

# Galileo Galilei

Here are two thoughtfully constructed essays which in different ways place Galileo at the centre of their accounts of the evolution of science. Professor Wallace, as a philosopher and accomplished physicist, historian and Latin paleographer, traces the intellectual terrain upon which Galileo's thought was built, while Maurice Finocchiaro sees the thinker himself as an intellectual springboard and draws fresh conclusions from Galileo's reasoning about logic and scientific method.

## PRELUDE TO GALILEO

*Essays on Medieval and Sixteenth-Century Sources of Galileo's Thought*

by

WILLIAM A. WALLACE

*School of Philosophy, The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.*

*Prelude to Galileo* provides the first fully documented account of the transition from late medieval to early modern science as portrayed in Galileo's writings. Professor Wallace's intensive examination of Galileo's Latin notebooks and his discovery of the sixteenth-century manuscript sources on which the latter were based have enabled him to break the impasse encountered in previous speculation about Galileo's precursors. He shows how Galileo's thought developed in a context favorable to the emergence of a new science of motion.

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## GALILEO AND THE ART OF REASONING

*Rhetorical Foundations of Logic and Scientific Method*

by

MAURICE A. FINOCCHIARO

*Dept. of Philosophy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, U.S.A.*

Finocchiaro presents a detailed, analytic commentary on Galileo's writings, and elaborates upon them in an imaginative fashion in order to offer a highly original interpretation of the foundations of logic and scientific method. A striking feature of the work is that its three themes (Galileo, logic, and scientific method) are not merely juxtaposed but effectively combined.

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Volume XIV Part I No 46

KEITH HUTCHISON: W. J. M. Rankine and the Rise of Thermodynamics	1-26
A. J. ROCKE: Kekulé, Butlerov, and the Historiography of the Theory of Chemical Structure	27-57
NICHOLAS H. STENECK: 'The Ballad of Robert Crosse and Joseph Glanvill' and the Background to <i>Plus ultra</i>	59-74
Essay Reviews:	
ERIC MENDOZA: The Life and Work of Sadi Carnot	75-78
EDWARD YOXEN: Socialism and Scientists' Politics	78-83
Book Reviews	84-104
Books Received	105
Notes on Contributors	108

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