

# THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ASTRONOMY: A TRIBUTE TO GALILEO GALILEI

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*The Year 2009 was declared by the International Astronomical Union and 62nd General Assembly of the United Nations as the International Year of Astronomy to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first recorded astronomical observations with a telescope by Galileo Galilei and the publication of Johannes Kepler's Astronomia nova in the 17th century. The Year 2009 was also the anniversary of many other historic events in science, including Huygen's 1659 publication of Systema Saturnium. This was modern astronomy's quadricentennial, including celebration of 40 years of the landing of the moon by man in 1969. The year was observed to stimulate worldwide interest, especially among young people, in astronomy and science under the central theme "The Universe, Yours to Discover".*

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