Edward Wright Encyclopedia Article

Edward Wright

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1558?-1615

English mathematician who improved on the cartographic system devised by Gerhard Mercator (1512-1594), and thus ensured the widespread acceptance of the Mercator projection. In 1599, Wright published *The Correction of Certaine Errors in Navigation,* which he revised as *Certaine Errors in Navigation, Detected and Corrected* (1610). These books offered modifications on Mercator, as well as mathematical tables and practical information for mariners plotting straight-line courses on Mercator-projection maps. The British Navy adopted Wright's system, which enabled it to gain an advantage over other navies.