Galileo first editions displayed in 2014-2015

History of Science Collections, University of Oklahoma Libraries

The OU Galileo collection contains 1st editions of each of Galileo's major printed books. Four OU copies contain Galileo's own handwriting. Perhaps you'll decide to put one of his books next on your reading list, for Galileo is one of the few scientists in history whose works remain compelling, eminently entertaining, informative and enjoyable to read today. This is a list of first printed editions of Galileo's works. It includes several works which he wrote with, or under the name of, a friend or student. It also includes his first English translation.

Galileo first edition	Gallery	Notes
Galileo, *The Operation of the Geometrical and Military Compass* (Padua, 1606)*	Galileo, Engineer, #18	Galileo's first printed book, a manual for his engineering instrument, a sector compass. The OU copy is annotated by Galileo, and was the first copy printed.
Galileo, *Defense against the Calumnies and Imposture of Baldasar Capra!* (Padua, 1607)*	Galileo, Engineer, #21	Galileo's second printed book, a defense of intellectual property rights. The OU copy is inscribed by Galileo to a friend who was a physician in Venice.
Galileo, *Starry Messenger* (Venice, 1610)*	The Sky at Night, BL; & Galileo and the Telescope, FJJMA	The first published report of telescopic discoveries, which made Galileo an international celebrity. The OU copy is inscribed by Galileo to a friend who was a poet in the Medici court.
Galileo, *Discourse on Floating Bodies* (Florence, 1612)	Galileo and Experimentation, NWC	Galileo's mathematical analysis of floating bodies, a traditional topic of qualitative Aristotelian physics.
Galileo (Benedetto Castelli), *Response to the Opposition of Lodovico delle Colombe* (Florence, 1615)	Galileo and Experimentation, NWC	A defense of Galileo's treatise on falling bodies, published under the name of his student and friend.
Galileo, *Letters on Sunspots* (Rome, 1613)	Space Science after Galileo, NWC	Galileo inaugurated the era of telescopic solar observation with detailed, full-page copperplate engravings which proved that sunspots lie on or very near the surface of the Sun, and are not little planets.
Galileo (Mario Guiducci), *Discourse on the Comets* (Florence, 1619)	Controversy over the Comets, BL	An attack on the system of Tycho Brahe held by many Jesuit astronomers. Written by Galileo and published under the name of one of his students.
Giovanni Battista Stelluti, *A Probing of the Astronomical Balance* (Terni, 1622)	Controversy over the Comets, BL	An advance preview of *The Assayer*, published under the name of a friend of Galileo's.

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Galileo, *The Assayer* (Rome, 1623), 1st ed., early state	Controversy over the Comets, BL	Galileo's manifesto that mathematics is the language of nature. This early state contains many printing errors corrected in other copies of the 1st edition. It was formerly owned by **Stillman Drake.***
Galileo, *The Assayer* (Rome, 1623), 1st ed., later state	Galileo, Engineer, BL; and Eyes of the Lynx: Microscopy, SN	Galileo's manifesto that mathematics is the language of nature.
Letters from Galileo to Prince Federigo Cesi (1629?)	Eyes of the Lynx, SN	In the letters contained in this rare pamphlet, published near the end of Cesi's life, Galileo thanked Cesi for his support of the Academy of the Lynx.
Galileo, *Dialogue on the Two Chief Systems of the World* (Florence, 1632)*	The Galileo Affair, #23	Galileo's *Dialogue*, the book for which he was put on trial.
Galileo, *The Ancient and Modern Doctrines of the Holy Fathers (Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina;* Strassburg, 1636)	The Galileo Affair, #17	The first publication of Galileo's treatise on the Bible and science.
Galileo, *Mechanics*; ed. Marin Mersenne, *Les Mechaniques du Sieur Galilée* (Paris, 1634)	New Physics, BL	The first publication of one of Galileo's early essays on mechanics.
Galileo, *Discorsi* (Leiden, 1638)	The New Physics	Galileo's mature study of physics, including cohesion, materials strength, the law of falling bodies, and the parabolic motion of projectiles.
Galileo, in *Mathematical Collections* (London, 1661), ed. John Salusbury.	The Galileo Affair, #18 and #20	Salusbury published the first English translations of Galileo, including the *Letter to the Grand Duchess* and the *Dialogue on the Two Chief Systems of the World*.
Galileo, *Considerations on Tasso* (Venice, 1793), octavo and quarto	Eyes of the Lynx: Natural History and the Americas, SN	A work of literary criticism, published posthumously. Galileo considered the merits of Tasso and Ariosto, comparing both with Dante, his fellow Florentine. OU holds both small and large format editions published the same year.

*Stillman Drake, a Galileo scholar, validated Galileo's handwriting in 4 OU first editions (shown in **bold** in this table). See for a reading guide for Drake, *Galileo: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford).

In celebration of OU's 125th anniversary, *Galileo's World* was a series of exhibits and events during 2014-2015 held at the Bizzell Memorial Library (BL), the Sam Noble Museum (SN), the National Weather Center (NWC), the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art (FJJMA), Headington Hall, the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library, and the OU-Tulsa Schusterman Library. 350 original rare works, including all of the ones listed here, were on display in those locations.