

- 1616 March 5 — Decree of the Congregation of the Index prohibits Copernicus's *De revolutionibus* until corrected and made more hypothetical.
- 1618 Appearance of the great comets stirs up discussion.
- 1619 Galileo enters the controversy by writing the "Discourse on Comets" and publishing it under the name of his disciple, Mario Guiducci.
- 1620 The Congregation of the Index publishes a list of corrections making it possible for anyone to read Copernicus's work.
- 1621 The deaths of Pope Paul V, Cardinal Bellarmine, and Grand Duke Cosimo II alter the scene considerably. Galileo begins work on *The Assayer* in answer to Father Grassi's *Astronomical Balance*.
- 1623 Maffeo Cardinal Barberini is elected Pope and takes the name Urban VIII. Galileo dedicates *The Assayer* to him.
- 1624 Galileo goes to Rome to try to get the Copernican censure revoked. He has six long talks with Pope Urban and is encouraged to write but told to stay within the limits of a hypothetical treatment.
- 1625 Begins work on the *Dialogue on the Two Great World Systems* which he intends to be "a most ample confirmation" of the Copernican opinion.
- 1626-1629 Illness and necessary interruptions prevent him from completing the *Dialogue*.
- 1630 January ——— Completes the *Dialogue*.
 May ——— Galileo goes to Rome and works a publishing arrangement with Father Riccardi.
 August ——— Prince Cesi, Founder of the Lincean Academy and close friend of Galileo, dies.
- 1631 Galileo sends request to Rome that the printing be done in Florence. Niccolini is able to convince Riccardi to grant the necessary permission.
- 1632 February ——— The *Dialogue* is published.
 August ——— Sales and publication are halted by order of the Holy Office.
- October ——— Galileo is summoned to Rome.
- 1633 February ——— Galileo arrives in Rome and is allowed to stay at the Tuscan Embassy.
- April ——— Questioned twice by Father Firenzuola. Firenzuola and Cardinal Barberini, the Pope's nephew, desire to deal leniently with Galileo.
- May ——— Galileo gives his defense to the Holy Office. A misleading report on the proceedings is sent to the Pope.
- June 16 ——— Pope Urban decrees that Galileo is to publicly abjure his opinion and his book is to be prohibited.
- June 22 ——— Galileo abjures. His sentence was commuted and he was released in the custody of the Archbishop of Siena.
- December — Galileo returns to his Villa at Arcetri, near Florence.
- 1637 Galileo loses sight in both eyes and has to move into the city of Florence. He continues to work on his new book, the *Two New Sciences*.
- 1638 The *Discourses on Two New Sciences* is published at Leyden.
- 1642 January 8 — Galileo dies.