

Johannes van Heeck's *De Nova Stella* and the Lyncean Academy in context

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In October 1604, a seeming “new star” was sighted in the nocturnal sky. As was the case for the novae of 1572 and 1600 before, a flow of ink was spilled to explain the phenomenon. Among the many writings on the topic, we find the epistolary treatise *De Nova Stella Disputatio* (Prague 1605) by the Dutch naturalist and Lyncean academician Johannes van Heeck (or Heckius, 1579 – 1620). Interestingly, this work survives with its peculiar editorial stratigraphy. In fact, the Latin text of the treatise can be still read in the original manuscript letter, which bears the revisions of the recipient and unsolicited editor of its published version, namely the academic princeps Federico Cesi (1585 – 1630). The editorial revisions can be even more appreciated by considering the final print and the re-corrections by the author himself on his personal copy of the book. On the basis of seminal research by Giuseppe Gabrieli, Saverio Ricci, David Freedberg and others, the content of Van Heeck’s treatise can be presented on the background of a broader context of confessional and cosmological discussion. In particular, here it will be contrasted with three different but comparable works: 1) the MS *Problema de stellis novis* by the Jesuit Christoph Grienberger [1605], 2) the MS *De stella anni 1604* by the Theatine cleric Francesco Ingoli [1605], and 3) the MS *De proxima Reipublicae Venetae inclinatione ex astris conjectura* by the Franciscan Ilario Altobelli [1607], the critical edition of which is currently in progress. In conclusion, a close analysis of the references to Van Heeck’s treatise as found in the recently attributed pseudonymous *Considerazioni d’Alimberto Mauri on the new star* [1606] will shed further light on the early relations between Galileo Galilei and the newly established Accademia dei Lincei.

Wann: 16. Oktober 2024 – 18:00 Uhr

Wo: Innrain 52a, Ágnes-Heller-Haus, 1. Stock, Seminarraum 6