

GALILEO PROVOCARE

or An Attempt to Replicate the Findings of the Heretical Natural Philosopher on the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth of March in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand and Fifteen

An Esteemed Colleague on the site Noctes Nubia, hath issued a Challenge to confirm the findings of Galileo Galilei of Padua. I undertook to accept this Challenge, with the Additional Constraints of 1) completing all the observations in a single night, and 2) using an Instrument close to that used by Signor Galileo, rather than the Finer Instruments available to me. Thus I Attempted to make these Observations with a Jason 304-T Telescop, with a 60 mm Primary Lens and a Length of 600 mm. It is still a Superior Instrument to that used by Sr. Galileo; It Must be ~ it says 200X on the side. I was unable to find its Associated Collection of Eyelenses, but did locate a "18 mm Erecting Eyepiece 14X Micro Scope" which Seemeth to work, though it Requireth the Focuser to be wound all the way out to achieve a Semblance of focus. My Computation Suggests this gives a Magnification of 33X.

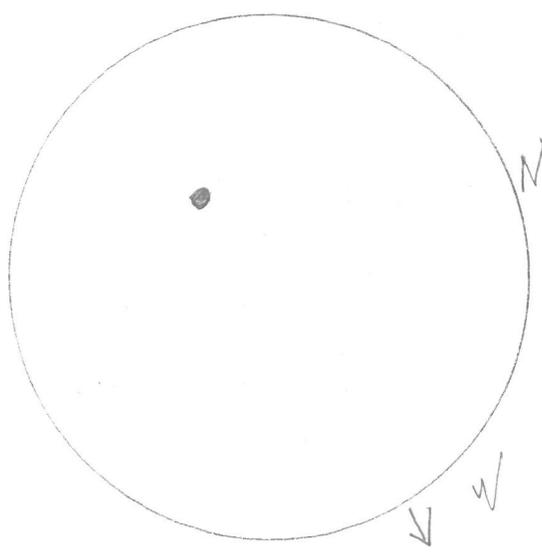
An Additional Handicap that I imposed on myself was to Mount the Telescop on a Simple Tripod, with an Improvised Mounting System that was quite Unstable and required Considerable Effort to Guess where the Instrument would be Pointed once I removed my Hands from it.

VENUS

I began my Observations at the Smolen Observatory on the Grounds of Universitas Novum Pfalts de Novo Eboracum.

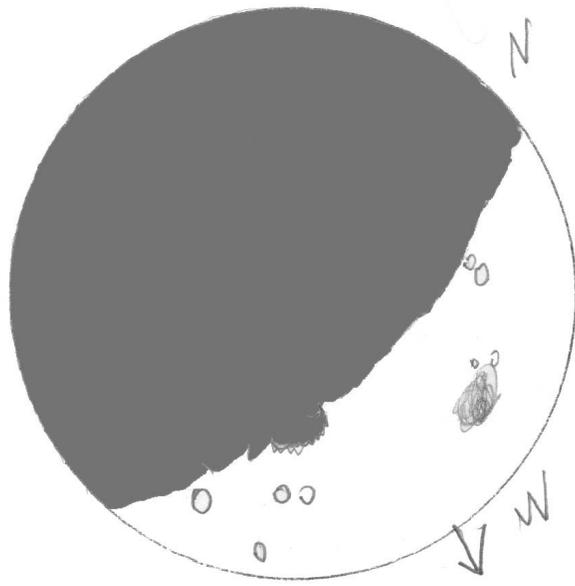
24 March 2015 20:55 This was my first Object of Observation of the evening, chosen as it was Low in the West, and would soon Disappear behind the Trees surrounding the Observing Site. It appeared to be of a somewhat Yellowish Hue, and Possessed a somewhat Flattened Aspect on the Side to the East, away from the Setted Sun. This was only One Observation, and Several More would be needed to confirm Sr. Galileo's contention that Venus hath phases like the Moon, it must be said that this Single Apparition gave me Pause, as it did Resemble the gGbbous

Moon in shape. Most Significantly, it was not a Perfect Sphere. This was the First Indication that our Knowledge of the Heavens does not Match what we can see through the Instruments of the Hollandish Lens Makers.



THE MOON

21:00 Turning the Telescope on the Crescent Moon produced a most Astonishing Apparition. The Moon filled the entire Field of View almost exactly. The Dark Aspect of the Moon was clearly visible, and the Markings thereon were clearly the Same as seen when the Moon is Full. Turning my Attention to the Bright Aspect of the Moon I was struck ~ Almighty God Preserve Us All !! ~ by the Incredible Variety of Structures visible on the Surface of the Moon! Round Saucer-like Depressions ringed by Elevated Ridges and of Infinite Variety of Sizes were Scattered all over the Surface. Mountain Ranges and Lines of Indeterminant Structure were seen, along with the Dark and Smooth areas known as Mare (except where Marked by some of the more Isolated Structures just mentioned) produced a varied terrain. The Structures present on the Mare clearly indicate that the Mare are not, in fact Seas, but are Broad Flat Plains, not Unlike some on Earth. All this Variety indicates that the Surface of the Moon is Not Smooth, and hence the Moon is Not a Perfect Sphere, again Contrary to the Teachings of Natural Philosophy.



JUPITER

22:05 The Planet was directly at the Meridian, and High in the Sky, necessitating a Most Awkard Posture when viewing, exacerbating all the Infirmities of Olde Age which Divine Providence hath granted me. I was able, however to Identify one of the Subordinate Stars described by Sr. Galileo, directly to the West of the planet, which was Clearly Visible as a Round Disc, distinct from the Fixed Stars. Whether due to the Inconvenient Positioning, or the Lightening of the Sky due to the Profusion of Electrical Lanterns in the Adjacent Town, I was unable to Locate the Remaining Subordinate Stars with this Instrument. Hence I resorted to the Observatory's 14 inch Telescop of the Design of Schmidt and Cassegrain, and of the Manufacture of Celestron, with a 55 mm Plossl eyepiece. Now I could Clearly See the four Subordinate Stars of Jupiter, one on the West Side as Noted Above, and three on the East Side all in Perfect Alignment, lie a String of Jewels. This was the First Sign to me this Evening of the Maker's Perfect Work in the Heavens. Again, it would take Several more Observations to Confirm Sr. Galileo's contention that They Moveth as if Circling the Planet. However, this Observation doth Confirm their Existence.

With the Aid of an Ephemeris, I was able to Determine that the Medician Star to the West was Ganymede. Being Brighter than the others, that may have been why it was the Only one Visible in the Pollution of Light that was Present.

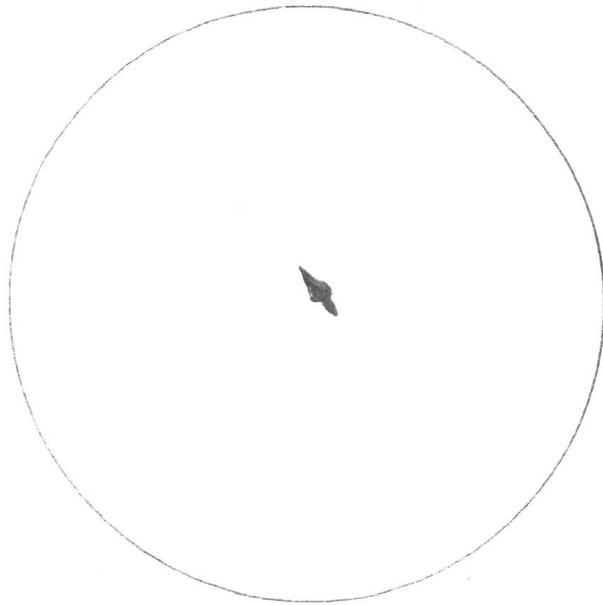


The Subordinate Stars on the East Side of the Planet from Jupiter outward were Io, Europa and Callisto.

In addition to the Subordinate Stars, I could see with the Observatory's Instrument, a few bands across the Surface of Jupiter. This View, along with Several Others, convinceth me that Sr. Galileo would have given one of his Limbs and one of his Testicles to have Such a View as this!

SATURN

26 March 2015 5:00 AM After retiring to Bed around Midnight, I awaketh before the Period of Second Sleep, and went out, this time in Garden adjacent to my Domicile, and Observed Saturn with the Telescop of Jason. Where Sr. Galileo hath noted "Ears" on the Sides of that Planet, I observed them to be more Pointed, as triangles affixed to the sides of a Circle. I hath Indicated their Appearance in my Drawings.



VIA GALACTICA

Although Not Included in the Original List of the Galileic Observations, the Nature of the Milky Way was clearly one of his more Important Insights. I turned the Telescop to the Milky Way in the area of Cygnus, and was Greeted by an Astonishing Splendor of a Myriad of Stars, Uncountable even in a Single Field of the Eyelens, a Spectacle giving Glory to God by Displaying a Mighty Testament to the Magnificence of his Creation.

Note: My Observations appear to Confirm all the Claims of Sr. Galileo. As so many of them Contradict the Known Teaching of the Ancients and the Holy Church it leaves one in an Exceptional Quandry. Were they to be Widely Accepted, they calleth into Question the Wisdom of the Ancients from Aristotle to Ptolemy. If they, and THE CHURCH, hath erred in These Matters, in What Else could they have Erred? Should this Approach becometh Established among the Masses of the People, the Entire Order of Society would be Threatened. I suggest that we Abandon these Pursuits Immediately, as Nothing Good will come of them.