

THE  
U S E  
Of the  
Nocturnal.

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Written by *W. P.*

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The Nocturnals and these Books, are to  
be sold by *Joseph Moxon*, at his  
shop in *Corn-hill*, at the sign of  
*Atlas*, in *London*. 1655.

“THE U S E Of the Nocturnal” is a book of text only, describing how to operate the Nocturnal. It starts with the following explanation:

1. *What the Nocturnal is.*

IT is an Instrument consisting of two parts:

1. A *Circle*, which is divided into 24 hours ; and each hour into so many parts as the space between each hour will admit of. The common Nocturnals are divided into four quarters, and each quarter into three parts ; so as the whole hour is divided into 12 equal parts ; each equal part containing five Minutes, as you may see in the Nocturnal it self ; upon the hour of 12 there is placed a *Flower de Luce*.

The second part of it is a *moveable Rundle*, the Circle whereof is fixed to the Center of the Circle of hours, that so you may turn it round, as occasion requires. The outmost edge of this Rundle is divided into 365 parts, shewing the days of the year ; and the next within this, is the Months of the year, marked with the first letter of each Month, as I. for *January*, F. for *February*, and so of the rest.

And also on the Circle are divisions, numbered with 10, 20, 30, shewing the number of days comprehended between the beginning of the Months, and the division to which these Figures are annexed.

Within this Circle is described those fixed stars that are near the North-Pole, and belonging to five Constellations ; whereof that which is in the middle, is called URSA MINOR, (of some HELICE MINOR) which in English is the *little Bear*, it being in the form of a Bear.

This Constellation consists of seven stars whereof three onely are splendent ; that is the *Pole star* in the end of the *Tayl*, and those two that are in the foreparts of the *Bear*, one of them upon his Back neer the Neck, and the other upon his side ; and these two are called of our Mariners the *Guards*. These three stars are of excellent use in Navigation, and well known by Seamen.

The next Constellation is DRACO, or the *Dragon*, and hath sundry stars which you may learn to know by the Rules following. The third is BOOTES. The fourth is CASSIOPEIA. The fifth is URSA MAJOR, or the *great Bear*.

And lastly, there is six Lines drawn through the Pole, which are the Meridians, and are of great use, as you shall learn hereafter.

*Here followeth several Uses of the Circles of the Nocturnal.*

The text then continues explaining how to use the Instrument.

FINIS.