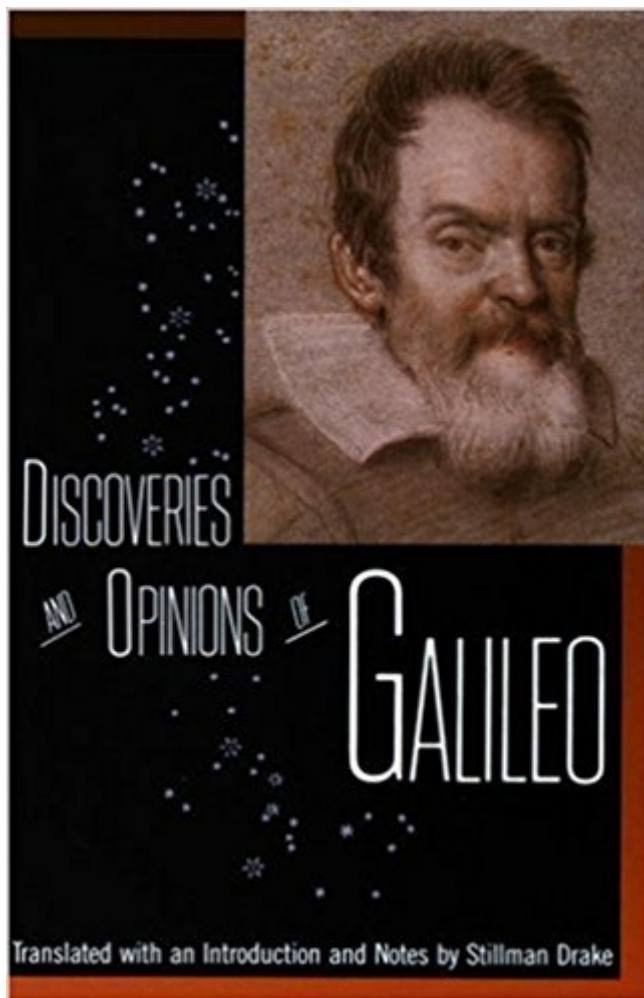


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# Discoveries And Opinions Of Galileo



## Synopsis

Directing his polemics against the pedantry of his time, Galileo, as his own popularizer, addressed his writings to contemporary laymen. His support of Copernican cosmology, against the Church's strong opposition, his development of a telescope, and his unorthodox opinions as a philosopher of science were the central concerns of his career and the subjects of four of his most important writings. Drake's introductory essay place them in their biographical and historical context.

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## Customer Reviews

Text: English (translation) Original Language: Italian

Directing his polemics against the pedantry of his time, Galileo, as his own popularizer, addressed his writings to contemporary laymen. His support of Copernican cosmology, against the Church's strong opposition, his development of a telescope, and his unorthodox opinions as a philosopher of science were the central concerns of his career and the subjects of four of his most important writings. Drake's introductory essay place them in their biographical and historical context.

My interest in Galileo was recently piqued by a seminar on data presentation by Edward Tufte (strongly recommended, also his books.) I was looking for an overview of Galileo's work and some context. This book provides both, very well. The book provides long quotations from "Siderius Nuncius" (Starry Messenger), Letters on Sunspots, The Assayer, and Letters to the Mother of the

Grand Duke of Tuscany (whose name escapes me right now.) Preceding each of these excerpts, is an introduction which includes historical information, information about Galileo's personal life, and much quotation from other scientists and people with whom Galileo is arguing. These are written in excellent, clear prose. The stage is set without the stage manager intruding. The excerpts from Galileo have been edited to maintain the focus on why Galileo is important to history and science, without losing his flavor or his pugnacious style. The point made by Galileo himself and the book are that Galileo pointed out that from then on, evidence would be the standard by which we would judge our knowledge of the world, not authority, word-play, logical proofs or arguments, etc. This is the dawn of the enlightenment. For an introduction, I found this book perfect. It won't satisfy the scholar looking to read every word of Galileo's. But, as I noted above, this book does show us why we still know Galileo's name, unlike the vast majority of his peers. [edited for spelling]

Came as described

Galileo Galilei is truly one of the greats of mankind. He helped usher in not only new scientific discoveries that were unknown to man, but he helped establish the scientific mode of thinking. This English translation is a great read and I highly recommend it.

This "rare" book proved most useful for my purposes, writing an article on the impact that Galileo had on John Milton's "Paradise Lost". I found its translation quite appropriate that needed no further adaptations.

Drake's translation is very easy to read while still capturing the subtleties of Galileo's work. This volume is highly convenient because it has Galileo's best works in it, so if you want to read Galileo, start by reading this volume cover to cover. His letter to the Grand Duchess is particularly insightful.

nice

This was a textbook for a class, so I wouldn't say it was an exciting read, but was okay for a textbook.

thanx

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