accepted the accommodationist principle, employing some of Galileo’s very arguments in its support.

Paolo Maffei has brought together the main documents of the Settele affair in a single useful volume. Olivieri had already done part of the work; the printed book he submitted to the Pope in August 1820 contained all the relevant materials up to that point: the original decrees regarding the Copernican teaching, decrees regarding the authority of the Master of the Sacred Palace, Anfossi’s booklet, his own and Settele’s responses, and various other pertinent documents, with a useful analytic index. In addition, Settele kept a diary, a detailed record of the Roman scene. Maffei’s volume contains first a 200-page analytical index of the diary as a whole, then a full text of all entries dealing with the debate over the publication of his astronomy book, and finally a reproduction of the 150-page Olivieri document-collection. It provides the indispensable materials for the understanding of the last act of a drama that began with the erroneous conclusion of the advisory committee to the Congregation of the Index in 1615 that the doctrine of the immobility of the Sun is “formally heretical, because it is expressly contrary to Holy Scripture”.

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BOOK REVIEW

THE DE’ DONDI ASTRARIUM


Giovanni de’ Dondi’s astrarium was one of the wonders of Italy for several centuries after its completion in 1364. It then vanished, and only in the present century was its earlier existence rediscovered through Italian archival sources. And not until the work of the late Derek de Solla Price in 1959 was its astronomical nature really appreciated. The seven faces of the instrument provided places for mechanized equatoria of the seven Ptolemaic planets. The machine is thus not merely a clock, but something far more intricate. De’ Dondi himself limits the word horologium to the regulator of the device, and not the device itself.

The announced translation of de’ Dondi’s treatise by the Antiquarian Horological Society raised expectations that a fuller understanding of this ingenious device would become possible, but, as Anthony Turner explained in an essay review in this journal (JHA, vi (1975), 12–31), these hopes were dashed by a book of “no scholarly value, being without commentary, textual discussion, variant readings, or even index”. The desideratum, an annotated transla-