

and thirty miles away so clearly that they say it seems to be nearby ... in France and elsewhere this secret is known to all, and that it can be purchased cheaply. (pages 36–37).

On 27 March 1610, Bartoli wrote to a friend that Galileo's book *Sidereus nuncius* was being "... read by everyone ..." in Venice, and

With his spyglass, Galileo has found four other planets and seen another world on the Moon, and similar things that provide pleasant food for thought to the professors of those sciences. (page 86).

The Bucciantini book is superb in its richness of manuscript records, many of which have never before been published. The authors weave the story of the origins of the telescope throughout Europe (and even India and China), with some well-placed maps that show the dissemination of knowledge about this amazing invention. They describe this historiographical approach as "... our experiment in cartography and the cross-referencing of texts in an attempt to offer an overall vision of the circulation of the telescope." (page 169). Their experiment has succeeded admirably.

Likewise the Wilding book, with its focus on the little-known figure of Gianfrancesco Sagredo, opens up a new aspect of Galileo studies. Until now readers of Galileo's 1632 book *Dialogue upon the Two Main Systems of the World* regard-

ed Sagredo as nothing more than, in Wilding's words, "... a Socratic midwife ... In the *Dialogue* Galileo narrates Sagredo's experiences and makes them stand in for experiments." As Wilding notes, "Sagredo left no published work, invented nothing, gave his name to no theory or law." Nonetheless he was a real person and a close confidant of Galileo, and this book brings him to life at long last. Letters he wrote still exist, and years of archival research have enabled Wilding to give us a convincing portrait of his life. Indeed, he was even able to identify previously-unknown portraits of Sagredo, one of which (at the University of Oxford) graces the cover.

The addition of these two books advances our understanding of Galileo and his world far beyond anything previous generations of scholars have attained. While Galileo's trial and scientific experiments are amply covered by other great scholarly books, these two books fill a critical gap in Galileo studies.

Reference

Cunningham, C.J., 2016. Of Moonbows and Galileo. *Mercury* 45(3), 7.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

The March/April issue of *JAHH* included the following paper:

Cuntz, M., Gurdemir, L., and George, M., 2016. Seasonal dating of Sappho's 'Midnight Poem' revisited. *JAHH*, 19(1), 18–24.

It has been brought to our attention that some of the biographical material about Sappho in this paper draws freely on text included in the Poetry Foundation and other web sites without giving due recognition or acknowledgement. We very much regret this, and have taken steps to ensure that henceforth the proper attribution of sources will be rigorously adhered to.

Meanwhile, we would like to stress that the authors of this paper never claimed (nor desired) to make an original contribution to the biography of Sappho herself, whereas their analysis of the astronomical content of the 'Midnight Poem' is an original contribution to scholarship.

Professor Wayne Orchiston

Editor