

Book notice

Thomas F. Mayer (ed.): The trial of Galileo: 1612–1633, North York, ON: University of Toronto Press, 2012, xii+210pp, \$24.95 PB

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This is a primary sourcebook of Galileo's trial intended mainly for undergraduate students. It contains in English translation, pertinent letters, affidavits, and decrees relating to Galileo's trial at the hands of the Roman Inquisition in 1633. To assist students and their instructors in their use of the material, Mayer also provides headings, summaries, footnotes, guiding questions, and some suggested secondary literature. All of this should assist students in constructing critical analyses of the Galileo affair, debunking some popular myths about Galileo's confrontation with Church authorities. While an excellent sourcebook, Mayer's Introduction provides very little context or even insight into his selection criteria, so readers might be puzzled as to why only two minor letters are included pertaining to the crucial years between 1616 and 1632.

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