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Reports of the Late John Smeaton

Celebrated for his construction of the Eddystone Lighthouse near Plymouth, John Smeaton (1724–92) established himself as Britain's foremost civil engineer in the eighteenth century. A founder member of the Society of Civil Engineers, he was instrumental in promoting the growth of the profession. The Royal Society awarded him its Copley medal for research into wind and water power in 1759. After his death his papers were acquired by the president of the Royal Society, Sir Joseph Banks, Smeaton's friend and patron. Using these materials, a special committee decided to publish 'every paper of any consequence' written by Smeaton, as a 'fund of practical instruction' for current and future engineers. These were published in four illustrated volumes between 1812 and 1814. Published in 1814 using the original engraved plates, Volume 4 contains the papers that Smeaton published in the Royal Society's *Philosophical Transactions*, as well as related correspondence.

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John Smeaton
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VOLUME 4: MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS,
COMPRISING HIS COMMUNICATIONS
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www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108069809

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1814
This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-06980-9 Paperback

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Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

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THE papers which are here collected together include the whole of Mr. SMEATON'S communications to the Royal Society, published in the Philosophical Transactions. Most of the articles have been reprinted verbatim from the originals in that work: a few of them have been printed from copies which had belonged to the author, and contained corrections and additions in his own hand writing. For the latter the editor has to make his acknowledgments to Mr. SMEATON'S daughter, Mrs. DIXON, who obligingly lent him the tracts.

The accompanying plates, with one or two exceptions, are the same as were originally given with the several articles in the Philosophical Transactions; the President and Council of the Royal Society having, in the handsomest manner, granted the loan of the coppers, in order to afford every facility in their power to the publication.

The present volume completes the series of Mr. SMEATON'S works. The account of the Edystone light-house was published during his life-time, and has been lately reprinted. Since his death, the Committee of Civil Engineers have published, with the liberal permission of Sir JOSEPH BANKS, who had purchased the whole of the manuscripts, three volumes of Mr. SMEATON'S Reports, which comprise every paper
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John Smeaton

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

vi

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of any consequence composed by him, in the way of his profession, during the long period of his public life. To these volumes, the present may be considered as an important and indispensable appendage ; and the whole together will be found to contain a most valuable fund of practical instruction in the several branches of Science and the Arts, which had occupied the attention of the ingenious author, and upon which he has raised for himself a high and lasting reputation.

London, July 20th, 1814.

CONTENTS.

CONTENTS.

	Page
LETTER from Mr. John Smeaton to Mr. John Ellicott, F. R. S. concerning some improvements made by himself in the air-pump, - - - - -	I
An engine for raising water by fire, being an improvement of Savery's construction, to render it capable of working itself, invented by Mr. De Moura, of Portugal, F. R. S. described by Mr. J. Smeaton, - - - - -	11
An account of some experiments upon a machine for measuring the way of a ship at sea,	14
An account of some improvements of the mariner's compass, in order to render the card and needle proposed by Dr. Knight, of general use, by John Smeaton, philosophical instrument maker, - - - - -	23
An experimental inquiry concerning the natural powers of water and wind to turn mills, and other machines, depending on a circular motion, - - - - -	27
An experimental examination of the quantity and proportion of mechanic power necessary to be employed in giving different degrees of velocity to heavy bodies from a state of rest, by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	80
New fundamental experiments upon the collision of bodies, by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	95
A description of a new tackle or combination of pulleys, by Mr. John Smeaton, -	107
A discourse concerning the menstrual parallax, arising from the mutual gravitation of the earth and moon, its influence on the observation of the sun and planets, with a method of observing it, by J. Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	111
Description of a new method of observing the heavenly bodies, out of the meridian, by J. Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	120
Observation of a solar eclipse, the 4th of June, 1769, at the Observatory at Aufthorpe, near Leeds, in the county of York, by J. Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	122
Account of an observation of the right ascension and declination of Mercury out of the meridian, near his greatest elongation, September, 1786, made by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. with an equatorial micrometer, of his own invention and workmanship; accompanied with an investigation of a method of allowing for refraction in such kind of observations, - - - - -	124
	Description

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John Smeaton
Frontmatter

[More information](#)

viii

CONTENTS.

	Page
Description of an improvement in the application of the quadrant of altitude to a celestial globe, for the resolution of problems dependant on azimuth and altitude, by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	145
A description of a new pyrometer, with a table of experiments made therewith, by J. Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	149
Description of a new hygrometer, by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	160
Observations on the graduation of astronomical instruments; with an explanation of the method invented by the late Mr. Henry Hindley, of York, clock-maker, to divide circles into any given number of parts; by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S.; communicated by Henry Cavendish, Esq. F. R. S. and S. A. - - - - -	170
Remarks on the different temperature of the air, at Edyftone, from that observed at Plymouth, between the 7th and 8th of July, 1757, by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	203
An account of the effects of lightning upon the steeple and church of Lestwithiel, in Cornwall; in a letter to the Right Honourable the Earl of Macclesfield, President of the Royal Society, by Mr. John Smeaton, F. R. S. - - - - -	205