

BOARD OF LONGITUDE **Inventors**

Upon the above recited act, certificates, and extracts, I found my claim of reward, not only for finding the variation of the compass when it cannot be found by any other method ; but also to the reward of ten thousand pounds for my new method of finding the longitude, which is so plain and simple, and unincumbered with calculations and picking of numbers from tables, (which navigators in general know little more of than the names,) that there can hardly be a possibility of any error happening.

Transcription

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Ralph Walker's azimuth compass

Date made

1793-95

Object ref.

RGO 14/29: 110r

Credit

Cambridge University Library

Description

Ralph Walker made this claim for a reward of £10,000 for a special compass he had designed. Walker was a Scottish engineer who spent time managing Jamaican plantations.

Questions

1. What reason does Walker give for his method of finding longitude being better than others?
2. What method of finding longitude do you think Walker is referring to when he describes the difficulties of doing calculations and picking numbers from tables?