

# INTRODUCTION

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Old Books with details about Sundials are often found, perhaps as a chapter, or sometimes more, as a part of Mathematical, Astronomical or general Scientific books. However, there are a few fine books that are totally dedicated to the art of Dialling.

Some of the earliest dialling books, often written in Latin, were published in various European countries. However, the listing in this book covers just those written in the English language up until about 100 years ago.

The intention of this publication is to show some of the books that have been found with details of the dials and construction methods discussed in them. Unfortunately our list can not be fully complete and we are sure that many more will be found. However, these are the books that we know about with their basic details. Of course, there will be many entries in Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias and it would be difficult to list all of these.

We have divided the book into three sections, the first being books up to the end of the 17th. Century, the second is of books of the 18th. Century and the third of the 19th. Century which also includes some from the earlier years of the 20th. Century.

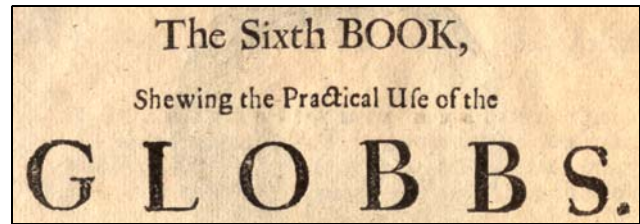
The earliest book dedicated solely to dialling in the English language is believed to be **The Art of Dialling** by Thomas Fale, first published in 1593. It is a fine book but is printed mostly in an **Old English** type script, which is not always easy for the modern reader to follow.

Another interesting point about virtually all of these old books is that they use the old long 's' which can be confused with our modern 'f'. The books also use interesting ligatures,\* like 'ct' or 'st' conjoined.

For each entry we have included, wherever possible, a copy of the Title Page of each book. This page often has much information on it about a book's contents and it is usually worth reading its details first. Most books also have an Introduction or Preface and this section is also worth reading. It may tell us about the contents of the book but more frequently about how the author has discovered the information, perhaps from someone else's work.

For each entry we have tried to replicate various parts of each book generally using a standard

\* LIGATURE. A double character consisting of two letters or characters united, such as *ct*, *ft* or *fi*.



*Misspelling of **GLOBES** in Moxon's Book of Globes. These large letters are 12 mm (almost 1/2") high.*

Times New Roman font, and have made our comments on those pages in the more modern Arial font, like that used here. In doing the replication of each part we often found some quite unusual splittings of words, such as shown here with the E detached:

*To find the Center of the Dial, the E-quinocstial Line being drawn.*

We have also found many inconsistencies in style between chapters. Perhaps the headings are in normal print for some and italics for others, some headings may be centred and others left flushed. They may also use different font sizes and there are also many spelling errors that have come to light. Even the word **DIALLING** is frequently spelt **DIALING**, often with both spellings in the same book. Where such anomalies occur we have tried to replicate them in our copies of the text. However, we have not used the long 's' as this may at times confuse the modern reader and it is not generally available in fonts used for modern computers.

For each book listed, at least one illustration has, wherever possible, been reproduced.

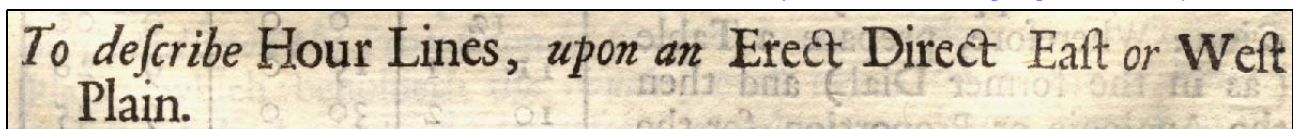
It is also interesting to note that certain illustrations seem to appear in more than one book, perhaps just slightly changed. Some of the more important illustrations will be found in perhaps as many as five separate books.

Another interesting and quite attractive feature of many of these old books are the 'drop capital' letters used at the start of each chapter, many of a size to cover seven or eight lines of text.

Another interesting feature found on some of these books are the handwritten notes, or scribbles, from previous owners. We have left these in place on many of our illustrations.



*Some of the elaborate 'drop capitals' used by Fale*



*Both forms of the long 's' and the ligatures 'ct' and 'st' are illustrated here as found in Leybourn's, Dialling.*