

ABSTRACTS

Franco Bacchelli, *Ancora su Basilio Sabazio e Scipione Capece*, pp. 1–39

Basilio Sabazio is the first in Italy to argue for the unity and corruptibility of either sublunar or celestial matter; in this paper new insight of his intellectual activity between Napoli and Milano is provided, and in particular his relationship with Scipione Capece, from whose letter to Giovan Francesco di Capua, Count of Palena (part of which is here edited) we learn that Sabazio was an expert in philology and astronomy. The surviving part of an essay by Sabazio to the astronomer Francesco Cigalini from Como is here edited with some informations about Cigalini's reply. A newly recovered Sabazio's astronomical work is here edited – from which his endorsement of Eraclides Ponticus' astronomical system is evident –, as well as his *Consilium* to Pope Paolo III about the urgency of convening a general council.

Keywords: Basilio Sabazio; cosmology; homocentric model.

English title: *On Basilio Sabazio and Scipione Capece Again*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI1

Lorenzo Bianchi, «Reipublicae administratio extraordinaria»: note in margine a un passo della *Bibliographia politica* di Gabriel Naudé, pp. 40–74

In his *Bibliographia politica* (Venice 1633) Naudé reviews in about one hundred pages authors and works that have dealt with politics, from the Antiquity to the first decades of the Seventeenth Century. In few enlightened pages on the ordinary and extraordinary administration of the State, Naudé elaborates his

own idea of Reason of State, including the use of an extraordinary administration in the name of the public benefit. We can find a continuity between his *Bibliographia politica* and his *Considérations politiques sur les coups d'Etat* (1639). In both his political works Naudé gives to the category of wisdom, derived from Aristotle, a new practical and political value, which goes back to authors such as Machiavelli or Cardano, Lipsius or Charron. Naudé's political wisdom uses dissimulation and any form of justice, also against common law, to act in extraordinary administration of the State or to carry out "coups d'État."

Keywords: *Libertinage érudit*; political philosophy; reason of state (*ragione di stato*); wisdom; dissimulation.

English title: "*Reipublicae administratio extraordinaria*": *Marginal Notes on a Passage from the Bibliographia politica of Gabriel Naudé*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI2

Sara Bonechi, *Dediche tortuose. La Geometria morale di Vincenzo Viviani e gli imbarazzi dell'eredità galileiana*, pp. 75–181

This study of the history and contents of a hitherto unedited work on geometry by Vincenzo Viviani seeks to present a picture of the scientific environment in Italy in the second half of the 17th century, with particular emphasis on Tuscany and the impact the condemnation of Galileo had on ongoing scholarship. Information derived from unedited or less well-known material serves to illuminate a range of prominent and marginal figures who adopted different strategies for the dissemination of Galileo's thought and the application of its principles. A selection of texts, edited here for the first time, is

presented in two appendices, while in a third decidedly unusual methods are used to elucidate the mathematical aspects.

Keywords: history of science; School of Galileo; hyperbola; paradoxical solids; Inquisition.

English title: *Tortuous Dedications. The Geometria morale of Vincenzo Viviani and the Embarrassments of the Galilean Heritage*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI3

Carlo Borghero, *Rinascimento, rivoluzione scientifica e libertinismo erudito*, pp. 182–218

The author examines an essay by Maurizio Torrini on the scientific revolution and libertinism. Studying the reception of Galileo's discoveries in European philosophical culture, Torrini highlights the misunderstandings and instrumental uses that libertines made of Galilean astronomy. The scientific revolution and libertinism had independent paths and even when their paths crossed, no fusion emerged between the two components. Only at the end of the seventeenth century did apologetics unify libertinism and Galilean science into one doctrine to facilitate their condemnation. The essay shows the consequences that this interpretation produces on the historiographic categories with which modern philosophy is interpreted.

Keywords: Galileo; scientific revolution; libertinism; apologetics.

English title: *Renaissance, Scientific Revolution and Erudite Libertinism*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI4

Stefano Caroti, *Il Cartesio metafisico di Orazio Ricasoli Rucellai*, pp. 219-304

Orazio Ricasoli Rucellai is one of the leading *eruditi* of the second half of 17th-century Florence; he tried to keep alive Galileo's contribution to science. Most of his *Dialoghi filosofici* have been published at the end of 19th century; among the unpublished dialogues dedicated to *Timaeus* we find a partial defence of Descartes' metaphysics, which is edited in the Appendix. In particular, the topics at stake are the demonstration of God's existence and of the immateriality of the soul in Descartes's *Meditationes*. The opponent of Descartes's doctrine relies on Gassendi's *Obiectiones*. Descartes's doctrine of ideas completely detached from sense perception is dismissed as useless on a cognitive basis, and only a generic innatism is maintained, only as far as it can provide a proof of God's imprint on human soul.

Keywords: Orazio Ricasoli Rucellai; René Descartes; demonstration of God's existence; demonstration of soul's immateriality.

English title: *The Metaphysical Descartes of Orazio Ricasoli Rucellai*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI5

Paola Dessì, *Darwin non deve andare a scuola*, pp. 305-324

After its remarkable affirmation overseas, creationism has landed in Europe and is also present in Italy. As in the USA, also in Italy the main terrain of the clash with Darwinism is the public school. The essay investigates the reasons why in Italy too has been possible to require to teach creationism alongside evolutionism. If in the US this is explained by the strong influence of the evangelical communities, in Italy creationism has found fertile ground in the

traditional backwardness of the country in terms of scientific culture. To this we must add a relativistic epistemological interpretation that allows to equalize scientific doctrines to ideologies.

Keywords: Darwinism; creationism; education.

English title: *Darwin Should not Go to School*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI6

Walter Lapini, *L'hermeneus prima dell'ermeneutica: Platone e la filosofizzazione coatta*, pp. 325–345

The essay aims at demonstrating that it is dangerous to try to reconstruct a philosophical doctrine taking into account solely or predominantly the analysis of vocabulary. This is particularly true of the philosophical doctrines of the ancients, who generally did not feel obliged to adopt a coherent and unambiguous technical terminology. Starting from the essay of F. Camera, *Sui molteplici significati di hermeneia in Platone*, which was published in 2004 and then re-edited in 2011 with few modifications but with a different title (*Platone e l'ermeneutica*), the author shows that the method of facing Plato's hermeneutics through the ἐρμηνεύειν-words is a source of distortions and over-interpretations; that is, it causes excessive density and conceptual significance to be attributed to words used instead in their current meaning. One must remember, even if it should be well known to anyone who devotes himself to these themes, that not all words, expressions and concepts become philosophical entities only because they appear in the works of an author tagged "philosophy."

Keywords: Plato; Hermes; Plato's *Cratylus*; Plato's *Epinomis*; hermeneutics;

philosophical technical vocabulary.

English title: *The Hermeneus Before Hermeneutics: Plato and Forced Philosophization*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI7

Saverio Ricci, *Campanella, Botero e gli infedeli*, pp. 346–372

Accused to be leading a plot against the Spanish government in Calabria in 1599, supposedly supported by a Turkish fleet, Campanella was almost labeled as a renegade. On the contrary, while in jail, he deepened his prophetic interpretation of the history, and of the future of the world, offered theological and political confutation of Islam, and began shaping a wider idea of the role of this religion in the 'apocalyptic' times. Not focusing on the Turkish menace only, he tries to integrate some of the Muslim kingdoms in his appeal to the universal recognition of the Christian revelation as 'natural reason'. In his main work about this topic, *Quod reminiscitur*, completed in 1618, but published only in the 20th Century, Campanella presents different strategies of conversion of Islamic peoples, depending on the various historical features of Islam, and adapted to the diverse societies involved. Giovanni Botero's *Relationi universali* (1599) was a very important source of Campanella's historical and geographic information about Islam, but the philosopher developed an original prophetic and political vision of Church, conversion and apocalypse, alternative to that dominating in the Counter Reformation.

Keywords: Tommaso Campanella; Giovanni Botero; Ottoman Empire.

English title: *Campanella, Botero and the Infidels*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI8

Anna Teicher, *L'amicizia di una vita. Eugenio Garin (1909-2004) e Jacob Leib Teicher (1904-1981)*, pp. 373-443

The philosopher and historian of Italian philosophy, Eugenio Garin, and Jacob Leib Teicher, the Polish Jewish student of Arabic and Jewish philosophy, met as students at the University of Florence, Italy, in the 1920s. They developed a life-long friendship based on their shared scholarly interests, and Garin credited Teicher with introducing him to medieval Arabic and Jewish philosophy. Teicher was forced to leave Florence as a result of the Italian racial legislation in 1938, settling in the UK where from 1946 he taught post-biblical Hebrew at the University of Cambridge. A selection of the correspondence between the two friends and also Garin's wife, Maria, is presented here focusing particularly on the decade covering Teicher's arrival as a refugee scholar in the UK.

Keywords: Eugenio Garin; Jacob Leib Teicher; Arabic and Jewish philosophy; Italian racial legislation 1938; intellectual emigration.

English title: *A Lifelong Friendship. Eugenio Garin (1909-2004) and Jacob Leib Teicher (1904-1981)*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI9

Federico Tognoni, *L'erma di Galileo di Vincenzo Vela*, pp. 444-450

This article presents an analysis of the bust of Galileo that Vincenzo Vela created for his house and studio at Ligornetto. The work carries symbolic significance in that it was conceived by the Ticinese artist for the pilaster on the

right hand side of the principal entrance to the villa, as a counterpart to the bust of Christopher Columbus on the left. It thus served to perpetuate a long-standing literary *topos* which started at the beginning of the 17th century and which was made use of during the Risorgimento to celebrate Italian ascendancy within a European context. Through this work Vela reveals his adherence to patriotic ideals that he had previously expressed through his active participation in the first Italian War of Independence, fighting in the anti-Austrian ranks.

Keywords: Galileo Galilei; Vincenzo Vela; History of sculpture; Art history; Cultural history.

English title: *The Herma of Galileo by Vincenzo Vela*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI10

Oreste Trabucco, Nostri perpetuo memor. *Per la storia editoriale delle opere di Marco Aurelio Severino (con una lettera inedita)*, pp. 451–471

Many of Marco Aurelio Severino's works were published in Germany, thanks to the intercession of his pupils. The prestigious Nürnberg physician Johann Georg Volkamer was Severino's closest pupil. A relevant manuscript letter (transcribed in the appendix) of Severino to Volkamer sheds new light on the context of the edition of Severino's *Zootomia democritaea*. The correspondence between Severino and Volkamer was firstly studied by Luigi Amabile in the Nineteenth-century, and it was fully exploited by Maurizio Torrini about a century later.

Keywords: Marco Aurelio Severino; Johann Georg Volkamer; natural history.

English title: *Nostri perpetuo memor. For the Editorial History of Marco Aurelio Severino's Works (With an Unpublished Letter)*

DOI: 10.14640/NoctuaVI11