

PROLOGUE TO THE AMERICAN PRODUCTION

Respected public of the way called Broad-
Tonight we invite you to step on board
A world of curves and measurements, where you'll descry
The newborn physics in their infancy.
Here you will see the life of the great Galileo Galilei,
The law of falling bodies versus the GRATIAS DEI
Science's fight versus the rulers, which we stage
At the beginning of a brand-new age.
Here you'll see science in its blooming youth
Also its first compromises with the truth.
It too must eat, and quickly gets prostrated
Takes the wrong road, is violated—
Once Nature's master, now it is no more
Than just another cheap commercial whore.
The Good, so far, has not been turned to goods
But already there's something nasty in the woods
Which cuts it off from reaching the majority
So it won't relieve, but aggravate their poverty.
We think such sights are relevant today
The new age is so quick to pass away.
We hope you'll lend a charitable ear
To what we say, since otherwise we fear
If you won't learn from Galileo's experience
The Bomb might make a personal appearance.

[From Brecht's *Arbeitsjournal*, entry for 1 December 1941.]