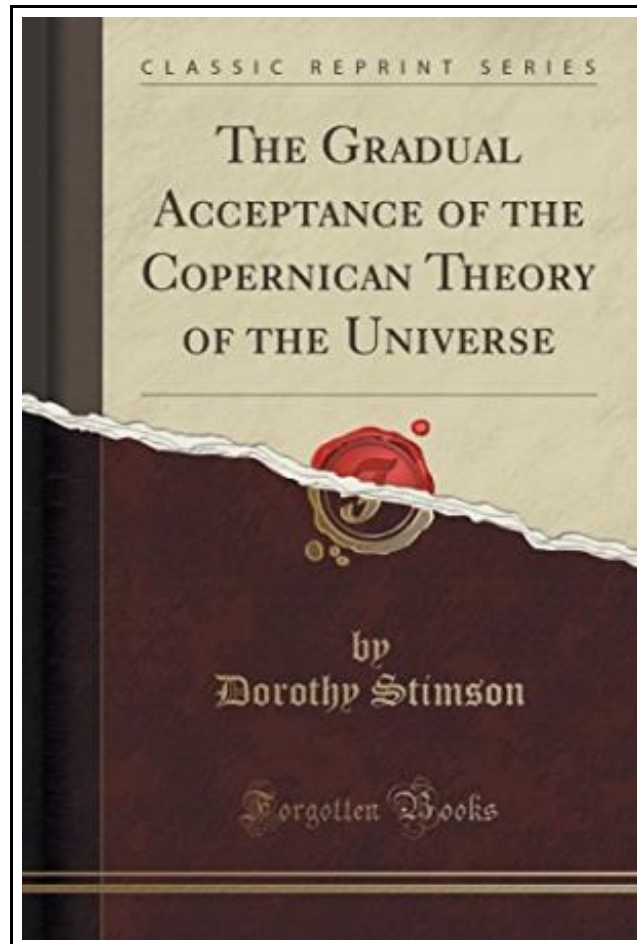


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from The Gradual Acceptance of the Copernican Theory of the Universe Astrea, goddess of the heaven, wearing angel s wings and gleaming everywhere with stars, stands at the right; on the left is Argus of the hundred eyes, not tense, but indicating by the position of the telescope at his knee rather than at the eyes in his head, that while observing the work of God s hand, he appears at the same time to be worshipping as in genuflexion. (Riccioli: Alm. Nov., Pr fatio, xvii). He points to the cherubs in the heavens who hold the planets, each with its zodiacal sign: above him at the top is Mars, then Mercury in its crescent form, the Sun, and Venus also in the crescent phase; on the opposite side are Saturn in its tripartite form (the ring explanation was yet to be given), the sphere of Jupiter encircled by its four satellites, the crescent Moon, its imperfections clearly shown, and a comet. Thus Father Riccioli summarized the astronomical knowledge of his day. The scrolls quote Psalms 19:2, Day unto day uttereth speech and night unto night showeth knowledge. Astrea holds in her right hand a balance in which Riccioli s theory of the universe (an adaptation of the Tyconic, see p. 68) far outweighs the Copernican or heliocentric one. At her feet is the Ptolemaic sphere, while Ptolemy himself half lies, half sits, between her and Argus, with the comment issuing from his mouth: I will arise if only I am corrected. His left hand rests upon the coat of arms of the Prince of Monaco to whom the Almagestum Novum is dedicated. At the top...



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