The Roman Inquisition in the Time of Galileo

Friday, February 26, 2016  •  UCLA Royce Hall 314
February 26th is the 400th anniversary of Galileo’s first encounter with the Holy Office of the Roman and Universal Inquisition. On that day he was warned by Cardinal Robert Bellarmine not to hold the Copernican thesis of heliocentrism, which a committee of the Holy Office had just declared to be heretical. In the light of this event, today’s symposium will celebrate and critique the late Thomas F. Mayer’s recently published three-volume study, The Roman Inquisition (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013-2015). Volume 1, A Papal Bureaucracy and Its Laws in the Age of Galileo, and volume 2, On the Stage of Italy, c. 1590-1640, deal with the congregation’s structure, personnel, and general operations, and the first three of our speakers (Christopher Black, Paula Findlen, and Jane Wickersham), will reflect on these topics, with Paula and Jane moving into the third volume, Trying Galileo. Our fourth speaker, Maurice Finocchiaro, will treat of the significance of the scientist’s 1616 encounter with the Holy Office and Mayer’s account of it and of its later implications. The fifth speaker, Francesco Beretta, will deal with the theological aspect of the censure of the heliocentric theory, both in 1616 and 1632-33. The final speaker, Andy Kelly, will analyze the Inquisition’s dealings with Galileo, culminating in his formal trial in 1633, in light of the laws (and deviations from the laws) of inquisitorial procedure. The day will end with a round-table discussion among the participants and special guests.

The UCLA Library will put on a display of pertinent materials.

Advance registration not required. No fee. Limited seating on a first-come first-served basis. Self-pay parking in lots 2, 3, 4, and 5. More parking information at https://main.transportation.ucla.edu/campus-parking/visitors

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8:30 Coffee, registration
9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Massimo Ciavolella (UCLA), CMRS Director
Henry Ansgar Kelly (UCLA), Symposium Organizer

The Roman Inquisition in Italy
Presiding: John Heilbron (History, UC Berkeley)
9:15 Christopher Black (History, University of Glasgow)
“The Roman Inquisition: Center and Periphery”
10:00 Break
10:15 Paula Findlen (History, Stanford University)
“The Roman Inquisition in the Age of Galileo: The Nature of a Community”
11:00 Break
11:15 Jane Wickersham (History, University of Oklahoma, Norman)
“Thomas Mayer’s Galileo Trial: Agency and Adaptation in Inquisitorial Law”
12:00 Lunch Break

The Holy Office and Galileo
Presiding: Thomas P. Rausch, S.J. (Theology, Loyola Marymount University, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts)
1:30 Maurice A. Finocchiaro (Philosophy, University of Nevada Las Vegas)
“The Inquisition’s Orders to Galileo on 26 February 1616: A Critique of Mayer’s Account”
2:15 Break
2:30 Francesco Beretta (Institute of Human Sciences, CNRS, Lyon)
“His fixa quiescit. Galileo’s Abjuration and the Hierarchy of Disciplines in Counter-Reformation Italy”
3:15 Break
3:30 Henry Ansgar Kelly (English, UCLA)
“Galileo’s Non-trial (1616), Pre-trial (1632-33), and Trial (May 10, 1633): Old and New Deviations and Routines”
4:15 Round Table Discussion among the speakers and special guests
5:00 Concluding Remarks and Reception