

GALILEO'S READING

Galileo (1564–1642) incorporated throughout his work the language of battle, the rhetoric of the epic, and the structure of romance as a means to elicit emotional responses from his readers against his opponents. By turning to the literary as a field for creating knowledge, Galileo delineated a textual space for establishing and validating the identity of the new, idealized philosopher. *Galileo's Reading* places Galileo in the complete intellectual and academic world in which he operated, bringing together, for example, debates over the nature of floating bodies and Ludovico Ariosto's *Orlando furioso*, disputes on comets and the literary criticism of *Don Quixote*, mathematical demonstrations of material strength and Dante's voyage through the afterlife, and the parallels of his feisty note-taking practices with popular comedy of the period.

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Cambridge University Press
978-1-107-04755-6 - Galileo's Reading
Crystal Hall
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CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107047556

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First published 2013

Printed in the United Kingdom by CPI Group Ltd, Croydon CRO 4YY

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloguing in Publication data

Hall, Crystal, 1981–

Galileo's reading / Crystal Hall.

pages cm

Includes bibliographical references and index.

ISBN 978-1-107-04755-6 (hardback)

1. Galilei, Galileo, 1564–1642. 2. Galilei, Galileo, 1564–1642–Language. 3. Galilei, Galileo, 1564–1642–Literary style. 4. Ariosto, Lodovico, 1474–1533. Orlando furioso. 5. Ariosto, Lodovico, 1474–1533–Influence. I. Title.

QB36.G2H35 2013

195–dc23

2013020833

ISBN 978-1-107-04755-6 hardback

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Cambridge University Press
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Acknowledgments

I owe thanks to a great number of individuals and institutions for their assistance in bringing this book to press. The editors and the anonymous readers at Cambridge University Press offered priceless advice for refining and strengthening the presentation of my arguments. This research was made possible by the support and collaboration of several institutions: the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Kansas, the Galileo Museum in Florence, the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, the Archivio di Stato di Firenze, the Huntington Library, the Houghton Library, the Linda Hall Library, and the Spencer Research Library.

I am particularly in debt to Victoria Kirkham, in whose course I first discovered Galileo as an author of literature. At the University of Pennsylvania, when this book only existed as a kernel inside my dissertation, I am fortunate to have had the support of Kevin Brownlee, Fabio Finotti, Michael Gamer, and E. Ann Matter. I found guidance and inspiration in many places outside my home institutions, but I would like specifically to thank Arielle Saiber, Eileen Reeves, Patrizia Ruffo, Michele Camerota, Tom Settle, Renée Raphael, Marilyn Migiel, Bill Wallace, and Albert Ascoli for their contributions to my research.

The support of the Department of French and Italian at the University of Kansas has been consistent and abundant, with particular thanks owed to Caroline Jewers, Jan Kozma, Van Kelly, Karen Cook, Sally Cornelison, Cara Polsley, the KU Libraries, and Interlibrary Loan Services.

Finally, a list of personal thanks to colleagues who became close friends and the friends who became colleagues after many hours spent listening to me talk about this project: Lillyrose, Sarah, Federica, Stefano, Kim, Charlie, Bruce, Michelle, Louis, Alethea, Leigh, Nicole, Rebecca, and Kraig. I do hope that Ingrid Horton and Misty Schieberle will want to read this book one more time after patiently reviewing so many early drafts. In the end I hope to have produced a book that my mother will enjoy reading, with the precision that my father expects, written in the good spirit that my sister exemplifies.