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The publication in 1632 of Galileo's *Dialogue on the Two Chief World Systems, Ptolemaic and Copernican* marked a crucial moment in the 'scientific revolution' and helped Galileo become the 'father of modern science'. The *Dialogue* contains Galileo's mature synthesis of astronomy, physics, and methodology, and a critical confirmation of Copernicus's hypothesis of the earth's motion. However, the book also led Galileo to stand trial with the Inquisition, in what became known as 'the greatest scandal in Christendom'.

In *The Routledge Guidebook to Galileo's Dialogue*, Maurice A. Finocchiaro introduces and analyzes:

- the intellectual background and historical context of the Copernican controversy and Inquisition trial;
- the key arguments and critiques that Galileo presents on both sides of the 'dialogue';
- the *Dialogue*'s content and significance from three special points of view: science, methodology, and rhetoric;
- the enduring legacy of the *Dialogue* and the ongoing application of its approach to other areas.

This is an essential introduction for all students of science, philosophy, history, and religion wanting a useful guide to Galileo's great classic.

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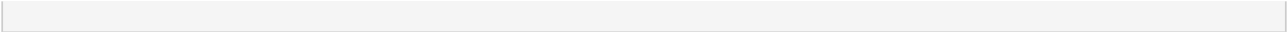
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- Rank: #2170613 in Books
- Published on: 2013-09-20
- Released on: 2013-07-23
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.80" h x .87" w x 5.08" l, .92 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 384 pages

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Review

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"I and many future readers will be grateful to Finocchiaro for his book's stimulating and useful analyses. His Guidebook has both deepened my own understanding of the *Dialogue's* argumentation and often sent me back to that remarkable text ... I can imagine no better starting point than this book." - Michael H. Shank, *Science & Education*

About the Author

Maurice A Finocchiaro is Distinguished Professor of Philosophy, Emeritus; University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He has written and translated numerous works on Galileo and the history of science including *Galileo on the World Systems: A New Abridged Translation and Guide* (1997) and *The Essential Galileo* (2008).

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