John Collins Encyclopedia Article

John Collins

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John Collins

1625?-1683

English mathematician who wrote about sundials, cartography, accounting, navigational trigonometry, and the quadrant. An apprentice bookseller in Oxford, Collins became a clerk at Court and studied mathematics. To avoid the English Civil War he went to sea, where he continued his studies. Collins had a number of jobs, from mathematics teacher to accountant. He corresponded with many mathematicians, including Isaac Newton and Gottfried Leibniz, and helped publish important mathematical texts. Collins also became a member and librarian of the Royal Society.