

Contents of ZON & TIJD 2026.1 (nr. 156, March)

Editors

Hint for the digital version: a mouse click on an entry brings you to the page where the article starts

- 3 **Editorial: A new spring** - *Editors*
Spring signals the start of the ninth annual volume of Zon & Tijd.
- 4 **From the NL Board** - *Secretariat*
The March meeting will have a talk by Theo Jurriens on chasing solar eclipses worldwide. Also, the AGM will be held. The sundial register now features an interactive map (members only). The legacy of the Sundial Society of Flanders, consisting of the Zonnetijdingen magazine and the sundial registry of Patric Oyen, have been secured on our website.
- 6 **Restoration of the sundial on the Bullekerk church in Zaandam** - *Hendrik Hollander*
In addition to the usual hour and date lines, this dial has altitude and azimuth lines. The dial, in bad shape, was recalculated by Hendrik.
- 9 **Charles Messier and the Hôtel de Cluny in Paris** - *Gerard van den Braak*
Searching for Halley's comet from the observation platform of Hôtel de Cluny in 1758, Messier started to list Messier objects. Gerard observed all 110 of them, and visited the Hôtel as a reward. Two sundials are to be found there.
- 12 **Industrial noon markers** - *Eric Daled*
Around the end of the 19th century, noon markers were industrially produced by clock makers Adams in Colmar and Ungerer in Strasburg, in the Alsace region in France. Three types can be distinguished, and over 200 markers are listed in the CCS registry.
- 15 **The sundial tourist visited Gernsbach** - *Hans Schipper*
Gernsbach, a pretty town in the Black Forest region in Germany, has about 25 sundials. Former town architect Gerhard Schäuble adds a new sundial each year.
- 16 **The sundials at the church of Médan (France)** - *Hans Wilschut*
The church of Médan (just west of Paris) has polar east and west facing dials, instead of the usual south dial. Hans developed a method to remove perspective distortion (see next article) and so could check the correctness of the dials.
- 19 **Correcting perspective distortion in photos** - *Hans Wilschut*
A rectangular sundial gives a quadrangle in a photo. In order to restore the rectangle, parameters for the inverse transformation are calculated, using the Mathematica program. Then the height/width ratio is corrected by using a known property, e.g., the angle between substyle and equinox line, or the direction of certain lines. Alternatively, a least square optimization using a number of points in the dial can be used.
- 22 **This is not a sundial** - *Janny Wijchman*
Each summer the 'Folly Art Festival' takes place in and around Norg, a village in the north of the Netherlands. Last year artist Paul de Wilde contributed the dome-shaped 'Sunspace'. Sunlight will fall through a hole in the dome onto a golden sphere at noon local time, brightening the space, as a symbol of the connection between man and the cosmos.
- 24 **The old puzzle: Sundial safari** - *Janny Wijchman*
Find the places where sundials described briefly can be found, in The Netherlands or Flanders. Use the registries of Dutch and Flemish sundials if necessary. Four entries were received.
- 25 **The new puzzle: Shadow time** - *Hans Wilschut*
What is shown in the table in an 18th c. engraving? How are the units used related? Also shown is a gentleman measuring the length of his shadow in (his own) feet. How does that unit relate to the other units?
- 25 **International sundial conferences** - *Editors*
For your information.
- 26 **An alternative derivation of the formula for solar altitude** - *André Reekmans*
Earlier derivations used spherical trigonometry or algebraic methods. André presents a proof just using plane geometry.
- 27 **Homan's Solar Chronometer** - *Frans Maes*
William Maclean Homan (1871-1956) designed and marketed several sundials for clock time in the years 1906-1913. A hemispherical dial has two equatorial strips with adjacent date scales. Corresponding days are shifted in accordance with the EoT for that day. A heliochronometer and a dial with an EoT shaped pole-style are mentioned briefly. Questions about the success of Homan's firm and the presence of his dials in museums or private collections remain to be answered.
- 31 **Annual report 2025** - *Secretariat*
- 32 **Financial report 2025 and Budget 2026** - *Treasurer*