

**Jacques Ozanam's A Treatise of Gnomonicks -  
A New Addition To The ShadowCatchers Collection !**

Furthering its commitment to the preservation of dialing knowledge and lore, in 2001 The North American Sundial Society began its sponsorship of The ShadowCatchers Collection – a series of reprints of rare works on dialing. Each title in the collection reproduced a centuries-old dialing text not readily available elsewhere. And originally each title was available only for a limited time as a hardbound printed book.

The entire collection is now available in economical softbound (perfect binding) printed volumes (and, of course, still available on CD). For previews of the volumes, general information and pricing on each title, and instructions for ordering the printed editions, go online to:

<http://stores.lulu.com/store.php?fAcctID=608855>.

AND Now ...

VIII. **Jacques Ozanam, A Treatise of Gnomonicks**. Written in French by Mr. OZANAM, Professor of the Mathematicks at Paris. **Done into English**, and Amended in Several Places, by J.T. Desaguliers of Hart-Hall, OXON. OXFORD : Printed by L. Lichfield, for John Nicholson at the Queen's Arms in Little Britain, and Sold by John Morphew near Stationer's Hall, LONDON. MDCCXII. (trans. 1712, orig. 1693)

Ozanam was a French mathematician famous for his popular math texts. These included a math dictionary, a course of mathematics, and a text on mathematical and physical recreations. The last of these went through at least 18 editions over 2 centuries.

Ozanam's dialing was instructive and entertaining - it includes innovative ideas such as a geographic sundial showing the time anywhere in the world, various universal horizontal dials, and the first suggestion that one's own body could be the gnomon of an analemmatic dial. His texts also cover altitude, azimuth, lunar, reflection, refraction, portable and stereographic projection dials – all in addition to the standard instruction in drawing sundials on any plane.

This treatise is from the 1712 English translation (by the noted Newtonian scholar J.T. Desaguliers) of Ozanam's 1693 *Course of Mathematics*. The addendum is a 1708 English translation of the set of *Problems of Dialling* included in the 1st edition (1694) of his *Recreations Mathematical & Physical*.

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## ShadowCatchers vols. I - VIII

I. Samuel Foster. THE ART OF DIALLING; BY A NEW, EASIE, AND MOST SPEEDY WAY. SHEWING, HOW TO DESCRIBE THE Houre-lines upon all sorts of Plaines, Howsoever, or in what Latitude so-ever Scituated; As also, To find the Suns Azimuth, whereby the sight of any Plaine is examined. Performed by a Quadrant, fitted with lines necessary to the purpose. Invented and Published by SAMVEL FOSTER, Professor of Astronomie in Gresham Colledge LONDON. 1638. (50 pages)

*Also, in non-facsimile form, with a paragraph-by-paragraph collation with the earlier edition [above]:*

Samuel Foster. THE ART OF DIALLING, By A New, Easie, And most Speedy Way. SHEWING, How to describe the Hour Lines upon all sorts of Plains; Howsoever, or in what Latitude soever, situated. ALSO; To find the Hour of the Day, and the AZIMUTH of the Sun, whereby the Sight of any Plain is Examined. Performed by a Quadrant filled with Lines necessary to that purpose. Invented and Published in Anno 1638, by SAMUEL FOSTER, then Professor of Astronomie in Gresham Colledge. The Second Edition, With several Additions and Variations of the Authors, deduced from his own Manuscript. With a SUPPLEMENT, Performing all the Instrumental Work of the Quadrant, by Calculation. By help of the Canons of Sines and Tangents, which of all ways is the most Exact. By WILLIAM LEYBOURN Philomath. LONDON. 1675. (60 pages)

II. Samuel Foster. Posthuma Fosteri: THE DESCRIPTION OF A RULER, Upon which is described divers SCALES: AND The Vses thereof: Invented and written by Mr. SAMUEL FOSTER, Late Professor of ASTRONOMIE in GRESHAM COLLEDG. By which the most usuall Propositions in Astronomie, Navigation, and Dialling, are facily performed. Also, a further use of the said Scales in Deliniating of far declining dials; and of those that Decline and Recline, three severall wayes. With the deliniating of all Horizontall Dials, between 30, and 60 gr. of Latitude, without drawing any lines but the Houres themselves. LONDON. 1652. (90 pages)

III. William Emerson. Dialling. or The Art of Drawing Dials, on All Sorts of Planes Whatsoever. In Three Parts. Sect. I. The fundamental Principles of Dialling. Sect. II. The Practice of Dialling, illustrated on all sorts of Planes. Sect. III. Of describing the common Furniture of Dials; and the Construction of some useful Dials of other kinds. London. 1770. (206 pages)

III. Gilbert Clerke. The Spot-Dial, Very useful to shew the Hour within the House. Together with Directions how to find a true *Meridian*, the *Azymuth* and *Declination*; and how to draw a *Dial* upon a *Staff*, upon the *Cieling*, upon any *Pillar* or *Globe*. Never Before Published. By Gilbert Clerke. London. 1687. (30 pages)

V. Thomas Strode. A NEW AND EASIE METHOD TO THE ART OF DYALLING. CONTAINING I. All Horizontal Dyals, all Upright Dyals, Reflecting Dyals, Dyals without Centres, Nocturnal Dyals, Upright Declining Dyals, without knowing the Declination of the Plane. II. The most Natural and Easie Way of Describing the Curve-Lines of the Suns Declination on any Plane. The like never before Published. By Thomas Strode, Esq; of *Maperton* in the County of *Somerset*. LONDON. 1688. (72 pages)

VI. Samuel Sturmy, The Art Of Dialling By The Gnomical Scale (The Seventh Book of The Mariners Magazine, Or, Sturmy's Mathematical And Practical Arts). As Also By Calculation. Shewing the making of all dials within doors or without, upon any wall, cieling, or floors, wheresoever the direct or reflected beams of the Sun may come. And How to colour, guild, and paint dials; and how to fasten the gnomon in stone or wood. By Capt. Samuel Sturmy (1669) Revised and Corrected by John Colson (1679). London. (*Unlike other entries in the collection, this reprint is done with modern fonts; the graphics are facsimile reproductions*). (49 pages)

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VII. Samuel Foster, *Elliptical, Or Azimuthal Horologigraphy*. Including: *Elliptical, Or Azimuthal Horologigraphy*. *Circular Horologigraphy*. *Rectilineal Or Diametral Horologigraphy*. *Elliptical Horologigraphy*. All Invented and Written by Mr. Samuel Foster, late professor of Astronomie in Gresham-Colledge. London. 1654 (The title appeared earlier in compressed format as part of *The Analemmatic Sundial Sourcebook* – it is available here as a separate volume.) (204 pages)

VIII. Jacques Ozanam, *A Treatise of Gnomonicks*. Written in French by Mr. OZANAM, Professor of the Mathematicks at Paris. Done into English, and Amended in Several Places, by J.T. Desaguliers of Hart-Hall, OXON. OXFORD. MDCCXII. 1712 (243 pages)

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Sundial Registry - A recent version of the ever-expanding registry of sundials (over 600) in North America, including locations, brief descriptions and many photos.

The BSS Sundial Glossary (1<sup>st</sup> edition) - This glossary of more than 500 terms relating to sundials includes definitions, cross-links, equations and the beginnings of a chronology. Over 50 of the main entries have been linked to more detailed articles available elsewhere on the CD. (copyright BSS/John Davis)

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By Alessandro Gunella

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