

# REVUE ROUMAINE DE PHILOSOPHIE

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Tome 58

N° 1

Janvier–Juin 2014

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## ABSTRACTS

### WHY ASTROLOGY WAS STILL A SCIENCE IN GALILEO'S DAY

WILLIAM R. SHEA

**Abstract.** Galileo's commitment to astrology is discussed against the background of science in the sixteenth and the seventeenth century. Emphasis is laid on the prevailing world view and the belief that the influence of the stars and planets could be scientifically studied and approved through empirical observation.

**Key words:** history of science, astronomy, astrology, Renaissance studies, philosophy of science.

### INFINITESIMAL ISSUES IN GALILEO'S THEORY OF MOTION

TIZIANA BASCELLI

**Abstract.** Many essays of great significance have been written on Galileo's atomism in physics and on his theory of indivisibles in mathematics. In these essays, we can find evidence of strong disagreement among Galileo scholars on his final view on these two topics. This disagreement comes mainly from the fact that Galileo's notion of indivisibles was far from being clear to him or fully developed, and this is something that Galileo scholars all fully agree on. This is probably the reason why he often had to hide from his audience his use of any infinitesimal magnitudes.

In this essay, I will show the pervasive role of infinitesimal magnitudes in Galileo's new science of motion by a careful examination of his treatises on uniform and naturally accelerated motion. In particular, I will examine the definitions of uniform and naturally accelerated motion, the role of Theorem I, and the diagrams of Theorem III of naturally accelerated motion.

**Key words:** Galileo, *De motu locali*, science of motion, indivisibles, infinitesimal magnitudes.

### NEWLY ACQUIRED AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF GALILEO'S ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATIONS

ENRICO BERNIERI

**Abstract.** Galileo Galilei can be considered the first *modern* astronomer. He was the first scientist who used the telescope for systematic observations and measurements and wrote the first "scientific" paper, the *Sidereus Nuncius*, devoted to this subject. Many historical studies have been made of his astronomical activity to assess the precision of his measurements and the characteristics of his instruments. However, only recently, with the advent of computers and modern calculation techniques, have we been able to reconstruct Galileo's actual viewing conditions fairly accurately. Combining modern techniques and historical analysis, it is now possible to see Galileo's astronomical work in a new light. This paper is an overview of current knowledge of many aspects of Galileo's astronomical observations and of some very recent results, obtained using modern software, which provide fresh insight into Galileo's experimental work as an astronomer.

**Key words:** Galilei, telescope, *Sidereus Nuncius*, Medicean Planets, Planetarium software.

## ELEMENTS OF NATURAL HISTORY IN SIDEREUS NUNCIUS

DANA JALOBEANU

**Abstract.** Scholars often saw *Sidereus nuncius* as inaugurating a novel genre of scientific writing; one that mixes elements of astronomy and natural philosophy, mixed-mathematics and travel reports, cosmography and the conventions of baroque drawing, elements of humanist pedagogy and elements of natural history. Although some of these influences were subject of extensive treatment, the natural historical elements of *Sidereus nuncius* were, comparatively, less carefully investigated. And yet, as I will show in this paper, the natural historical outlook of *Sidereus nuncius* played a significant role in its reception. My purpose in this paper is to investigate some of the elements of natural history present in *Sidereus nuncius*. Firstly, I show that in writing *Sidereus nuncius* Galileo often made appeal to the “specialized observations” and “expert reports” of natural historians. Secondly, I show that some of the early readers of *Sidereus nuncius*, such as Johannes Kepler and Francis Bacon, read Galileo’s book as a natural history. I also discuss the ways in which some of them were read and interpreted in the same vein by some of Galileo’s early readers, such as Johannes Kepler and Francis Bacon.

**Key words:** Galileo, natural history, *Sidereus nuncius*.

## DESCARTES’ METAPHYSICAL SCEPTICISM

GLENN A. HARTZ, PATRICK K. LEWTAS

**Abstract.** Descartes held the theological doctrine of voluntarism (that logic and value depend on God’s power). We argue that when Descartes’ demon steps into God’s shoes in the *First Meditation*, that spirit inherits this same power and thus is absolutely invincible. A ‘voluntarist demon’ gives rise to ‘metaphysical scepticism’, since he could refrain from validating logic, thus making philosophy itself impossible and dooming the arguments of the *Meditations* from the outset. We consider various strategies – philosophical and historical – for avoiding this problem, concluding that it is in any case fortunate that Descartes inadvertently discovered this line of reasoning. For it seems to be a formulation of the best possible sceptical argument. In the end, ironically, it seems to support a more pragmatic attitude found in some passages in Descartes’ *Replies*.

**Key words:** Descartes, scepticism, voluntarism, demon, meditations.

## BEYOND THE ARTWORLD: SOME PROCEDURAL ASPECTS OF HEIDEGGER’S ONTOLOGY OF ART

CRISTIAN HAINIC

**Abstract.** There is an apparent incompatibility between how art is approached procedurally in analytic philosophy and how it is tackled in (Heidegger’s) hermeneutic philosophy. I claim that we can speak of a procedural conferral of aesthetically relevant status on objects and events in the latter case, given certain conditions. The most important of these is to abandon the view that one or more subjects forming an institution bestow the status of art upon an object, in favor of the possibility that, as ready-to-hand, the object recommends itself as aesthetically relevant to its public. I firstly review George Dickie’s institutional theory of art and Stephen Davies’s additions to it. Then, I conduct a comparative analysis between the conditions set by Davies and Dickie for a procedural conferral of art status and Heidegger’s own account. I conclude that the latter meets the requirements of procedural conferral of status and, finally, I formulate a corresponding statement applicable to everyday (non-art) entities.

**Key words:** everyday aesthetics, philosophical proceduralism, artifactuality, thingly character, artworld, world.

# TRUTH VALUES, DEFLATIONISM AND FREGEAN SEMANTICS

CRĂIȚA IOANA FLORESCU

**Abstract.** In this paper I investigate the substantiality of Gottlob Frege's truth predicate. After a quick glance at his semantics (first section of the paper), I examine the redundancy of his truth and conclude that Frege's T-like sentences are *not* meant to present truth as an insubstantial notion (second section). In the third section, I highlight the substantial aspects of Frege's conception, which turn out to be of a correspondence-theoretical nature. After reaching this conclusion, I go back to Frege's own criticism of correspondence, and consider a solution that allows for both his explicit rejection, and his tacit adherence to the correspondence-theoretical paradigm.

**Key words:** Gottlob Frege, correspondence theory of truth, deflationism, semantics, reference.

# SUBSTANCE AND INTELLIGIBILITY IN LEIBNIZ

ADRIAN NITA

**Abstract.** The theory of substance represents an obsessive preoccupation for a synthesis between Aristotelian-scholastic philosophy and modern philosophy. Unsatisfied with the incapacity of Aristotelian theory to resolve some theological problems, and the Cartesian reduction of substance at extension, Leibniz conceives a new system where the substance is able to assure the metaphysical building. We will treat the relationship between substance and intelligibility having as a starting point the recent work elaborated by Jan Palkoska, *Substance and Intelligibility in Leibniz's Metaphysics*.

**Key words:** Leibniz, substance, concept complete, subject, predicate.