

BOARD OF LONGITUDE **Inventors**

Evidence has been brought forward to invalidate the Fact of Mr. ARNOLD's Time-keepers going better than Mr. MUDGE's. Justice therefore demands, that if Mr. MUDGE were to receive any further Reward, Mr. ARNOLD should receive a much greater; for, besides superior Accuracy, Mr. ARNOLD has an additional Claim upon the Generosity of the Nation, his Time-keepers having been many Years in the Possession of the Public, he having sold at least a Thousand, during a Period in which Mr. MUDGE is not known to have made more than Three; so that if Mr. ARNOLD could only have received common Salvage for the Ships that have been saved from Shipwreck by the Use of his Instruments, there is little Doubt that he would, at this Time, have been, in point of pecuniary Circumstances, much above demanding or receiving a Reward even out of the Money of the Nation.

To reward Mr. MUDGE, and neglect Mr. ARNOLD, will not only be a manifest Injustice to the superior Merit of the latter, but it will also check the rising Hopes, and discourage the assiduous Application of many ingenious Artists, now employed in the Improvement of the Principles of Watch-making; Men who have been taught by the Board of Longitude to believe that Rewards will be granted to them proportioned to the Degrees of Perfection they may hereafter attain. EMERY, EARNSHAW,

Observations on Mr Mudge's application to parliament for a reward for his timekeepers

Date made
1793

Object ref.
RGO 14/23: 176

Credit
Cambridge University Library

Description

Sir Joseph Banks wrote this letter to Parliament to request they reward watchmakers based on how accurate their watches were. Thomas Mudge's timekeepers had been shown to be less accurate than John Arnold's in official trials. Yet this extract shows Parliament was considering giving him a much higher reward.

Questions

1. How many watches had John Arnold made in the time it had taken Mudge to make three?
2. What three reasons does Banks give not to reward Mudge?
3. Why do you think Banks wanted to support the improvement of the watchmaking trade in Britain?

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Transcription

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