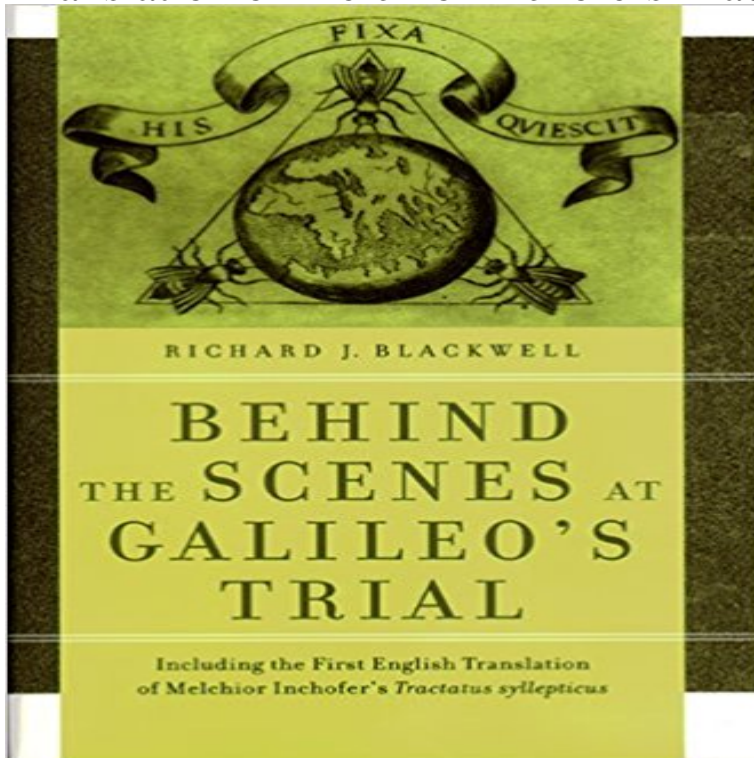


# Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial: Including the First English Translation of Melchior Inchofers Tractatus syllepticus



Galileos trial in 1633 before the Roman Inquisition is one of the most frequently mentioned topics in the history of science. Galileos encounter with the Catholic Church was not only a major turning point in the history of western culture; it is the paradigm case of the clash between the institutional authority of religion and the authority of scientific reason, a clash that has helped to define the modern era. Blackwells new contribution to the Galileo affair concerns the official theological position against Galileo. The centerpiece of his project is the treatise entitled *Tractatus syllepticus*, written by Melchior Inchofer, S.J., whose judgment of the orthodoxy of Galileos *Dialogue* had been requested earlier by the Holy Office and was then incorporated into the proceedings of the trial. At the time, Inchofers judgment against Galileos book was both detailed and harsh. That judgment formed the basis for Inchofers subsequent *Tractatus*, the first English translation of which is included in this volume. Inchofers text provides a new and fascinating way of looking at the defense of the guilty verdict. Blackwells analysis of this material greatly enriches our knowledge of Galileo and his trial. Both legal and theological behind-the-scenes aspects of Galileos trial are discussed. Because of a weak legal case, a plea bargain was arranged, extrajudicially, then sabotaged in the Holy Office before the final decision of the case. Through his close scrutiny of the specifics of the trial, Blackwell renders a picture that is more complex, and ominous, than the usual portrayal of the trial. Embedded here is a real jewel: Blackwells powerfully illuminating and sobering portrayal of Galileos fraught relations with the Jesuit astronomer Christopher Scheiner. I know of no other account that shows with such clarity the theological constraints that bound the Catholic protagonists in the infamous Galileo affair and how behind the

scenes these constraints evolved and hardened. Owen Gingerich, Professor Emeritus, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics An original contribution to Galilean studies, Richard J. Blackwells Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial is both an in-depth study of the trial and a careful and enlightening examination of the roles played by that understudied figure, Melchior Inchofer, and the famed Jesuit astronomer, Christopher Scheiner, in Galileos condemnation. It is also a boon to have here English translations of Inchofers Tractatus syllepticus and Jesuit works, including an excerpt from Scheiners Prodomus. Irving Kelter, University of St. Thomas, Houston This book is not the usual kind of Galileo fare. Blackwell makes no attempt to tell the whole story, but meticulously and judiciously analyzes background events, texts, and personalities in ways that illuminate and clarify the course and outcome of Galileos campaign on behalf of heliocentrism and the trial with which it ended. Appendices include relevant texts in translation, as well as Jesuit procedural rules that played a central role in the drama. This is an outstanding contribution to Galileo scholarship. David C. Lindberg, Hilldale Professor Emeritus of the History of Science, University of Wisconsin

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**Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial: Including the First English** : Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial: Including the First English Translation of Melchior Inchofers Tractatus syllepticus. **Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial : Richard J. Blackwell** **Behind the Scenes of Galileos Trial: Including the First English** Including the First English Translation of Melchior Inchofers Tractatus syllepticus to Galilean studies, Richard J. Blackwells Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial here English translations of Inchofers Tractatus syllepticus and Jesuit works, **Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial - University of Notre Dame Press** Melchior Inchofer or Imhofer (c. 1584 28 September1648) was an Austrian Jesuit. He played an important part in the trial of Galileo, by his arguments that Galileo was an advocate of the Copernican system in Tractatus Syllepticus. Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial: Including the First English Translation of Melchior **behind the scenes at galileos trial - University of Notre Dame** Including the First English Translation of Melchior Inchofers Tractatus syllepticus of Galileos book formed the basis for Inchofers treatise Tractatus syllepticus, the Galilean studies, Richard J. Blackwells Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial **Behind the Scenes at Galileos Trial -**

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