EXCERPT · PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS, NO. 183 · 1686

An Historical Account of the *Trade Winds*, and Monsoons

observable in the Seas between and near the Tropicks, with an attempt to assign the Phisical cause of the said Winds

Edmond Halley

Philosophical Transactions, vol. 16, pp. 153-168, with a map of the winds



The map of the paper, Philosophical Transactions, vol. 16, 1686. Image: Princeton University Library, via Wikimedia Commons.

The opening of the paper

Page 153.

An exact Relation of the constant and Periodical Winds, observable in several Tracts of the Ocean, is a part of Natural History not less desireable and useful, than it is difficult to obtain, and it's *Phænomena* hard to explicate: I am not Ignorant that several Writers have undertaken this subject, and although *Varenius* (*Lib. I. Chap. XXI. Geo. Gen*) seems to have endeavoured after the best information from *Voiagers*, yet cannot his accounts be admitted for accurate, by those that shall attentively consider and compare them togather; and some of them are most evident mistakes; which, as near as I can, I shall attempt to rectify, having had the opportunity of conversing with Navigators acquainted with all parts of *India*, and having lived a considerable time between the *Tropicks*, and there made my own remarks.

The substance of what I have collected is briefly as follows.

On the map

Pages 162-163.

To help the conception of the reader in a matter of so much difficulty, I believed it necessary to adjoyn a Scheme, shewing at one view all the various Tracts and Courses of these Winds; whereby 'tis possible the thing may be better understood, than by any verbal description whatsoever.

The limits of these several Tracts, are designed every where by prickt lines, as well in the *Atlantick* and *Æthiopick*, where they are the boundaries of the Trade and Variable Winds, as in the *Indian* Ocean, where they also shew the extent of the several *Monsoons*. I could think of no better way to design the course of the Winds on the Mapp, than by drawing rows of stroaks in the same line that a Ship would move going alwaies before it; the sharp end of each little stroak pointing out that part of the Horizon, from whence the Wind continually comes; and where there are *Monsoons* the rows of the stroaks run alternately backwards and forwards, by which means they are thicker there than elsewhere. As to the great South Sea, considering its vast extent, and the little Variety there is in its Winds, and the great *Analogy* between them, and those of the *Atlantick* and *Æthiopick* Oceans, besides that the greatest part thereof is wholly unknown to us; I thought it unnecessary to lengthen the Mapp therewith.

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Excerpt: the opening of the paper (p. 153) and its explanation of the map (pp. 162-163), in the spelling of 1686.

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