

DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE TRIAL OF GALILEO

The Chronology of Events in Finocchiaro, page 297ff, can be very helpful in working through these documents

EVENTS OF 1616

1. Finocchiaro's introduction, Section 6 (pages 27 – 32)
2. Fr Niccolo Lorini's complaint to the Holy office — 7 February 1615 — pages 134–135
3. Bellarmine's reply to Foscarini — 12 April 1615 — Finocchiaro, page 67
Galileo almost certainly saw this letter before completing the *Letter to the Grand Dutchess*.
4. Consultant's Report on the Letter to Castelli — 1615 — pages 135–136
This report is not dated. Note that the consultant is in part reacting to the garbled form of the letter he had received — see footnotes 11 – 15, pages 342–343.
5. Fr Tommaso Caccini's deposition — 20 March 1615 — pages 136–141
6. Fr Fernando Ximenes' Deposition — 13 November 1615 — pages 141–143
Note the first question!
7. Consultants' Report on Copernicanism — 24 February 1616 — pages 146–147
Note that the Holy Office submitted two “propositions” to the consultants, and requested an opinion.
8. Inquisition Minutes — 25 February 1616 — page 147
Note the three step procedure that is set forth. Remember that the Pope was the head of the Holy Office.
9. Special Injunction — 26 February 1616 — pages 147–148
This document is by far the most notorious and most controversial aspect of the Galileo affair. Among the problems with it are:
 - The document is not signed by Galileo nor by the Commissary. The witnesses are named, but again, there are no signatures.
 - The witnesses appear to be members of Bellarmine's staff, and not Holy Office officials.
 - The placement in Galileo's file is unusual. The documents in the file are all written on folded sheets of paper, that are stitched together at the fold. Most documents begin on the inside left side of a sheet, and continue as far as necessary.
The one exception is this injunction. It begins on the blank back left side of a sheet devoted to another document, and continues on the blank front right side of yet another document.

- There may be inconsistencies between this document and others in the file.

On the other hand,

- The injunction was not tampered with — that is, careful x ray and ultraviolet light tests of the paper show no sign of erasures.
- The handwriting seems consistent with other documents in the file.
- From what we know of Bellarmine, it would be out of character for him to participate in a deliberate forgery.

10. Inquisition Minutes — 3 March 1616 — page 148

This entry is an internal Holy Office document, and was not made public. It first came to light in 1849, when in the commotion and confusion of the political revolution in Italy in that year, the Pope fled Rome, and an Italian scientist and historian, Silvestro Gheradi, got into the Holy Office records. The document was published in 1870. (See Redondi, page 154ff.)

11. Decree of the Index — 5 March 1616 — pages 148–150

12. Two letters of Galileo to the Tuscan (i.e., Florentine) Secretary of State — 6 March and 12 March 1616 — pages 150–153

These letters give Galileo’s account of these events. Note that in the second letter, he describes a long audience with Pope Paul V.

13. Cardinal Bellarmine’s certificate — 26 May 1616 — page 153

This certificate was requested by Galileo.

Dialogue concerning the Two Chief World Systems

1. various letters concerning publication — 1625–1631 — pages 204–214

2. Preface to the Dialogue — 1632 — pages 214–216

Note that this preface was written by the Vatican officials who granted the license for publication, not by Galileo. See the letter from Riccardi, page 213, and note 56 on page 354.

3. Ending of the Dialogue — 1632 — pages 217–218

Note the similarity to Urban’s argument. See Introduction, page 32ff and note 57, page 354.

TRIAL—1633

1. Introduction, Section 7 — page 32 ff

Note especially Urban VIII’s argument on pages 32–33.

2. Chronology of events, pages 304–306
Note the events leading up to the trial, culminating in the order to Galileo to come to Rome.
3. Galileo’s First Deposition — 12 April 1633 — pages 256–262
4. reports of Oreggi, Inchofer, and Pasqualigo — 17 April 1633 — pages 276
5. Commissary General (Firenzuola) to Cardinal Barberini — 28 April 1633 — pages 276–277
Firenzuola describes his efforts to arrange a “plea bargain.”
6. Galileo’s Second Deposition — 30 April 1633 — pages 277–279
Galileo in effect agrees to Firenzuola’s suggestion.
7. Galileo’s Third Deposition — 10 May 1633 — page 279
8. Galileo’s Defense — 10 May 1633 — pages 279–282
Galileo says again that he has no recollection of an injunction against him.
9. Final Report to the Pope — May or June 1633 — pages 281–286
It is not clear who wrote this report, which Santillana calls a “slick job” (page 280). Note that the report refers to the garbled version of the Letter to Castelli, and states that it was impossible “despite diligent efforts” to obtain the original.
10. The following extract from the Inquisition minutes, dated 16 June 1633, is quoted from Santillana (page 292) and referred to by Finocchiaro in the Chronology of Events, p 306:
“Sanctissimus decreed that said Galileo is to be interrogated on his intention, even with the threat of torture, and if he sustains [the test], he is to abjure *de vehementi* [i.e., vehement suspicion of heresy] in a plenary assembly of the Congregation of the Holy Office, then is to be condemned to imprisonment at the pleasure of the Holy Congregation, and ordered not to treat further, in whatever manner, either in words or in writing, of the mobility of the Earth and the stability of the Sun; otherwise he will incur the penalties of relapse. The book entitled *Dialogo di Galileo Galilei Linceo* is to be prohibited. Furthermore, that these things may be known by all, he ordered that copies of the sentence shall be sent to all Apostolic Nuncios, to all Inquisitors against heretical pravity, and especially to the Inquisitor in Florence, who shall read the sentence in full assembly and in the presence of most of those who profess the mathematical art.”
11. Galileo’s Fourth Deposition — 21 June 1633 — page 286
12. Sentence — 22 June 1633 — pages 286–287
Three of the ten judges did not sign.

13. Galileo's Abjuration — 22 June 1633 — pages 292–293

Before agreeing to this abjuration, Galileo insisted on two changes (as reported by a contemporary—see Santillana page 311):

Galileo “begged the cardinals that, if they insisted on proceeding against him in such a manner, they should at least leave out two points and then have him say whatever they pleased. The first one was that he should not be made to say that he was not a good Catholic, for he was and intended to remain one despite all his enemies could say; the other, that he would not say that he had ever deceived anybody, especially in the publishing of his book, which he had submitted in full candor to ecclesiastical censure and had it printed after legally obtaining a license.”