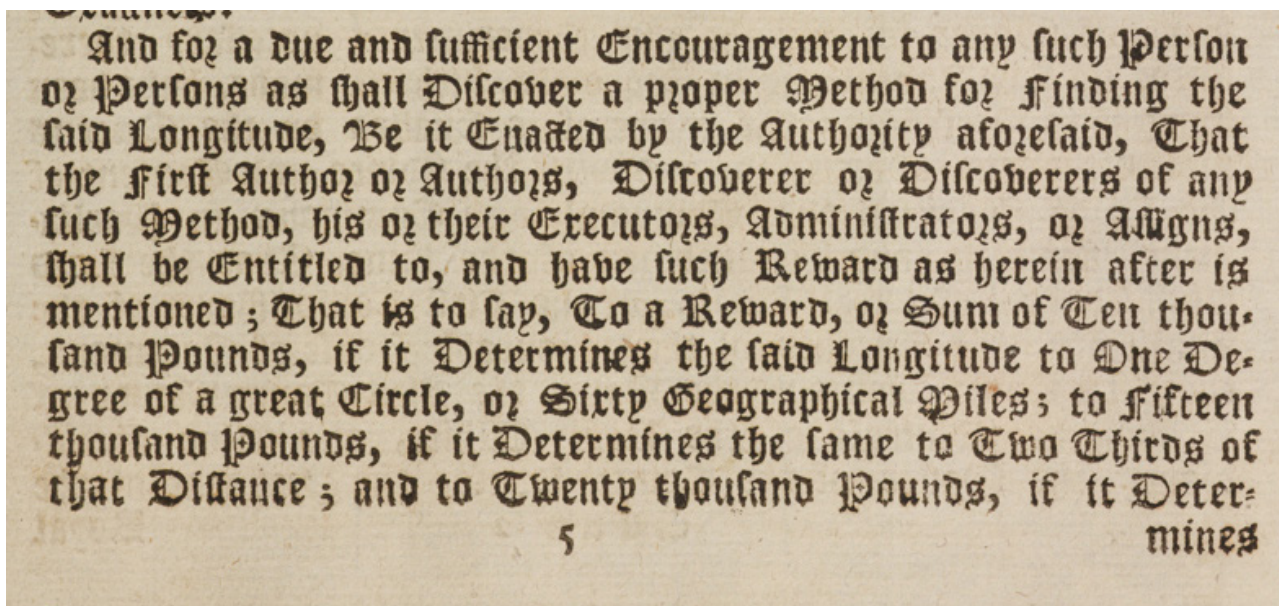


BOARD OF LONGITUDE **Inventors**



Transcription

'And for a due and sufficient Encouragement to any such Person or Persons as shall Discover a proper Method for Finding the said Longitude, Be it Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the First Author or Authors, Discoverer or Discoverers of any such Method, his or their Executors, Administrators, or Assigns, shall be Entitled to, and have such Reward as herein after is mentioned ; That is to say, To a Reward, or Sum of Ten thousand Pounds, if it Determines the said Longitude to One Degree of a great Circle, or Sixty Geographical Miles ; to Fifteen thousand Pounds, if it Determines the same to Two Thirds of that Distance ; and to Twenty thousand Pounds, if it Determines [the same to One half of the same Distance;...]

An Act for Providing a Publick Reward for such Person or Persons as shall Discover the Longitude at Sea (extract)

Date made

1714

Object ref.

RGO14/1: 11r

Credit

Cambridge University Library

Description

Parliament passed the Longitude Act in 1714. This Act offered financial rewards for anyone who could find a more accurate way of measuring longitude at sea. Sailors could already find their latitude (their position north or south) but not their longitude (their position east or west).

Questions

1. What rewards were offered?
2. Why do you think there were different rewards depending on how accurate solutions and inventions were?