

Marine Chronometer Its History And Developments By Rupert T Gould

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"Pressestimmen Ten years short of the original publication's centenary, one of the greatest books on a horological sub-genre has attained Second Edition status. First published in 1923, Gould's masterpiece covers the topic of marine chronometers from its natural starting point: the need for the discovery of longitude. But even before you reach this stage in the book, the illuminating introduction by Jonathan Betts MBE warns you that the journey through its 400-plus pages will prove rewarding and frustrating in equal measure. How so? Because, this long-awaited second edition includes Gould's own amendments and additions from his original annotated manuscripts. Here's where the bibliophile in me starts salivating, for this is two books in one: the original, plus the 'outtakes.' What it does not do is rewrite Gould's work in light of all that has been discovered since 1923, the editor preferring instead to provide ample annotation. It is an ideal way of updating a work that has earned the honour of being a subject's definitive study, because the reader can savour the original as it appeared, while benefitting from superlative editing and sympathetic, respectful treatment. This is, though highly readable, an intensely technical work, certainly suitable for researchers or scholars. But do not be deterred: this book is an absolute joy. And be glad we didn't have to wait until its centenary for this 're-boot.'--Ken Kessler 'QP Magazine, April 15, 2013 'No book is a more complete history of the marine chronometer, even after nearly a century, and many, Jonathan Betts and Rudyard Kipling among them, consider this the finest horological work of the twentieth century.--David Rachlin, reference librarian, James E. Shepard Memorial Library, North Carolina Central University 'American Reference Books Annual,' Volume 28, Number 1, 2014 Edition ' Synopsis Originally published in 1923, this is a facsimile edition of the definitive reference work on the Marine Chronometer, with seventy additional photographs. This revised edition, now with the author's later revisions and corrections, covers the chronometer's history from the earliest attempts to measure longitude while including detailed discussions and illustrations of the various mechanisms and their inventors. It is difficult to grasp, at first sight, the extraordinary fact that the first machines capable of performing the extraordinary feat of accurately determining a ship's longitude, were designed and made by an obscure Yorkshire carpenter, John Harrison (1693-1776). Harrison was entirely self-educated and never served a day's apprenticeship to any clock maker. The Marine Chronometer is not only the entirely absorbing story of John Harrison's marine timekeepers, which won him the reward of GBP20,000 offered by the British Government for any method of finding a ship's longitude within thirty geographical miles at the end of a six weeks' voyage, but also covers the inventions of such famous scientists and pioneers as Christian Huyghens (1629-95), Jeremy Thacker, Henry Sully and Leibniz. The book also recounts in detail the inventions of other professional clock makers such as Paul Ditisheim, J.G. Ulrich, Thomas Earnshaw, John Arnold, Ferdinand Berthoud, Thomas Mudge and Pierre Le Roy. Über den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Rupert Thomas Gould (1890-1948) was not a professional horologist, yet he researched and wrote The Marine Chronometer-considered by many to be the finest horological text of the 20th century - in just four years, between the ages of 29

and 33. A true English eccentric and a veritable polymath, Gould made important contributions in an extraordinary range of subject areas, from early typewriters to the Loch Ness Monster, from antiquarian horology to the history and rules of the game of tennis. He was an early broadcaster on radio, giving weekly talks on the BBC's Children's Hour throughout the 1930s, and as a member of the 1940s discussion programme The Brains Trust he amazed a national audience with his wide learning and photographic memory. Yet, his greatest achievements were horological: his restoration of the great Harrison timekeepers and his authorship of so many fine texts on the history of horology are his true legacy."

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john harrison

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