

Contents

List of Figures	IX
Preface	XI
Abbreviations	XV
Note to the Reader	XVI
1 "The Secret of the Eyeglass"	1
A 'Piece of Nonsense'?	1
Winning Over the Minds at the Collegio Romano	11
Second Class Telescopes	20
2 Parallel Convergences?	25
The Encounter	25
Mutant Lynxes in the Academy's Menagerie	29
Initiation Ceremonies	46
3 Fluid Heavens	61
Wavering Certainties	61
Tycho or Telesio?	65
The Revival of Martianus Capella	78
<i>Coup de théâtre</i>	84
Storm Clouds Gather	97
4 Building a Friendship	103
New Spectacles in the Heavens	103
Books, Frontispieces, Theatres, Mirrors and Ladders	120
Embarrassing Omissions	131
The 'Lincean Telescope'	142
5 The Copernican System versus Holy Scripture	153
The Spectre of Giordano Bruno	153
Celestial Animals	160
Questions of Character?	165
The League of Pigeons Launches the Attack	167
6 Images of Nature: Book or Theatre?	169
Prohibition 'Is Also Done in Case of Doubt'	169
The Natural Desire for Knowledge	187

- Simulated versus True Religion 200
 Miraculous Rains 210
- 7 Confronting the New Scenario 221**
 Cesi-Bellarmino: Attempts at Dialogue 221
 'The Time Has Come to Grant Greater Freedom of Thought' 233
 Kepler Enters the Scene 239
- 8 Relaunching Copernicanism 243**
 Ariosto versus Tasso 243
 The Copernican System Overthrown? 246
 A Delicate Balance 261
 The Ebb and Flow of Fortune 269
 Tommaso Caccini Back on Stage? 286
- 9 Metamorphosis of a Conjuncture: from 'Marvellous' to
 'Unfavourable' 300**
 Boating on the Lake 300
 An Ambiguous Funeral 305
 A Copernican Carriage 310
 Calamitous Novelties 321
 The Turncoat 327
 Elephants and Mites 332
- 10 From the Heavens to the Bowels of the Earth 340**
 The Merging of the Two Projects 340
 Up and Down the Ladder of Nature 347
 Flowing Natures 354
 Mother Earth 360
 Botany for Metaphysicians? 370
 The Fate of Cesi's Fossil Wood Researches 380
- 11 The Immaculate Conception of the Barberini Bees 385**
 Honey as a Gift from the Heavens and the Earth 385
 'This Work Has Been Done for the Sole Purpose of Pleasing Patrons' 400
- 12 Plants as Compendium of Nature 409**
 Laying Out the Pages of the Book of Nature 409
 Syntax, Painting, Theatre, Garden 415
 A Galilean Syntaxis? 417

1	The Multiple Gaze of the Botanist	418
2	The Elusive Geometry of Plants	423
3	Glimmerings of Consciousness and Sexual Drives	431
4	The Bologna Stone Again	438
5	The Garden of Flavours	443
6	Food for the Mind	459
7	A Preformistic Conception?	462
8	Nature Was Not Created Once and for All	465
9	Names as Shadows of Things	468
10	Epilogue	477
11	'It Has Been Impossible to Persuade Him to Make a Will'	477
12	Bibliography	485
13	Index of Names	512