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A graduate of the University of Cambridge and a Former Fellow of Harvard University, Professor Shea taught at the University of Ottawa, McGill University in Montreal, and the University of Strasbourg before taking up his appointment in Italy in 2003. He was Chairman of the Standing Committee for the Humanities of the European Science Foundation, an association of 65 major research councils from 22 countries in Europe, and he belongs to several academies including the Academia Europaea, the Royal Society of Canada, and the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. He is Past President of both the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science and the International Academy of the History of Science. He is the author, co-author or editor of 30 books including *Galileo's Intellectual Revolution*, and *The Magic of Numbers and Motion: The Scientific Career of René Descartes*, and over 145 scholarly articles that have appeared in 10 languages. His book on Blaise Pascal, *Designing Experiments & Games of Chance. The Unconventional Science of Blaise Pascal*, won the Library Association Award as one of the outstanding academic books of 2003; *Galileo in Rome: The Rise and Fall of a Troublesome Genius*, written with Mariano Artigas (Oxford University Press, 2003) is translated into German, Spanish, Korean and Japanese. His latest book, written with Mariano Artigas, *Galileo Observed: Science and the Politics of Belief*, was published by Science History Publications in October 2006.