

NEWS RELEASE

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UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA - NORMAN

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WITH PHOTO

The University of Oklahoma Celebrates 125 Years with Statewide “Galileo’s World” Exhibition

NORMAN — Commemorating the University of Oklahoma’s 125th anniversary, University Libraries is hosting an exhibition highlighting the world-class holdings of its History of Science collections. The yearlong exhibition will feature rare books, instrument replicas, digital resources and student projects in 20 uniquely themed galleries in seven locations across the University’s three campuses. The *Galileo’s World* exhibition, opening August 1, gives visitors of all ages the opportunity to explore connections between the sciences and humanities.



“What started as a ‘thank you’ for a series of acquisitions by the OU Athletics Department became a way to open the doors of the University to the public for the 125th anniversary,” said Rick Luce, Dean of Libraries for OU. “Our History of Science Collections contains 12 original works by Galileo, four of which contain his handwriting. Paired with the innovations happening across campus, we knew we had to take this opportunity to bring the world of Galileo to the world of OU,” Luce added.

Exhibits in most locations open to the public Aug. 1. Locations include the Bizzell Memorial Library, the Sam Noble Museum, the National Weather Center, the Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art, the Headington Hall student residence hall, the Robert M. Bird Health Sciences Library on the OU Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City and the Schusterman Library at OU-Tulsa. Several authentic instrument replicas provided by the Museo Galileo in Florence, Italy will be displayed, including Galileo’s compass, telescope and microscope.

The exhibition opens with a public opening reception coinciding with OU's first home football game on Saturday, Sept. 5 in the newly renovated History of Science Collections in the Bizzell Memorial Library.

"The *Galileo's World* exhibition brings worlds together," said Kerry Magruder, curator of the History of Science collections. "The story of Galileo reveals the creativity and interconnectedness of human achievement. The interconnectedness of science and culture that characterized Galileo's world, and which ties Galileo's world to our own day, remains the common heritage of humanity, and is what we explore across the University in this exhibition."

Events planned for the exhibition include a monthly lecture series at the Sam Noble Museum followed by a sky watch hosted by the OU Observatory on the museum lawn; a full-day symposium featuring noted scholars representing areas relating to the exhibition; and a "Stadium Under the Stars" family festival.

In addition to the physical exhibits, *Galileo's World* will feature a digital component for each location. Every book on display is being digitized and will be openly accessible in its entirety by visiting the exhibition website, galileo.ou.edu. Other supplementary content including iBook gallery guides for each location, podcasts, instrument tutorial videos provided by the Museo Galileo and more, will all be accessible at no cost through the website.

Galileo's World is a campus-wide collaborative exhibition with 20 exhibits at seven locations in Norman, Oklahoma City and Tulsa. Organized through the University of Oklahoma Libraries, the exhibition is available to the public through August 2016. Visitors are encouraged to visit the website for more information about the exhibition and to confirm programming and event dates at galileo.ou.edu

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Image Credit: Visitors to the exhibition can view the University of Oklahoma's History of Science Collection's 12 original works by Galileo, four of which contain his handwriting including this work, *Sidereus Nuncius* (Venice, 1610).