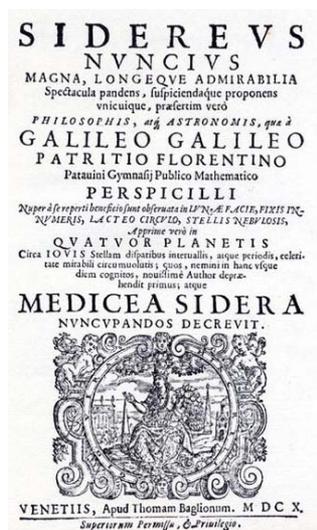


# Today in Math History...

**-3 December 1610**

**Galileo dedicates his “*Sidereus Nuncius*” to Cosmos II (Grand Duke of Tuscany).**



*It contains the results of Galileo's early observations of the Moon, the stars, and the moons of Jupiter. In his observations of the Moon, Galileo observed that the line separating lunar day from night (the terminator) was smooth where it crossed the darker regions of the moon, but quite irregular where it crossed the brighter areas. From this observation, he deduced that the darker regions are flat, low-lying areas, while the brighter regions are rough and covered with mountains. Based on the distance of sunlit mountaintops from the terminator, he estimated that the lunar mountains were at least 4 miles in height. This contradicted Aristotelean cosmology, which held that since the heavens were more perfect than the earth, the heavenly bodies must be perfectly smooth spheres.*