

UN SAVANT EXCEPTIONNEL, ACTEUR DE LA PREMIÈRE COMMUNAUTÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

EDMUND HALLEY (1656-1742)

AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE TRADE WINDS, AND MONSOONS, OBSERVABLE IN THE SEAS BETWEEN AND NEAR THE TROPICKS, WITH AN ATTEMPT TO ASSIGN THE PHYSICAL CAUSE OF THE SAID WINDS (PHILOSOPHICAL TRANSACTIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, VOL. 16, LONDRES, 1688)

Article scientifique sur les vents tropicaux et leurs causes, réalisé sur la base d'observations faites en mer par Halley à bord du *Paramore*, et recueillies auprès d'autres navigateurs. Il contient la première carte des alizés, qui couvre la quasi-totalité de la ceinture tropicale.

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An Historical Account of the Trade Winds, and Monsoons, observable in the Seas between and near the Tropicks, with an attempt to assign the Physical cause of the said Winds, by E. Halley.

AN exact Relation of the constant and Periodical Winds, observable in several Tracts of the Ocean, is a part of Natural History not less desirable 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 *Vojagers*, yet cannot his accounts be admitted for accurate, by those that shall attentively consider and compare them together; 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.

The Universal Ocean may most properly be divided into three parts *viz.* 1. The *Atlantic* and *Asiatick* Seas; 2. The *Indian* Ocean; 3. The *Great South Sea* or the *Pacific Ocean*; and tho' these Seas do all communicate by the South, yet as to our present purpose of the *Trade Winds*, they are sufficiently separated by the interposition of great tracts of *Land*; the first lying between *Africa* and *America*, the second between *Africa*, and the *Indian Islands* and *Hollandia Nova*; and the last, between the *Philippine Isles*, *China*, *Japan* and *Hollandia Nova* on the *West*, and the *Coast of America* on the *East*. Now following this natural division of the Seas, we will divide our History into three parts, in the same order.

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1 AUTEUR

Astronome brillant et précoce, Halley était aussi fécond dans de nombreux autres domaines. Membre actif de la communauté scientifique, il a publié 70 articles sur des sujets divers dans la revue de la Royal Society, ainsi que plusieurs ouvrages d'astronomie

2 STRUCTURE

Bien que dépourvu de sous-titres, l'article a une structure très claire : introduction, résumé, résultats (une partie par océan), conclusion

3 LANGUE

Anglais, langue maternelle de l'auteur (mais il publiait régulièrement aussi en latin) et langue de la Royal Society

4 STYLE

Personnel. Beaucoup de communications à la Royal Society étaient en fait des lettres de correspondants anglais ou étrangers

5 CITATIONS

Une seule (*Varénius*), avec la référence complète dans le texte

6 VALIDATION

Les communications à la Royal Society sont publiées après sélection par des membres du Conseil. Pratiquée dès les débuts de la R.S., l'"évaluation par les pairs" figure dans ses statuts (comme ceux de 1781)

7 SUPPORT

Revue scientifique. Créée en 1665 par la Royal Society, *Philosophical Transactions* est la plus ancienne revue scientifique publiée sans interruption jusqu'à aujourd'hui

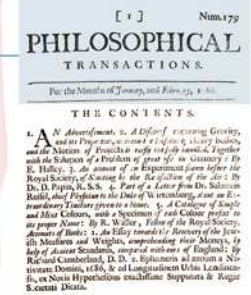
8 DIFFUSION

Plusieurs centaines d'exemplaires, diffusés auprès des membres de la Royal Society mais aussi des savants et philosophes de toute l'Europe

Milieu du XVII^e siècle

Jusque là, les savants n'avaient que la correspondance privée par lettres comme moyen de s'échanger des informations et des résultats. En 1665, la création des *Philosophical Transactions* révolutionne la communication entre eux. Mais en océanographie, ce n'est qu'au XX^e siècle que le périodique scientifique s'imposera comme vecteur de publication, contrairement à d'autres disciplines plus anciennes comme la physique ou la chimie.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

Having been found by Experience that several Curious Papers have been sent in to us, we receive some Account of what the Learned part of the World say for the present before.

STATUTES OF

CHAPTER XII.

Of the filling of Papers laid before the Society, in order for Publication.

THESE Members of the Council of this Society, for the time being, shall constitute and be a Reading Committee of the said Society, to whom the consideration of the Publications of such Papers, as shall have been read before, or communicated to, them at their weekly meetings, shall from time to time be referred; and that the said Committee shall meet on the first Thursday of every month, in which the Society shall hold their ordinary meeting, or in such times as shall be appointed by the President, or in his absence by one of the Vice-Presidents; and that the said sufficient notice of such meeting shall be sent previously thereto, to every Member of the said Committee.

II. That no less number than seven of the Members of the said Committee (of which number the President, or in his absence a Vice-President, always to be one) shall be a quorum, capable of acting in relation to the said Papers.

III. That the majority of the said Committee, present at any meeting thereof, shall be at liberty to call in to their assistance,