

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910254593703321
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Titolo	Giovanni Domenico Cassini : A Modern Astronomer in the 17th Century // by Gabriella Bernardi
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2017
ISBN	9783319634685 3319634682
Edizione	[1st ed. 2017.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (XI, 186 p. 45 illus., 28 illus. in color.)
Collana	Springer Biographies, , 2365-0621
Disciplina	520.92
Soggetti	Astronomy Science - History Astronomy, Cosmology and Space Sciences History of Science
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references at the end of each chapters.
Nota di contenuto	Preface -- 1. Introduction -- Part I: Liguria -- 2. Perinaldo, Land of Astronomers -- 3. Genoa and the College of the Jesuits -- Part II: Bologna -- 4. Castle of Panzano -- 5. Archiginnasio -- 6. Comet 1652, the First -- 7. The Meridian Line or Heliometer in the Church Basilica of San Petronio -- 8. Superintendent of Public Waters -- 9. Queen and the Comet -- 10. And the Winner is... -- 11. Jupiter et al -- 12. Ephemerides Bonomienses Mediceorum Syderum -- Part III: Paris -- 13. Louis XIV -- 14. The New Observatory -- 15. Sunspots -- 16. Saturn -- 17. Jean Dominique Cassini -- 18. Cassini Maps -- 19. Journey to Italy -- 20. Cassini Dynasty -- 21. Nephews Maraldi -- 22. Cassini Curiosity -- 23. Conclusion -- Appendix A -- Appendix B -- Appendix C -- Appendix D -- Appendix E -- Bibliography.
Sommario/riassunto	This book offers a fascinating account of the life and scientific achievements of Giovanni Domenico Cassini, or Cassini I, the most famous astronomer of his time, who is remembered today especially for his observations of the rings and satellites of Saturn and his earlier construction of the great meridian line in the Basilica of San Petronio in Bologna. The various stages of his life are recounted in an engaging

style, from his early childhood in Perinaldo and his time at the famous Jesuit College in Genoa, to his later experiences in Bologna and Paris. The emphasis, however, is on the scientific side of his life. The book explores his impressive body of work in diverse fields while also drawing attention to the international character of his endeavors, the rigor of his research, and his outstanding management skills, which combined to make him an early embodiment of the “European scientist.” It was also these abilities that gained him the attention of the most powerful king in Europe, Louis XIV of France (the “Sun King”), under the auspices of whom he set up the Paris Observatory in 1671. He would go on to serve as Director of the Observatory, where he would make the majority of his scientific discoveries, for the rest of his life.
