

Galileo first editions checklist
Galileo's World, Reprise 2016-2018



Galileo first edition	Gallery	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>The Operation of the Geometrical and Military Compass</i> (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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Defense against the Calumnies and Imposture of Baldasar Capra!</i> (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. It is bound with Galileo's <i>Compass</i> .
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Starry Messenger</i> (Venice, 1610)*	The Sky at Night Originally in 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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>The Assayer</i> (Rome, 1623), 1st ed., later state	Galileo, Engineer Originally in Eyes of the Lynx: Microscopy, SN	Galileo's manifesto that mathematics is the language of nature. This is the usual way the first edition looks; compare with the early state in BL.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Dialogue on the Two Chief Systems of the World</i> (Florence, 1632)*	The Galileo Affair, #23	Galileo's <i>Dialogue</i> , the book for which he was put on trial.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>The Ancient and Modern Doctrines of the Holy Fathers (Letter to the Grand Duchess Christina)</i> ; Strassburg, 1636)	The Galileo Affair, #17	The first publication of Galileo's treatise on the Bible and Copernicanism.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Discorsi</i> (Leiden, 1638)	The New Physics Originally in Eyes of the Lynx: Natural History and the Americas, Microscopy, SN	Galileo's mature study of physics, including cohesion, materials strength, the law of falling bodies, and the parabolic motion of projectiles.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, in <i>Mathematical Collections</i> (London, 1661), ed. John Salusbury.	The Galileo Affair, #18 and #20	Salusbury published the first English translations of Galileo, including the <i>Letter to the Grand Duchess</i> and the <i>Dialogue on the Two Chief Systems of the World</i> .

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 only of first printed editions of Galileo's works on display. It includes several works which he wrote with, or under the name of, a friend or student. It also includes his first English translation.

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

**Galileo first editions originally displayed in
Galileo's World, Exhibition Without Walls**



Bizzell Memorial Library, 5th floor	Gallery	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Discourse on Floating Bodies</i> (Florence, 1612)	Galileo and Experimentation, NWC	Galileo's mathematical analysis of floating bodies, a traditional topic of qualitative Aristotelian physics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo (Benedetto Castelli), <i>Response to the Opposition of Lodovico delle Colombe</i> (Florence, 1615)	Galileo and Experimentation, NWC	A defense of Galileo's treatise on falling bodies, published under the name of his student and friend.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Letters on Sunspots</i> (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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo (Mario Guiducci), <i>Discourse on the Comets</i> (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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Giovanni Battista Stelluti, <i>A Probing of the Astronomical Balance</i> (Terni, 1622)	Controversy over the Comets, BL	An advance preview of <i>The Assayer</i> , published under the name of a friend of Galileo's.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>The Assayer</i> (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 .*
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Letters from Galileo to Prince Federico Cesi</i> (1629?)	Eyes of the Lynx: Natural History and the Americas, Microscopy, 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.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Mechanics</i> ; ed. Marin Mersenne, <i>Les Mechaniques du Sieur Galilée</i> (Paris, 1634)	New Physics, BL	The first publication of one of Galileo's early essays on mechanics.
<input type="checkbox"/> Galileo, <i>Considerations on Tasso</i> (Venice, 1793), octavo	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. The OU History of Science Collections holds both small and large format editions published in the same year.

This checklist includes works displayed in the original Galileo's World exhibition. In celebration of OU's 125th anniversary, *Galileo's World* was a series of exhibits and events 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.