious story paula e findlen ubaldo pierotti professor of italian history and director of the science technology and society program stanford university

the aim of this book is to explore and understand the activities undertaken by the florentine accademia del cimento one of europe s first scientific societies the cimento operated for ten years between 1657 and 1667 and during that time performed many experiments and observations in physics and astronomy rivalling the achievements of the royal society of london and the parisian académie royale des sciences this book will attempt to sift through the available primary evidence as well as secondary accounts of the cimento s activities in order to examine the intellectual concerns that the individual academicians acquired throughout their careers and that they pursued while carrying out and interpreting their experiments for the cimento and the tuscan court those interests will also shed some light on the ways in which the academicians performed and used experiments inspired by galileo s success with experiments and instruments during the first half of the seventeenth century the cimento academicians developed an experimentalist approach to their natural inquiry that attempted to eliminate any dependence on theoretical

presuppositions and preconceptions the group s p ported aim was to rely solely on the senses to accumulate knowledge of nature this experimental philosophy framed the way in which historians have since viewed the cimento s practices

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