

Cassini's Vision by Brian Lavery

Giovanni Domenico Cassini [1625 – 1712] was a noted astronomer, mathematician and engineer. People may remember the Cassini-Huygens space research mission [1997-2017] named after him and a contemporary Dutch astronomer, physicist and mathematician.

Brian Lavery's story is an entertaining read. It held my interest and has no dull bits. I highly recommend it. The book covers Cassini's time in Italy, i.e. up to 1669 when he moved to France. Could there be a sequel book in the future?

Brian's story is at least as much about the Italy of the time as about Cassini's discoveries in astronomy. It explores Cassini's domestic situation and how the household operates, the differences among the Italian city states, and the international cooperation among scientists of the time. The suffocating power of the Roman Catholic Church on independent thought is a recurring theme [it was a time of the inquisition].

Reading the book, it is obvious that Brian knows a lot about the Roman Catholic Church and the inquisition. And that he has done a lot of research.

As I have said, I highly recommend this book. It is a fun read and you will learn from it as well. It is available as a paperback and as an ebook.

Brian Holliday

PS Brian Lavery is a long-time member of U3A Sunshine Coast and has tutored technology and discussion classes. He set up the U3A Sunshine Coast website and single-handedly ran it for some years.

See below for more information about Brian Lavery and his book

From Brian Lavery's Facebook page

Now published as paperback and as ebook. I'm having a good day.

"Cassini's Vision"

"Astronomer Gian Cassini and his fiery artist wife Celia had vowed they would be fearless and honest in all their life's work. But pioneer Gian was mapping our immense universe of planets and moons, making deadly inquisition enemies in the renaissance Church of Italy. An historic story of the yet unknown, of trail-blazing astronomy, artistic audacity, polyamory, scientific heresy, and the eternal search for love and truth. And of the compromises we make surviving it all."

ISBN 978-0648846604 ebook

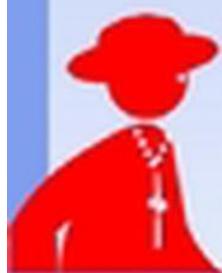
ISBN 978-0648846642 paperback



BRIAN LAVERY



CASSINI'S VISION



"BUT DON'T LOOK TOO FAR"

GIOVANNI CASSINI, Italian renaissance astronomer, saw humanity's earliest proofs of what truly lay in the heavens. He was overturning the fables of the ancients who had tried so hard, so long, to explain their stars and planets, and their world.

These new truths were highly dangerous. "Gian" Cassini spent his years suppressing what he saw, battling to avoid disgrace or even death.

And yet the young and idealistic couple Gian and Celia had vowed they should forever be fearless in exploring every new fact and uncovered truth, even the unexpected. That proved harder than either imagined.

The "Other Woman"

The GIOVANNI CASSINI of your history books was seduced to Paris by a lucrative offer from Louis XIV. The Sun King. made him head of the world's greatest observatory. Cassini rebranded as French, married into the aristocracy and began a long, famous and rather staid dynasty of French astronomy.

But did you know Gian Cassini had an earlier Italian wife?
CELIA was a feisty and talented baroque artist, scarred, angry, and eager to follow in the steps of her famous grandmother.

This version of Cassini's life is a far more entertaining tale.

BRIAN LAVERY was born in Sydney, and has been a monk, a teacher, a hippie, a nomad, a rebel, a corporate geek, a trainer, a world traveller, and now an idler. He lives in Queensland, and he wonders where the years went.

